

## *Where candidates stand on key issues*

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### **Body**

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#### DEMOCRATS

Hillary Clinton

#### HEALTH CARE

Require large employers to provide insurance or to contribute to cost of coverage; require all Americans to buy health insurance; provide tax credits for families and small businesses to help cover the cost of insurance; expand Medicaid and state children's health insurance programs; bar insurance companies from denying insurance based on a pre-existing condition, age or other factors.

#### IRAQ WAR

##### DECISION TO GO TO WAR:

Voted for war, now opposed

##### TROOP INCREASE: Opposed

##### TROOP WITHDRAWAL:

Supports phased withdrawal

#### IMMIGRATION

##### THE BORDER:

Employ technology to reduce unauthorized crossings.

##### CITIZENSHIP:

Allow illegal immigrants to seek citizenship.

##### EMPLOYMENT:

Prohibit guest-worker programs. Increase enforcement of laws barring companies from hiring illegal immigrants. Create an information system for prospective employers.

##### ECONOMY:

##### JOB CREATION:

Where candidates stand on key issues

Create a \$50 billion fund to invest in green industries, make research tax credit permanent.

TAXES:

Repeal Bush tax cuts, expand middle-class tax breaks and college tax credits.

MORTGAGE CRISIS:

Create \$1 billion fund to help borrowers avoid foreclosure, establish 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and freeze adjustable rates.

FOREIGN TRADE:

Backs stricter enforcement of labor and environmental rules in foreign trade agreements.

ABORTION:

SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?

Yes

EDUCATION:

\$10 billion for universal preschool. Replace No Child Left Behind law. \$10,000 higher-education scholarships per year of national service.

STEM CELL RESEARCH:

RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?

Yes

GLOBAL WARMING

\$150 billion, 10-year energy package for new fuel sources; backed stringent caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

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Barack Obama

HEALTH CARE:

Require all employers to contribute toward health coverage for their workers or toward the cost of a public plan; mandate that all children have health insurance; expand eligibility for Medicaid and SCHIP; create a public insurance program for those who don't qualify for SCHIP or Medicaid.

IRAQ WAR:

DECISION TO GO TO WAR: Opposed

TROOP INCREASE: Opposed

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Supports phased withdrawal

IMMIGRATION:

THE BORDER:

Hire more border guards, employ technology and build more "infrastructure."

## Where candidates stand on key issues

## CITIZENSHIP:

Allow illegal immigrants to seek citizenship after passing background checks, paying fines and having their cases reviewed after pending applications by legal immigrants.

## EMPLOYMENT:

Increase enforcement against companies that hire illegal immigrants, although he considers raids upon suspect workplaces "ineffective."

## ECONOMY:

## JOB CREATION:

Increase job training and invest \$150 billion over 10 years in clean industries.

## TAXES:

Repeal Bush tax cuts, create a \$1,000-per-family middle-class tax cut, offer credits toward college tuition, increase capital gains tax on high earners.

## MORTGAGE CRISIS:

Create fund to help at-risk borrowers avoid foreclosure and seek tougher mortgage fraud laws.

## FOREIGN TRADE:

Stricter enforcement of existing trade deals, more help for those who lose jobs to overseas competitors.

## ABORTION:

## SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?

Yes

\$18 billion plan for preschool, teacher pay, \$4,000 college tax credit for community service.

## STEM CELL RESEARCH:

## RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?

Yes

## GLOBAL WARMING:

\$150 billion, 10-year program for "climate friendly" energy supplies, favors stringent caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

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## REPUBLICANS

Mike Huckabee

## HEALTH CARE:

Make health insurance tax-deductible for individuals and families; give tax credits to low-income families; tort reform; expand health savings accounts.

Where candidates stand on key issues

IRAQ WAR:

DECISION TO GO TO WAR: Supported

TROOP INCREASE: Supports

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Against a timetable for withdrawal

IMMIGRATION:

THE BORDER:

Build a fence with a surveillance system along the border with Mexico by 2010. Hire more border agents.

CITIZENSHIP:

Require illegal immigrants to leave within 120 days and to apply for citizenship from their home countries.

EMPLOYMENT:

Require verification of citizenship as a condition of employment. Impose steep fines for companies that violate the law.

ECONOMY:

JOB CREATION:

Focus on fair trade and lower taxes to drive growth of U.S. companies.

TAXES:

Replace income and investment taxes with 23 percent national sales tax.

MORTGAGE CRISIS:

Has warned of a "chilling effect" on lending if government steps in, supports free-market solutions.

FOREIGN TRADE:

Supports "fair trade" and says his "fair tax" plan would make U.S.-made goods more competitive in the global marketplace.

ABORTION:

SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?

No

Give states more authority to run education.

STEM CELL RESEARCH:

RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?

No

GLOBAL WARMING:

Supports increase to 35 mpg fuel efficiency standard by 2020, and emission caps.

## Where candidates stand on key issues

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John McCain

## HEALTH CARE:

Provide a \$2,500 tax credit for individuals and \$5,000 for families to pay for insurance. Allow people to purchase insurance across state lines and to make insurance more portable between jobs; allow individuals to purchase insurance through trade associations, churches or other organizations.

## IRAQ WAR:

## DECISION TO GO TO WAR:

Supported

TROOP INCREASE: Supports

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Against a timetable for withdrawal

## IMMIGRATION:

## THE BORDER:

Build more fence and hire more patrol agents.

## CITIZENSHIP:

Grant temporary status to most illegal immigrants and allow them to apply for citizenship after paying fines and passing background checks.

## EMPLOYMENT:

Permit a temporary worker program. Enforce laws against hiring illegal immigrants.

## ECONOMY:

## JOB CREATION:

Would lower corporate taxes and expand global trade to drive economic growth and create jobs.

## TAXES:

Opposed Bush tax cuts but now backs them, would repeal alternative minimum tax and require more votes in Congress to raise taxes.

## MORTGAGE CRISIS:

Supports a voluntary plan to freeze interest rates for at-risk borrowers, has said he would consider stronger government intervention.

## FOREIGN TRADE:

Would lower barriers to new trade deals and focus unemployment assistance on retraining workers for new jobs.

## ABORTION:

SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?

# Where candidates stand on key issues

No

## EDUCATION:

Vouchers for school choice, more community-college aid.

## STEM CELL RESEARCH:

## RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?

Yes

## GLOBAL WARMING:

Led Senate effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions; favors tougher fuel efficiency.

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Ron Paul

## HEALTH CARE:

Make all medical expenses tax-deductible; eliminate any federal regulations that discourage small businesses from offering health insurance; expand health savings accounts; give doctors the right to collectively negotiate with insurance companies; allow nurses and pharmacists to provide more health services.

## IRAQ WAR:

DECISION TO GO TO WAR: Opposed

TROOP INCREASE: Opposes

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Withdraw immediately

## IMMIGRATION:

## THE BORDER:

"Physically secure" the border.

## CITIZENSHIP:

Deport illegal immigrants and offer them no special avenue toward citizenship. End the automatic citizenship of children born here to illegal immigrants.

## EMPLOYMENT:

Abolish the NAFTA trade agreement.

## ECONOMY:

## JOB CREATION:

Would lower taxes and government spending and put more money in the hands of businesses and individuals.

## TAXES:

Supports lower taxes across the board, and lower government spending. Would end income taxes on tips and has discussed abolishing the IRS.

## Where candidates stand on key issues

## MORTGAGE CRISIS:

Says the foreclosure crisis is a symptom of broader monetary policies that encourage excessive lending and inflation.

## FOREIGN TRADE:

Generally opposes free trade treaties such as NAFTA and the World Trade Organization that "infringe upon the freedom and independence" of the U.S.

## ABORTION:

## SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?

No

## EDUCATION:

Would abolish the Department of Education. Has introduced or sponsored bills that would allow a \$5,000 tax credit per student, per year, adjustable for inflation; a \$3,000 a year tax credit for full-time elementary and secondary school teachers; a full tax deduction for undergraduate college tuition, interest on qualified student loans and reasonable living expenses.

## STEM CELL RESEARCH:

## RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?

No

## GLOBAL WARMING:

Advocates efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

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Mitt Romney

## HEALTH CARE:

Encourage states to reduce insurance regulations; make all medical expenses tax-deductible; push for tort reform; give states flexibility to spend Medicaid funds in whatever way they want.

## IRAQ WAR:

DECISION TO GO TO WAR: Supported

TROOP INCREASE: Supports

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Against a timetable for withdrawal

## IMMIGRATION:

## THE BORDER:

Build a fence along the border with Mexico. Require noncitizens to carry tamper-proof ID cards.

## CITIZENSHIP:

## Where candidates stand on key issues

Prohibit any "special pathway" for citizenship to anyone who is in the country illegally. Recruit skilled workers from other countries and allow them to apply for citizenship.

**EMPLOYMENT:**

Increase penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants. Set up a national database for employers to verify the status of job applicants.

**ECONOMY:****JOB CREATION:**

Would reduce corporate tax rate to 20 percent and make research and development tax credit permanent.

**TAXES:**

Tax breaks to those earnings less than \$200,000, eliminate tax on capital gains, interest and dividends for most, "patch" the alternative minimum tax and end the estate tax.

**MORTGAGE CRISIS:**

Would expand counseling programs and help at-risk households get refinancing, supports voluntary rate freeze.

**FOREIGN TRADE:**

Supports open markets and would lower corporate tax rate to 20 percent to make U.S.-based companies more competitive.

**ABORTION:****SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS?**

No

**EDUCATION:**

Supports school choice and No Child Left Behind law.

**STEM CELL RESEARCH:****RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL FINANCING?**

Apparently, no. As governor, tried to stop legislation that encouraged expanded embryonic stem cell research of the kind opposed by Bush.

**GLOBAL WARMING:**

Says tougher mileage standards are a burden on automakers. Opposes mandatory caps on greenhouse gases unless other countries take similar steps. Says answer is to free the country from dependence on foreign oil.

## Graphic

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PHOTO



## Where candidates stand on key issues

PHOTO - Hillary Clinton    PHOTO - Barack Obama    PHOTO - Mike Huckabee    PHOTO - John McCain  
 PHOTO - Ron Paul    PHOTO - Mitt Romney

## Classification

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**Person:** HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (79%); BARACK OBAMA (50%)

**Geographic:** IRAQ (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

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