

Gray Panthers 2008 National Issues

January 08



Healthcare



Gray Panthers strongly supports public action to:

- Create and fund a single-payer, nonprofit and universal health care system.
- Regulate Health Maintenance Organizations comprehensively, for the protection of patients and health care providers.
- Legislate a Patient's Bill of Rights.
- Provide funding for scientifically-based sex education and reproductive health care.
- Legalize medical marijuana.
- Remove barriers to stem cell research.
- Give health care consumers a seat at the table in setting Federal health research priorities.
- Return to the public a proper share of pharmaceutical profits, reflecting public investment in basic medical and health research.
- Repeal any privatization of Medicare and the Part D prescription drug program, replacing it with gap-free coverage under Medicare at fair and affordable prices.
- End constraints on government negotiation for lower prescription drug prices and on importation of foreign-made pharmaceuticals.

Healthcare Resolutions

1. **Guaranteed Health Care & Patients Rights**
2. **Reproductive Choice**
3. **Medical Marijuana**
4. **Funding for Stem Cell Medical Research**
5. **Medicare and Prescription Drugs**
6. **Pharmaceutical Patents**
7. **Community Support for Seniors & People with Disabilities**



Family Security



Gray Panthers calls on the U.S. President and Congress to:

- Oppose all efforts to limit or reduce Social Security Programs.
- Prevent shortfalls to the Social Security system without destructive changes.
- Expand housing opportunities for low income persons.
- Undo the damage done by 'welfare reform' and restore benefits to all in need.
- Provide access to living-wage jobs, job training and related rights.
- Re-authorize and boost funding for the Older Americans Act.
- Support utility subsidies for low-income persons.
- Strive for consumer-oriented utility regulation and for public ownership of utilities.
- Mandate user-input into community development, transportation, accessibility and public services.

Resolutions

- **Social Security Benefits and Cap**
- **Expand Available and Accessible Housing**
- **Welfare Reform**
- **Utility Regulation**
- **Affordable and Accessible Housing for Low Income Households**
- **Housing and Community Support**
- **Older Americans Act**



Peace and Community Safety

Gray Panthers calls on the President and Congress to:

- Permanently end nuclear testing and nuclear proliferation.
- Normalize US-Cuban relations.
- Rebuild Iraq through direct aid, the United Nations and Non-government organizations.
- Take the lead in stopping genocide in Darfur and elsewhere.
- Ban land mines and work to deactivate and remove them.
- Permanently ban assault weapons and limit non-hunting gun traffic.
- Resolve the status of detainees in the “War on Terror” as required by the Constitution and the Declaration of Human Rights;
- Pay United Nations dues in full and on time.
- Work toward a Cabinet-level Department of Peace.
- Charter an independent investigation of the Military-Industrial Complex.
- Support those who oppose the war in Iraq.
- Oppose the Death Penalty



Resolutions



- A. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**
- B. Nuclear Weapons & Testing**
- C. Global Trade**
- D. Relations with Cuba**
- E. Policy on Iraq and Peace**
- F. Military Draft**
- G. Victims of War and Role of the United Nations**
- H. Land Mines**
- I. Death Penalty**
- J. Availability of Guns**
- K. Political Prisoners**
- L. Funding the United Nations**
- M. Century of Peace**
- N. Same Sex Marriage**
- O. Hate and Discrimination - Free Country**

Political Integrity and Economic Justice

Gray Panthers agrees to:

- Support campaign and voting reform measures.
- Support programs to increase voter participation.
- Work for abolition of the Electoral College.
- Demand enforcement of anti-trust laws.
- Demand break-up of media conglomerates.
- Oppose handing over of public lands and resources for private gain.
- Morally support Gray Panthers who engage in civil disobedience for Gray Panther principles.



Resolutions

A. Voter Turnout and Public Campaigns

B. Election Law Reform

C. Fair and Free Voting

D. Abolish the Electoral College

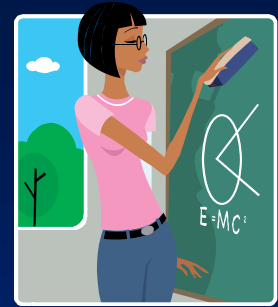
**E. Protect Media Diversity in this
Democracy**

F. Privatization of Public Holdings

G. Civil Disobedience



Education



Gray Panthers strongly supports life-long public education as it:

- Fights for adequate Federal, State and local public school funding.
- Opposes tax-funded voucher programs.
- Views the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 critically.
- Sees higher education as a necessity and a right.

Education Resolutions

A. Access to Education

B. Sex and Education

C. School Breakfast

D. Public Education as a Right

E. Public Funds for Public Education

F. The NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

G. Financing of Higher Education



Jobs and Worker Rights

Gray Panthers supports the rights of workers and:

- Affirms the rights of workers everywhere to organize and bargain for wages and working conditions.
- Is an ally of labor unions.
- Endorses full-employment legislation and work programs.
- Supports living wage legislation.
- Works with those fighting exploitative sweatshop conditions here and abroad.
- Opposes NAFTA, destructive World Bank, IMF and WTO policies, and similar arrangements to the extent that they harm workers rights, the environment, and national sovereignty.



Jobs/Workers Resolutions

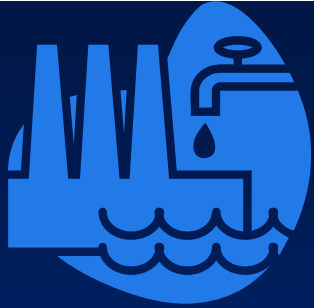
A. Full Employment

B. Right to Organize

C. Living Wage

D. Child Labor and Sweatshop Abuse





Environment

- Gray Panthers allies with environmental activists and calls for public and private action to:
- Protect land, sea and air resources.
- Move toward environmental sustainability in all economic activity.
- Block creation of new nuclear and radiological hazards.
- Solve the problems of past, present and future nuclear waste.
- Protect wilderness, old-growth forests and other natural habitats.
- Encourage development and use of renewable energy sources.

Env. Resolutions

- A. Environmental Responsibility – Sustainable Environment**
- B. Environmental Pollution**
- C. Banned Depleted Uranium, Nuclear Testing, and Radiation Experiments**
- D. Prohibit Transport of Nuclear Fuel Rods**
- E. Protect the Old Growth Forests**
- F. Preservation of Natural Habitats**



Gray Panthers Organizational Policies

- Gray Panthers considers intergenerational implications in all its programming and policies, to ensure that experienced leaders will always be available nationally and through out the network.



Org. Policy Resolutions

- **A. Intergenerational Programming**
- WHEREAS, the motto of Gray Panthers is "Age & Youth in Action"; and
- WHEREAS, network and at-large membership, as well as representation on the Gray Panthers' Board, should reflect diversity of background, including age; and
- WHEREAS, Gray Panthers welcomes and thrives on the commitment, energy, and contributions of time, intellect, and resources of persons of all ages,
- BE IT RESOLVED, that Gray Panthers consider the intergenerational implications of all of its programming and policies; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of the Gray Panthers act to propose and disseminate policies which will build a diverse leadership corps within the organization and ensure that experienced leaders will always be available nationally and throughout the network.

Immigration



Gray Panthers are offended by demagoguery on immigration issues. Valid border security concerns and humanitarian concerns are both swept away when fear, rather than principle, dominates national debate. We will not yield silently to the politics of fear, racism, class warfare and divisiveness. Therefore, Gray Panthers only supports changes in immigration law, policies and practices that:

- Are consistent with human rights as expressed in the United States founding documents and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Affirm the rights of all persons, whether native born or immigrant, to the protections afforded by the Constitution, including rights to due process of law and rights of equal access to public services and resources;
- Implement humanitarian immigration policies which admit refugees from war, natural disasters and persecution, and which provide for the reunion of family members.
- Are blind as to ethnicity, race, creed and national origin, including especially those policies and practices which determine how immigrants are treated at our borders.
- Require dignified working conditions and a living wage for all workers, regardless of their legal standing, citizenship or temporary status in the workforce.
- In addition, we call for training and public education to ease assimilation of immigrants and to promote inter-cultural understanding. Gray Panthers will monitor and support legislation which includes actions consistent with these principles.

War in Iran



NO WAR IN IRAN

Right now, this administration is planning an attack on Iran. It is **CRITICAL** that you contact your legislators and demand they put a stop to this **NOW!** Tell them

NO WAR IN IRAN

Gray Panthers strongly opposes the current threats of the Bush/Cheney administration that could lead to expansion of the current calamity in Iraq to neighboring Iran, further destabilizing the region. The U.S. should not be led into another pre-emptive war based on suspicions, accusations, and the covert grab for oil.

Gray Panthers will not stand by quietly as this administration leads us into another ill-advised march to war. Gray Panthers calls for an end to provocative military action by all nations on land, sea, and air.

Instead, Gray Panthers supports effective diplomatic solutions, coordinated through the United Nations, in respect for the security and dignity of all people in the Middle East.