
US Elections 2008



**Information compiled by
The Information Resource Center
Embassy of the United States of America**

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1. Frequently Asked Questions on Voting and the Election Process.

What is the Electoral College?

According to the Constitution, presidents are elected by the Electoral College, composed of electors from each state who represent the will of their state's voters. Each state's group of electors is equal in number to its Congressional representation. Typically all of a state's electors cast their votes for the candidate who won a plurality of votes in their state. A candidate must receive at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes to win.

What are primaries and caucuses?

A primary is a state-level election where voters affiliated with political parties choose candidates to represent their parties in the general election. A caucus is a local-level meeting of registered party members to determine support for a candidate. The results of these meetings are combined on a statewide basis to determine a state's party nominee.

Why are there two parties?

The Constitution makes no provision for political parties. They developed on their own as the country grew, and by the 1830s were an established part of the political environment. Today, the Republicans and Democrats are the two main political parties. They have dominated American politics since the 1860s, and every president since 1852 has been one or the other.

What's new in voting technology?

Following problems with the 2000 elections, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), providing funds for states to modernize voting systems and calling for minimum standards in elections administration. This is important since all U.S. elections, even presidential elections, are administered locally. Many states have already implemented these new standards, and more changes are expected for 2008.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/voting.html>

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2. 2008 Presidential Candidates. Biographies.



Joe Biden

Joe Biden is a U.S. senator representing Delaware. He first was elected to the Senate in 1972 at age 29, and currently is the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, which reviews foreign policy matters including treaties, national security initiatives and humanitarian assistance. An outspoken critic of the Iraq war, Biden has written a "Five-Point Plan for Iraq" that calls for unifying Iraq "by federalizing it and giving Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis breathing room in their own regions."

Biden was born November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of Delaware and Syracuse University Law School in New York. Biden and his wife, Jill, have three children and five grandchildren.

Joe Biden's Official Web Site: <http://www.joebiden.com/>



Sam Brownback — Withdrew 19 October 2007

Sam Brownback is a senator from Kansas, and previously served in the House of Representatives. He was a sponsor of the Broadcast Decency Act of 2006, which increases substantially fines on television networks that air obscene material during the hours children are most likely to watch television, and he continues to push for limits on violent

Sam Brownback's Official Web Site: <http://www.brownback.com/s/>

Brownback was born September 12, 1956, in Garnett, Kansas. He graduated from Kansas State University and received a law degree from the University of Kansas. Brownback and his wife, Mary, have five children.

Brownback withdrew from the presidential race October 19, after weak fundraising in the third quarter made it difficult to continue his campaign.



Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton is a senator representing New York. She also was U.S. first lady from 1993 to 2001 while her husband Bill Clinton served as president. Hillary Clinton, in 1993, headed a task force that developed proposed legislation to provide universal health care to all Americans. That legislation ultimately was not passed, but she continues to make universal health care one of her top political goals. Experts consider Clinton the first female presidential candidate with a realistic chance of winning the nomination and the election.

Clinton was born October 26, 1947, and grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois. She attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts and Yale Law School. The Clintons have a daughter.

Hillary Clinton's Official Web Site: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/splash/>



Chris Dodd

Chris Dodd is a senator from Connecticut. Dodd, whose father also represented Connecticut in the Senate, worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and served in the Army National Guard. Dodd has opposed President Bush's troop surge strategy for Iraq, and has pledged that, if elected, he would not increase the troop level.

Dodd was born May 27, 1944, in Willimantic, Connecticut. He earned a law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law in Kentucky. Dodd and his wife, Jackie, have two daughters.

Chris Dodd's Official Web Site: <http://chrisdodd.com/splashpage/>

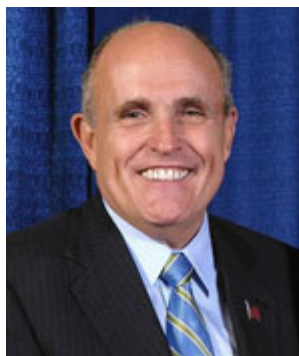


John Edwards

John Edwards is a former senator from North Carolina and was the Democratic candidate for vice president in 2004. The first in his family to attend college, Edwards was a practicing attorney until he was elected to the Senate. Edwards has said he would build a "new energy economy based on clean renewable energy and energy efficiency" if elected.

Edwards was born June 10, 1953, in Seneca, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University and received a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, have had four children, one of whom died in a car accident in 1996.

John Edwards's Official Web Site: <http://johnedwards.com/splash/>



Rudy Giuliani

Rudy Giuliani is the former mayor of New York City, where he served during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He previously was U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and prosecuted several high-profile cases. As part of his campaign, Giuliani has made "12 commitments to the American people," including "I will keep America on offense in the terrorists' war on us" and "I will impose accountability on Washington."

Giuliani was born May 28, 1944. He attended Manhattan College and New York University Law School. His wife is Judith, and he has two children from a previous marriage.

Rudy Giuliani's Official Web Site: <http://www.joinrudy2008.com/>



Mike Gravel

Mike Gravel represented Alaska in the U.S. Senate from 1969 to 1981. He also served in the U.S. Army and was once a New York City taxi driver. Gravel has proposed abolishing the income tax and replacing it with a progressive sales tax. He also advocates legislation capping U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Gravel was born May 13, 1930, to French Canadian immigrants in Springfield, Massachusetts. He attended Columbia University in New York City. Gravel and his wife, Whitney Stewart Gravel, have two children and four grandchildren.

Mike Gravel's Official Web Site: <http://www.gravel2008.us/>



Mike Huckabee

Mike Huckabee is the former governor of Arkansas and a former Baptist preacher. Huckabee, who has diabetes, received national attention for losing 110 pounds and encouraging others to improve their diet and exercise. Huckabee says withdrawing American troops from Iraq "would have serious strategic consequences for us and horrific humanitarian consequences for the Iraqis."

Huckabee was born August 24, 1955, in Hope, Arkansas. He attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. Huckabee and his wife have three children.

Mike Huckabee's Official Web Site: <http://www.mikehuckabee.com/>



Duncan Hunter

Duncan Hunter is a congressman from San Diego. He is also a Vietnam War veteran. Representing a border community, Hunter authored the Secure Fence Act, which would extend the border fence 1,375 kilometers across California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Hunter says his experience on this issue in San Diego has shown that "building fences in strategic locations along our international borders is a proven method of keeping America safe."

Hunter was born May 31, 1948, in Riverside, California. He attended Western State University Law School in San Diego. Hunter and his wife, Lynne, have two sons.

Duncan Hunter's Official Web Site: <http://www.gohunter08.com/>



Dennis Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich is currently a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio. Formerly the mayor of Cleveland, he was the youngest person elected to run a major U.S. city when he took office at the age of 31 in 1977. Kucinich wants to form a Department of Peace, which would "offer a new clear vision of people working out their differences without resort to primitive violence."

Kucinich was born October 8, 1946, in Cleveland. He attended Case Western Reserve University in the same city. He has a wife, Elizabeth, and a daughter from a previous marriage.

Dennis Kucinich's Official Web Site: <http://www.dennis4president.com/>



John McCain

John McCain is a senator representing Arizona. He served in Vietnam, where he was a prisoner of war for more than five years. McCain was also a presidential candidate in 2000. He has called for a "greater military commitment to Iraq," saying that more troops are necessary to rebuild the nation and prevent sectarian violence. McCain supports immigration reform legislation that would provide illegal immigrants a path to citizenship and establish a temporary guest worker program.

McCain was born August 29, 1936, in the Panama Canal Zone, where his father was serving in the U.S. Navy. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy. McCain has a wife, Cindy, seven children and four grandchildren.

John McCain's Official Web Site: <http://www.johnmccain.com/>



Barack Obama

Barack Obama is a first-term senator from Illinois. Previously, he served in the Illinois state Legislature and worked as a civil rights attorney. Obama has proposed legislation that would create a new employment eligibility system for companies to verify if their employees are legal residents. Obama, whose father is from Kenya, is considered by experts to be the first African-American candidate with a reasonable chance of winning the presidency.

Obama was born August 4, 1961, in Hawaii and has lived in many places, including Indonesia. Obama attended Columbia University in New York and earned a law degree at Harvard University in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters.

Barack Obama's Official Web Site: <http://www.barackobama.com/>



Ron Paul

Ron Paul is a representative from Texas. He previously served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force and worked as a doctor, delivering more than 4,000 babies in his career. Paul says that he "never votes for legislation unless the proposed measure is expressly authorized by the Constitution." Paul has advocated withdrawing from several trade pacts, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, saying that they limit American independence.

Paul was born August 20, 1935, in Pittsburgh. He attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and Duke University School of Medicine in North Carolina. He and his wife, Carol, have five children and 17 grandchildren.

Ron Paul's Official Web Site: <http://www.ronpaul2008.com/>



Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson is the governor of New Mexico and a former congressman. He served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and secretary of energy during the Clinton administration. During his career, Richardson has negotiated with foreign leaders, including Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro. Richardson says he has the experience "to bridge gaps" and "achieve political solutions" and has criticized the Bush administration for not engaging with difficult regimes.

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Richardson was born November 15, 1947, in Pasadena, California, and lived in Mexico City for many years. He attended Tufts University in Massachusetts. Richardson and his wife, Barbara, have no children.

Bill Richardson's Official Web Site: <http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/home>



Mitt Romney

Mitt Romney is the former governor of Massachusetts. He also oversaw the committee that organized the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Romney supports President Bush's surge strategy for Iraq and has called on Americans to demonstrate a "surge of support" for its troops. If elected, Romney would be the first Mormon president.

Romney was born March 12, 1947, in Detroit, when his father was governor of Michigan. Romney attended Brigham Young University in Utah and Harvard University's business and law schools in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Ann, have five sons.

Mitt Romney's Official Web Site: <http://www.mittromney.com/>



Tom Tancredo

Tom Tancredo is a member of the House of Representatives from Colorado. He previously served in the Colorado Legislature and worked as a schoolteacher. He is vocal in his support of the right to bear arms and his opposition to amnesty for illegal immigrants. He vows to eliminate social benefits and job prospects for illegal immigrants.

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Tancredo was born December 29, 1945, in Denver. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado. He and his wife, Jackie, have two sons and five grandsons.

Tom Tancredo's Official Web Site: <http://teamtancredo.org/>



Fred Thompson

Fred Thompson is a former Tennessee senator. He is perhaps best known for playing the role of District Attorney Arthur Branch on the television show *Law & Order*. Thompson says he has "always cared deeply about the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms" and is a big proponent of federalism.

Thompson was born August 19, 1942 in Sheffield, Alabama and received a law degree from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. He has a wife, Jeri, and four children.

Fred Thompson's Official Web Site: <http://www.fred08.com/>

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/candidates.html>

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3. Issues: Climate Change.



Joe Biden

Biden proposes that the United States cap domestic greenhouse gas emissions and work toward a global solution. He wants to expand U.S. leadership on climate change, use U.S. leverage to bring developing countries like China and India into a global climate-change treaty, and increase fuel efficiency and use of renewable fuels.



Hillary Clinton

Clinton says global climate change is a pressing moral issue of our time and supports policies to reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions that contribute to global warming. She proposes to invest in clean energy technologies, establish a national market-based program to reduce pollution that causes global warming, increase fuel efficiency, and strengthen U.S. leadership in addressing climate change.



Chris Dodd

Dodd wants to reduce 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and believes in using a cap-and-trade system to do so and enacting a corporate carbon tax. His energy plan proposes to turn back the clock on global climate change, safeguard the environment and protect the health of Americans.



John Edwards

Edwards' climate change plan would cap greenhouse gas pollution starting in 2010 with a cap-and-trade system, and reduce it 15 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. He seeks to lead the world to a new climate treaty that commits all nations to reducing their pollution and wants to create a new energy economy fund by auctioning off \$10 billion in greenhouse gas pollution permits and repealing subsidies for big oil companies.



Rudy Giuliani

Giuliani proposes to use biofuels to help displace foreign oil use; increase use of renewable sources of electricity; expand the use of clean, safe nuclear power; encourage entrepreneurs to create future technologies such as advanced hybrid cars and hydrogen fuel cells; and commercialize clean coal technologies.



Mike Gravel

Gravel says climate change is a matter of national security and the health of the planet. He would initiate legislation to tax carbon dioxide at the source, cap carbon dioxide emissions and initiate an effort to charge the world's scientific and engineering community with ending energy dependence on oil.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee proposes to explore, conserve and develop all forms of alternative energy to achieve U.S. energy independence. He would set a federal research and development budget that the private sector would match to seek the best new alternative fuel products.



Duncan Hunter

Hunter says global warming and oil dependence give Americans a chance to bring all sectors together to work toward energy independence. He says that there should be no taxes for alternative energy sources and that U.S. manufacturing should benefit from producing the new technologies.



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich would have the United States support the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. After global warming, he says, water use and availability are the important sustainability issues. He says all water should be forever in the public domain, and each nation should have a duty to provide accessible, affordable drinking water to its citizens.



John McCain

McCain would limit carbon dioxide emissions by harnessing market forces to bring advanced technologies like nuclear energy to market faster, reduce dependence on foreign energy supplies and ensure that all nations contribute to the climate change solution. He was lead author of a Senate proposal to reduce carbon emissions 65 percent by 2050 and believes climate change is a national security issue.



Barack Obama

Obama says the United States is responsible for leaving the planet in better shape for future generations. His plan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, implement a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050, set a national standard for low-carbon fuels and increase fuel efficiency standards, reduce gasoline consumption through expanded use of renewable energy sources and invest in advanced technologies for clean energy projects.



Ron Paul

Paul, according to Internet reports and blogs, is skeptical about climate change. In 2004, he voted against implementing the Bush administration's national energy policy, which funded energy conservation and research and development on alternative energy sources.



Bill Richardson

Richardson calls for a concentrated effort to end U.S. oil dependence and abate climate change. He would work to cut oil demand 50 percent by 2020, change to 50 percent renewable sources for electricity by 2040 and promote the United States as a world climate change policy leader by setting a good example.



Mitt Romney

Romney says the United States must increase its foreign oil independence through conservation and efficiency measures, developing alternative sources of energy, and finding more domestic sources of oil. He supports clean-coal production and the funding of research for new energy and environmental technologies.



Tom Tancredo

Tancredo states he believes that global warming is occurring, and says he wants to reduce dependence on foreign oil and, as a result, reduce carbon dioxide emissions.



Fred Thompson

Thompson says increasing energy independence and investing in alternative energy will produce a healthier environment and calls for reasonable steps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without harming the economy. He says he is committed to investing in renewable and alternative fuels and advanced technologies and developing technologies that improve the environment.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/issues.html>

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4. Issues: Immigration.



Joe Biden

Biden voted for a guest-worker program that would enable illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for five years to apply for permanent resident status. Biden also voted for a bill authorizing construction of a 700-mile (1127-kilometer) fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.



Hillary Clinton

Clinton supported legislation that would allow some illegal immigrants to apply for permanent resident status. Clinton also voted for a bill to build a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.



Chris Dodd

Dodd has called for stronger penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. He also voted to authorize construction of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.



John Edwards

Edwards says the first step in immigration reform is to control U.S. borders and stop illegal trafficking. He supports giving illegal immigrants in the United States an opportunity to pay a fine and learn English to earn American citizenship.



Rudy Giuliani

Giuliani says that immigrants interested in becoming U.S. citizens should learn English. He supports establishing an identification system to verify immigrants' legal status.



Mike Gravel

Gravel supports a guest-worker program and naturalization procedure that will enable some illegal immigrants to obtain legal status. He also cite the North American Free Trade Agreement as a root cause of illegal immigration.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee says his Number 1 priority is to secure America's borders and those who are caught trying to enter the United States illegally must be deported. He says that illegal immigrants who commit crimes in the United States must be arrested and prosecuted or deported.



Duncan Hunter

Hunter authored the Secure Fence Act, which would extend the border fence 1,375 kilometers across California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Hunter says his experience on this issue in San Diego has shown that "building fences in strategic locations along our international borders is a proven method of keeping America safe."



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich voted against authorizing construction of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. He supports creating a pathway for legalization for some illegal immigrants.



John McCain

McCain says it is important for immigrants to learn English, American history and civics. He believes an important part of addressing immigration issues is to build strong alliances with Mexico and Latin American countries that support democracy and work to provide economic opportunities for their citizens.



Barack Obama

Obama proposed legislation that would create a new employment eligibility system with which companies could verify that their employees are legal residents. Obama supports allowing illegal immigrants in the United States who have not committed crimes to pay a fine and learn English to stay in the United States.



Ron Paul

Ron Paul has a six-point plan for immigration and border security that includes deporting those who overstay their visas. Paul has called for eliminating the birthright citizenship that is granted to children born in the United States if their parents are illegal immigrants.



Bill Richardson

Richardson believes that illegal immigrants who pass a background check, learn English and pay back taxes and fines should be granted legal status, while those who do not must leave. He says the number of legal immigrants allowed into the United States annually should be based on the needs of the U.S. economy.



Mitt Romney

Romney says the United States must reform current immigration laws so it can secure its borders and implement an employment verification system. He has called for illegal immigrants to register with the U.S. government in order to determine who should be granted work visas and who should be asked to leave.



Tom Tancredo

Tancredo is opposed to amnesty for illegal immigrants and would like to limit the number of legal immigrants that enter the United States to 250,000 a year. He supports eliminating the birthright citizenship that is granted to children born in the United States if their parents are illegal immigrants.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/issues.html>

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5. Issues: Immigration: Iraq.



Joe Biden

Biden sees no purely military solution to the situation in Iraq. He advocates a power sharing arrangement between Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds whereby Iraq's 18 provinces join together in regions, each with its own security forces, and exercise control over most day-to-day issues.



Hillary Clinton

Clinton supports capping U.S. troop levels in Iraq. She has proposed legislation that would require beginning a troop withdrawal within 90 days of the law's enactment. She says she would like to have all troops out of Iraq by the end of her first term but has not stated when during the term that would happen. She advocates benchmarks for the Iraqi government with real consequences if it fails to meet them.



Chris Dodd

Dodd supports redeployment of U.S. troops now in Iraq. He would continue to commit U.S. forces to Iraq for force and infrastructure protection, counterterrorism operations and training Iraqi forces. He also would engage all nations of the Middle East in a regional summit to seek diplomatic solutions to the region's problems.



John Edwards

Edwards says the Iraqi people must solve the problem politically by taking responsibility for their country. He calls for the immediate withdrawal of up to 50,000 troops to prompt the Iraqi people, regional powers and the entire international community to find the political solution that will end the sectarian violence and create a stable Iraq.



Rudy Giuliani

Giuliani says he believes that setting a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq would be a mistake because it would embolden the enemy. He sees Iraq as one front in the War on Terror and says failure there would lead to a broader and bloodier regional conflict in the near future. He says an accountable Iraq would reduce the threat of terrorism.

**Mike Gravel**

Gravel was one of the first public figures to oppose the invasion of Iraq. He advocates an immediate and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops and aggressive diplomacy with Iraq's neighbors to bring an end to the conflict. He calls for all Iraqi reconstruction contracts to be shifted from U.S. companies to Iraqi companies.

**Mike Huckabee**

Huckabee calls Iraq "a battle in our generational, ideological war on terror." He supports the troop surge and opposes a timetable for withdrawal. He says withdrawal of U.S. forces "would have serious strategic consequences for us and horrific humanitarian consequences for the Iraqis." He supports a regional summit to gain the financial and political support of Iraq's neighbors.

**Duncan Hunter**

Hunter advocates peace through strength. He promotes a policy that supports U.S. interests by spreading freedom abroad. He says the overthrow of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq were the greatest actions to protect human rights in this decade.

**Dennis Kucinich**

Kucinich calls for closing all U.S. military bases in Iraq and the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops. He also calls for a withdrawal of U.S. contractors and advisers, turning over all reconstruction work to be administered by Iraqi government with significant U.S. funding. He wants to convene a conference with the countries of the region and the United Nations to create a stabilization force in Iraq.



John McCain

McCain wants a greater military commitment to achieve long-term success in Iraq. He says there are simply not enough American forces to clear and hold insurgent strongholds, provide security for rebuilding local institutions, halt sectarian violence in Baghdad, dismantle al-Qaida, train the Iraqi army and embed American personnel in Iraqi police units.



Barack Obama

Obama was an early critic of the Iraq war.? He would withdraw combat troops at the rate of one to two brigades per month. He wants to convene a constitutional convention in Iraq to achieve an agreement on reconciliation.? He also would pursue a security compact with Iraq's neighbors.



Ron Paul

In 2002, Paul was one of only six House Republicans to vote against the Iraq war resolution.? He says the United States should not entangle itself in the affairs of other nations and calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from around the world to focus on securing the United States at home.



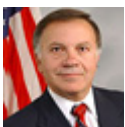
Bill Richardson

Richardson says he can sum up his plan for the war in Iraq with two words: "End it.".? He wants a quick withdrawal of U.S. troops so that a new political process can begin. ?He says the U.S. presence in Iraq simply prolongs the violence and distracts the United States from the war against al-Qaida.



Mitt Romney

Romney supports the troop surge and cautions against a quick withdrawal.? He wants to maintain a U.S. presence as long as there is a reasonable probability that Iraq's government can quell sectarian violence. He says a U.S. withdrawal now would leave Iraq bogged down in a regional conflict.



Tom Tancredo

Tancredo says he believes that the United States has given Iraq an opportunity for democratic change and says it is now up to the Iraqis to ensure success. He supports a timetable for U.S. disengagement, saying it will encourage regional powers and Iraqi factions cooperate to forge a new balance of power.



Fred Thompson

Thompson asserts that Iraq is part of a larger war against radical Islam.? He says the United States must remain united in its determination to prevail not only in Iraq but in the worldwide conflict against Islamic extremism that will continue long after the war in Iraq is over.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/issues.html>

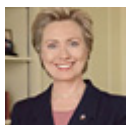
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6. Issues: Security.



Joe Biden

Biden says he will repeal tax cuts for those who make more than \$1 million and use those funds to pay for improvements to homeland security. With additional funds over the next five years, the United States would be able to enhance protection of chemical manufacturing facilities and create local counterterrorism units in U.S. cities to stop homegrown terrorist plots, Biden says.



Hillary Clinton

Clinton emphasizes the importance of working with allies and creating foreign policy with a bipartisan consensus. To keep the United States safe, Clinton says, the U.S. government should engage with its enemies, as it did with the Soviets throughout the Cold War.



Chris Dodd

Dodd says he would improve alliances and international institutions to enhance the fight against terrorism. He also would call on American allies like Saudi Arabia and Russia to support democracy in their own countries and to eliminate the conditions that foster terrorism.



John Edwards

Edwards proposes creating a modern-day equivalent of NATO for combating terrorism. This institution would provide for high-level diplomatic engagement on issues like intelligence-sharing and cooperative security operations by partner nations. He says he will strengthen multilateral efforts to identify and prevent the transfer of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist groups.



Rudy Giuliani

Giuliani says that winning the War on Terror is “the great responsibility of our generation.” He says Americans must be on the offense in the fight against terrorism.



Mike Gravel

Gravel opposes a military confrontation with Iran and Syria and advocates a diplomatic solution. He says that climate-change issues are a matter of national security.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee says overwhelming force can be used to accomplish a mission, such as rooting out terrorists. He also stresses the importance of renewing diplomatic efforts so the United States does not have to fight terrorism alone.



Duncan Hunter

Hunter believes the fact that the United States has not been attacked since September 11, 2001, indicates that U.S. agencies are doing a good job identifying, tracking and prosecuting terrorists. He says that building fences along the U.S.-Mexico border is a proven way of keeping the United States safe.



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich wants to form a Department of Peace, which would "offer a new, clear vision of people working out their differences without resort to primitive violence." He says war should be used only as an absolute last resort for self-defense.



John McCain

McCain says the U.S. Army must be enlarged to meet the challenges it faces today. He supports the development and deployment of national missile defenses.



Barack Obama

Obama says the U.S. military needs to be transformed to meet today's needs and supports plans to increase the size of the U.S. Army by 65,000 troops and the U.S. Marine Corps by 27,000 troops. Obama pledges to lead a global effort to secure all nuclear weapons and nuclear material now housed at vulnerable sites within four years.



Ron Paul

Paul believes the United States has troops in too many countries and that efforts should be made to bring many of these troops home. He believes war should not be fought without a declaration by Congress.

**Bill Richardson**

Richardson recently unveiled his plan to reform the U.S. military, which includes budget cuts to defense programs he sees as not relevant to the mission of today's military. He says the United States should take troops from Iraq and put more into the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, where al-Qaida leaders are suspected to be hiding.

**Mitt Romney**

An effective security strategy, Romney says, will incorporate both military and diplomatic efforts to engage moderate Muslim nations. He says the United States must continue to tighten economic sanctions on Iran and impose “diplomatic isolation” on the Iranian government.

**Tom Tancredo**

Tancredo says that any homeland security plans that do not include enforcing immigration laws and securing U.S. borders are inadequate. He believes that reducing dependence on foreign oil would improve American security.

**Fred Thompson**

In a post-September 11 world, Thompson says, immigration is a national security issue. He supports missile defense and has called for strengthening relationships with allies.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/issues.html>

7. Issues: Trade.



Joe Biden

Biden opposed the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) but supports normalizing trade relations with China, Vietnam and the Andean nations. Biden opposed free-trade agreements with Oman, Singapore and Chile.



Hillary Clinton

Clinton opposed CAFTA-DR and free trade with the Andean nations. Clinton supports normalizing relations with Chile, Singapore and Vietnam.



Chris Dodd

Dodd voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and supports CAFTA-DR and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Dodd also supports efforts to ease restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to Cuba.



John Edwards

Edwards opposed NAFTA. Edwards voted against free trade with Chile and Singapore but voted for free trade with the Andean nations. He supported normalizing trade relations with Vietnam and China.



Rudy Giuliani

Giuliani opposed NAFTA in 1993. However, he has stated recently that he generally agrees with the principles of free trade and that free trade is inevitable.



Mike Gravel

Gravel has stated that outsourcing of jobs, in itself, is not the problem. Gravel sees problems arising from U.S. trade agreements that benefit only companies' management and shareholders.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee believes in free trade and fair trade. Huckabee signed the Southern Governors' Association resolution that urges the administration to continue to enforce U.S. trade laws and encourages open and competitive sales of timber in Canada.



Duncan Hunter

Hunter says China is cheating on trade with the United States and wants to enforce rules and laws with China. Hunter supports eliminating all manufacturing taxes to increase U.S. hiring. Hunter voted “no” on CAFTA-DR and on free trade with Chile and Singapore. He voted “yes” on the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement and on withdrawing from the World Trade Organization (WTO).



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich opposes U.S. participation in NAFTA and the WTO in order to protect high-tech jobs from outsourcing. Kucinich supports securing the U.S. manufacturing base by focusing on bilateral trade, conditioned on workers' rights, human rights and the environment.



John McCain

McCain is a supporter of NAFTA. McCain also supported CAFTA-DR and free trade with Oman, Singapore, Chile and the Andean nations. He also voted for normalizing trade with Vietnam and China and supports expanding trade to the Third World.



Barack Obama

Obama opposed CAFTA-DR based on labor and environmental concerns. He wants to amend NAFTA to add labor agreements. Obama supported the free-trade pact with Oman. He also supports setting labor and human rights standards for China trade.



Ron Paul

Paul is an advocate of free trade, but has opposed some free-trade agreements, saying they serve only special interests and big businesses. He supports unilateral free trade. Paul voted “no” on

CAFTA-DR, the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement and free trade with Chile and Singapore, and voted for U.S. withdrawal from the WTO.



Bill Richardson

Richardson does not believe in a completely free market and wants some regulatory restrictions on trade. Richardson supports free trade for exchanges that exclude slave and child labor. He supports NAFTA and U.S. membership in the WTO. Richardson also calls for enforcing labor and environmental standards.



Mitt Romney

Romney says the United States should act boldly and swiftly to strengthen and propel growth through trade and other commerce with the emerging Asian economies, where he sees the countries moving economically and technologically.



Tom Tancredo

Tancredo was opposed to CAFTA-DR and free trade with Singapore and Chile.? He supported the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement and withdrawing from the WTO.



Fred Thompson

Thompson believes that protectionist trade policies are defensive and defeatist. He voted for free-trade pacts with the Andean nations, the normalization of trade relations with Vietnam and China, and expansion of trade with the Third World.

Source: US State Department <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/issues.html>

8. Calendar of 2008 State Primaries/Caucuses.

2008 Presidential Nominating Calendar
TBD: New Hampshire
JANUARY 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 3: Iowa • January 5: Wyoming (R) • January 15: Michigan • January 19: Nevada, South Carolina (R) • January 26: South Carolina (D) • January 29: Florida
FEBRUARY 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1: Maine (R) • February 5: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho (D), Illinois, Kansas (D), Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico (D), New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah • February 9: Louisiana, Kansas (R) • February 10: Maine (D) • February 12: District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia • February 19: Hawaii (D)¹, Washington, Wisconsin
MARCH 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 4: Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont • March 8: Wyoming (D) • March 11: Mississippi
APRIL 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 22: Pennsylvania
MAY 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 6: Indiana, North Carolina • May 13: Nebraska, West Virginia • May 20: Kentucky, Oregon • May 27: Idaho (R)
JUNE 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 3: Montana, New Mexico (R), South Dakota
AUGUST 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 25-28: Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado
SEPTEMBER 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1-4: Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota <p><i>NOTE: The Kansas State Legislature opted not to fund a presidential primary election in 2008; parties will hold caucuses instead.</i></p>

¹ According to staff with Hawaii's Republican Party, the party is not technically holding a presidential primary or caucus. Delegates will be selected during a week-long period tentatively ending on February 7, but they will not be committed to any candidates as part of the vote.

Source: National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

Information Resource Center, Embassy of the United States of America
Madrid, Spain



The Information Resource Center

Embassy of the United States of America

<http://www.embusa.es/irc>

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