



HILLARY CLINTON

Campaign Themes: *The Strength and Experience to Make Change Happen, Ready for Change*

Positions on the Issues (unless otherwise stated, taken directly from her website www.hillaryclinton.com or the NYTs)

HEALTH CARE

- **Health coverage for all, emphasizing choice.** If you like the insurance you have now, keep it. If not the plan offers an array of choices including a public plan similar to Medicare. Private and public plans must offer quality care at least equal to what members of Congress receive. Coverage is portable, job loss or illnesses will never lead to loss of coverage or increased costs. No American can be denied coverage, forced to pay exorbitant prices, or refused renewal. *A national market with similar coverage across the country.*
- **Affordable premiums--**Payments will be limited to a percentage of income through refundable, income-related, tax credits. While large businesses will be required to offer coverage or make a contribution, depending on firm size and average wages, small businesses will receive a tax credit (max. credit equal to 50% of premiums for firms with fewer than 25 employees). There will be a tax credit to offset a significant portion of catastrophic expenditures exceeding a threshold. The plan advocates shared responsibility by consumers, industry, and government.
- **Cost-control measures—Overhaul the insurance and medical industries.** Create a new best-practices institute, funded by both the private and public sectors to evaluate effectiveness of alternative treatments. Create system-wide savings from full use of health-information technology to create a paperless system. Promote generic drugs and competition. Give FDA the authority to approve more safe and effective biogeneric drugs. Give Secretary of HHS negotiating power on Medicare prescription drug prices.
- **Plan paid for by:** Total cost of the plan around \$110 Billion. Cost savings will contribute an estimated \$56 billion. Businesses will either offer coverage or contribute to public plan. To pay for the increased government costs will discontinue Bush tax cuts for top two income tax brackets and Bush's increased tax exemptions for households making over \$250,000 and the cap on federal deduction of employer contributions for health benefits for households making over \$250,000. Total tax savings from limits on high-income tax breaks estimated at \$54 billion.

IRAQ

- **Troop withdrawal:** Phased redeployment beginning first 60 days in office. No date for complete withdrawal provided.
- **Peace and reconstruction efforts:** Direct American aid efforts in Iraq into the hands of the Iraqi people. Appoint U.N. representative to broker peace. Set up within the first days of office a regional stabilization group composed of key allies, other global powers, and all of the states bordering Iraq to achieve three diplomatic goals: *Non-interference, Mediation and Reconstruction funding.* Suggested in a speech guaranteeing every Iraqi a share of the oil revenues at the individual level to move talks forward.
- **Refugees:** Set up a multibillion-dollar international effort for Iraqi refugees.



- **Fight terrorism:** Increase resources to fight terrorism with specialized units targeting al Qaeda and other groups.

ECONOMY

- **Taxes and fiscal Policy:** In order to pay for her health care program, will rollback Bush's tax cut for the top two brackets (see health care). Will provide tax relief for the middle-class by ending the marriage penalty, extending the lower-income tax brackets, providing college tuition deduction, a child tax credit and adoption tax credit. Promises to balance the federal budget.
- **Job creation**—Provide tax incentives (such as wage credits) for businesses. Development initiatives for small and micro businesses and private sector ventures.
- **Technology and Innovation**—Believes innovation will be the key to jobs and growth. In addition to creating a \$50 billion Strategic Energy Fund will:
 - Significantly increase research investment including increasing the National Science Foundation (NSF) the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the Defense Department basic research budgets by 50% and doubling the NIH budget over 10 years.
 - Reward innovation and research through awards and tripling the number and increasing the size of NSF fellowships,
 - Support initiatives to establish leadership in broadband
 - Overhaul the R&E tax credit to make the US more attractive.
 - Restore integrity to science.
 - Clinton cosponsored the [Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act](#) of 2005, vetoed by President Bush.
- **Credit and mortgage policies**—Aims to increase credit availability, reduce foreclosures, and stop predatory lending.
 - Create a two-year program to increase mortgage purchasing capacity through raising portfolio caps at Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, by 5% (\$70 billion increased capacity) These agencies would be directed to work with state housing agencies to replace adjustable mortgages with stable, fixed-rate loans.
 - Temporarily modify the Mortgage Revenue Bond (MRB) program that issues low-cost mortgages to include refinanced mortgages and increases the program's federal cap by 25% (equal to \$2.5 billion).
 - Increase GSE loan limits in high cost areas and index it to median area prices.
 - Impose severe penalties as outlined in **The Foreclosure Rescue Fraud Act** for predatory lending.
- **Labor**-- Strengthen unions' right to organize and bargain collectively through passing The Employee Free Choice Act and increase the minimum wage.
- **Trade**-To insure fair trade practices, will appoint a trade enforcement officer within the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and double the size of USTR's enforcement unit. Overhaul the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program to ensure that workers who have lost jobs because of global competition get the support they need. Broaden TAA to cover all workers whose plants have moved abroad. Double funding for TAA's job training program to \$440 million.



- **Policies to strengthen families and reduce poverty**-- Expand access to child care and paid family leave programs by the year 2016.
 - Offer \$1 billion per year in grants to encourage innovative paid family leave programs at the state level.
 - Expand the Family Medical Leave Act to cover 13 million additional workers and guarantee every American worker seven days of paid sick leave for a family health crisis.
 - Ensure better access to affordable, high-quality child care.
 - Prevent discrimination based on pregnancies or caregiving responsibilities.
 - Promote policies to increase savings, protect pensions, and provide greater retirement security.

EDUCATION

- Higher pay for teachers and principals
- Reform No Child Left Behind to provide more resources. Increase early education programs such as Head Start.
- Provide support and training for new parents and support "kinship care" families (non-parent relatives raising children).
- Provide college tuition relief through modernizing the HOPE Scholarship Program that provides tax credits for college tuition (program details not specified) and provide more support for community colleges.

IMMIGRATION

Strengthen border security

- Deploy new technology that can help stop the flow of undocumented immigrants into the country.
- Promote greater cross-border cooperation with Canada and Mexico.

Protect worker rights and stop illegal hiring

- Strict but fair enforcement of our laws
- Strict penalties for those who exploit undocumented workers
- Create an employer verification system that does not lead to discrimination and ensures that employers comply with the law against hiring and exploiting undocumented workers.

Clear path to citizenship

- Supports earned legal status for those who are here, working hard, paying taxes, respecting the law, and willing to meet a high bar.
- Supports the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act to provide Medicaid and SCHIP benefits to low-income legal immigrant children and pregnant women.
- Wrote the Access to Employment and English Acquisition Act to meet the growing demand for English language courses and other job skills.
- Supports the DREAM Act, which provides a path to citizenship through military service or higher education for children.
- Offered an amendment to make family reunification the guiding principle of our immigration system.

Opposes general guest worker program

- Is against a general guest worker program that would exploit workers and create a supply of cheap labor that undermines the wages of U.S. workers, but supports an agricultural jobs program provided it maintains fair wages and labor protections.



HOMELAND SECURITY—(no clear category on website)

- Voted for the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004 that increased security of transportation infrastructure and increased border control.
- Supports legislation to monitor and tighten security of nuclear materials and plants (see foreign policy section for details).
- Believes we need to address the root causes of terrorism by improving education around the world and establishing schools in Muslim countries that will replace madrassahs .

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 80% in 2050 and cut foreign oil imports by two-thirds from 2030 projected levels, cutting 10 million barrels per day. Program details include:
 - Institute cap-and-trade program that auctions 100% of permits.
 - Reduce electricity consumption 20% by 2020 by promoting green building industry, appliance efficiency standards and phasing out incandescent light bulbs.
 - Create a \$50 billion Strategic Energy Fund, partially paid for by oil companies, to fund alternative energy investments—one third of a \$150-billion 10-year investment in clean energy. Will double federal investment in basic energy research and establish Energy Research Agency.
 - Require that renewable energy resources produce 25% of electricity by 2025 and 60 billion gallons of home-grown biofuels for cars and trucks by 2030.
 - Set up Smart Grid City partnerships and investments in hybrid vehicle technologies.
 - Increase fuel efficiency standards to 55 mpg by 2030 and issue \$20 billion of Green Vehicle Bonds to help U.S. automakers retool their plants to meet the standards.
 - Invest in green building industry and “green-collar” jobs and modernize and retrofit 20 million low-income homes for energy efficiency. Create "Connie Mae" program for low- and middle-income Americans to buy green homes and invest in green home improvements.
 - Require all publicly traded companies to report financial risks due to climate change in annual reports filed with the SEC.
 - Create White House "National Energy Council" to ensure implementation and enforcement.
 - Require federal buildings designed after January 20, 2009 to be zero emissions.

ETHICS AND ELECTORAL REFORM

- Reduce the influence of lobbyists by banning former Cabinet officials from lobbying the administration that they worked for.
- Strengthen whistleblower protections.
- Create a public service academy.



- End no-bid government contracts and make all contracts public, publish government agency budgets, and track agency effectiveness. Reduce government contractors by 500,000.
- Enact comprehensive electoral reform that will expand voting access and safeguard votes as outlined in the Count Every Vote Act she co-sponsored. Measures include:
 - Provide a paper trail for every vote and allow same-day registration
 - Designate Election Day as a national holiday
 - Help states invest in better voting technology (exact technology not specified)
 - Ensure impartiality of officials and allow the Attorney General to sue for deceptive practices

REGULATORY REFORM

- Create a single food-safety agency
- Ensure safe children's products by banning lead, requiring independent third-party testing for imported toys, making foreign producers subject to American safety requirements and imposing stiffer penalties on violators.
- Increase the number of inspectors at ports of entry and foreign countries.
- Mandate country-of-origin labeling
- Overhaul, modernize, and increase the power of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, increase inspectors, simplify recalls, speedier releases, and stronger actions against companies so that the first priority of the agency is to protect the public, not industry.
- Require that foreign drug-makers meet American safety standards and force importers to accept random inspections before importing. Increase products that the FDA conducts risk assessment on.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's Rights

- Has and will continue to work to ensure that the rights enshrined in the Constitution are applied equally to men and women including strengthening equal pay laws and penalties associated with wage discrimination.
- Supports a woman's right to choose.
- Waged a successful three year battle to get the FDA to accept the overwhelming recommendation of the medical community and make Plan B (the "morning after" pill) available over the counter.
- Helped found the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancies and supported the Prevention First Act which expands access to family planning services for low income women, requires health insurance companies to cover contraception, and provides a dedicated funding stream for age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive sex education.
- Has worked to empower women throughout the world, especially low income women. Has advocated for access to microfinance programs that enable women to start their own businesses and advocated strongly against the tragic practice of sex trafficking.

Marriage Equality

- There is no official position on marriage equality on the website. According to a NYT's Empire Zone, in July 2006 Jennifer Hanley, the senator's spokeswoman, stated: "Senator Clinton supports full equality for people in committed relationships, including health insurance, life insurance and pensions, and hospital visitation—and believes we have to keep working to reach those goals." According to www.ontheissues.org, she voted no on a



constitutional ban of same-sex marriage and voted yes on adding sexual orientation to definition of hate crimes and supports civil unions with full equality of benefits

Civil Rights

- No information on the website, the following information is from www.ontheissues.org. Hillary has a strong background on civil rights, starting in 1965 she brought black classmates to all-white church, supported DOMA which Bill Clinton signed into law. Based on her record was rated 60% by ACLU in Dec.2002 and rated 96% by the NAACP in Dec. 2006.

FOREIGN POLICY

- **Iran**--Believes that “We must use all the tools at our disposal to address the serious challenge posed by Iran, including diplomacy, economic pressure, and sanctions.”
- **North Korea**—Supports direct talks.
- **Israel**—Strong supporter of Israel’s right to exist peacefully and to defend its people against terrorism. She has condemned Hamas's rise to power, anti-Semitism in Palestinian textbooks, and Iran's conference on the Holocaust.
- **Multilateralism**—Advocates solving difficult conflicts, such as in the Middle East, through diplomacy and alliances before using military options.
- **World education**—Introduced legislation to give every child in the world access to primary education by 2015.
- **Nuclear materials and non-proliferation:**
 - Implement the Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Act through modernizing the non-proliferation treaties and related agreements;
 - Increasing funding for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative to convert research reactors around the world from highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium and to remove the former.
 - Expand the Materials Protection, Control and Accounting program to lock down nuclear material and specify international guidelines to raise the security standards at foreign nuclear sites.
 - Create a White House advisor for countering nuclear terrorism responsible for an annual report to Congress specifying every site with nuclear material or weapons and developing and coordinating the secure removal of all material.
- **Latin America and Africa**—Advocates more resources for sustainable development. Has been a vocal advocate for a stronger response to the violence in Darfur, calling for more resources for peacekeeping efforts, a possible no-fly zone, and diplomatic pressure.

Gun Control

- Ban the sale or transfer of all forms of semi-automatic weapons.
- Enact and strengthen laws to stop the supply of illegal guns.
- Install a better background check system.
- Work to improve gun safety through requiring guns to be locked up properly, ammo stored separately and no unsupervised access for minors.



- Supported Senator Charles Schumer's legislative proposal to license hand guns. This law would require anyone who wants to purchase a gun to obtain a state-issued photo gun license. Stated in 2000 that every new handgun sale or transfer should be registered in a national registry. Source: CNN.com Jun 2, 2000

Voting Record

- Voted NO on prohibiting lawsuits against gun manufacturers. Reference: *Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act; Bill S 397*; vote number [2005-219](#) on Jul 29, 2005

Veterans

Enact a GI Bill of Rights for the Twenty-First Century.

- Offer service members, veterans and their families expanded education, housing and entrepreneurial benefits.
- Guarantee equal access for all components of the Armed Forces - Active, Guard and Reserve.
- Fund undergraduate education for service members, as well as education for specialized trade or technical training, and certification and licensing programs.
- Establish a Veterans Micro-loan Program to provide veterans with no-collateral, low-interest micro-loans of up to \$100,000 for entrepreneurial ventures.

Veterans' Assistance

- Ensure that all of the 1.8 million uninsured veterans in this country have access to quality, affordable health care.
- Make a long-term commitment to the VA system to ensure it is adequately
- Commit to getting a fair, accurate, and timely decision for every veteran filing a disability claim.
- Increase the number of qualified VA evaluators to reduce the backlog of claims.
- Provide fast-track training for new claims specialists and expand the Benefits at Discharge Enact a program to smooth the transition from service to discharge for all those who serve our country.

Extend Hiring Preferences to Veterans-friendly Contractors.

- Restore and expand job opportunities for veterans by working to extend federal government's hiring preferences to federal contractors.

Expand Job Opportunities.

- Increase funding for the Helmets to Hardhats program which links veterans with local job opportunities in the construction and trade industries by offering apprenticeship programs.

Give Veterans Additional Opportunities to Serve.

- Make vouchers worth up to \$10,000 available to returning veterans who want to serve in AmeriCorps and select not-for-profit organizations. These organizations would provide at least \$5,000 to supplement the voucher. This system will help 20,000 veterans a year create normal routines and reenter their communities while doing meaningful work serving their country.

Reduce Homelessness among Veterans.

- Establish a pilot program on homelessness prevention for veterans that will provide subsidies, eviction prevention, and one-time assistance for veterans who fall behind on their rent.
- Expand rental assistance for veterans by calling on Congress to fund an additional 20,000 housing choice vouchers exclusively for homeless veterans.

Expand Veterans Homeownership.

- Veterans will receive a 50% discount on foreclosed properties in the government's inventory.
- Eliminate the upfront fees on VA mortgages for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who take out VA loans within two years of leaving active duty.

This document was not vetted or endorsed by the campaign. While all positions were taken directly from campaign material, they are not exhaustive— some policies or positions were left out. BlueWaveNJ apologizes for any errors or omissions.