

A close-up portrait of Mike Gravel, an older man with white hair and glasses, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

MIKE GRAVEL

For President

Man for America

MIKE GRAVEL FOR PRESIDENT * P.O. BOX 948 * ARLINGTON, VA 22216

(703) 652-4698 * www.Gravel2008.us

Paid for by Mike Gravel for President 2008

The People's Crusade:

More Like Marcus Cicero than Don Quixote

BY RALPH NADER

Like a fresh wind coming from Alaska—the state he represented as a U.S. Senator from 1969 to 1981—Mike Gravel is determined to start a debate about the fundamentals of democracy in his quest for the Democratic nomination for President.

People who heard his address before the Democratic National Committee and his brief statements during the first debate between the Democratic aspirants last month may be getting the idea that this is no ordinary dark horse politician.

For over a decade, given the failures of elected politicians, Senator Gravel has been engaged in some extraordinary research and consultations with leading constitutional law experts about the need to enact another check to the faltering checks and balances—namely, the National Initiative for Democracy, a proposed law that empowers the people as lawmakers.

Before you roll your eyes over what you feel is an unworkable utopian scheme, go to nationalinitiative.us to read the detailed constitutional justification for the sovereign right of the people to directly alter their government and make laws.

Among other legal scholars, Yale Law School Professor Akhil Reed Amar and legal author Alan Hirsch have argued that the Constitution recognizes the inalienable right of the American people to amend the Constitution directly through majority vote. What the Constitution does not do is spell out the procedures for such a sovereign right.

The right of the people to alter their government flows from the Declaration of Independence, the declared views of the founding fathers and the framers of the Constitution, its Preamble (“We the People of the United States do ordain and establish this Constitution,”), Article VII

and other provisions, including the Ninth and Tenth Amendments.

Very briefly, the Democracy Amendment asserts the power of people to make laws, creates an Electoral Trust to administer the national elections, limits the use of money in National Initiative elections to natural persons (e.g. not corporations), and enacts the National Initiative through a federal ballot, when fifty percent of the voters (equal to half of the votes cast in the most recent presidential election) deliver their votes in its favor. Voting can be through traditional and electronic modes.

The Democracy Statute establishes deliberative legislative procedures vital for lawmaking by the people, administered by the Electoral Trust, in an independent arm of the U.S. government.

Mike Gravel points out that the initiative authority to make laws now exists in 24 states and more than 200 local communities. However, the national initiative, which he envisions would have deliberate legislative procedures and would be generically independent of any curtailment by the “officialdom of government,” except a judicial finding of fraud.

With the National Initiative, the people acting as lawmakers, will be able to address healthcare, education, energy, taxes, the environment, transportation, the electoral college, the Iraq war, and other neglected, delayed or distorted priorities. Legal scholar, Alan Hirsch, believes “a more direct democracy could be an important means of promoting civic maturation.”

Of course these initiatives, if enacted, would still be subject to existing constitutional safeguards such as the First Amendment, equal protection, due process and the like.

No doubt, you may have many questions to be answered. If you are interested, the entire text of the Democracy Amendment and the Democracy Act are on both the above-mentioned web sites.

Gravel’s political positions place him high on the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. Rep. Dennis Kucinich will find that he is not alone during the forthcoming debates scheduled by the Democratic Party.

Don’t expect Mike Gravel to show up in the money-raising sweepstakes. For he



CITIZEN POWER. Highly respected consumer advocate Ralph Nader has lauded the work of former U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel for his efforts to empower the American people to vote on issues that directly affect their lives. Increasing participation in power is the key to Senator Gravel’s plan for the country.

really believes in a government of, by and for the People.

This proposal is not exactly a magnet for fat cat money. No candidate for President from the two major parties has ever demonstrated such a detailed position regarding the sovereign power of People to amend the Constitution and make laws.

Will soundbite debates and horserace media interviews allow for such a public deliberation over the next year? Only if the People take their sovereignty seriously and take charge of the campaign trail with their pre-election, pre-primary participation in city, town and county throughout the country.

Over 2,000 years ago, the ancient Roman lawyer and orator, Marcus Cicero, defined freedom with these enduring words: “Freedom is participation in power.” That could be the mantra for Mike Gravel’s 2008 Presidential campaign.

This commentary originally appeared in the online magazine Counterpunch.org on May 8, 2007. RALPH NADER is a highly regarded consumer advocate and is the author of *The Seventeen Traditions*.

What's Inside

THE MAN FOR AMERICA:	3
WORK FOR THE U.S.:	4-5
ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST:	6-7
WHY SUPPORT MIKE:	8
COVER PHOTO: RAMONA ROSALES	ES

Senator Mike Gravel: Man for America

Mike Gravel was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, to French-Canadian immigrants. He attended French-speaking Catholic schools, and as a teenager, when he wasn't working with his father and brothers in the house painting and construction business, he volunteered in local Springfield politics, developing an avid interest in governance and government.

In the early 1950s, Mike Gravel enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as adjutant in the Communications Intelligence Service and as a Special Agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps in Germany and France.

After graduating with a B.S. in economics from Columbia University, Mike Gravel moved to Alaska, where he built a real estate business. He served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1963 to 1966, and was then elected to two terms in the U.S. Senate, representing Alaska from 1969 to 1981.

Senator Gravel served on the Finance, Interior, and Environment and Public Works committees, chairing the Energy, Water Resources, Buildings and Grounds, and the Environmental Pollution subcommittees. During the environmental watershed decade of the 1970s, he co-sponsored or co-authored every piece of meaningful Senate legislation dealing with air, water, waste and energy.

In 1971, as a freshman senator critical of the Vietnam War and of government secrecy, Mike Gravel used his position as a senator to release the "secret" *Pentagon Papers* and facilitated their publication as *The Senator Gravel Edition, The Pentagon Papers*, Beacon Press (1971). This publication occasioned litigation, *Gravel v. U.S. Government*, resulting in a landmark Supreme Court decision relative to the Speech and Debate Clause of the United States Constitution, establishing the precedent that members of Congress cannot be bound by the official secrets of any presidential administration.

Senator Gravel waged a successful lone filibuster for five months, ending the military draft in the United States. He forced an end to the undersea testing of obsolete nuclear warheads in the earthquake-prone area of Amchitka Island, Alaska, which could have compromised the food chain of the North Pacific. He also initiated the national and global critique of nuclear power generation.

Despite being opposed by both govern-



George Rebh

ABOVE, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Mike Gravel and his wife, Whitney, talk with supporters following his announcement of his presidential campaign. The Senator's honesty and candor has breathed new life into the race for the Democratic ticket.

ment entities and the oil industry, in 1973 Senator Gravel introduced the amendment to authorize the construction of the Alaska oil pipeline, building support and allies to secure passage of the amendment by a single vote. In addition to providing jobs and a wide array of economic benefits to citizens of Alaska, the pipeline has been responsible for providing 20 percent of the United States' oil supply over the last generation.

PUBLIC LIFE

Senator Gravel's business activities have encompassed real estate, finance, and energy. He also worked as a cab driver in New York City, as a clerk on Wall Street, and as a brakeman on the Alaska Railroad. Senator Gravel was the founding president of the Democracy Foundation, Philadelphia II, and Direct Democracy—nonprofit corporations dedicated to the establishment of direct democracy in the United States through the enactment by American voters of a

federal ballot initiative called the National Initiative. The National Initiative will permit citizens to vote for or against policy issues that affect their lives.

Senator Gravel lectures and writes about governance, capitalism, Social Security, tax reform, energy, environmental issues, and democracy. Books authored by Senator Gravel are *Jobs and More Jobs* and *Citizen Power*. He holds four honorary degrees in law and public affairs.

Senator Gravel is married to Whitney Stewart Gravel and has two grown children: Martin Gravel, living in Colorado, and Lynne Gravel Mosier, living in California. The Gravels have four grandchildren: Renee, Alex, Madison and Mackenzie.

Senator Gravel announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination in the 2008 presidential race on April 17, 2006.

Please note: "Gravel" is pronounced GraVELL.

Get Your Gravel Gear Here!

You can get all of your Gravel Gear from us! Check out our web site at gravel2008.us, or call (703) 652-4698 to find out about our support packages. Please also make a donation! Every dollar you spend goes right to the campaign.



Sen. Gravel Has Dedicated His Life to Public Service

THE SENATE YEARS

PEACETIME DRAFT

In May 1971, Senator Gravel began a one-man filibuster that continued into September, forcing a deal to let the military draft expire. The drafting of the nation's youth had been defense policy since 1947. In order to save face and break the Senator's filibuster, the Nixon administration agreed to let the draft expire in 1973 if given a two-year extension in 1971.

THE PENTAGON PAPERS

Daniel Ellsberg, a former Pentagon analyst who helped write the secret *Pentagon Papers*, attempted to secure the *Papers'* release through a member of Congress in order to provide legal protection for the release of this highly classified historical study that detailed how the United States had involved itself in the Vietnam War. After congressional leaders—McGovern, Fulbright and McCloskey—failed to act, Ellsberg turned to *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, which then published excerpts of the study in June 1971. The Nixon Justice Department sought an injunction against the newspapers, and a Supreme Court decision that was due at the end of June put the publishers at risk. The day before the Supreme Court decision, in an effort to moot any action that might intimidate the newspapers, Mike Gravel officially released *The Pentagon Papers* in his capacity as a senator communicating with his constituency. The Supreme Court did not protect the Fourth Estate, but Senator Gravel continued to press for release of the full text of *The Pentagon Papers* by publishing the papers in book form. Beacon Press, the publishing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, was the only publisher that would face down the Nixon Administration by releasing Gravel's own *Senator Gravel Edition Pentagon Papers*. The Justice Department brought legal action against Beacon Press and the Senator's editor Dr. David Rotberg. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which rendered a landmark constitutional decision in the spring of 1972, narrowly defining the preroga-

tives of an elected representative with respect to the "Speech or Debate" clause of the Constitution.

ENVIRONMENT

The decade of the 1970s saw the awakening by federal and state legislatures to the need to control environmental pollution. Mike Gravel's service on the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee throughout his Senate career placed him in a leadership role on every major piece of environmental legislation dealing with air, water, waste and energy that emerged from the U.S. Congress during this period. Gravel's important work set the stage for expanding environmentalism that has been the mainstay beginning in the 1970s all the way up to today.

THE ALASKA PIPELINE

In 1973, following years of study and judicial delay, Senator Gravel introduced an amendment to empower the Congress to make the policy decision about the construction of the Alaska Oil Pipeline. Initially, his amendment was opposed in all quarters, by state and federal officials, the labor movement, the oil industry and the leadership of the Democratic Party. Alone at the beginning, Senator Gravel built support and gained allies who, in the end, helped secure the amendment's passage in the Senate by a single vote. Rep. John Melcher (D-Mt.) was also instrumental in getting a measure passed that brought about the pipeline. This accomplishment placed Alaska on a new economic footing. The pipeline has been responsible for providing 20% of the U.S. oil supply, has contributed substantially to the nation's balance of payments, and has yielded economic benefits that dramatically improved the quality of life across Alaskan society. A recent retrospective analysis has revealed that, absent Senator Gravel's amendment, the pipeline would probably not have been built, relegating the nation to greater foreign dependency and environmental pollution.

CANNIKIN NUCLEAR TESTS

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Pentagon was performing five calibra-



PUBLIC SERVICE. While serving in the Alaska state House and the U.S. Senate, Mike Gravel never shied away from the toughest issues. Throughout his time in public service, war, peace and humanity in general have figured strongly in his worldview. Gravel is best known for ending the draft and exposing the secret war that was being carried out by the Nixon Administration and the U.S. military during the War in Vietnam. But that's not all. Gravel, an environmentalist, also fought to end nuclear testing off the coast of Alaska, which was threatening sea life in the North Pacific, and worked to stop overfishing in the north Atlantic .

tion tests for a nuclear missile warhead that, upon investigation, was revealed to be obsolete. Yet the tests, involving the detonation of nuclear warheads under the seabed of the North Pacific on Amchitka Island, Alaska (an earthquake-prone area) were scheduled to continue. These tests created large caverns under the seabed, encapsulating nuclear wastes with life-threatening properties that would last more than a thousand years. These caverns could rupture during an earthquake, spewing contaminated waste into the food chain of the North Pacific, thereby compromising one of the planet's major sources of food. Mike Gravel

fought the tests in Congress, but he also went beyond his role as a Senator to organize worldwide environmental opposition to the Pentagon's plans. He succeeded in halting the nuclear program after the second test, limiting the expansion of this threat to the marine environment of the North Pacific.

'THE PEACEFUL ATOM'

In the decades of the 1950s and 1960s, nuclear fission was considered an environmentally clean alternative for the generation of commercial electricity and was part of a popular national policy for the peaceful use of atomic energy. Mike Gravel was the first in Congress to publicly oppose this national nuclear policy in 1970, and he used his office to organize citizen opposition, successfully persuading Ralph Nader's organization to join the fight. Senator Gravel's initial efforts, and later those of the environmental movement that had coalesced in opposition, contributed to making the production of commercial electricity through nuclear fission uneconomical. The wisdom of this change in policy was confirmed by the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl disasters. Mike Gravel had applied the brakes to a headlong policy that was threatening the global environment by producing nuclear wastes and proliferating bomb-grade nuclear materials.

LAW OF THE SEA

In the mid-1970s, the United Nations was moving toward the codification of a legal regime for the oceans that cover two-thirds of the Earth's surface. As a delegate to the UN from the U.S. Senate, Senator Gravel worked with UN leaders and committees, the secretary of state, our UN ambassador, and other agencies of government to advance the UN's adoption of the Convention on the Law of the Sea—despite the opposition of the fishing industry in his home state of Alaska. The momentum behind the UN effort was undermined by legislation introduced by the powerful Senator Warren Magnuson and his Alaskan colleague, Senator Ted Stevens—legislation that permitted the U.S. to unilaterally take control of the 200-mile waters bordering its land mass. Senator Gravel successfully delayed this legislation in the hope that the UN would act first, but his opposition ultimately failed to stop its passage. Efforts at the UN lost momentum, and agreement was not reached until 1982. Shamefully, the U.S. is the only nation in the world that has failed to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention. At the time, Senator Gravel

accurately predicted that if conservation measures are not passed, the fisheries on the East Coast will face depletion. Today, the cod of Alaska is slowly being wiped out because of over-fishing. The fishing industry is being destroyed because the U.S. has failed to follow Gravel's recommendation and sign onto the treaty.

HONORING GREEK DEMOCRACY

In the 1970s, Elias Demetrapoulos, an exiled Greek journalist living in Washington, D.C., recruited Mike Gravel to use his position in the U.S. Senate to speak out against the Nixon Administration's support of the Colonels in Athens. Both the Greek Junta and the Nixon Administration were trying to silence Mr. Demetrapoulos's effective leadership in building American opposition to the military dictatorship in Greece. Senator Gravel was an outspoken ally in this effort and gave Demetrapoulos personal assistance. The Senator also counseled with Merlinia Mercouri and her husband, Jules Dassin, in their opposition to the Junta, and used his influence, publicly and privately, to side with the Greek national position on the Cyprus question.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA

Six months before Henry Kissinger's secret mission to the People's Republic of China (PRC) on behalf of President Nixon, Senator Gravel introduced legislation to recognize and normalize relations with the PRC, in the hope of bringing about a re-examination of our outdated policy toward the Chinese people.

NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was the first major political settlement of aboriginal claims, which had been customarily handled by a process that had come to be recognized as a biased process. Senator Gravel co-authored the legislation and provided outspoken leadership for some of its most important, but less popular, land-use provisions in the Settlement Act. He was the first to remove the federal government's paternalistic role in the management of native economic affairs once the settlement had been approved by Congress.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS

In the early 1970s, Senator Gravel pioneered satellite communications through a demonstration project that established links between Alaskan villages and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, for medical diagnostic communications. He then developed a propos-

al for the Alaska Legislature for a satellite communications and video transmission system, which has since been implemented, making Alaska's system the most advanced in the U.S.

CAPITAL OWNERSHIP VS. WAGES

In an effort to broaden the ownership of capital in our society, Senator Gravel authored and secured the passage into law of the General Stock Ownership Corporation, Subchapter U of the Tax Code. With the hope of first using this law in Alaska, he brought about a ballot initiative in the state's general election of 1980 on the creation of an Alaska General Stock Ownership Corporation (AGSOG). As part of this effort, he negotiated a tentative agreement with the British Petroleum Company to sell its interest in the Alaska Pipeline to the AGSOG. The electorate failed to approve the AGSOG initiative. As a result, BP now considers its pipeline interest to be one of the most profitable of its Alaska holdings. Had the AGSOG been approved and the purchase consummated, it would be paying out dividends of several hundred dollars annually to every citizen/shareholder in Alaska. Senator Gravel is a firm believer in letting the profits of capital be used to pay the cost of capital.

CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

The Inuit peoples populate the Arctic regions of the globe. At Senator Gravel's instigation, and with a private grant he secured, the Alaskan North Slope native leadership organized a circumpolar conference attended by Inuit representatives from Canada, Greenland and Norway. Their periodic convocations on culture, environment, and other regional concerns now include representation from Russia.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Mike Gravel served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1963 to 1966, and as Speaker from 1965 to 1966.

His accomplishments included fighting for civil rights for all his constituents, including Alaska's LGBT community.

Gravel established a regional high school system for rural Alaska, permitting native students to receive their education near their homes. He effected reforms, securing budgets to provide staffs for members and to expand research and support facilities, encouraged voting and developed an intra-session hearing process throughout the state that fostered citizen participation.

Mike Gravel Lays Out His Plan for America

THE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

One of the most important contributions to good governance since our nation's founding, the National Initiative grants citizens the power to get measures on national ballots. See Ralph Nader's introduction on page 3 for more details.

THE IRAQ WAR

Senator Gravel's position on Iraq remains clear and consistent: to commence an immediate and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops that will have them home within 120 days. The sooner U.S. troops are withdrawn, the sooner we can pursue aggressive diplomacy to bring an end to the civil war that currently consumes Iraq. Senator Gravel seeks to work with neighboring countries to lead a collective effort to bring peace to Iraq. One of the leading opponents of the Vietnam War, Senator Gravel was also one of the first public figures, in the spring of 2002, to openly oppose the planned invasion of Iraq. He appeared on national television multiple times prior to the war insisting that intelligence showed there were no weapons of mass destruction. He also noted that Iraq posed no threat to the United States and that invading Iraq was against America's national interests and would result in a disaster of epic proportions for both the United States and the Iraqi people. Today, more than four years later, the death toll of U.S. troops has climbed to over 3,600 with over 27,000 injured. Additionally, tens of thousands more are afflicted with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and urgently need psychological care. The Iraqi civilian death toll nears a million, and still there remains no end in sight to the bloodshed. As President, Senator Gravel will call for a U.S. corporate withdrawal from Iraq and hand over contracts to Iraqi businesses, which will empower Iraqis to reconstruct their own country.

IRAN AND SYRIA

Senator Gravel opposes a military confrontation with Iran and advocates a diplomatic solution to the current situation. The threat of war against another sovereign nation, while wars continue in the Middle East and Central Asia, only serves to further threaten global stability.

GLOBAL WARMING—CLIMATE CHANGE

Senator Gravel believes that global climate change is a matter of national security and survivability of the planet. As President, he will act swiftly to reduce America's carbon footprint in the world by initiating legislation to tax carbon at the source and cap carbon emissions. He is also committed to leading the fight against global deforestation, which today is second only to the energy sector as a source of greenhouse gases. However, any legislation will have little impact on the global environment if we do not work together with other global polluters. China, India and under-developed nations all work together fighting climate change can only be effective if it is a collective global effort. As President, Senator Gravel will see that the U.S. launches and leads a massive global scientific effort, integrating the world's scientific and engineering community, to end energy dependence on oil and integrate the world's scientific community in this task.

PROGRESSIVE FAIR TAX—A GREEN TAX

There is only one "single payer" in the U.S. that pays taxes—the citizen and consumer. Businesses and corporations do not; they merely collect taxes from consumers and pass them on to the government. The Fair Tax proposal calls for eliminating the IRS and the income tax and replacing it with a progressive national sales tax on new products and services. To compensate for the tax on necessities, such as food, lodging, transportation and clothing, there would be a "rebate" to reimburse taxpayers. This would be paid in a monthly check to all Americans and would provide a significant amount of money to hard-working families and a cash flow for the poor. Having no exceptions, wealth will be denied the opportunity to "game" the system and escape paying a fair share.

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE VOUCHERS

Senator Gravel advocates a universal healthcare system that provides equal medical services to all citizens, paid for by a retail sales tax (a portion of the Progressive Fair tax). Certificates pay for any one of five insurance plans and/or a Medicare-type plan from the government. The insurance plans would be competing with the cost of administration—not medical services. Medical care would be defined by the certificates and would be the same for all Americans to include eye care, dental, catastrophic etc. All Americans would do is sign up for the certificates. There will be nothing to pay. Regional healthcare organizations, patterned on the Federal Reserve System, would address preventative health needs and ensure the quality of service provided to citizens. They would also provide educational benefits wherein doctors and nurses out of med schools would not be burdened with debt that cripples their ability to provide affordable healthcare. Critical to this issue is taking the burden of

healthcare off the business community, thereby making American products more competitive in the world marketplace.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mike Gravel supports a woman's right to decide if and when to have children, and to make the difficult decision about abortion without interference by government. Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education, including accurate information about contraception, can help to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions. Parity in health insurance and access to family health care services, including family planning education, would also benefit the health and welfare of infants and children, who need and deserve to be wanted and loved.

IMMIGRATION

Senator Gravel favors protecting our borders and monitoring the flow of immigrants into our country. He also favors a guest worker program and setting up naturalization procedures that would fairly bring immigrants into legal status. America must address the root

Do you have an issue that Senator Gravel has not addressed here?
You can email Senator Gravel through Mike's weekly Email Newsletter, "TALK WITH ME."
Sign up at the web site: Gravel2008.us

Senator Tackles the Toughest of Issues



Healthcare is a right, not a privilege

cause of illegal immigration. Any discussion of immigration must include NAFTA and the concept of “free trade.” The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been a disaster for the working class of both the U.S. and Mexico and a boon to the international corporate interests. A study by the Economic Policy Institute found that over 1 million U.S. jobs were lost as a result of NAFTA, a third of them manufacturing jobs. In Mexico, 1.3 million farm workers lost their jobs in the same period. This has led to a wave of immigrants looking for work in the U.S. Reforming unfair trade policies spawned by measures like NAFTA will stimulate job growth on both sides of the border.

LGBT RIGHTS

Senator Gravel supports same-sex marriage and opposes the Defense of Marriage Act. He supports expanding hate-crime legislation and opposes laws that allow discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or one’s gender identity or expression. Senator Gravel strongly opposes the military’s “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” legislation on the grounds that it is unconstitutional, as it restricts the rights of gay Americans. He opposes any state or national constitutional amendment that restricts the rights of the gay community.

SOCIAL SECURITY—STOP THE RIPOFF

Senator Gravel wants to put real money, rather than borrowed money, in the Social Security Trust Fund, invest it properly and identify the interests of individual beneficiaries so they can know what their retirement fund is and leave surplus funds to heirs. He also calls on Congress to stop raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. This is key to ensuring that Social Security will be around for the next generation.

EDUCATION

Access to public education is a bedrock American value. Why is it then that the United States ranks 49th in literacy and that an estimated 30% of our students don’t graduate from high school? Investing in education provides a pathway to a thriving national economy, to

individual and family economic opportunity, and to the reduction of poverty. A successful education system requires the commitment of families, the community, and government. It’s time to re-order our national budget priorities in order to improve the American education system. Parent education and access to preschool programs such as Head Start need to be expanded so that children from low-income families are equally ready to benefit from elementary school. Universal pre-kindergarten would also enhance readiness. Encouraging our students to be the best they can be will require flexibility from the federal and state governments, within school systems, and from groups with a stake in educational success. Flexibility may mean extended school days and summer learning opportunities or extended school years. It may mean online and broadcast courses to provide access to highly qualified teachers. It may mean charter schools to address the needs of local communities, smaller classes, enrichment programs for students at risk, and vocational options. One thing we know for sure: No Child Left Behind has left too many children behind. It needs to be reformed and adequately funded. It needs to acknowledge the need for a fuller curriculum that encourages critical thinking—not just math and science test-taking. A high school diploma should be the minimum goal for all students; without it, our children will be condemned to a substandard economic existence.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Our war veterans are not, as some would have it, a “special interest” but are our primary interest. As President, Senator Gravel would ensure that veterans receive full and unambiguous funding for their most important needs, including healthcare that is indexed to the increasing cost of care and medicine. He would make sure that all soldiers receive a full medical diagnosis to assess what their individual needs would be. He would also make sure that the VA system is fully financed and has sufficient well-trained personnel to provide the finest care that is available. As the Senator says, “We can do no less and will do much more.”

WAR ON DRUGS FAILURE

The War on Drugs has been a failure. It is time to end prohibition and start treating addiction as a public health problem. This has ravaged our inner cities, and we are losing an entire generation of men and women to prisons. We must regulate hard drugs for the purpose of treating addicts, which would emphasize rehabilitation and prevention over incarceration. We must decriminalize minor drug offenses and increase the availability and visibility of substance abuse treatment in our communities as well as in jails and prisons. The United States incarcerates more people and at a higher rate than any other industrialized nation in the world. Some 2.3 million Americans are now behind bars. This tragedy must end.

NET NEUTRALITY

Net Neutrality aims to keep the Internet free from large companies, which are using their networks to try to limit the number of web sites their customers can view and the speed at which they can view them. Examples include charging a web site an extra fee to maintain the usual connection or a faster speed. Senator Gravel guarantees a free and open Internet with unlimited access to all sites regardless of content. He will do this by supporting legislation and regulation that keeps you in control of your Internet usage and promotes free speech.

Ways to Support Mike Gravel!

1. **JOIN MIKE** on his informative and popular web site, Gravel2008.us—enter your email!

2. **FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT** to all your friends to help them make an informed decision about Mike Gravel for President of the United States. Email it, or make copies and mail it now!

3. **DONATE \$50** or more if you can—less if you must—online, by mail or by phone. We take credit cards, checks and money orders only. No cash please.

Online: www.Gravel2008.us
Phone: (703) 652-4698
Mail: Mike Gravel for President
P.O. Box 948, Arlington, VA 22216-0948

4. **VOLUNTEER**—our online and in-person volunteer needs are growing!

5. **READ MIKE’S EMAILS!** Mike emails you from the road every week with his thoughts, goals and answers to your questions. Sign up for this weekly email newsletter at Gravel2008.us.



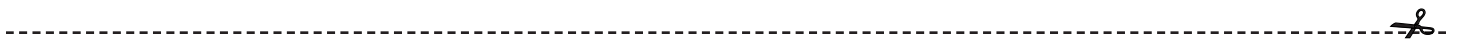
Senator Mike Gravel at the Debates

Dear Friends,

This week I'm headed to LA for the first-ever gay issues debate. As most of you know, the debate organizers initially refused to invite me. But they quickly caved after our supporters flooded their offices with emails and phone calls. I'd like to give you a sneak preview of how I'll use this forum to advance the entire discussion about gay rights and educate the American public that this is one of the great moral issues of our time.

GAY MARRIAGE:

For far too long, Democrats and Republicans have used morality to justify the second-class citizenship of gays and lesbians. Clinton, Edwards and Obama frequently claim their morality and religious upbringing prevent them from supporting marriage equality. What kind of a message do they send?



I Want to End Politics as Usual and Elect Mike

Dear Mike: You're a breath of fresh air. I want to help you build a strong campaign to become president of the United States, to empower me to vote on policy issues that affect my life, and to end the war and bring our troops home:

\$2,300 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Donation Options: Check M.O. Visa MC

Card # _____

Expires _____ Sig. _____

(Make checks payable to Mike Gravel for President 2008)

I Enclose: _____

Learn more about Senator Gravel's campaign
or donate online at www.gravel2008.us
Call us NOW to donate: (703) 652-4698

MIKE GRAVEL FOR PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 948
ARLINGTON, VA 22216-0948