

# WESLEY CLARK

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## BIOGRAPHY

Wesley Clark was born December 23rd 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated first in his class from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966 and received his Masters degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. In the Army, Clark rose steadily through the ranks, culminating in his service as the Commander-in-Chief of US Southern Command from 1996 to 1997 and NATO Supreme Allied Commander from 1997 to 2000. He retired from the Army in 2000. Following his retirement, Clark served as chairman and CEO of Wesley K. Clark & Associates, a strategic advisory and consulting firm, chairman of the board of WaveCrest Laboratories, and as a commentator for CNN. Clark and his wife Gert live in Little Rock Arkansas and have one son.

## OVERVIEW

Retired General Clark lacks a federal or state record on environmental issues and, due to his late entry into the race, little is known about his positions on environmental issues. However, as chairman of a company that developed a fuel-efficient propulsion system for cars, he has been a consistent advocate for greater fuel efficiency; he has also publicly opposed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Clark's campaign also returned a strong LCV presidential candidate questionnaire that stakes out pro-environment positions on issues ranging from clean air and clean water standards to cleanup of toxic waste sites and the protection of public lands.

## ISSUE AREAS

Wesley Clark's campaign returned LCV's presidential environmental questionnaire; excerpts from his questionnaire are included throughout this profile.

### ► CLEAN AIR

In his LCV presidential questionnaire, Clark criticized the president's "Clear Skies" plan as "misguided" and showing a "callous disregard for the health of all Americans, particularly those in lower-income communities." He also pledged to push for comprehensive legislation that includes a "cap and trade" program to reduce pollution from power plants, including carbon dioxide, and to "maintain [air] safeguards for local communities and for our treasured national parks."<sup>1</sup> In an interview with National Public Radio, he also stated his support for stronger clean air standards:

There are two big legacies we leave to our children: Constitutional government, and the environment itself. Every day we wait the problems accumulate and get worse. We should work right now on clean air, clean water, and climate change. We need to support upgrades to air pollution controls, for example—a lot of measures have been rolled back by the Administration.<sup>2</sup>

Clark also accuses the Bush administration of selling out the Clean Air Act to utilities and refineries with by weakening the new source review standards that apply to older, polluting industrial plants. He pledges that as president he would work to phase out and/or upgrade the older coal-fired power plants that were "grandfathered" under the Clean Air Act<sup>3</sup>

## THE CANDIDATE IN HIS OWN WORDS

America's natural resources – our air and water, seacoasts, mountains, wetlands, forests, prairies and wilderness – are among the glories of this nation. They are a legacy passed down by those who have come before and one we are honor bound to preserve for the generations ahead. Those who would sacrifice our natural gifts for short-term gain forsake this legacy, and at the same time undermine America's long-term economic strength. The choice between a strong economy and a clean environment is a false one.

As President, I will immediately halt the Bush administration's unprecedented assault on the environment. I will launch programs to safeguard the health of our children and families by cleaning our air, water and soils, protecting our public lands, restoring U.S. leadership on global environmental issues, and building a new, broad-based coalition for environmental protection. This is an issue that should bring us together on the strength of our shared values.

Specifically, as President, I want to work with the American people to:

- ▶ reverse failed Bush administration policies on clean air, water quality, forests, wilderness and more;
- ▶ advance comprehensive "four pollutant" legislation to keep our air clean, including binding limits on emissions of carbon dioxide;
- ▶ strengthen automotive fuel efficiency standards, in consultation with scientists, environmental groups, industry and others;
- ▶ protect our nation's wetlands by enforcing a "no net loss" policy and restore budgets for sewage plants and stormwater controls;
- ▶ codify and enforce the "Roadless Rule," which bans new road building on millions of acres of national forest;
- ▶ promote environmentally-friendly technologies with tax incentives and federal procurement;
- ▶ re-enter the international negotiations to address global warming; and
- ▶ increase funding for fighting deforestation and protecting biodiversity around the world;

These steps are just a start. To ensure a healthy environment for future generations, we must take responsible action today.

— Wesley Clark, responding to the League of Conservation Voters presidential questionnaire

### ▶ CLEAN WATER

In his LCV presidential questionnaire, Clark pledged his support for "legislation that extends Clean Water protection to all United States waters to the full extent constitutionally permitted" including the isolated wetlands and intermittent streams that are in danger of losing federal protection under Bush administration proposal.<sup>4</sup> Clark has pledged his sup-

port for the "no net loss of wetlands" policy of the first Bush administration. He has also promised to increase the federal budget for sewage treatment plants and stormwater controls.<sup>5</sup>

### ▶ TOXICS

General Clark supports the public's right to know about toxic chemicals in their communities, noting that "many

of the chemicals to which we are exposed on a daily basis can have harmful impacts on many Americans.” He also supports reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals with serious health effects when there are “realistic alternatives that are shown to be safer.”<sup>6</sup>

### Superfund

General Clark pledges that as president he will reinstate the Superfund tax, stating that it “preserves an important principle of environmental policy: namely that polluters should pay to help clean up environmental hazards.” To increase the rate of cleanup of toxic waste sites, he would appoint a strong EPA administrator, reinstate the tax, and request sufficient funding from Congress to increase the rate of cleanup.<sup>7</sup>

## ► PUBLIC LANDS

General Clark has stated his support for protecting our landscape: “Americans living 100 years from now ... should be able to rejoice in the beauty of this country, the clean air, the beautiful water, the forests, the open range land ... people are going to come here to see thousands of buffalo on the open prairie—maybe.”<sup>8</sup> Clark supports funding both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Conservation Trust Fund to purchase lands for national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. He also would reverse the Bush administration’s limitation on the amount of public lands eligible for wilderness protection, calling the president’s policy “an unbalanced and myopic approach.” General Clark also favors protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.<sup>9</sup>

### National Forests

General Clark has promised generally to reverse Bush administration rollbacks in forest policy. He also pledges to “codify and enforce the “Roadless Rule” which bans new road building on millions of acres of national forest.” He would concentrate fire suppression activities in national forests near homes and communities and would increase firefighting resources to focus on these areas.<sup>10</sup>

### Mining

General Clark supports strong enforcement of current laws to compel cleanup of mining waste on public lands and would support changes in the law to require that hardrock mines pay royalties to taxpayers for the minerals they take from public lands.<sup>11</sup>

### National Parks

General Clark supports more funding for national parks: “Our top priority should be to maintain the resource base essential to preserving each park’s special experience, including its plants, wildlife, and cultural artifacts. We should also pay more attention to maintaining and modernizing in suitable ways the facilities and transportation systems in each of our parks.” Clark does not support more ORV use in national parks, noting that “we should ensure diverse recreation opportunities for all Americans on our public lands. Decisions about which lands are suitable for different uses should be supported by environmental impact analyses and full public involvement.”<sup>12</sup>

Clark also notes that while he supports a “cap and trade” program to reduce power plant pollutants, some areas “such as those within close proximity to national parks” should be subject to strict limits and might not be eligible for such a trading program.<sup>13</sup>

## ► ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY REFORM

In his LCV presidential candidate questionnaire, Clark pledged support for “an appropriate allocation of each year’s federal budget” for environmental programs and noted that “a predictable and consistent level of funding on a multiyear basis” is vitally important. Clark supports setting environmental standards “based on the level needed to protect human health or on the availability of control technology” taking costs into account when choosing the most efficient method to implement an environmental standard—not in setting the standard. He also supports elevating the Environmental Protection Agency to cabinet status.<sup>14</sup>

## ► ENERGY

In his LCV questionnaire, Clark stated his vision for America’s energy future:

I also believe we should stop focusing on the power supplies of the 20th century, such as nuclear, coal, and oil power, and instead develop the energy supplies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as hydrogen, wind, and solar energy. These sustainable energy supplies will advance our national security interests, create sustainable jobs, and facilitate the development of our renewable resources.<sup>15</sup>

## Nuclear Issues

General Clark has said that he won't dismiss nuclear energy as a way to deal with energy shortage issues. In a radio interview, Clark noted:

I am not one of those people who will rule out nuclear energy as a contributor to dealing with the energy problem. We've just got lots of things we need to do on energy conservation and energy generation, and especially renewable energy resources. The means are out there not to take a much greater percentage of our energy needs from the sun, from solar, and from wind, and even from wave action. And I would hope that we would move ahead in those areas much more rapidly than we have been.<sup>16</sup>

However, in his LCV questionnaire, Clark stated his opposition to giving taxpayer subsidies to the nuclear power industry to support the development of new reactors.<sup>17</sup>

## Fuel Economy/Energy Efficiency

Clark is chairman of the board of WaveCrest Laboratories a company that manufactures motors that are fuel efficient and release no emissions.<sup>18</sup> In promoting WaveCrest's energy efficient engine, Clark stated:

I believe that [electric propulsion technology] will make WaveCrest motors the propulsion of choice for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, leading to a new generation of vehicles with superior operating characteristics and creating a legacy of environmental responsibility. The WaveCrest system eliminates the complex and costly integration of an internal combustion engine, gears, transmission, cooling system and more. WaveCrest's breakthrough approach can replace all these moving parts with a single motor that fits into each wheel. The resulting vehicles will be more powerful and efficient, as well as cleaner, lighter, more reliable and easier to operate.<sup>19</sup>

Clark argues that we have the technology to make cars and trucks more fuel efficient and he pledges to strengthen automobile fuel economy standards "in consultation with scientists, environmental groups, industry and others."<sup>20</sup>

## Oil Drilling

Clark opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the grounds that "the gains in terms of US energy independence are relatively marginal."<sup>21</sup> Clark noted:

[Drilling in Alaska] is an important question, both for the environmental movement and the energy issue. In general, I am inclined not to support drilling in the National Wildlife Refuge. I've looked at the issue, but the gains in terms of U.S. energy independence are relatively marginal. It's an important

redline in terms of trying to protect a pristine area in the environment.<sup>22</sup>

## Renewable Energy

In his LCV questionnaire, Clark stated:

Renewable energy has an enormously important role to play in our energy future, because of the opportunity it presents to reduce pollution, clean the air we breathe, and mitigate climate change. I endorse the standard supported by Senate Democrats for inclusion in the energy bill. A 20% standard by 2020 is aggressive, but it's the kind of goal we should set our sights on and then work with Congress to devise the right kind of policies to achieve.<sup>23</sup>

## ► GLOBAL WARMING

Clark has expressed concerns about global warming: "Human beings do affect the environment and all you have to do is fly along the Andes and look at the disappearing glaciers down there and you recognize that there is something called global warming and it's just getting started as China and India modernize."<sup>24</sup> Clark would have renegotiated the Kyoto treaty on global warming rather than rejecting it outright as the Bush administration has done and points out that the administration's pattern of rejecting international agreements has made it difficult to get international cooperation.<sup>25</sup>

In his LCV questionnaire, Clark pledged to "reduce global warming pollution from our power plants, factories, and vehicles using the market-based "cap-and-trade" approach that has worked so successfully to combat acid rain." He also promised:

I will re-engage with other nations to craft a fair, effective, and enforceable international treaty that uses the free market to cap and reduce global warming pollution at the lowest possible cost. And I will work to ensure the engagement of all critical nations in a framework that safeguards our environmental security, protects the global environment, and advances economic growth and development for all.<sup>26</sup>

## ► WILDLIFE

In his LCV questionnaire, General Clark stated his strong support for the Endangered Species Act, noting that while the ESA has been successful in the 30 years since its enactment "more needs to be done to stem the tide of extinctions." He also stated that the "current law – through administrative efforts such as habitat conservation plans, streamlined processes,

candidate conservation agreements, and ‘no surprise’ assurances — can readily protect species and address private landowner concerns.”<sup>27</sup>

General Clark also opposes giving the Department of Defense additional exemptions from the ESA for military operations: “I spent a lot of time in the Army and, in all my years of service, complying with the environmental laws never compromised the military readiness of troops under my command.”<sup>28</sup>

## ► INTERNATIONAL

In his LCV questionnaire, Clark noted: “Environmental leadership is ... an important component of American leadership for democracy around the world.”<sup>29</sup> And at a conference on terrorism at Washington’s Center for Strategic and International Studies he attributed much of the world terrorism problem to widespread resentment over the fact that the U.S. has less than 5 percent of the world’s population but consumes nearly 25 percent of its natural resources.<sup>30</sup> He has also pledged to increase funding “for fighting deforestation and protecting biodiversity around the world.”<sup>31</sup>

## Population

In his LCV questionnaire, Clark pledged: “As president, I support giving women all over the world access to information they deserve to make crucial personal health decisions—decisions that ultimately affect the ability of our planet to sustain healthy populations.” He also stated his support for funding the United Nations Population Fund: “While the United States should always reserve the right to ensure funds contributed by American taxpayers are spent on programs representative of American values, the UNFPA is a program that deserves our support.”<sup>32</sup>

## Trade

Clark has stated that while he supports free trade, “there’s not going to be any more trade agreements when I’m president that does not have something on labor and environmental standards.”<sup>33</sup> In his LCV questionnaire, he argued for making the dispute mechanisms in existing trade agreements “less secretive and more accountable” and pledged that he would ensure that future trade agreements do not include mechanisms, like NAFTA’s chapter 11, that allow foreign investors to challenge U.S. public health and environmental laws.<sup>34</sup>

## ► RECORD ON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In his LCV questionnaire, General Clark pointed to environmental accomplishments from his long career in the military:

As a commander in various units throughout my career in the US Army, I was proud always to pass EPA inspections. I worked hard with troops under my command to meet high standards of environmental excellence. During my time as Commanding General of the National Training Center in Southern California, we successfully met the challenge of preserving habitat for threatened desert tortoises while maintaining military readiness. We addressed such issues as waste oil from Army vehicles with professionalism, commitment -- and results. I am proud of the U.S. Army units I commanded. They were good stewards of the land and natural resources. In an era when environmental threats such as the loss of our protective ozone layer threaten our collective survival, military security and environmental security must each be considered an integral part of our national security.<sup>35</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>2</sup> Wesley Clark, “The Connection with Dick Gordon,” *National Public Radio*, 8 September 2003
- <sup>3</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>4</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>5</sup> Wesley Clark, Statement submitted to the League of Conservation Voters, 9 October 2003
- <sup>6</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>7</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>8</sup> *National Journal Hotline*, 14 July 2003
- <sup>9</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>11</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>12</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

- <sup>16</sup> Sound off with Sasha Radio Show, 27 June 2003 (<http://www.women4clark.com/transcripts/soundoffsasha.htm>)
- <sup>17</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>18</sup> WaveCrest Laboratories fact sheet ([http://www.wavecrestlabs.com/technology/fact\\_sheet.html](http://www.wavecrestlabs.com/technology/fact_sheet.html))
- <sup>19</sup> “WaveCrest Laboratories names Former NATO Commander General Wesley K. Clark as Chairman,” Wave Crest Laboratories press release, 21 April 2003 ([www.wavecrestlabs.com](http://www.wavecrestlabs.com))
- <sup>20</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>21</sup> *The Dianne Rehm Show*, WMUR-NPR, 22 July 2003
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>24</sup> Speech at Council on Foreign relations, New York, 20 February 2003 (<http://www.draftclark2004.com/issues.asp>)
- <sup>25</sup> Gerry Krownstein, “The CNN General,” *The New York Stringer*, Issue #20, July/August 2003
- <sup>26</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Michael Kilian, “Development Imperils Some of the World’s Water Supply,” *Common Dreams Newsletter: Breaking News and Views for the Progressive Community*, 14 August 2002
- <sup>31</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> Mike Glover, “Clark Heads to Tenth Forum With Harkin,” *Associated Press*, 7 October 2003
- <sup>34</sup> League of Conservation Voters Presidential Questionnaire, 29 October 2003
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid.