

2010 LONGHOUSE COALITION PLATFORM

Our nation is beset by many ills today. Some are more evident and immediate, such as the economy, jobs going overseas, huge numbers of housing foreclosures, and the constant drain of endless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Other ills have been ignored and festered for centuries, such as inequality rooted in past injustice like slavery and theft of Native American land. The Longhouse Coalition platform is meant to heal these illnesses, not destroy old enemies or vindictively settle old scores. In one way or another we've all participated in this imbalanced system. We're going to have to do a lot of forgiving and working together to get this country back on track. This platform provides justice, but in a win/win manner recognizing we're all in this together, even our "enemies".

1) We the People will regain control of our government:

- A) We will do away with Presidential Emergency Powers.
No more writing laws by the Executive Branch.
- B) We will install a recall mechanism for all Federal Office Holders so politicians are readily accountable to the People and rule of law.
- C) We will remove the influence of corporate lobbyists from American government by abolishing corporate personhood. For purposes of rights and privileges under the US Constitution, "persons" shall be defined as human beings. This will take away the ability of corporations to influence elections, lobby the government, limit entry to their premises, and have other rights which corporations now enjoy as "fictitious persons".

2) We will restore the honor and legitimacy of our nation and our government among the international community:

Immediately upon entering government, we will indict *George W. Bush* and *Dick Cheney* for torture, treason, and other high crimes. We will heal international relations and avoid national complicity in international crimes by holding both of them legally accountable for any and all past misdeeds. By our actions we will prove the United States is a law-abiding nation, not a rogue state.

3) We will restore our rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness:

- A) We will rescind the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, and the Homeland Security Act. These three Acts together form the foundation for dictatorial, totalitarian government and must be removed to ensure freedom and proper Constitutional rule.
- B) We will re-investigate 9-11: The dignity of the lives of ordinary citizens and civil servants killed or wounded in the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks requires a full and impartial accounting. The same goes for all our troops who've been wounded or died in wars based on 9/11. Further, in order to prevent future terrorist attacks, it's vital we know whether and to what extent domestic traitors were responsible for what occurred.

4) We will stop the bleeding...

- A) We will withdraw all U.S. military forces from both Afghanistan and Iraq in six months. 1/6 of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and 1/6 of U.S. troops in Iraq will be withdrawn by the end of the first month. They may not be re-deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq. An equal or greater number of troops must be withdrawn from Afghanistan and Iraq each month for the next five months, leaving zero U.S. forces deployed in both countries by the end of six months.
- B) We call for sharp reductions in Defense spending with the savings going to essential social/environmental programs as follows:
 - 1) 10% will be dedicated to reparations to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan.
 - 2) 10% for veterans' health care and education.
 - 3) 10% for international disaster relief and ending world hunger.
 - 4) 10% for reparations to Native American tribes for money held in trust, which has been improperly managed by the U.S. government.
 - 5) 10% to build renewable energy generating systems such as solar, wind, and tidal.
 - 6) 10% for health care and medical infrastructure.
 - 7) 10% for education.
 - 8) 10% for rebuilding infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewers, etc.
 - 9) 10% for adding forest and park land to the Commons through outright purchase and conservation easements.

5) We will provide security for our families...

Quality Health care, homes, and livelihood must be assured to all. A transition to a sustainable, non-war-dependent economy requires re-tooling our manufacturing industries. While creating new, "green", peace-oriented jobs, it's possible some industries may be so tied into the war-economy that some of these jobs will end. People need to know they and their families will have the essentials to survive the transition before they willingly and eagerly support the changes we propose.

- A) We will institute a SINGLE-PAYER NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE program that will cover every American's basic medical needs.
- B) We will place a FREEZE ON FORECLOSURES for 5 years or until the end of the present economic emergency. No interest will be required when repaying loans made prior to 3/21/08. Homeowners must still repay the principal of their mortgages.
- C) We will provide GUARANTEED FOOD STAMPS TO INDIVIDUALS and 0% INTEREST LOANS TO PAY UTILITY BILLS. Prices for fuel and other utilities may not exceed 3/21/08 levels.

People who are secure their families will keep their homes and they'll have adequate heat, health-care, and food, will be able and willing to support making essential changes to our society and economy.

6) We must heal relations with those we've harmed...

Our platform provides a basis for full healing in this country. In order to have a sustainable society not dependent on outside energy sources, we must re-urbanize. We can't re-urbanize if racial tensions make living in close proximity intolerably unpleasant and dangerous. Solving this problem presents us a golden opportunity to set things right that should have been righted long ago. Healing between the races is a must for society to make a successful and peaceful transition into a sustainable future. We can right three of the most basic and grievous wrongs blighting our country's soul at the same time we make a bright future possible for all Americans, our children, and the generations to follow. It's time we look at and atone for past injustices and heal them fairly.

Healing our relations with Native Americans is #7, with African Americans is #8, and with Latinos (Latin Americans) is #9.

7) We will return land to Native Americans (i.e., American Indians)

To help restore the balance with the Native Nations, we are for giving back to the tribes a portion of the National Forests, excepting areas currently designated as wilderness and administered by the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area to be returned is 86.85 million acres, or 45% of the National Forests, roughly equal to three states the size of Pennsylvania. This land is currently open and uninhabited by homeowners. The United States is 2.3 billion acres in size. The National Forests' 193 million acres are roughly 8% of total U.S. acreage. We propose returning less than half of that (45%) to the tribes in order to correct the unjust, illegal seizure of their lands over the past four centuries.

Environmentalists may be concerned this land will be misused and that we need more wilderness, not less. To offset the loss of forest land returned to the tribes, item 9 of 4B dedicates 10% of the savings from ending the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to "adding forest and park land to the Commons through outright purchase and conservation easements." Because much returned land will remain undisturbed, there will actually be a net gain in wilderness lands.

We must also remember, this land will be returned within the framework of a restructuring of our entire society. Potential misuse of returned lands will naturally diminish as our society redirects the economy away from unsustainable throw-away materialism and towards ecologically, financially, and culturally sustainable goals. This issue and many others are covered in specific detail in Appendix 1. Healing the old wounds fairly provides us a once in generations opportunity to start afresh, from a firm, moral, foundation. May it be so.

8) We will honor our nation's promise to African Americans.

We propose to honor the historic promise of "40 acres and a mule" given to African Americans back in the time of the Civil War. We will accomplish this without displacing anyone. Our farming policy reverses past abuses of the federal farming policies originally intended to help family farmers. Instead, huge factory farming operations have benefited, hurting small farmers in the U.S.A. while also harming small farmers in Latin America, adding fuel to the immigration issue. Our farming policy reverses that. As a result, many large corporate farms will be foreclosed and recovered for the nation at reduced cost. The land recovered from factory farms will be allocated to fulfilling our national promise and honor. Further details are spelled out in Appendix 2.

9) We will resolve the Latino Immigration Issue fairly.

Now, we have to tackle the issue of immigration, specifically immigration coming through our southern border--the one where the United States is building an ever-wider and bigger wall to keep out Latinos trying to come in. We can argue the economic and social impact of "illegal" immigration from Central and South American countries either "pro" or "con". But one thing we'll find if we go back to the start of it all--"illegal" when applied to a native-born citizen of a Latin American country doesn't make sense.

Latinos carry the blood of the southern Indigenous tribes and are as much American as northern tribes such as the Sioux or the Cherokee. Old Mexico extended up through most of the Western states. It can be argued the northern tribes "owned" that land, but nevertheless, Latinos are indigenous peoples with every right to be on this continent. Their land was forcibly taken from them by a mass armed robbery committed between 1846 and 1848, commonly known as the Mexican-American War.

Fair is fair. Land can't be granted as reparations, because ownership of Western land was disputed between northern and southern tribes. However, the right to work can be granted. Before the issue of "illegal" can be rightly raised in regards to Latin American people, the population of Latinos should be equivalent to the population currently occupying states stolen from Mexico. This includes Texas, Colorado, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada. Their 2007 total estimated population was approximately 84 million. The total number of legal and "illegal" Latinos was estimated at 57 million. That means roughly 27 million more immigrants should be allowable before the issue of "illegal" can righteously be raised regarding Latino immigration.

Provided they have no pending felony trials and have committed no new felonies since entering the country, every undocumented "illegal" of Latino origin currently in the U.S.A. will be offered legal residency, and citizenship after five years or the option to stay as a "legal resident" who pays taxes, but can't vote and receives only health and education benefits. After taking into consideration grievances of our southern neighbors who've suffered from CIA misdeeds and one-sided policies benefiting U.S. big business, providing health and education benefits for our neighbors who need it is the right thing to do. At the same time, this provides a stimulus for more jobs in health and education. Rather than trying to keep people who need work out of the U.S.A., let's change our farming and trade policies to encourage agricultural jobs to stay in Latin America. If we help each other out, we'll find people are happy to stay right at home if they have work and the means to support their families.

10) We will treat people equally regardless of gender or orientation.

All people deserve respect and the same basic human rights granted any other person, regardless of gender or orientation. We support the following:

- A) Any two people of minimum age can legally marry and possess all legal rights associated with marriage regardless of gender or orientation.
- B) Equal legal rights for all people, regardless of gender or orientation in jobs, human rights, and all other areas covered by law.
- C) We support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which states:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

11) We, the People, will take care of business...

- A) We demand a livable wage, strong unions, repeal of the Taft-Hartley restrictions, and increase of minimum wage so people have the honest means to support themselves.
- B) We oppose trade pacts, agreements, and institutions including NAFTA, FTAA, CAFTA, and WTO as written only for the global corporations without protection of small businesses or local populations.
- C) We insist upon returning control of our nation's money supply to the People, in the form of the U.S. government, not the privately owned so-called "Federal" of Federal Reserve System. The U.S. Treasury Dept. will be responsible for printing of United States' currency.
- D) We will tax stock market transactions and currency and commodities trading. Tax proceeds will be used to fund small business loans.

12) We will tend our garden...

- A) We will maintain farm subsidies at current levels, but redirecting away from them to small farmers. Only farmers who file personal W-1040 and Schedule F income tax returns and whose total net worth is \$10 million dollars or less will qualify for federal assistance. Import and export trade policies will be weighted to benefit small farmers.

13) We will abolish patenting living things; i.e., seeds, DNA, genetics, etc.

14) We will clean our house...

- A) We call for democratic reform to strengthen participation and minority representation, including proportional representation, instant run-off voting, monitoring and public financing of elections, and a paper trail.
- B) We stand for citizen-controlled open debate between all legal candidates for President as well as all public offices. Third party and independent candidates must be included along with Republicans and Democrats.
- C) We oppose deregulation of telecommunications companies, and support increased non-profit use of airways and public access to telecommunications.
- D) We are opposed to bank deregulation. We call for creation of community investment banks to give low income people low cost loans and first time small business a chance to borrow at low rates.
- E) Water Rights will remain in the public domain. Water Rights will not be privatized.

15) We will clean our yard...

We see the value in reducing our energy consumption in all avenues of life, in transportation, food production, home temperature controls, entertainment, etc. We promote recycling, using renewable, sustainable energy that is fair to others on the planet, and promote funding of sustainable energy research. Sustainable Energy will be used for peace on the planet, not war. We support the Kyoto Treaty as a necessary first step to control green-house emissions, with rapid development of solar/wind power in every home. We will take immediate measures to clean our nation's drinking water. We will eliminate arsenic, bio-chemical, hormones, medical, industrial, and other toxic waste.

16) We will act responsibly...

We will seek to control nuclear weapons by restoring the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and pressuring Israel, India, and Pakistan to join it. We will start the process of disarmament of nuclear nations mandated by Article 6.

17) We will make peace with ourselves...

- A) **LEGALIZATION**: We are for legalizing all natural substances in their unrefined, un-distilled, natural form. They have a better safety record than do alcohol or cigarettes. We are spending billions losing the war on drugs and jailing a lot of people who otherwise would be good hard-working citizens. Control it and tax it like you do alcohol and create new business and tax sources. All criminal "strikes" related with such natural substances will be expunged from criminal records.
- B) We will **BAN THE DEATH PENALTY**
Due to racial bias, failure to deter crime, widespread errors, and ethical and humanitarian objections, we oppose the death penalty.

18) We will make peace with others...

- A) We will create a Department of Peace with Congressional oversight, and full access to the daily briefings from the various intelligence agencies including the DOD (Department of Defense) agencies.
- B) We will abide by the Geneva Convention and other international treaties regarding torture.
- C) We will normalize relations with Cuba.
- D) We support the Longhouse Coalition Peace Plan for Israel/Palestine, which conforms to requirements of Hebrew Tribal Law, Jewish Law from the Torah & Prophets, Muslim Law from the Qur'an and hadiths, and New Testament Law. A summary of the Peace Plan follows on the next page...

10 Key Points of the Longhouse Coalition Peace Plan

1. Create a new nation, "Israel" composed of Israel, West Bank, & Gaza, with two Sub-States/tribal areas called "Judah" and "Ephraim", respectively. Each tribal area will have its own civil government. "Judah" consists of what we call "Israel" today, "Ephraim" consists of the West Bank and Gaza. Boundaries are the same as pre-1967 War.
2. Jerusalem will be the undivided national capital. Jerusalem's security will be handled by an international peace force mutually agreed upon by both parties. The international peace force will remain until Israel's new "Congress" unanimously agrees on returning these duties to Israel's control.
3. Hebron's security issues will be handled the same as with Jerusalem.
4. All Palestinians and all Israelis, Jew, Arab, or otherwise, will be recognized as citizens of the new, re-united, state of Israel.
5. Right of Return. All Palestinians may return to live in the land and be citizens. Palestinians who've had land confiscated in the West Bank or Gaza will have their land returned. Palestinians who've had land confiscated in Judah's portion will receive financial compensation.
6. Israeli settlers in settlements in the West Bank and/or Gaza are to receive new homes within "Judah's" territory.
7. All citizens from either group who haven't killed civilians of the other tribe may purchase land in either tribal area, i.e., anywhere in the entire country.
8. Freedom of religion in both tribal areas.
9. A national army made up of both tribes.
10. One national government, with a democratically-elected "Congress" made up of twenty-four "elders" and a "President".

For more details, visit www.LonghouseCoalition.org.

APPENDIX 1

7: Returning land to Native Americans, cont;

B) Areas of the National Forests designated as wilderness under the National Wilderness Preservation System (roughly 35 million acres) will be excluded from land eligible for return. These areas are reserved for everyone and Mother Nature. 50% of an additional 58.5 million acres (roughly 30 million acres) designated by the National Forest Roadless Areas Initiative will likewise be excluded from the return. The National Forests contain 193 million acres. After excluding 65 million acres of National Forests from the land return, roughly 130 million acres remain from which to select 86.85 million acres.

To offset this narrowed range of land from which to select, land in the northern section of Yellowstone National Park may be exchanged for the sole purpose of creating an indigenously-controlled area in which the Yellowstone buffalo herd can roam freely. This land will be called the Yellowstone Bison Free Roaming Range. This land may never be fenced except at the boundaries, if at all. No permanent housing may be constructed on this land.

Buffalo will also be added to the federally-recognized Endangered Species List in the area directly north of Yellowstone Park all the way north to Montana, and throughout the entire state of Montana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have sole responsibility for control of the herd in these areas.

C) The proportion of returned land will be half to federally-recognized tribes, half to members of non-federally recognized tribes.

D) Concerning Land returned to federally-recognized tribes:

- 1) The land will be apportioned according to the population of each tribe on the date of announcement of the Longhouse Coalition platform, i.e., 3/21/2008.
- 2) Land selected by individual tribes must either abut their current reservation or it must lie within the historical range of that tribe. If insufficient National Forest land is available in that area, the tribe may request a trade for National Parkland, Bureau of Land Management land, or other federal land. However, such a trade requires passage by both Houses of Congress by a simple majority. Otherwise, land may be selected outside traditional tribal grounds or donated as part of the Yellowstone Bison Free Roaming Range.
- 3) Land returned to federally-recognized tribes is being returned to tribes, not individuals. What the tribes choose to do with it must be their business.

APPENDIX 1 cont.;

7: Returning land to Native Americans, cont.;

E) Concerning land returned to non-federally-recognized Native Americans:

- 1) All non-federally-recognized Native Americans must apply for inclusion in the land return within one year of enactment of this proposal by the U.S. Congress.
 - 2) At the end of that year, the land will be apportioned among applicants in the following manner: First, a determination is made of the maximum number of potential eligible applicants by subtracting from the total number of applicants those whose applications have already been denied. The total acreage (roughly 43 million acres) will be equally divided among the potential eligible applicants. Applicants whose claims are approved make their selection from any remaining land eligible for return in the National Forests. All land reserved for applicants whose claims are later denied will be applied towards accumulating land in the Yellowstone Bison Free Roaming Range.
 - 3) Qualification of non-federally-recognized Native Americans is based on the the criteria described in either "3A" or "3B" following:
 - A) Proof of ancestry by legally recognized marriage or birth records.
 - B) Proof of ancestry prior to 1800 within current U.S.A. borders and membership in any legally recognized group that supports Indigenous issues and/or provides Indigenous language instruction and culture as its major interest or outreach. In other words, people who identify with their heritage.
- F) If we're going to start over, let's start where it was "right" at the beginning-- when William Penn fairly purchased land for his colony from the Lenape tribe and the entire Longhouse. Ironically, the Lenape are not currently a federally-recognized tribe. This must be rectified. The Lenape tribe must receive federal recognition. While the status of other tribes may be in doubt, doing this will symbolically serve notice of what a change in government can mean to everyone.
- G) We intend to do our best as a nation to respect Native American sacred sites. Symbolic of this, a healing will occur at a site tribes throughout the continent held as sacred. The name of the sacred site is "Manataka", which is a mountain right outside Hot Springs, Arkansas. Currently, all the hot springs are capped. They provide steaming hot water for bath-houses and spas, but to do so they desecrate a sacred site. Removing caps from half the springs will honor Native American spirituality and still leave steam for the bath-houses.

APPENDIX 2

8: Honoring our promise to African Americans, cont.:

For African Americans, that means the equivalent of 40 acres promised every freed slave after the Civil War. Because our farming platform redirects agriculture subsidies from Agri-giants to farmers making less than \$1 million/year, the net result will be the giant agricultural corporations will go under, while small farmers thrive. The Agri-giants are built on the snatched-away land of small farmers, many of whom were driven bankrupt. Now, as they go under and declare Chapter 11, the land can be re-allocated to small farmers, and here's where Reparations comes in.

While the federal government's promise was never fully delivered, there's also a question of whether this meant 40 acres to every man, woman, and child, or to heads of households. Common sense says it wasn't meant to make baronial estates. A parallel law, the Homestead Act of 1862, specifies family heads 21 years or older. The spirit of the promise meant heads of households, roughly one quarter of the total population, yet there's the years of justice denied to factor in, too. If we take the middle road, half of 3.5 million freed slaves to 1.75 million, and multiply that by the 40 acres each, we come up with an area of land comparable to that returned to the First Nations--about 110,000 sq. mi., which is about one and a half times the size of the state of Nebraska. From that we subtract the farmland in farms 40 acres or larger currently owned by African American farmers, and the difference is the "New Reparations" land. All remaining recovered farmland will be allocated through a lottery of farmers who've had their farms repossessed by the banks.

To provide for African Americans in the cities, for the next fifty years, 45% of normal annual taxes on farms in the New Reparations area will go to scholarships for African American children, and 45% to fund urban renewal projects using African American companies. The remaining 10% goes to the federal government for general operations. For recovered land outside the New Reparations area, 45% of normal annual taxes goes to scholarships for rural children, 45% to develop jobs in areas where factories have been shut down, and unemployment is high, i.e., cities, and the remaining 10% tax goes to the federal government for general operations.

Now, it's possible someone who receives a farm might turn around and sell it and take the money and run. That won't work, because that denies others their share--their continued income from the 90% fund of redirected taxes. To avoid this, the farmer gains 2% equity in the farm every year the farmer is there. The rest remains with the "People". If a farm is sold, the farmer receives his equity portion only (2% times years occupied), while the remainder is split three ways, going back to the People. One third to other farmers, one third to scholarships, and one third to urban development. After 50 years, the farmer fully owns the land.