

= Chris Dodd presidential campaign , 2008 =

The Chris Dodd presidential campaign of 2008 was launched on January 11 , 2007 and ended on January 3 , 2008 after a sixth @-@ place finish in the Iowa caucuses . Dodd , the Senior Senator from Connecticut , sought the nomination of the Democratic Party for President of the United States . Centering his campaign in the strategically important states of Iowa and New Hampshire , he tried to bring forth a platform of change . Dodd 's performance in the opinion polls varied , but in the financial sphere , he had secured some notable and influential endorsements who had sufficiently funded his campaign .

Dodd tried to follow in the pattern of New Englanders who have entered the race for the Democratic nomination and won , including John Kerry , Michael Dukakis , and John F. Kennedy . If elected , Dodd would have become the second Roman Catholic president (after Kennedy) and the second Connecticut @-@ born president (after George W. Bush) . He would have been the first Senator to win the presidency while in office since Kennedy was elected in 1960 (that honor ultimately went to Barack Obama) . After his withdrawal from the race , Dodd went on to endorse the eventual winner Barack Obama , and retired from the Senate in 2011 .

= = Background = =

During his years in the House and Senate , Chris Dodd built a long record of political positions on important issues to the nation . He was in favor of ending the Iraq War and redeploying American from the nation . He repeatedly voted against further funding of the war . To combat global warming , he proposed a carbon tax to reduce carbon emissions , and declared that the United States " must take a ' strategic pause ' " before signing any new free trade agreement .

Domestically , Dodd proposed mandatory community service for all high school students , and fought to improve child care and health care , and worked to stop predatory lending by credit card companies . He also introduced legislation to enact a Federal Shield law and worked to defeat legislation permitting warrantless surveillance .

Chris Dodd had told the Associated Press in April 2006 that he was considering running , and by May 22 he had met with key backers , including congresswoman Rosa DeLauro , and had assembled a team to prepare a potential 2008 campaign . In June 2006 , he held his first major fundraiser , stunning Beltway commentators by raising over \$ 1 million in one night . Dodd attended a Florida Democratic convention in July 2006 to garner further support . He hired former John Kerry campaign manager Jim Jordan in December of that year . Two months later , Dodd told the head of the New Hampshire Democratic Party at the Rainbow Cafe that he was not " going to do the exploratory thing " but instead " plunge right in " to the race .

= = On the campaign trail = =

= = = January 2007 = = =

Chris Dodd entered the race on January 11 , 2007 after making his announcement on the Imus in the Morning show . He cited his qualifications of experience and background as the strengths needed to lead the nation as President . A critic of the Iraq War , Dodd stated that his candidacy " ... isn 't just [about] Iraq -- there are problems here at home that are huge . " He decided not to file with the FEC under an exploratory committee but instead filed as a full @-@ fledged candidate . He began campaigning in the state of South Carolina on January 15 , 2007 and hit the trails to New Hampshire on January 20 .

= = = February 2007 = = =

In February , Dodd turned his attention fully to the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire

. When asked by the Associated Press on the campaign trail if his campaigning really made a difference in changing public perceptions , he replied , " There is enough time yet to change this [public perceptions] , because there are places like Iowa and New Hampshire that give candidates like myself a chance to be heard . " Dodd 's strategy was to speak to voters in restaurants , homes , and small @-@ town diners , although political analysts wondered whether such methods were out @-@ of @-@ date . But he maintained that " chatting in a living room face to face is still a very important feature of campaigning here . I don 't think you can come in here and do sort of a wholesale political operation from 35 @,@ 000 feet (11 @,@ 000 m) with a pit stop here and there and a media campaign behind you . " At the end of February , Dodd differentiated himself from his Democratic counterparts by stating his support for the Bush administration 's willingness to hold joint talks with Iran and Syria and by stating that as president he would avoid talking with Iran as long as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad remained as president . On the trail , he referred to Ahmadinejad as a " thug " .

= = = March 2007 = = =

Before Dodd hit the campaign trail for March after a round of campaigning in February , he made a visit to The Daily Show with Jon Stewart , a well @-@ worn path laid by candidates trying to reach a younger audience . The campaign set up a web page before the March 13 interview . Liberal bloggers praised the behind the scenes look at the campaign as innovative and creative . A posting on the Comedy Central show 's blog read : " This was a fascinating look behind the scenes of the show even for us , and a surprisingly cool thing for a Presidential candidate to do . Senator Dodd , we salute both your commitment to fiscal responsibility and your web @-@ savvy . " After the visit Dodd campaigned in New Hampshire and Nevada finishing the month at a forums in Las Vegas and Washington , D.C. At the Las Vegas Forum , he discussed health care with the other Democratic candidates and voiced his support for a system of Universal Health Care . As March came to a close the campaign revealed their fundraising total for the First Quarter . Dodd raised \$ 4 @,@ 043 @,@ 757 in this quarter , spend \$ 1 @,@ 313 @,@ 239 and had \$ 7 @,@ 482 @,@ 467 cash on hand .

= = = April 2007 = = =

In April , Dodd campaigned in New Hampshire , Iowa , and returned to South Carolina . While on the trail Dodd participated in a virtual town hall sponsored by the website MoveOn.org. When he was asked the question " ... what is the best and fastest way to get out of Iraq ? " he answered , " We ought to start redeploying this evening ... We ought to begin immediately . I would not wait any longer . " Continuing on the trail , Dodd sponsored what was called by the Washington Post , the " most radical plan " to combat global warming . It included a corporate carbon tax to be levied on corporations to reduce carbon emissions . The plan is part of a larger energy platform of the campaign .

On April 26 , Dodd participated in the first of many Democratic presidential debates . His campaign has been critical of how little time their candidate has been allotted to speak at the debates , and its website introduced a " Talk Clock " demonstrating this disparity .

At the end of the month , Dodd set his sights on the state with the most convention votes , California by attending events in Sacramento and San Diego .

= = = May 2007 = = =

Early in May , Dodd continued to campaign in California for a few days but later shifted back to the strategically important states of Iowa and New Hampshire for the rest of the month . On May 15 the campaign released its first ad , which detailed his plan for ending the war in Iraq . In the ad , Dodd also criticized his fellow Democratic candidates by stating , " We can 't simply wait for a new president . We should have the conviction to stand up to this one , " In Washington , Dodd was exposed to debate on the Iraq War Spending Bill and new videos from al @-@ Qaeda 's second in

command Ayman al @-@ Zawahiri . Back on the campaign trail he talked about how he would deal with foreign issues particularly in regards to the situation in Iraq , " I 'm not going to let my foreign policy be decided by Mr. al @-@ Zawahiri . Obviously , he 's playing his game here . He 'd probably like to see us stay down there , bogged down , at the costs we 're increasing here , the loss of lives , not to mention the isolation of the United States . " When Presidential candidate John Edwards released an ad criticizing Congress ' failure to end the Iraq War , Dodd took it personal and shot back at Edwards stating , " " With all due respect , we could have used John 's vote here in the Senate on these issues here . " He concluded the May campaign by attending House parties in three cities in New Hampshire . .

= = = June 2007 = = =

June started off as all the previous months had , with Dodd campaigning in New Hampshire and Iowa , but at the June 3 debate in Manchester he made a notable statement that led to a huge applause from the crowd . During the debate he pointed out a woman in the audience whose husband was fighting in the War on Terrorism , he thanked her for the sacrifice and stated the importance of standing up for America 's security while on the campaign trail , " No one is going to be elected president who is not going to have as their primary responsibility to keep us safe and secure . " After the debate Dodd went back to the trails , but while campaigning he found a new tool to help spread his message . The campaign encouraged voters to confront politicians with video cameras and ask them to talk about Iraq and to support the " Dodd Amendment " which would have required American troops to start redeployment in 30 days . The final step was for the voters to post the interactions on YouTube . The Dodd campaign has used the internet more frequently than other campaigns , often airing staff meetings via the web . The campaign released a new advertisement on June 16 entitled " Amazing Grace " which focused on Dodd 's time in the Peace Corps . As June came to a close Dodd made his final appearance of the month at a forum in Lake Buena Vista , Florida , the first time he visited the state which moved up its primary dates , causing a controversy with the DNC . On June 30 the campaign revealed the fundraising totals for the second quarter , Dodd raised \$ 3 @, @ 250 @, @ 730 , spent \$ 4 @, @ 384 @, @ 580 and had a total of \$ 6 @, @ 378 @, @ 271 cash on hand .

= = = July 2007 = = =

Early in July , the Dodd campaign 's strategy to use social networking sites was documented by the press . The campaign uses the network MyLifeBrand which allows Dodd supporters to be linked to other users from other social networking websites . The goal was to bring supporters together and attract new supporters . On July 6 singer Paul Simon joined Dodd on the campaign trail in Iowa as Dodd embarked on a five @-@ day " River to River " tour in a big blue bus with the name " Dodd " etched on the side . Dodd simultaneously continued his campaign on the web airing live staff meetings and a live chatroom on July 23 . The campaign launched a show called D @-@ TV which the Washington Post labeled as the " political Truman Show " . On July 23 , he participated in the YouTube debate broadcast on CNN . Dodd was fielded many questions during the debate including the very first . He received questions ranging from discussion about his hair to Iraq . When asked about his position on gay marriage , he stated :

When asked to comment about the genocide in Darfur and the moral leadership of the United States , Dodd answered that the situation in " Iraq is related to Darfur , Anderson , here . It 's because we 're bogged down there at \$ 10 billion a month , we 've lost our moral leadership in the world . No one listens to us when it comes to foreign policy . That has to change in this country . That 's the difference here . " July campaigning wrapped up in Iowa with visits to seven cities in two days from July 27 ? 28 .

= = = August 2007 = = =

August was by far the busiest month for the Dodd campaign . It started off with the candidate criticizing the merger of Murdoch @-@ WSJ starting a debate over Media ethics . Dodd stated on August 1 , " I am deeply troubled by the incredible amount of consolidation occurring across the American media landscape . " On August 7 during a debate before the AFL @-@ CIO in Chicago Dodd touted his experience in fighting for the rights of Labor Unions by stating , " I ? m proud to say for 26 years on every major issue that labor ? s been involved in I ? ve stood with you . I ? ve stood with labor in banning outsourcing of jobs , of offset contracts , of situs picketing , on plant closing legislation . " He also got into an argument with fellow Senator Barack Obama (D @-@ IL) on Obama 's recent comments about escalating the Afghanistan Conflict into Pakistan :

DODD : I think it ? s highly responsible -- or irresponsible for people who are running for the presidency and seek that office to suggest we may be willing unilaterally to invade a nation here who we ? re trying to get to be more cooperative with us in Afghanistan and elsewhere .

OBAMA : Well , look , I find it amusing that those who helped to authorize and engineer the biggest foreign policy disaster in our generation are now criticizing me for making sure that we are on the right battlefield and not the wrong battlefield in the war against terrorism . (Cheers , applause .)

Dodd continued campaigning in Iowa and New Hampshire visiting up to four different cities in one day . Political commentator Bill O 'Reilly slammed Dodd after he appeared on The O 'Reilly Factor in August , characterizing him as a kool @-@ aid drinker and blind follower of the far left . O 'Reilly chastised Dodd and branded him a traitor for his perceived betrayal of fellow Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman during the 2006 Senatorial election . On August 20 he attended a debate that aired on ABC and was moderated by George Stephanopoulos . He commented on the need for a president that can bring people from both parties together , " ... it 's about getting this job done . We don 't elect a king or a queen or a dictator in November , we elect a president . The margins are thin . No one political party is going to write all of this . It takes leadership that knows how to bring people together . " As the month wound down for the campaign and as Dodd continued on the trail , the month of September loomed in the horizon as did an upcoming debate in Washington on the primary focus of the campaign , the Iraq War . Accompanying Dodd on the trail was the International Association of Fire Fighters , which handed him their endorsement on August 29 .

= = = September 2007 = = =

As Dodd began the September campaign in Nevada and New Hampshire the stage was being set in Florida for a debate on Hispanic issues . However this would later be overshadowed by events that would occur in Washington on September 11 . During the testimony of General David Petraeus , he lashed out against the surge policy stating :

At the same time the website MoveOn.org released an ad that slammed General Petraeus , calling him a traitor . Dodd voted against a Congressional act to denounce the ad on September 21 .

Returning to the campaign trail , Dodd made stops in Iowa where he started what would be a later October trend by attacking the frontrunner Hillary Clinton . He attacked her record on health care stating , " It should be far more than just a parable of personal growth and maturation . This was about an issue that was critically important to the country . It was a major effort that failed . There were a lot of reasons that it failed , not the least of which it was mismanaged terribly at the time . " In addition to the campaigning in Iowa , attended fundraisers in his home state of Connecticut , visited New Hampshire and returned to Iowa all in the timespan of 10 days . At the end of September as the third quarter came to a close , the campaign revealed that it had raised only \$ 1 @,@ 467 @,@ 093 , spent \$ 4 @,@ 025 @,@ 458 , leaving \$ 3 @,@ 874 @,@ 874 cash on hand .

= = = October 2007 = = =

In October the Dodd campaign focused its attention on Iowa , abandoning most of the campaigning in New Hampshire . On the trail , the campaign received little media attention despite a surge in appearances . As the month neared its final days an unexpected apex emerged for the campaign . During an October 30 MSNBC debate , he went after the frontrunner Hillary Clinton , slamming her

for her support of Governor of New York Eliot Spitzer 's plan to give driver 's licenses to illegal immigrants :

SEN . CLINTON : I just want to add , I did not say that it should be done , but I certainly recognize why Governor Spitzer is trying to do it . And we have failed --

SEN . DODD : Wait a minute . No , no , no . You said yes , you thought it made sense to do it .

SEN . CLINTON : No , I didn 't , Chris . But the point is , what are we going to do with all these illegal immigrants who are (driving ?) -- (inaudible) ?

SEN . DODD : Well , that 's a legitimate issue . But driver 's license goes too far , in my view .

SEN . CLINTON : Well , you may say that , but what is the identification if somebody runs into you today who is an undocumented worker --

SEN . DODD : There 's ways of dealing with that .

SEN . CLINTON : Well , but --

SEN . DODD : This is a privilege , not a right .

SEN . CLINTON : Well , what Governor Spitzer has agreed to do is to have three different licenses ; one that provides identification for actually going onto airplanes and other kinds of security issues , another which is an ordinary driver 's license , and then a special card that identifies the people who would be on the road .

SEN . DODD : That 's a bureaucratic nightmare .

Later in the debate Dodd articulated his support for the decriminalization of marijuana citing the high populations of American prisons . Many of the participants expressed their disagreement with him on this issue . The debate was the last campaign stop for Dodd in October who went into November with energy and momentum from the multiple exchanges .

= = = November 2007 = = =

In November he started off with two @-@ day events in New Hampshire and then devoted the rest of the month to Iowa . He talked about the need for the United States to redeploy troops out of Iraq , pay attention to global warming and health care , strengthen American ties with their allies including Pakistan and to not start a war with Iran further criticizing Clinton 's yes vote on a resolution designating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization . During a November 15 debate in Las Vegas he spoke out in favor of free trade and attacked his fellow candidates :

While on the trail in Iowa on November 20 Dodd criticized fellow candidates who threatened to cut off funding to Pakistan in light of President Pervez Musharraf 's suspension of the constitution . He stated " I think it 's a very dangerous thing to suggest at this point . We could find ourselves cut off We could not get into Afghanistan except through Pakistan . So in addition to the issue of nuclear weapons , and who controls them , and a state hostile to our interest , you have to be careful how much you threaten . "

= = = December 2007 = = =

Dodd spent most of December in Iowa engaged in Town Halls . He briefly made a trip to Mountain View , California to make a speech before returning to the trails in Iowa . He participated in the last Democratic Debate before the primary season on December 13 in Johnson , Iowa . In this debate sponsored by the Des Moines Register , Dodd commented that Education was the most important issue to him in the campaign . He also made a statement on why he felt he was the best choice for president and why he should receive the endorsement of the Des Moines Register , which ultimately went to Hillary Clinton .

Following the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto , Dodd released a statement while campaigning that elaborated on his experiences with the slain leader . He commented that the event was an important time in both Pakistan and the United States that will impact the future of both nation 's security . He described the significance of America 's responsibility to keep democracy in the nation and the region as a whole . Following the statement Dodd completed the year 's campaigning by attending New Year 's Eve parties in cities in the first

caucus state of Iowa .

= = = January 2008 = = =

Dodd participated in the Iowa Caucus on January 3 , 2008 . After receiving a disappointing total of 0 % of the vote he ended his campaign . In his final words on the trail , He reflected on the joy he had in running for president .

= = Fundraising = =

The Dodd campaign had raised \$ 13 @, @ 598 @, @ 152 overall , spent \$ 9 @, @ 723 @, @ 278 leaving \$ 3 @, @ 874 @, @ 874 cash on hand . Alec Baldwin donated \$ 2 @, @ 100 during a New York fundraiser . John Lithgow and Barbra Streisand each added \$ 1 @, @ 000 and Steve Martin and Howard Stringer each gave \$ 2 @, @ 300 . Jeffrey Bewkes , Lorne Michaels , Paul Simon and his wife each donated the most at \$ 4 @, @ 600 followed closely behind by Ronald Meyer who donated \$ 4 @, @ 400 . Elisabeth Shue donated \$ 1 @, @ 500 and Christy Carlson Romano added \$ 300 . On October 26 , the New London 's The Day reported that through September Dodd 's campaign received \$ 21 @, @ 600 from employees of Connecticut 's Foxwoods Casino and an additional \$ 2 @, @ 300 from the Mashantucket Pequot 's political action committee . According to the financial records , 60 % of Dodd 's donations came from individual contributors . 4 % of donations came from PACs , which overwhelming were related to groups with business agendas . The following chart shows the amount raised in the top three states by Dodd and in the states he had been campaigning in the most , Iowa and New Hampshire :

= = Polling = =

In polling , Dodd has seemed unable to break through to the top tier . In Nationwide polls he usually only polls at or around 1 % . A November 7 , 2007 Gallup poll placed him in last place , behind both Joe Biden and Dennis Kucinich at 1 % . At the state level , Dodd has also not done so well . In a November 18 , 2007 Iowa poll conducted by ABC news , he registered with 1 % the same number from a similar poll done by ABC news on July 31 , 2007 . In New Hampshire , a poll conducted by CNN placed Dodd at 1 % constant from a September poll but up from polls in June and July . However , on the straw poll level , Dodd was able to gain a victory during an event in South Carolina on March 5 , 2007 . He won the York County straw poll by receiving 28 % of the 100 votes cast . Barack Obama came in second with 24 % . Hillary Clinton got 18 % and John Edwards received 11 % . The victory came two days after Dodd visited the county which probably secured him the win .

A November 2007 poll of Connecticut voters conducted by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute determined that Dodd was losing in the state to Hillary Rodham Clinton . Of the 1 @, @ 029 voters surveyed , 70 % wanted Dodd to drop out of the presidential race , and 55 % said he was spending too much time on the campaign trail . In response , Dodd 's national press secretary , Colleen Flanagan , said " Connecticut voters are being asked to look at Senator Dodd in a different light than in past years " adding that once voters become more focused on the presidential race , they will look to Dodd as " a candidate who has a track record of proven results . "

= = = Head to head = = =

= = Endorsements = =

= = = Kennedy family = = =

Dodd had received endorsements from members of the Kennedy family including Rhode Island

Representative Patrick J. Kennedy and his brother Edward M. Kennedy , Jr . Eunice Kennedy Shriver had also campaigned for him . On November 1 , the campaign announced he had been endorsed by Bobby Shriver , co @-@ founder of Debt AIDS Trade in Africa . Dodd had asked Senator Ted Kennedy repeatedly for an endorsement . On November 20 , 2007 , Timothy Shriver , the Chairman of Special Olympics announced his endorsement for Dodd .

= = = Firefighters = = =

On August 28 , Chris Dodd received the endorsement of the International Association of Fire Fighters . On October 24 , in a speech before an International Association of Fire Fighters conference , he criticized the Bush Administration 's failure to fully fund first responders battling the massive wildfires in Southern California .

= = = Campaign advisors = = =

Dodd 's campaign advisors included :

Sheryl Cohen , campaign manager and Dodd 's Chief of Staff in the Senate

Jim Jordan , senior adviser who served as the campaign manager for John Kerry in his 2004 presidential run

Matt Butler , deputy campaign manager who served the same post during John Kerry 's 2004 run

Vince Frillici , finance director . Veteran fundraiser who served as the national finance director for the senator 's re @-@ election in 2004 .

Scott Arceneaux , political director and former director of the Louisiana State Democratic Party

Amos Hochstein , policy director

Stan Greenberg , pollster

Doug Sosnik , adviser and former NBA executive