

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nader'08
Gonzalez

Contact: Chris Driscoll (Washington, D.C.)
202-36-3273
chris@votenader.org

Toby Nelson (Seattle, Wash.)
206-349-9531
tnelson@votenader.org

RALPH NADER FILES AS CANDIDATE IN WASHINGTON
Evergreen State Set to Become Tenth to Qualify Nader for Presidential Ballot

OLYMPIA, WASH. (July 10, 2008) – Washington supporters of independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader today filed nominating petitions with the Secretary of State to place Nader and running-mate Matt Gonzalez on Washington's November 2008 election ballot. Washington is the tenth state to formally submit paperwork for Ralph Nader's candidacy since the celebrated consumer advocate announced his intent to run during a February 24 appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press". To qualify to appear on Washington's ballot, state law requires independent presidential candidates organize nominating conventions attended by 1,000 registered voters. In May, June and July the Nader/Gonzalez campaign convened three nominating conventions in Seattle and Vancouver, Wash. that drew more than 2,000 people. The Secretary of State will certify Nader/Gonzalez for Washington's fall ballot following verification of the voter registration status of 1,000 of those signing the convention attendance rolls.

"Aside from whistle stop appearances during campaign season, neither the two Senators nor Congressman Barr have become directly involved in issues that impact Washington voters," said Sally Soriano, national campaign manager for Nader/Gonzalez and a former member of the Seattle School Board. "Ralph Nader's relationship with the Evergreen state dates to 1979 when he traveled to the Hanford Site for his historic conversation on nuclear power with Manhattan Project scientist Ralph Lapp. In 1998 Nader challenged the Seattle School District to take a stand against childhood obesity and reject a deal to distribute fattening soft drinks to Seattle schoolchildren. He's enjoyed many other visits to Washington over the years

-- more --

addressing concerns and helping organize supporters on issues as diverse as fair trade, consumer rights and professional sports.”

“Washington’s nominating conventions were attended by many first-time Nader supporters frustrated by Barrack Obama’s support of the Patriot Act and NAFTA and his flip-flops on issues such as withdrawal from Iraq, warrantless wiretaps, and campaign finance,” said Mike Gillis, Washington ballot access coordinator for Nader/Gonzalez . “The certification of Nader/Gonzalez for Washington’s fall ballot will mean citizens of this state can participate in a marketplace of ideas this November, unconfined by the identical ideologies of the two Senators.”

According to a July 1 CNN poll, Ralph Nader is polling six-percent nationally. In the key swing state of Michigan – whose voters were partially disenfranchised by the Democratic National Committee – an EPIC-MRA poll found Nader at eight-percent. For more information on the Nader/Gonzalez campaign, visit votenader.org.

###

About Ralph Nader

Celebrated attorney, author and consumer advocate Ralph Nader has been named by *Time Magazine* one of the “100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century”. For more than four decades he has exposed problems and organized millions of citizens into more than 100 public interest groups advocating solutions. His organizations have helped establish the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and enact the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and countless other pieces of important consumer legislation. Because of Ralph Nader we drive safer cars, eat healthier food, breath better air, drink cleaner water, and work in safer environments. Nader graduated from Princeton University and received a LLB from the Harvard School of Law.

About Matt Gonzalez

Matt Gonzalez was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2000 representing San Francisco’s fifth council district. From 2003 to 2005 he served as Board of Supervisors President. A former public defender, Gonzalez is managing partner of Gonzalez & Leigh, a 7-attorney practice in San Francisco that represents individuals and organizations in mediation, arbitration, and administrative proceedings before state and federal regulatory bodies. Gonzalez graduated from Columbia University and received a JD from Stanford Law School.