










Where they stand

How leading Democratic and Republican presidential candidates line up on a selection of issues

DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS

ISSUES	Hillary CLINTON	Barack OBAMA	Mike HUCKABEE	John McCain	Mitt ROMNEY
Education 	\$10 billion for universal preschool. Replace No Child Left Behind law. \$10,000 higher-education scholarships per year of national service.	\$18 billion plan for preschool, teacher pay, \$4,000 college tax credit for community service.	Give states more authority to run education.	Vouchers for school choice, more community-college aid.	Supports school choice and No Child Left Behind law.
Global warming 	\$150 billion, 10-year energy package for new fuel sources; backed stringent caps on greenhouse gas emissions.	\$150 billion, 10-year program for "climate friendly" energy supplies, favors stringent caps on greenhouse gas emissions.	Supports increase to 35 mpg fuel efficiency standard by 2020, and emission caps.	Led Senate effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions; favors tougher fuel efficiency.	Tougher mileage standards are a burden on automakers. Opposes mandatory caps on greenhouse gases. Says answer is to free the country from dependence on foreign oil.
Gun control 	Voted for ban on assault-type weapons and to require background checks at gun shows.	Voted to leave gunmakers and dealers open to lawsuit.	Opposes gun controls; backs federal "right to carry" law requiring states to recognize other states' concealed weapons permits.	Opposed ban on assault-type weapons; favored background-check law for gun shows.	As governor, favored strict state gun control.
Health insurance 	\$110 billion a year for mandatory universal coverage in first term. Tax credits to make insurance more affordable. Raise taxes on wealthy.	No universal coverage mandate for adults but one for children. More than \$65 billion a year to make universal coverage affordable. Raise taxes on wealthy.	Spend more on prevention, let market and states expand insurance.	\$2,500 tax credit per taxpayer to help pay for insurance.	Incentives for states to expand affordable coverage. As governor, signed law aimed at ensuring universal coverage.
Immigration 	Voted for 2006 bill that proposed conditional path to citizenship for illegal immigrants; backed border fence.	Voted for 2006 bill that proposed conditional path to citizenship for illegal immigrants; backed border fence.	Has favored allowing illegal immigrants to apply for legal status if they pay penalties, get work permits, register. As governor, opposed banning state services for illegal aliens.	Sponsored 2006 bill that proposed conditional path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Now says he would secure border first.	Opposes conditional path to citizenship; once called that step reasonable. Backs fence and National Guard at border, and ID cards.
Iraq 	Opposed troop increase. No timetable for completing withdrawal. Voted for war.	Combat troops out in 16 months. Spoke against war at start.	Now faults Bush for not sending enough troops at the start.	Early critic of how the war was fought, backed troop increase, opposes scheduled pullout.	Supported troop increase and prosecution of the war.
Social Security 	Noncommittal on raising \$97,500 income cap on payroll taxes. Proposes federal match of up to \$1,000 to help set up 401(k) plans.	Raising cap with unspecified "small adjustment" that would subject a portion of higher incomes to Social Security taxes.	Higher benefits for people who delay retirement past 70. Let retirees choose to get benefits or a payment at death for heirs.	Would consider "almost anything" in a compromise to save Social Security, yet rules out higher payroll taxes for now.	Higher taxes are "wrong way to go."
Taxes 	Raise income taxes on wealthiest and keep estate tax on them. Higher tax breaks for college.	Raise income taxes on wealthiest and their capital gains and dividends taxes. Raise corporate taxes. \$80 billion in tax breaks for poor workers and elderly.	Replace income and investment taxes with national sales tax, sheltering purchases up to poverty line.	Opposed some of Bush's tax cuts because they were not tied to spending cuts, now says the tax cuts should be permanent. Cut corporate tax rate to 25 percent.	Tax breaks to those earning less than \$200,000, eliminating capital gains, interest and dividend taxes for most. Cut corporate tax to 20 percent.
Economic stimulus 	\$110 billion stimulus, including \$40 billion in tax rebates of \$250 for low- and middle-income taxpayers.	\$250 rebates to lower and middle income earners and \$250 bonuses to Social Security recipients.	Supports stimulus plan but questions "whose economy is going to be stimulated the most" if package is financed by foreign lenders and used to buy products made in China.	Cut corporate tax to 25 percent, let companies expense investments in equipment and technology in year of purchase instead of spread out.	\$233 billion stimulus package includes \$400 individual income tax rebates, cutting 10 percent income bracket to 7.5 percent. No rebates for low-income workers who pay no income tax. Cut corporate tax rate to 20 percent.
Favors abortion rights	✓	✓			
Prohibits same-sex marriage			✓		✓
Favors relaxed restrictions on financing of stem cell research	✓	✓		✓	