

Jill Stein is the 2016 Green nominee for president of the United States. She declared her candidacy on June 22, 2015, and officially received the nomination of the [Green Party](#) on August 6, 2016, at the [Green Party National Convention](#).

For a decade, Stein was a fixture in [Massachusetts state politics](#), running unsuccessful campaigns for state representative in 2004, secretary of the commonwealth in 2006, and governor in 2002 and 2010. She previously ran for president in 2012, winning her party's nomination and securing .36 percent of the popular vote in the general election.

By trade, Stein is a physician who practiced internal medicine for 25 years. Although Stein retired in 2005, she has frequently cited her professional background as a driving force for her entering the political arena in her 50s. She explained in one interview, "Now, I say I'm practicing political medicine instead of clinical medicine because it's the mother of all illnesses and we've got to fix this political disease so we can get down to fixing the things that threaten life, limb and even survival. That includes war, poverty and climate change, as well as our physical health."^[2]

She supports progressive policy positions that would move "from the greed and exploitation of corporate capitalism to a human-centered economy that puts people, planet and peace over profit," according to her [campaign website](#). At the center of Stein's platform is the adoption of a "Green New Deal," which would seek to create millions of new jobs and improve infrastructure, agriculture, and conservation in the United States.

On August 1, 2016, Stein announced that she had selected human rights advocate [Ajamu Baraka](#) to be her running mate. She described him as an "activist, writer, intellectual and organizer with a powerful voice, vision, and lifelong commitment to building true political revolution."^[3]

Stein has typically received between 1 percent and 5 percent support in national polls in 2016. Under rules promulgated by the [Commission on Presidential Debates](#) (CPD), to qualify to participate in a presidential debate, a candidate must reach 15 percent support in an average of five selected national polls. Stein has said the CPD "is a thinly disguised scheme to protect the two establishment parties from competition" and called on [Hillary Clinton](#) (D) and [Donald Trump](#) (R) to demand that she and Libertarian nominee [Gary Johnson](#) be allowed to join the debates.^[4]

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stein earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and practiced internal for 25 years.
- Stein previously ran for president in 2012 as the Green nominee. She came in fourth in the general election, receiving .36 percent of the popular vote.
- Central to Stein's platform is the adoption of the "Green New Deal," which would see create millions of jobs and improve infrastructure and conservation through a nationwide transition to 100 percent renewable energy.

Gary Johnson is the 2016 [Libertarian Party](#) nominee for president of the United States. He declared his candidacy on January 6, 2016, and formally received the party's nomination on May 29, 2016, at the [Libertarian National Convention](#).

Johnson, a business owner who advocates a “fiscally-conservative, socially-liberal” approach to government, served two terms as the Republican governor of [New Mexico](#) from 1995 to 2003.^[2] In his first campaign for governor, he defeated Democratic incumbent Bruce King by 10 points. As governor, Johnson focused on cutting taxes and spending and reducing the size of government in the state. He vetoed more than 700 bills throughout his two terms. In his 2012 book, *Seven Principles of Good Government*, Johnson wrote, “Although I do not believe that government is ill-intentioned, I strongly believe in less government. I vetoed 750 bills as governor because I abhor the government spending money on programs that show no improvement in our lives and criminalize actions that do not warrant criminalization.”^[3]

After a short-lived run for the Republican nomination for president in 2011, Johnson switched his party affiliation to Libertarian and went on to win the Libertarian Party's nomination for president in 2012. In a statement describing his decision to leave the Republican Party, he said, “It was difficult because I have a lot of Republican history, and a lot of Republican supporters. But in the final analysis, as many, many commentators have said since watching how I governed New Mexico, I am a Libertarian.”^[4] In the 2012 general election, Johnson received almost 1 percent of the vote—a total of about 1.2 million votes.

Johnson's [2016 bid for the presidency](#) has attracted more attention than his 2012 run. In the first two weeks of August 2016, he raised more money (\$2.9 million) than in the entirety of his 2012 campaign (\$2.3 million).^[5] In addition, as the Democratic and Republican nominees have both experienced historically low favorability ratings, Johnson has managed to reach as high as 13 percent in [national polls](#). Much of his campaign has centered on raising that number to [15 percent](#), which would have allowed him to participate in the [general election debates](#) in September and October.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Johnson served two terms as the Republican governor of [New Mexico](#). His running mate, [Bill Weld](#), served two terms as the Republican governor of [Massachusetts](#).
- Johnson ran for the Republican nomination for president in 2011, but switched parties and won the Libertarian Party's nomination in 2012.
- Johnson has described his political philosophy as “fiscally-conservative and socially-liberal.”

