



# The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

## Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

[www.VoteWorldGovernment.org](http://www.VoteWorldGovernment.org)

Vote World Government President is Jim Stark; Vice President is Ted Stalets

[www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com](http://www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

This site, above, is for the new book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at [www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com](http://www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com))

### Quotes of the month

**The mandate from a successful global referendum on establishing a world parliament would be the first legitimate expression of the people's world sovereignty to make world law. World law will be at a higher level than what we know as international law, and what we are really doing with the global referendum is embryonic world law.** Francisco Plancarte, President of the Mexican NGO Planetafilia and member of the Inter-American Bar Association. (Washington D.C.)

**Referendums are a substantial part of the transformation of a delegative democracy into a participative one. Using them at the global scale in order to democratize the international political order constitutes an extraordinary way of appealing for a world democracy through worldwide democratic tools.** Fernando Iglesias, author of *Globalizar la Democracia: Por un Parlamento Mundial (Globalizing Democracy: Appeal for a World Parliament)*

**I would be proud and honoured to be a part of the group advocating a global referendum on democratic world government. Your proposal sounds practical, and I hope with all my will that it becomes a reality.** Kai Nielsen, author of *Globalization and Justice*

**Problems such as global warming and nuclear weapons make it clear that the global community needs a functioning democratic government. We need a global constitution, an elected global parliament that can make global laws, a global judicial system that can determine which individuals are guilty of breaking those**

**laws and a global police force and prison system that can apprehend and punish those individual criminals rather than trying to punish whole nation-states. The global referendum gives individuals the opportunity to register their views on this important but generally-neglected issue.** Ronald J. Glossop, author of *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity's Most Pressing Problem*

### News in brief

#### **Change in referendum ballot wording**

After much deliberation, the Board of VWG has finally made a unanimous decision about changing the wording of the ballot question. It used to read:

**“Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world government.”**

The word that some people choked on was “government,” based in the (understandable) fear that a government could become tyrannical or oppressive in time. The new wording, while it says approximately the same thing, avoids the word “government,” and reads:

**“Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues.”**

When the first wording was used, it was repeatedly emphasized that any government that wished to be called “democratic” had to include an accountable parliament, and this was emphasized repeatedly in the book that gave birth to our organization and the referendum initiative, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*. But still, there were problems. So now the “shoe is on the other foot,” so to speak. A parliament “authorized to legislate on global issues” means it would pass laws in supranational areas such as peace, justice, human rights and the protection of the shared environment, to name only a few. And if “world law” passed by this “legislature” is applied, and is effective and respected, then what we really have is a world government, even if we don’t say that in so many words. [Please note that “world law” is not the same as international law. **International law** amounts (mostly) to treaties, and is set up to govern relations between or among nation-states. **World law** “reaches to individuals,” just like national, provincial and municipal law.]

Putting these semantics aside, the early results of this basic change have been rewarding. WATUN, the newly-formed World Alliance to Transform the United Nations, endorsed the global referendum, and is also committed to **“encouraging each member organization** (there are at present 30 or so member-NGOs) **and all other civil society organizations to collect ballots however possible and as fast as possible.”** Needless to say, if they live up to their commitment, the global referendum should now take off and “go viral” ... which was the plan all along, and which is what has to happen if the global referendum is going to make a real difference. (NOTE: VWG president **Jim Stark** participated in the October 25 meeting of the **WATUN Council** in New York by way of telephone conferencing.)

Vote World Government Board member **Bhawani Shanker Kusum**, from **Gram Bharati Samiti**, is ready to start balloting in his province in India soon. His plan is to expand out from there, and he hopes to eventually bring in 100,000 votes. Also, our Board member **Francisco Plancarte** (who heads **Planetafilia**, based in **Guadalajara**) has established a site [www.GigaVote.org](http://www.GigaVote.org) to collect votes for the global referendum in Mexico, and perhaps all of South America. (For those who don't know, WATUN has been described in a journal as "the brainchild of Francisco Plancarte," and VWG is privileged that he has accepted to join our Board.) We also heard from **Deepak Vyas**, the head of an Indian NGO called **The Global Trust**, indicating that this organization would like to work with us to achieve our shared goal of a democratic world parliament.

And finally, we just got the support of **Democracia Global—Movimiento por la Unión Sudamericana y el Parlamento Mundial**, an influential NGO headed by Argentinian MP (Member of Parliament) **Fernando Iglesias** (who is, incidentally, one of VWG's authors - see <http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/authorscampaign.shtml>). Our heartfelt thanks to Fernando and his colleagues at Democracia Global.

### **The road ahead**

Having resolved this longstanding issue of the ballot wording, we now must review our website to make sure it is internally consistent with the new wording. Also, we have to consider changing the name of our organization from Vote World Government to **Vote World Parliament**, and change the site address to [www.voteworldparliament.org](http://www.voteworldparliament.org). VP **Ted Stalets** has already purchased that domain name for our possible use, should we decide to make that change. (Thanks Ted, and by the way, VWG newsletter recipients might want to check out the site Ted maintains at [www.PlanetInPeril.org](http://www.PlanetInPeril.org).) We also have to translate the site's banner and the new ballot wording into the other fifteen languages other than English in which we operate. All in all, this represents a lot of work and expense for an organization with no paid staff and no budget! Our thanks to Bob French for financing the website work.

And finally, we need to get our supporting authors far more organized. They are scholars, intellectuals and professors in addition to being published authors, and most of them are not political animals or practitioners. VWG president **Jim Stark** has written all 120 of our authors to tell them about the ballot wording change ... and to suggest that they consider volunteering for a "**steering committee**" just for the authors' campaign. This committee can figure out how best to use the significant clout that our authors will likely acquire as an assembled group of distinguished world citizens with a common cause.

### **Summary**

In short, after almost six years of hard work and poor results, VWG is (finally) poised to "take off" and "go viral." Please do your part to make this happen. **If nothing else, get a few friends or relatives to vote ... today.**

**Welcome back, Brian**

**Brian Coughlan**, a past member of our Board who does videos on world governance (see front page of [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org) at bottom right), was on a leave of absence for a few months. He is now back in the saddle as VWG's **Liaison Officer**. We welcome his return to "active duty."