



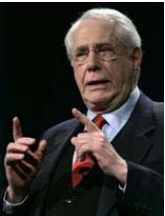








Values Voter Report - Democratic Primary




Answers to questions on some of the most important issues to the values voter by the 2008 Democratic Candidates for President



Candidate and Issue	Marriage	Life (Abortion)
<p>Joe Biden U.S. Senator From Delaware</p> 	<p>Q: In November 2003, you were asked, "Do you believe gay marriage is inevitable?" And you responded, "I'm not sure. I think probably it is." A: Well, I think it probably is because social mores change. But I don't think the government can dictate the definition of marriage to religious institutions. But government does have an obligation to guarantee that every individual is free of discrimination. And there's a distinction. I think government should not be able to dictate to religions the definition of marriage, but on a civil side, government has the obligation to strip away every vestige of discrimination as to what individuals are able to do in terms of their personal conduct.</p> <p>So New Hampshire coming out in favor of civil unions is OK by you? A: Yes. Yes, it is. (Source: NBC's <i>Meet the Press</i>: "Meet the Candidates" series, April 29, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: You supported the ban on partial-birth abortions or late-term abortions. A: I did and I do. Q: And the Supreme Court came and basically upheld that ban, and you criticized the Supreme Court. A: They upheld the ban, and then they engaged in what we lawyers call dicta that is frightening. You had an intellectually dishonest rationale for an honest justification for upholding the ban. I know this is going to sound arcane--they blurred the distinction between the government's role in being involved in the first day and the ninth month. They became paternalistic, talking about the court could consider the impact on the mother and keeping her from making a mistake. This is all code for saying, "Here we come to undo <i>Roe v. Wade</i>." What they did is not so much the decision, the actual outcome of the decision, it's what attended the decision that portends for a real hard move on the court to undo the right of privacy. That's what I'm criticizing about the court's decision. (Source: <i>Meet the Press</i>: 2007 "Meet the Candidates" series Apr 29, 2007)</p>
<p>Hillary Clinton U.S. Senator From New York</p> 	<p>Q: Why let the states maintain their jurisdiction to ban gay marriage? A: It's easy to forget that just 2 years ago we were facing all of these referenda that were enshrining discrimination in state constitutions. Unfortunately, they passed. Now, we're beginning to see other states take different approaches, because stopping the Federal Marriage Amendment gave the states the breathing room to make different decisions. Q: In the civil rights struggle, the same argument of states' rights issue was used as a red herring. Doesn't marriage as a states' rights issue resonate the same way? A: Absolutely. But this has not been a long-term struggle yet, and I think the states are moving much more rapidly to deal with the inequalities than you would find at the federal level. The reason we were plotting strategy to beat the Federal Marriage Amendment is that we were worried it was going to pass. But I don't know that we could have defeated the Federal Marriage Amendment if we had not had DOMA (Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>MR. BLITZER: Senator Clinton, would this be a sine qua non for you, that any nominee you name to the Supreme Court would have to share your view on abortion? SEN. CLINTON: Well, they'd have to share my view about privacy, and I think that goes hand in hand. Privacy, in my opinion, is embedded in our Constitution. What does it mean to have a right to free speech or the right to worship as you choose if you also don't have the right to be left alone, to have that privacy that goes with being an American? (Applause.) So it would be absolutely critical. (Source: Democratic Debate in Las Vegas, Nov. 15, 2007)</p> <p>"I am and always have been pro-choice, and that is not a right any of should take for granted. There are a number of forces at work in our society that would try to turn back the clock and undermine a woman's right to chose, and [we] must remain vigilant." (Source: <i>New York Times</i>, pg.A11 Jan 22, 2000)</p>
<p>Chris Dodd U.S. Senator From Connecticut</p> 	<p>Q: If you were elected president, would you allow us, [a lesbian couple], to be married to each other? A: I have asked myself: How would I want my two daughters treated if they grew up and had a different sexual orientation than their parents? Good jobs, equal opportunity, to be able to retire, to visit each other, to be with each other, as other people do. So I feel very strongly [that same-sex couples] ought to have that ability in civil unions. I don't go so far as to call for marriage. I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. But my state of Connecticut, and in N.H., have endorsed civil unions. I strongly support that. But I don't go so far as marriage. (Source: 2007 CNN / YouTube Democratic Primary debate, Charleston South Carolina, July 23, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: You were the only senator on this stage to vote to confirm Chief Justice Roberts. Do you regret your vote? A: No. I'm disappointed terribly by the decision that he reached the other day [allowing states to outlaw partial-birth abortion], because he did something he said he wouldn't do. He said during his confirmation hearings that he would uphold precedent. That was a very important answer he gave to me. He walked away from the woman's health. For 34 years, the woman's health has been a major consideration on this issue since <i>Roe versus Wade</i> was first decided. And to deviate from that, to me, was a major, major setback here. I happen to believe a woman has a right to choose. I've voted that way and done that, supported that for the 26 years I've been in the US Senate. Supporting expanding adoption, children's health issues--these are things I've worked on for the last 26 years, having started the children's caucus in the US Senate, worked on children's health issues. (Source: 2007 S.C. Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC Apr 26, 2007)</p>




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<p>John Edwards Former U.S. Senator From North Carolina</p> 	<p>Q: You've expressed your opposition to same-sex marriage, and you've raised your faith as part of the reason for your opposition. I'm wondering if you could talk a little bit about what is it within your religion that's leading you to this position?</p> <p>A: Well, I have to tell you, I shouldn't have said that, because I believe, to my core, in equality. It makes perfect sense to me that gay and lesbian couples would say, "Civil unions, great; 1,100 federal benefits, great; give us these rights, we deserve these rights." And they're absolutely right about that. But it stops short of real equality. And the only thing I would say about the faith question is I think from my perspective it is wrong -- because we have seen a president in the last six-plus years who tries to impose his faith on the American people. And I think it is a mistake and I will not impose my faith belief on the American people. I don't believe any president should do that. I believe in the separation of church and state.</p> <p>(Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: What is your view on the decision on partial-birth abortion and most of the public agreeing with the court's holding?</p> <p>A: This decision by the Supreme Court is a perfect example of what's at stake in this election. The kind of people that will be appointed to the US Supreme Court by the next president will control whether a woman's freedom, freedom to choose, make her own health care decisions will be made by her or will be made by the government or by some men sitting on the US Supreme Court. Now, on the issue of abortion, I believe in a woman's right to choose, but I think this is an extraordinarily difficult issue for America. I think it is very important for the president of the United States to recognize--while I believe the government should not make these health-care decisions for women--I believe they should have the freedom to make them themselves--this is a very difficult issue for many people. And I think we have to show respect for people who have different views about this.</p> <p>(Source: South Carolina Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC Apr 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Mike Gravel Former U.S. Senator From Alaska</p> 	<p>"Stop and think. What is marriage? I resent religion saying that it's a religious term. It's not. Marriage preceded all forms of religion in civilization. Marriage is a commitment between two human beings in love. And understand me; I'm saying two human beings. They can be heterosexual. They can be two lesbians. They can be transgender. They can be two gays. What it is, it's a commitment of human beings in love. And if there's anything we need in this world, it's more love." (Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Why do you think Obama and Edwards and Clinton do not support full same-sex marriage rights? A: Well, it's because they're playing it safe. They're not going to lose any votes over not being for marriage, whatever their excuses are. They're going to win. This is costing votes for us. I don't care. I don't want those votes. So you want to know the difference? A good politician can tell you to go to hell and make you look forward to the trip. We see a lot of that. (Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>I am opposed to today's Supreme Court ruling [allowing states to ban partial-birth abortion] or any ruling that places restrictions on reproductive freedom. Today's decision authorizes federal intervention to prohibit a nationwide procedure that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has found at times to be medically necessary. Any decision on abortion should remain between a woman and her doctor. There is no room for interference from politicians and judges.</p> <p>(Source: Press release, "Statement on Supreme Court ruling" Apr 27, 2007)</p> <p>"Senator Mike Gravel supports a woman's right to decide if and when to have children. He also supports a woman's right to make the difficult decision about abortion without interference by government authorities. Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education, including accurate information about contraception, can always be provided in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions. Parity in health insurance and access to specialized family health care services, including family planning education, would also benefit the health and welfare of infants and children, who need and deserve to be wanted and loved." (position statement on campaign website)</p>
<p>Dennis Kucinich Congressman From Ohio</p> 	<p>Q: You're one of just two candidates who fully supports same-sex marriage. Why do you think that is?</p> <p>A: This is really a question of whether you really believe in equality. When you understand what real equality is, you understand that people who love each other must have the opportunity to be able to express that in a way that is meaningful, and that the state should not be intervening against people, the state should be there on behalf of people, to make sure that that love has a chance to be facilitated.</p> <p>Q: So what you're saying is that Senator Obama and Senator Edwards, who sat here just moments ago both espousing equality--are you saying that they don't truly oppose same sex marriage, that they're just playing politics?</p> <p>A: I'm saying that I stand for real equality and that this is really part of an American tradition because when you look at the founding documents, to me this is a foundational principle of who we are as a country.</p> <p>(Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: As president would you have a specific litmus test question on Roe v. Wade that you would ask of your nominees for the high court?</p> <p>A: Any of my appointments to the high court would necessarily reflect my thinking. I don't know how it could be otherwise. I intend to be a president who's a healer, who understands that this country has been put in a debate that has torn it apart. But the truth of the matter is, it's possible to take a course of action where you can get all the people of America in support of a culture of life which includes prenatal care, postnatal care, child care, universal health care, a living wage, all those things that give support to life. And we also need to listen carefully to those who are concerned about abortion. At the same time, a healer as president would help reconcile this nation, and cause a woman's right to privacy to be protected unquestioningly, protect Roe v. Wade, but also go out and listen to people and engage people and open up hearts. (Source: South Carolina Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC, April 26, 2007)</p>




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<p>Barack Obama U.S. Senator From Illinois</p> 	<p>"It is my strong belief that the government has to treat all citizens equally. I come from that in part out of personal experience. When you're a black guy named Barack Obama, you know what it's like to be on the outside. And so my concern is continually to make sure that the rights that are conferred by the state are equal for all people.</p> <p>That's why I opposed DOMA in 2006 when I ran for the Senate. That's why I am a strong supporter not of a weak version of civil unions, but of a strong version, in which the rights that are conferred at the federal level to persons who are part of the same sex union are compatible.</p> <p>When it comes to federal rights, the over 1,100 rights that right now are not being given to same sex couples, I think that's unacceptable, and as president of the United States, I am going to fight hard to make sure that those rights are available." (Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: What is your view on the decision on partial-birth abortion and your reaction to most of the public agreeing with the court's holding?</p> <p>A: I think that most Americans recognize that this is a profoundly difficult issue for the women and families who make these decisions. They don't make them casually. And I trust women to make these decisions in conjunction with their doctors and their families and their clergy. And I think that's where most Americans are. Now, when you describe a specific procedure that accounts for less than 1% of the abortions that take place, then naturally, people get concerned, and I think legitimately so. But the broader issue here is: Do women have the right to make these profoundly difficult decisions? And I trust them to do it. There is a broader issue: Can we move past some of the debates around which we disagree and can we start talking about the things we do agree on? Reducing teen pregnancy; making it less likely for women to find themselves in these circumstances.</p> <p>(Source: South Carolina Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC Apr 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Bill Richardson Governor Of New Mexico</p> 	<p>Q: In response to a question on same sex marriage at the CNN-YouTube debate, you said you would focus less on marriage and more on what's "achievable" in terms of rights and responsibilities for same sex couples. When will same sex marriage be achievable?</p> <p>A: The nation, I believe, is on a path to full inclusion. A president must lead that effort. In my judgment, what is achievable is civil unions with full marriage rights, with domestic partnership. I believe that's achievable.</p> <p>Q: In 1996 why did you vote for DOMA?</p> <p>A: I was the chief deputy Democratic whip at the time, and Clinton was president. The objective in passing DOMA was to fight a huge assault for a constitutional amendment in the Congress to ban gay marriage. It was sort of a cheap political way to decimate a bad initiative. I would repeal that horrendous initiative that I voted for and I regret now. DOMA would preclude a number of the full partnership rights that I want to see with civil unions. (Source: 2007 HRC/LOGO debate on homosexual issues Aug 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: You disagree with him on Roe v. Wade. Let's do a do-over. Who is your model Supreme Court justice?</p> <p>A: I would say two: Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who wrote the dissenting opinion on the abortion issue, who I think is a distinguished scholar. Earl Warren, you know, who led a number of civil rights efforts. But, you know, I did not know that record of Whizzer White when I said that.</p> <p>(Source: Meet the Press: 2007 "Meet the Candidates" series May 27, 2007)</p> <p>"I've been at the forefront with issues that affect women. I fought discriminatory wage policies in the federal government, supported legislation to help women-owned businesses, and voted to fund breast and cervical cancer screening. I have also resisted any effort to weaken a woman's right-to-choose."</p> <p>(Source: Gubernatorial campaign web site, "Priorities" Oct 24, 2002)</p>



Candidate and Issue	Radical Islam (Terrorism)	North American Union / NAFTA / Globalism
<p>Joe Biden U.S. Senator From Delaware</p>  <p>www.joebiden.com 302-574-2008</p>	<p>"This new Pakistan policy cannot succeed in isolation. Conditions in the region and in the broader Muslim world – conditions that the United States can affect – will make a huge difference, for good or for bad. We've got to connect the dots – to be, as I suggested at the outset, smart as well as strong. First, there's what we should do.</p> <p>To increase the prospects that Pakistan will take the lead in the fight against the Taliban and Al Qaeda, we should rededicate ourselves to a forgotten war: Afghanistan. When we shifted resources away from Afghanistan to Iraq, Musharraf concluded the Taliban would rebound, so he cut a deal with them.</p> <p>Redoubling our efforts in Afghanistan – not just with more troops but with the right kind... and with a reconstruction effort that matches President Bush's Marshall Plan rhetoric... would embolden Pakistan's government to take a harder line on the Taliban and Al Qaeda." (Speech to U.S. Center for Global Engagement, Nov. 8, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Would you scrap NAFTA or fix it? A: A president's job is to create jobs, not to export jobs, and the idea that we are not willing to take the prime minister of Canada and the president of Mexico to the mat to make this agreement work is just a lack of presidential leadership. I would lead, I would do that, I would change it. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum August 7, 2007)</p> <p>If I were president, I'd shut down any imports from China, period, in terms of their toys -- flat shut it down. Imagine if this was Morocco selling us these toys, we would have shut it down a year ago. They have mortgage on our house because Bush mortgaged us to a \$1 trillion to them. He is responsible for this. This is outrageous. (Source: Democratic debate at Drexel University October 30, 2007)</p>
<p>Hillary Clinton U.S. Senator From New York</p>  <p>www.hillaryclinton.com 703-469-2008</p>	<p>"We believe in fighting terror and other threats to our security by cooperating with others whenever we can and acting alone only when we are forced to. Republicans believe just the reverse -- in acting alone whenever they can, and cooperating only when there is no alternative. So for five and a half years, they have controlled the White House and the Congress, and they have succeeded in concentrating wealth and power, in resisting accountability, in ignoring evidence, and going it alone in the world." (Source: Annual 2006 Take Back America Conference, June 14, 2006)</p> <p>"I have worked very hard to try to convince the administration to do those things that would make us safer. And I think there's a big disconnect between the rhetoric and the reality. We haven't secured our borders, our ports, our mass transit systems. You can go across this country and see so much that has not been done. The resources haven't gotten to the front lines where decisions are made in local government the way that they need to. And I think that this administration has consistently tried to hype the fear without delivering on the promise of making America safer. And its foreign policy around the world has also made the world less stable, which of course, has a ripple effect with respect to what we're going to face in the future." (Source: 2007 South Carolina Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC Apr 26, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: This past weekend, you expressed some disappointment that NAFTA, in your words, did not realize the benefits that it promised. How would you fix it? A: Well, I had said that for many years, that NAFTA and the way it's been implemented has hurt a lot of American workers. In fact, I did a study in New York looking at the impact of NAFTA on business people, workers and farmers who couldn't get their products into Canada despite NAFTA. So, clearly we have to have a broad reform in how we approach trade. NAFTA's a piece of it, but it's not the only piece of it. I believe in smart trade. Pro-American trade. Trade that has labor and environmental standards, that's not a race to the bottom but tries to lift up not only American workers but also workers around the world. It's important that we enforce the agreements we have. That's why I've called for a trade prosecutor, to make sure that we do enforce them. The Bush administration haven't been enforcing the trade agreements at all. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum Aug 7, 2007)</p>
<p>Chris Dodd U.S. Senator From Connecticut</p>  <p>www.chrisdodd.com 202-737-DODD</p>	<p>"We're not safer today [than after 9/11] even though we have not had an attack on our own soil. Tell that to the people in Iraq, tell that to the people in Afghanistan, tell that to the people around the world.</p> <p>Terrorism's a real issue. It's going to require a collective effort on behalf our nation working with others to make a difference. Terrorism is a tactic, it's not a philosophy, and it's going to require an inordinate amount of cooperation to solve that. Having the kind of first responders at home like the firefighters and police and EMS services that have the tools and the ability to stand up and defend our country has not been funded. While we haven't been attacked, I think we're vulnerable today more so than we were right after 9/11." (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum Aug 8, 2007)</p> <p>Q: What is more important, human rights or national security? A: Obviously, national security, keeping the country safe. When you take the oath of office, you promise to do two things, and that is to protect and defend the Constitution of the US and protect our country against enemies both foreign and domestic. If there were totally free elections in many of the countries today, the Islamic Jihad or Brotherhood would win 85% of the vote. That's not a great outcome for us at this point either. (Source: Democratic de-</p>	<p>Q: Would you scrap NAFTA or fix it? A: I think this requires modification. But we also need to do something else here. In addition to having trading agreements that include labor, environmental, health provisions in them, insisting on those provisions in any trading agreement here, we need to stop exporting the jobs in the country that already are here. I offered legislation by banning the outsourcing of jobs in the Senate. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum Aug 7, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Given the WTO guidelines, could you actually restrict trade with China? A: This is an adversarial relationship today. That needs to change. But when you manipulate your currency as they do, in violation of the WTO here, to the tune of 40%, you've immediately created a huge disadvantage for our country. When you employ slave labor in the production of your manufactured goods, when you deny access on your shelves to the products and services we produce, it is not a competition. It's adversarial. (Source: 2007 Des Moines Register Democratic debate Dec 13, 2007)</p>

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<p>John Edwards Former U.S. Senator from North Carolina</p>  <p>www.johnedwards.com 919-636-3131</p>	<p>It is now clear that George Bush's misnamed "war on terror" has backfired—and is now part of the problem. The war on terror is a slogan designed only for politics, not a strategy to make America safe. It's a bumper sticker, not a plan. It has damaged our alliances and weakened our standing in the world. As a political "frame," it's been used to justify everything from the Iraq War to Guantanamo to illegal spying on the American people. It's even been used by this White House as a partisan weapon to bludgeon their political opponents. Whether by manipulating threat levels leading up to elections, or by deeming opponents "weak on terror," they have shown no hesitation whatsoever about using fear to divide. But the worst thing about this slogan is that it hasn't worked. The so-called "war" has created even more terrorism—as we have seen so tragically in Iraq. The State Department itself recently released a study showing that worldwide terrorism has increased 25% in 2006, including a 40% surge in civilian fatalities. By framing this as a "war," we have walked right into the trap that terrorists have set—that we are engaged in some kind of clash of civilizations and a war against Islam. (Speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, May 23, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Dennis Kucinich said at the debate, "Hillary Clinton was criticized by John Edwards for some trade-related issue. But the fact of the matter is, John, you voted for China trade understanding that workers were going to be hurt." You want to respond? A: Yeah. He's wrong. The answer is that if you look at my record, I've actually been very consistent [against trade deals]. And on the issue of China, bringing China into the WTO, if we have a president that will actually enforce their trading obligations, actually gives us power over controlling their trading obligations. Unfortunately, we've had George Bush for 7 years, who's done none of that. We need a president who will enforce their trading obligations. Q: A lot of us remember the Al Gore debate with Ross Perot. At that time you opposed NAFTA as well? A: Yes. I was not in the Senate then. But when I ran for the Senate, I was very vocally opposed to NAFTA because I had seen what effect it had on the people that I grew up with. (Source: CNN Late Edition: 2007 presidential series with Wolf Blitzer Nov 18, 2007)</p>
<p>Mike Gravel Former U.S. Senator From Alaska</p>  <p>www.gravel2008.us 703-652-4698</p>	<p>Q: What would you do that hasn't already been done to capture bin Laden, which hasn't been done previously? A: Well, the first thing that you would do is to realize that terrorism is not a war. Our war on terrorism makes no sense. We've had terrorism since the beginning of civilization, and we'll have it to the end of civilization. It must be treated as a criminal act for what it is. The US should now interface with Interpol and with other countries to bring these people to justice, but our government has done just the opposite. We had the help of Iran to do away with the Taliban three years ago, then we called them an "Axis of Evil." We had the help of other countries, and now they do—our government doesn't need them. We have a database of 7 million stolen passports at Interpol and it's headed up by an American, and not one American intelligence agency has ever accessed that database. We can't even put the dots together here little more than can we do it globally. (Source: Democratic Primary Debate on Univision in Spanish Sep 9, 2007)</p>	<p>"Our trade practices--CAFTA and NAFTA--they have caused more unemployment in Mexico and Central America than they have in this country. That is wrong. We need to change that approach. Can we? I question whether the Congress can. I think that the answer lies with the American people. If the people in this country had the ability to make laws, to vote for policies directly, then we would begin to see some national solutions to these particular problems." (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept. 9, 2007) Q: A lot of Americans are concerned with outsourcing of US jobs. What's your solution? A: Outsourcing is not the problem. What is the problem is our trade agreements that benefit the management and, of course, the shareholders, and have neglected on either side of the issue, whether it's in Mexico or in other countries or the United States. That's the problem that must be addressed. So, no, it's not outsourcing. But I would add to it, it's the way all of these people want to finance health care, on the backs of businesses, that make them uncompetitive in the world. That's part of the problem. And our system of taxation is also part of the problem because it makes us uncompetitive in the world. (Source: 2007 Democratic Primary Debate at Howard University June 28, 2007)</p>
<p>Dennis Kucinich Congressman From Ohio</p>  <p>www.dennis4president.com 877-413-3664</p>	<p>Q: Show-of-hands question: Do you believe there is such a thing as a global war on terror? Rep. Kucinich, why is your hand not up? A: Because the fact of the matter is that the global war on terror has been a pretext for aggressive war. As president, I intend to take America in a different direction, rejecting war as an instrument of policy, reconnecting with the nations of the world, so that we can address the real issues that affect security all over the globe and affect our security at home: getting rid of all nuclear weapons, participating in the chemical & biological weapons conventions, the landmine treaty, joining the International Criminal Court, signing the Kyoto climate change treaty. The world is waiting for an American president who reaches out in a hand of friendship; who understands this is a complex world, but doesn't see the world in terms of enemies. The minute that we have dichotomous thinking of us versus them, we lose the opportunity to be able to connect with people. (Source: 2007 South Carolina Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC Apr 26, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Would you scrap NAFTA or fix it? A: In my first week in office, I will notify Mexico and Canada that the US is withdrawing from NAFTA. We need a president who knows what the right thing is to do the first time, not in retrospect. And I think that we need to go forward to trade that's based on workers' rights, human rights and environmental quality principles. No one else on this stage could give a direct answer because they don't intend to scrap NAFTA. We're going to be stuck with it (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum Aug 7, 2007)</p>

Candidate and Issue	Radical Islam (Terrorism)	North American Union / NAFTA / Globalism
<p>Barack Obama U.S. Senator From Illinois</p>  <p>www.barackobama.com 866-675-2008</p>	<p>"If you were a Muslim overseas listening to Rudy Giuliani say "they are coming here to try to kill you," which is the tenor of many of the speeches that are delivered by Republicans, you would get an impression that they are not interested in talking and resolving issues peacefully. Now, what we need to do [to reach Muslims] is we need to close Guantanamo. We need to restore habeas corpus. We need to send a strong signal that we are going to talk directly to not just our friends but also to our enemies." (Source: 2007 <i>Des Moines Register</i> Democratic debate December 13, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Is human rights more important than American national security? A: The concepts are not contradictory, but complementary. Pakistan is a great example. We paid \$10 billion over the last seven years & we had two goals: deal with terrorism and restore democracy. We've gotten neither. Pakistan's democracy would strengthen our battle against extremists. The more we see repression, the more there are no outlets for how people can express themselves and their aspirations, the worse off we're going to be, and the more anti-American sentiment there's going to be in the Middle East. We keep on making this mistake. As president, I will make sure that nuclear weapons don't fall into the hands of extremists, especially Al Qaida. If we simply prop up anti-democratic practices that feeds the sense that the US is only concerned about us and that our fates are not tied to these other folks. That's going to make us less safe. That's something I intend to change. (Source: 2007 Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 15, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Would you scrap NAFTA or fix it? A: I would immediately call the president of Mexico, the president of Canada to try to amend NAFTA because I think that we can get labor agreements in that agreement right now. And it should reflect the basic principle that our trade agreements should not just be good for Wall Street, it should also be good for Main Street. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum, August 7, 2007)</p> <p>Q: The flip side to fair trade: how do you convince a working family that's struggling to get by that buying American is still best for them, when American T-shirts cost \$20 and imported ones are \$10? A: Look, people don't want a cheaper T-shirt if they're losing a job in the process. They would rather have the job and pay a little bit more for a T-shirt. And I think that's something that all Americans could agree to. But this raises a larger point, which is: globalization is here. And we should be trading around the world. We don't want to just be standing still while the rest of the world is out there taking the steps that it needs to in order to expand trade. Congress has a responsibility because we've got right now provisions in our tax code that reward companies that are moving jobs overseas instead of companies that are investing right here in the US. And that is a reflection of the degree to which special interests have been shaping our trade policy. That's something that I'll end. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum, August 8, 2007)</p>
<p>Bill Richardson Governor Of New Mexico</p>  <p>www.richardsonforpresident.com 505-828-2455</p>	<p>"I will do everything I can to fight terrorists. That's the main obligation of the American people. But that doesn't mean we become like terrorists and abridge our own freedoms. What the Bush administration has been using is called waterboarding. That is unacceptable not just with the Geneva Conventions, but in the spirit of our nation being a nation that respects human rights. That's not us. I would not permit it." (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College, Sept. 6, 2007)</p> <p>"[The war on terror] is a clash between civilization and barbarity. We need to present the Arab and Muslim worlds with a better vision than the apocalyptic fantasy of the Jihadists. For this to be credible, we need to live up to our own ideals. Prisoner abuse, torture, secret prisons, renditions, and evasion of the Geneva conventions must have no place in our policy. If we want Muslims to open to us, we should start by closing Guantanamo." (Source: Campaign website, "Newsroom," February 8, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Would you scrap NAFTA or fix it? A: We should never have another trade agreement unless it enforces labor protection, environmental standards and job safety. What we need to do is say that from now on, America will adhere to all international labor standards in any trade agreement--no child labor, no slave labor, freedom of association, collective bargaining--that is critically important--making sure that no wage disparity exists. (Source: 2007 AFL-CIO Democratic primary forum, August 7, 2007)</p> <p>"What we need is trade agreements, fair trade agreements where we say, no slave labor, no child labor; we're not going to have--we're going to have environmental protection; we're going to have to deal with wage disparity. And also, I would have a different attitude toward the private sector. I would say to the private sector, what is it going to take to keep you here?" (Source: 2007 Democratic Primary Debate at Howard University June 28, 2007)</p>

Candidate and Issue	Immigration	War in Iraq
<p>Joe Biden U.S. Senator From Delaware</p>  <p>www.joebiden.com 302-574-2008</p>	<p>"There doesn't need to be a 700-mile fence, 14 million illegals -- now you tell me how many buses, car loads, planes that are going to go out, round up all these people, spend hundreds of millions of billions of dollars for the whole world watching, while we send these folks back. Rather than get a background check on all of them, take out the criminals, get them back, and provide for a means by which we allow earned citizenship over the next decade or so." (Source: 2007 Democratic debate at Saint Anselm College, June 3, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Do you believe in this debate over immigration that we're talking about jobs that Americans won't do? A: Let's get it straight. Americans will do any job if you pay them properly. That doesn't mean we don't need guest workers; we do. But we should base the number of guest workers upon need--not an absolute number. And we should require employers to offer those jobs to citizens to see if they want those jobs. We need agricultural workers; we need H1B visas; we need what in fact exists as a need, not as an artificial number to allow employers to drive down wages. (Source: 2007 Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum Dec ember 1, 2007)</p>	<p>"A lot of you wonder why I always talk about Iraq. Iraq is like a big boulder sitting in the middle road. It's sucking up a \$150 billion a year now. Unless you end that war in Iraq all the things we all care about are not going to be able to be done. But they are going to have to move quickly to end this war, to get the money available to deal with health care, to deal with education, to deal with all the things we've all talked about tonight." (Source: 2007 Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum Dec ember 1, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Will you pledge that you have all troops out of Iraq by January of 2013? A: If you go along with the Biden plan, and you have a stable Iraq like we have in Bosnia--we've had 20,000 Western troops in Bosnia for 10 years. Not one has been killed--not one. The genocide has ended. So it would depend on the circumstances. Q: You would not make a commitment? A: I would make a commitment to have them all out if there is not a political reconciliation, because they're just fodder. (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College Sept. 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Hillary Clinton U.S. Senator From New York</p>  <p>www.hillaryclinton.com 703-469-2008</p>	<p>Q: Would you help dispel the negative perception of illegal immigrants & undocumented workers that more and more Americans are beginning to have? A: I deeply regret the way the Republicans are politicizing this issue. They are trying to outdo each other in basically demeaning and attacking those who are here in our country--yes, without documentation--but who are often doing the work that allows raising their families and making a contribution. The answer is comprehensive immigration reform. We have to keep working towards it. Yes, we've got to have tougher border security. We do have to crack down on employers who exploit and employee undocumented people. We've got to do more to help local communities bear the costs of it. Because they don't set immigration laws. We've got to do more with our neighbors to the south to help them create more economic opportunity for their own people but at the end of the day there has to be an earned path to legalization. (Source: 2007 Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum December 1, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Do you oppose the war in Iraq? A: Absolutely. But I do not oppose the brave young men and women who have fought this war with such distinction and heroism. I will begin to bring our troops home as soon as I am president, because Bush does not intend to end the war while he is still president. We're doing to have to get the Joint Chiefs and my secretary of defense and advisers together to start the planning to move as quickly as possible, because I don't believe that the planning has been sufficiently undertaken in the Pentagon under the Bush administration. We have to try to get the Iraqi government to understand its obligations, because there are no military solutions. We need to engage in diplomacy, with respect to Iraq. We have a big diplomatic apparatus. Bush doesn't use it. He relies on a very small group of people. That's a terrible mistake. Bush's policies have alienated our friends and emboldened our enemies. We've got to do more than just send our young men and women out. (Source: 2007 Democratic debate at Drexel University Oct 30, 2007)</p>
<p>Chris Dodd U.S. Senator From Connecticut</p>  <p>www.chrisdodd.com 202-737-DODD</p>	<p>Q: None of the 9/11 terrorists entered the US through the Mexican border. Why build a wall there in the name of national security? You voted in favor of the border wall. Why on the Mexican border and not on the Canadian border? A: Obviously, any debate about immigration has to include security here. The American people feel strongly about it. But I would argue that while there may be a place periodically to have security along that border that include some fence, it's also important that we understand the underlying reason why people emigrate, and we're not focusing enough attention on that. We need to be dealing with our neighbor, Mexico, far more cooperatively. For 26 years, I've co-chaired the interparliamentary meeting with Mexico. This is an ally, this is a friend, this is a neighbor. We need to have trading agreements and economic agreements that can lift people up, with working conditions that would allow them to live in their countries not have to emigrate to this country. (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept. 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Gen. Petraeus and Pres. Bush indicated that in January 2009, there will be 100,000 troops in Iraq. What do you do? A: The question is not just how you bring the troops out, but why are we there? As president of the United States, your first responsibility is to guarantee the safety and security of the American people. And so the question you must ask yourself as president: Is the continuation of our military presence enhancing that goal? I happen to believe very strongly that this policy of ours, military involvement in Iraq, is counterproductive. We're less safe, less secure, more vulnerable and more isolated today as a result of the policy. So I believe that we ought to begin that process of redeployment here.</p> <p>Q: Will you pledge as commander in chief that you have all troops out of Iraq by January of 2013? A: I will get that done. (Source: Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College Sep 26, 2007)</p>

Candidate and Issue	Immigration	War in Iraq
<p>John Edwards Former U.S. Senator From North Carolina</p>  <p>www.johnedwards.com 919-636-3131</p>	<p>Q: Would you commit to immigration reform during your first year of the presidency? A: The answer's yes, I would commit to do it, not just in my first year, but at the beginning of the Edwards administration. I think the president has a responsibility to do something about this hugely important issue. You know, when you walk into a Blockbuster to rent a movie, you don't see anybody, but you hear a voice saying, "Welcome to Blockbuster." We can figure out when somebody's walking into a Blockbuster. It seems to me we can figure out when somebody's coming into the US, and especially if we use the technology that's available to us. And I think that's what the focus should be on: more Border Patrol, better use of technology, & absolutely a path to earn citizenship for those who are living here & who are undocumented. But we also have to get at the underlying causes of the migration from Mexico, which means addressing the issue of poverty, education, health, the reason that so many are coming to the US. (Source: Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept. 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: You would have significant combat troops outside of Iraq but on the border prepared to go into Iraq for combat duty? A: Senator Clinton has said she will maintain troops inside Iraq, and that they will engage in combat missions inside Iraq. I will not do that. To me, that is a continuation of the war, and this war needs to be brought to an end. (Source: Meet the Press: "Meet the Candidates" Oct 7, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Will you commit that at the end of your first term, in 2013, all US troops will be out of Iraq? A: I cannot make that commitment. I can tell you what I would do as president. If there are in fact, as General Petraeus suggests, 100,000 American troops on the ground in Iraq, I will immediately draw down 40,000 to 50,000 troops and, over the course of the next several months, continue to bring our combat troops out of Iraq until all of our combat troops are in fact out of Iraq. I think the problem is, we will maintain an embassy in Baghdad. That embassy has to be protected. We will probably have humanitarian workers in Iraq. They have to be protected. I think somewhere in the neighborhood of a brigade of troops will be necessary to accomplish that--3,500 to 5,000 troops. Everyone up here wants to take a responsible course to end the war in Iraq. And the debate will be between a Democrat who wants to bring the war to an end, & a Republican who wants to continue the war. (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College Sept. 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Mike Gravel Former U.S. Senator From Alaska</p>  <p>www.gravel2008.us 703-652-4698</p>	<p>"I am embarrassed at the thought of building a wall on the southern border. Embarrassed. I just recently went to Canada. I went into Canada, it took me three seconds. Coming out took two hours. Two hours in line to get back into our country. Something is wrong. We need to stop scapegoating people. People come here because they want to feed their families because they're starving in other locations. We need a foreign policy that addresses the entire Western Hemisphere in this regard." (Source: Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sep 9, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Would you commit to immigration reform during your first year of the presidency? A: Immediately. But secondly, I think we need to understand that the whole national immigration issue is national scapegoating. It's national scapegoating because we have our failures in education, we have failures in health care, every place you turn our society is crumbling around us. And so we want to find somebody to scapegoat, blame it on them. (Source: Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept. 9, 2007)</p>	<p>"I'm running for president because no one else is prepared to end this war. And it should be ended. We should pull American troops out, as soon as possible. And it can be done in 120 days. And what we can then do is begin an aggressive diplomacy. And that would mean to go to Iran, go to Syria. And tell these people, help us restabilize the region that we destabilized, and tell them we made a mistake in doing this. A tragic mistake, and it puts the whole world at risk of a possible nuclear confrontation." (Source: Huffington Post Mash-Up: 2007 Democratic on-line debate Sept 13, 2007)</p> <p>Q: Are you suggesting that these candidates suspend their campaigns, go back to Washington and for 40 consecutive days vote on the war? A: If it stops the killing, my God, yes, do it! (Source: Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College Sep 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Dennis Kucinich Congressman From Ohio</p>  <p>www.dennis4president.com 877-413-3664</p>	<p>Q: None of the 9/11 terrorists entered the US through the Mexican border. Why build a wall there in the name of national security? A: First of all, a Kucinich administration will build relationships between nations, not walls. We need to move forward with an America that remembers where we came from, and immigration reform has to be central to it. That means there must be a path to legalization, because there are no illegal human beings. We have to start looking at our policies, which are aimed at separating people. Everyone here understands that the immigration acceleration occurred after the passage of NAFTA. I've said one of my first acts in office will be to cancel NAFTA and the WTO and go back to trade based on workers' rights. And then we have a new trade agreement with Mexico, a trade agreement that strengthens America and Mexico and strengthens the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain. (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Is Petraeus correct when he says that the troop increase is bringing security to Iraq? A: No. The occupation is fueling the insurgency. In 2003, I put forth a plan to get out of Iraq. I'm actually the only one on this stage who voted against the war & the funding the war 100% of the time, and has a plan to bring the troops home. They should be brought home now. And let me tell you something, the Democrats in Congress have not done the right thing for the American people. They should tell Bush that we're not going to give you another dime. We're not putting a bill on the floor. When you talked about Pakistan, you cannot look at Pakistan & the destabilization that is occurring in many Muslim nations without understanding the role that our aggression against Iraq has played in contributing to that destabilization. I am speaking about a new policy of strength through peace, no more unilateralism, no more preemption, no more first-strike, open-dialogue diplomacy, and adherence to international law. (Source: Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada November 15, 2007)</p>

Candidate and Issue	Immigration	War in Iraq
<p>Barack Obama U.S. Senator From Illinois</p>  <p>www.barackobama.com 866-675-2008</p>	<p>"What we have to do is create a comprehensive solution to the problem. As president I will make sure that we finally have the kind of border security that we need. Employers have to be held accountable. When we do those things, we can take the illegal aliens who are here, get them out of the shadows, make sure that they are subject to a stiff penalty, make sure that they're learning English and go to the back of the line so they're not getting an advantage over people who came here legally." (Source: 2007 Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada Nov 15, 2007)</p> <p>"We've got to fix a broken immigration system not just for the undocumented but for legal immigrants. Because the backlogs are horrendous, the fees have been increased and doubled and tripled, and as a consequence more and more people are having difficulty just trying to reunify their families even if they're going through the legal pathways, and that puts more pressure on people to go into the illegal system. That is something we're going to try to pass." (Source: Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sept. 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: Is Petraeus correct when he says that the troop increase is bringing security to Iraq? A: There is no doubt that because we put American troops in Iraq, more American troops in Iraq, that they are doing a magnificent job. They are making a difference in certain neighborhoods. But the overall strategy is failed because we have not seen any change in behavior among Iraq's political leaders. That is the essence of what we should be trying to do in Iraq. That's why I'm going to bring this war to a close. That's why we can get our combat troops out within 16 months and have to initiate the kind of regional diplomacy, not just talking to our friends, but talking to our enemies, like Iran and Syria, to try to stabilize the situation there. This year, we saw the highest casualty rates for American troops in Iraq since this war started. The same is true in Afghanistan. If we have seen a lowering violence rate, that's only compared to earlier this year. We're back to where we started back in 2006. (Source: 2007 Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada Nov 15, 2007)</p> <p>"The first thing I will do is initiate a phased redeployment. Military personnel indicate we can get one brigade to two brigades out per month. I would immediately begin that process. We would get combat troops out of Iraq. The only troops that would remain would be those that have to protect US bases and US civilians, as well as to engage in counterterrorism activities in Iraq." (Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate at Dartmouth College Sep 26, 2007)</p>
<p>Bill Richardson Governor Of New Mexico</p>  <p>www.richardsonforpresident.com 505-828-2455</p>	<p>Q: Would you commit to immigration reform during your first year of the presidency? A: Yes, I would do it my first year. I want everybody to look at the Statue of Liberty. This symbolizes freedom, diversity, and that we're a nation of immigrants. This is what we need to do in immigration my first year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, more border security, technology at the border. 2. A stronger relationship with Mexico and Central America, to create jobs so that flow doesn't come here. 3. Enforce the law. Those that knowingly hire illegal workers should be punished. 4. But what is fundamental is a path to legalization, a path to citizenship for the 12 million that are in this country that just want to make life better for the families. 5. This wall is a horrendous example of Washington misguided policy. Congress only funded half of the wall. And in addition that, if you're going to build a 12-foot wall, you know what's going to happen? A lot of 13-foot ladders. This is a terrible symbol of America. <p>(Source: 2007 Democratic primary debate on Univision in Spanish Sep 9, 2007)</p>	<p>Q: What's your assessment of the testimony by Gen. Petraeus & Ambassador Crocker? A: Both are distinguished public servants, but they're basically serving an administration who has a failed policy. They're being team players. So, I'm not convinced. In my judgment, the surge is not working. There's only a political solution to this disastrous war. There is no military solution. In essence, what they're talking about is that there's going to be a withdrawal of 30,000 troops in a year [to return to 130,000 troops]. In my judgment, this war cannot end unless all our troops are out. Q: You're suggesting that by the end of the 2008, there should be no troops in Iraq? A: If you really want to end this war, we have to take our troops out because our troops have become targets. If you leave them there, the Iraqis won't be serious about starting the political reconciliation, and we would be unable to bring an all-Muslim peacekeeping force & a reconstruction process that would include Iran & Syria. (Source: Huffington Post Mash-Up: 2007 Democratic on-line debate Sep 13, 2007)</p>