

# Hillary Clinton

## Hillary Clinton Democratic Candidate for President, 2008

**Goal:** Students will become familiar with the position of major political candidates in the 2008 Presidential election process.

### California Standards addressed:

- 11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.
- 12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

### Project choices:

1. Students can examine and discuss one or more of the position statements below, summarize them, discuss them, agree/disagree and give examples supporting their opinion, compare/contrast with position statements of other major candidates. Students can collect other samples of candidate speeches/media to help them understand the position(s) of their choice .
2. An oral presentation of a candidate position or positions can be completed accompanied with a bibliography of sources used. TV can be used as a source with the name of the program, speaker(s), and date cited.
3. Care should be exercised to provide students with only the amount of information they can manage without being overwhelmed. Multiple samples have been provided to facilitate student choice. It is not necessary for students to use the Internet to do this project.
4. A sample of bibliographic entries is included below: This is the format used by John McCain's website.

[1] Robert Carroll, "Fiscal Stimulus: Missing The Big Picture?" The Tax Foundation, January 11, 2008

[2] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Approaches to Reform the U.S. Business Tax System for the 21st Century," December 20, 2007

[3] Kevin Hassett and Aparna Mathur, "Taxes and Wages," American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Working Paper Number 128, June 2006.; The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform (2005)

[4] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Approaches to Reform the U.S. Business Tax System for the 21st Century," December 20, 2007

[5] The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform (2005)

[6] Alan J. Auerbach, Kevin A. Hassett, et al., "Toward Fundamental Tax Reform," *AEI Press*, May 2005

**Source: Hillary Clinton's website:**

**<http://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/iraq/>**

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## Ending the War in Iraq

Hillary Clinton has announced her plan to end the war in Iraq and urged President Bush to act immediately.

"Our message to the president is clear. It is time to begin ending this war -- not next year, not next month -- but today.

"We have heard for years now that as the Iraqis stand up, our troops will stand down. Every year, we hear about how next year they may start coming home. Now we are hearing a new version of that yet again from the president as he has more troops in Iraq than ever and the Iraqi government is more fractured and ineffective than ever.

"Well, the right strategy before the surge and post-escalation is the same: start bringing home America's troops now."

If President Bush does not end the war, when Hillary Clinton is president, she will. Her three-step plan would bring our troops home, work to bring stability to the region, and replace military force with a new diplomatic initiative to engage countries around the world in securing Iraq's future. Hillary has been fighting every day in the Senate to force the president to change course. And today she described how she would bring the war to an end.

**Starting Phased Redeployment within Hillary's First Days in Office:** The most important part of Hillary's plan is the first: to end our military engagement in Iraq's civil war and immediately start bringing our troops home. As president, one of Hillary's first official actions would be to convene the Joint Chiefs of Staff, her Secretary of Defense, and her National Security Council. She would direct them to draw up a clear, viable plan to bring our troops home starting with the first 60 days of her Administration. She would also direct the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare a comprehensive plan to provide the highest quality health care and benefits to every service member -- including every member of the National Guard and Reserves -- and their families.

**Securing Stability in Iraq as we Bring our Troops Home.** As president, Hillary would focus American aid efforts during our redeployment on stabilizing Iraq, not propping up the Iraqi government. She would direct aid to the entities -- whether governmental or non-governmental -- most likely to get it into the hands of the Iraqi people. She would also support the appointment of a high level U.N. representative -- similar to those appointed in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Kosovo -- to help broker peace among the parties in Iraq.

**A New Intensive Diplomatic Initiative in the Region.** In her first days in office, Hillary would convene a regional stabilization group composed of key allies, other global powers, and all of the states bordering Iraq. The- mission of this group would be to

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develop and implement a strategy to create a stable Iraq. It would have three specific goals:

- *Non-interference.* Working with the U.N. representative, the group would work to convince Iraq's neighbors to refrain from getting involved in the civil war.
- *Mediation.* The group would attempt to mediate among the different sectarian groups in Iraq with the goal of attaining compromises on fundamental points of disputes.
- *Reconstruction funding.* The members of the group would hold themselves and other countries to their past pledges to provide funding to Iraq and will encourage additional contributions to meet Iraq's extensive needs.

As our forces redeploy out of Iraq, Hillary would also organize a multi-billion dollar international effort -- funded by a wide range of donor states -- under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to address the needs of Iraqi refugees. And as we replace military force with diplomacy and global leadership, Hillary will not lose sight of our very real strategic interests in the region. She would devote the resources we need to fight terrorism and will order specialized units to engage in narrow and targeted operations against al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations in the region.

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## Improving Our Schools

From her days as a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) working as an advocate for children with special needs to her leadership of the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee, Hillary has been a passionate advocate for providing greater educational opportunities to all children. Her work for CDF helped pave the way for the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, the first time children with special needs were guaranteed the right to a free, appropriate public education. Her work in Arkansas led to tangible results: teacher salaries doubled, class size fell significantly, learning standards and assessments were implemented, and students were given much greater access to higher-level science and foreign-language courses. Hillary also brought Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, a model parent education program, to the state in order to better prepare all children to start school.

As the nation's First Lady, Hillary promoted the Prescription for Reading program, encouraging pediatricians to "prescribe" that new parents read to their children. She helped create Early Head Start in order to prepare students from low income backgrounds for school. She also spearheaded the administration's efforts to grow an after-school program from a pilot program of \$1 million to a \$1 billion program, serving children in all 50 states. As a senator, Hillary worked to reform and fully fund No Child Left Behind.

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She helped enact legislation to recruit and retain teachers and principals to high-need areas. She has been committed to strengthen and fully fund our special education system. She also helped fight off efforts by the Bush administration to slash afterschool funding by 40 percent. As president, Hillary will fight for each and every child in America to have access to the highest quality schools so that they can fulfill their potential and reach their dreams.

### **READY TO LEAD**

#### **Early Childhood Education**

Hillary knows that parents are our children's first teachers, and the early years have a tremendous impact on their lives. That is why she will invest heavily in proven strategies to get all children ready for school, including:

- Nurse home visitation programs to help new parents develop parenting skills.
- Quality child care and Head Start.
- Pre-kindergarten for all four-year olds.

#### **K-12**

Hillary also knows that we have to improve our K-12 system in order to ensure that every child is prepared to compete in an increasingly global economy. As president, she will:

- End the unfunded mandate known as No Child Left Behind.
- Meet the funding promises of IDEA to ensure that children with special needs get the attention and support they deserve.
- Recruit and retain thousands more outstanding teachers and principals, especially in urban and rural areas.
- Cut the minority dropout rate in half.
- Create "Green Schools" in order to reduce energy costs and eliminate environmental hazards that can hinder children's development.
- Expand early-intervention mentoring programs to help one million at-risk youth aspire for college and job success.
- Identify at-risk youth early on and provide \$1 billion in intensive interventions, such as early college high schools and multiple pathways to graduation, to get them back on track.
- Double the after school program to ensure that 2 million young people have a safe and stimulating place to go between 3 and 6 p.m.
- Invest \$100 million in a new public/private summer internship program.
- Provide opportunity for 1.5 million disconnected youth in job programs linked to high-growth economic sectors.

#### **College Access**

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In the 21st century, a college education is more important than ever. Hillary believes it's time for a new bargain with the American people -- a bargain that gives all Americans willing to work hard the tools they need to get ahead. Her plan will make college more affordable and accessible so that every American who has earned it and wants to go has the chance to get a college degree. As president, she will:

- Create a new \$3,500 college tax credit.
- Increase the maximum Pell Grant.
- Strengthen community colleges through a \$500 million investment.
- Create a graduation fund to increase college graduation rates.
- Increase to \$10,000 the college scholarship for those who participate in AmeriCorps full-time for one year.
- Get rid of the red tape in financial aid.
- Hold college costs down and hold colleges accountable for results through an online college cost calculator, a college graduation and employment rate index, and truth in tuition disclosure.
- Challenge selective colleges to expand access for students from low-income communities.



### Strengthening the Middle Class

America's middle class is under siege and ready for change. People are working harder and longer for less and less. For six long years, America's middle class and working families have been invisible to our president. When Hillary is in the White House, no American will be invisible to the president of the United States.



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## [Providing Affordable and Accessible Health Care](#)

Nearly 47 million Americans -- including 9 million children -- don't have health insurance. America is ready for universal health care. Hillary has the vision and the experience to make it a reality. This is a battle Hillary has fought before -- and she has the scars to prove it. She knows better than anyone how to fight and build the political support to get the job done.



## [Ending the War in Iraq](#)

America is ready for a leader who will end the war in Iraq. Hillary's roadmap out of Iraq, the Iraq Troop Protection and Reduction Act of 2007, is a plan to end the war before the next president takes the oath of office. But if the Bush administration won't end the war, as president and commander in chief, Hillary will.



## [Promoting Energy Independence and Fighting Global Warming](#)

The choices we make about energy touch nearly every aspect of our lives. Our economy, our national security, our health, and the future of our planet are all at stake as we make a choice between energy independence and dependence on foreign sources of oil. Hillary has proposed an Apollo Project-like program dedicated to achieving energy independence.



## [Improving Our Schools](#)

Hillary has long been a passionate advocate for providing greater educational opportunities to all children. She knows that parents are our children's first teachers, and the early years have a tremendous impact on their lives. She also knows that we have to improve our K-12 system in order to ensure that every child is prepared to compete, and has a plan to make college affordable for all.

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## Fulfilling Our Promises to Veterans

Hillary will ensure that all those who sacrifice on behalf of our country receive the help and care they need. They not only deserve our country's gratitude and support; they deserve the gold standard in health care and benefits when they return home. That is our most solemn obligation to those who have put their lives on the line for our country.



## Supporting Parents and Caring for Children

America is ready for a president who fights for our children. From her first job out of law school at the Children's Defense Fund to her time as First Lady of Arkansas and of the United States to her service in the Senate, helping children has been at the center of Hillary's public life.



## Restoring America's Standing in the World

The next president's most urgent task will be to restore America's standing in the world to promote our interests, ensure our security, and advance our values. America is stronger when we lead the world through alliances. As president, Hillary will lead by the words of the Declaration of Independence, which pledged "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind."



## A Champion for Women

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Hillary's historic statement in 1995 that "women's rights are human rights" still echoes worldwide. As a lawyer, advocate, First Lady, and senator, Hillary has fought for issues important to women here at home and around the world for decades. Hillary will continue her lifelong fight to ensure that all Americans are treated with respect and dignity.



### Comprehensive Government Reform

Americans are ready for a government that puts competency ahead of cronyism. For the past six years, we've had an administration that has contempt for government. And because they view it with contempt, they treat it with contempt. We need a return to transparency and a system of checks and balances, and a 21st century government to meet our 21st century challenges.



### Strengthening Our Democracy

Fair and honest elections are the bedrock of a successful democracy. Yet we have seen abuses in national elections since 2000 that have undermined our democracy and Americans' faith in our electoral system. Hillary is a leading champion of election reform. She has introduced the Count Every Vote Act to avoid repeating the problems of the past and ensure the integrity of our elections.



### Reforming Our Immigration System

Our immigration system is in crisis. The laws we currently have on the books are inadequate and no longer serve our best interests. As a nation, we place a premium on compassion, respect, and policies that help families, but our immigration laws don't reflect that. Hillary has consistently called for comprehensive immigration reform that respects our immigrant heritage and honors the rule of law.

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### [An Innovation Agenda](#)

At a time when workers are anxious about the challenges of globalization and there is growing concern that America is losing its competitive edge, Hillary offered her views on how innovation can be the key for creating new jobs, stimulating economic growth, and ensuring American leadership of 21st century industries.



### [Creating Opportunity for Rural America](#)

Hillary has a vision for rebuilding rural communities to ensure that opportunities are available and people can still achieve the American dream. At the core of Hillary's vision is her strong support for family farms. She believes that there are many opportunities to create good jobs and improve key services in rural areas.