



MIKE HUCKABEE

“It's when ordinary people rise above the expectations and seize the opportunity that milestones truly are reached.”

Campaign Theme: *Faith. Family. Freedom*

HEALTH CARE

- **Coverage and affordability** (no detailed plan provided)
 - Americans will have more control of their health care options, not less. Make health insurance more portable from one job to another.
 - Move from employer-based to consumer-based system, not socialized medicine.
 - No universal health care mandated by federal edict or funded through higher taxes.
 - Encourage states' role as laboratories for new market-based approaches.
 - Expand health savings accounts to everyone, not just those with high deductibles; Make health insurance tax deductible for individuals and families as it now is for businesses.
 - Low income families would get tax credits instead of deductions.
- **Cost-control**
 - Make health care more affordable by reforming medical liability
 - Adopt electronic record keeping
 - Increase preventive health care instead of chasing more and more dollars to treat chronic disease.
- **Paying for the plan:**
 - Rejects higher taxes. Work with the private sector, Congress, health care providers, and other concerned parties to lead a complete overhaul of our health care system (no details on how).

IRAQ

- Iraq is a battle in our generational, ideological war on terror.
- The surge is a military means to achieve the political end of sectarian reconciliation among the Iraqis.
- Rejects a timetable for withdrawal. Focused on winning. Withdrawal would have serious strategic consequences for us and horrific humanitarian consequences for the Iraqis.
- Supports a regional summit so that Iraq's neighbors become militarily and financially committed to stabilizing Iraq now rather than financially and militarily committed to widening the war later.

ECONOMY

- **Taxes and fiscal Policy**
 - FairTax Proposal Will replace all income, estate, capital gains and corporate taxes including Social Security with a revenue-neutral 23% flat consumption tax called the FairTax. Everyone will receive a monthly rebate reimbursing for taxes on purchases up to the poverty line. Would “eliminate” the IRS by replacing it with a Sales Tax Bureau.
 - Controversy over the FairTax: Other Republicans have challenged the tax percentage, its benefits and administration costs. According to the 1995 Bush administration’s study of a flat retail sales tax, the federal administration burden would be similar. In addition the FairTax would require a new bureaucracy to track and confirm size of taxpayer’s cash rebate. The same study said the tax rate would have to be 34% and would substantially increase taxes for 80% of taxpayers. (Source: FactCheck.org , GOP debates May 15 & Nov 28, 2007.) The commission stated that with a FairTax that high, there are only two income groups that would benefit--those making less than \$30,000 a year & those making more than \$200,000. (Source: 2007 GOP debate at UNH, sponsored by Fox News Sep 5, 2007)
 - Does not propose any new taxes, but will not pledge not to raise taxes in case of an emergency. (Source: Meet the Press: 2007 "Meet the Candidates" series Jan 28, 2007)
 - Believes that the President should have the line-item veto



- Promises to rein in out-of-control spending and balance the budget (Sept. 2007, www.ontheissues.org)
- Record: Has been criticized for raising taxes as Governor, the Cato Institute gave him a D for his entire term. He raised taxes 5 times and cut taxes and fees 94 times over ten years, claiming to save the taxpayers almost \$380 million including a \$90 million tax relief package for Arkansas families. He doubled the standard deduction to \$2,000 for single taxpayers and \$4,000 for those who are married. Eliminated entirely the marriage penalty, bracket creep caused by inflation, income tax on poor families, and capital gains on home sales. To encourage investment cut capital gains for both individuals and businesses and provided tax credits for employee training and education. Left a surplus of nearly \$850 million.
- **Trade Policy**
 - Believes in free but fair trade. Will enforce trade laws.
 - Globalization if done right can push innovation and reduce cost.
 - Farm subsidies are needed to counter those in Europe.
 - In Sept. 2007 GOP Values Voter Presidential Debate replied yes when asked whether he would make China trade contingent on human rights & product safety and also yes for putting trade sanctions on Saudi Arabia for persecuting Christians (www.ontheissues.org)
- **Technology and Science**
 - Opposed to research on embryonic stem cells.

EDUCATION

- **Believes that every child should have the opportunity for a quality education.**
 - Promote art and music education. Music and the arts are not extraneous, extra-curricular, or expendable, but essential. Want to provide every child these "Weapons of Mass Instruction." As Chairman of the Education and Arts Commission of the States, created a two-year initiative called "The Arts - A Lifetime of Learning."
 - Focus on quality and results, will set high standards for students and teachers, measure their performance diligently, and hold educators and administrators accountable.
 - Encourage reading and math programs in early education, as Governor started Smart Start & Next Step for early character-based education and test scores improved dramatically, although still below average
 - Strongly supports homeschooling, will create more charter schools, and public school choice. In Sept. 2007 called for tax-credit programs for attending Christian schools.
 - Will amend No Child Left Behind to give states more latitude to develop own benchmarks. Will make a clearer distinction between federal and state roles in education.
 - Replace teachers who aren't competent, and impose reasonable waiting periods for teachers to gain tenure. Got the Fair Dismissal Law passed while Governor allowing termination of poorly performing teachers
 - Work with educators and teachers to design and promote performance-based merit compensation. Provide bonuses and forgive student loans for high-performing teachers who agree to work in low-performing schools.
 - Supports prayer in school, does not believe in evolution and supports displaying Commandments in public schools, supports incorporating character education into school curriculum.

IMMIGRATION

- **No open borders, no amnesty, no sanctuary, no false Social Security numbers, no driver's licenses for illegals.**
 - Securing the borders must be top priority, has reached the level of a national emergency.
 - Supports the \$3 billion the Senate voted for border security. This money will train and deploy 23,000 more agents, add four drone planes, build 700 miles of fence and 300 miles of vehicle barriers, and put up 105 radar and camera towers. This money will turn "catch and release" into "catch and detain."
 - Those caught trying to enter illegally must be detained, processed, and deported.
 - Supports a limited path to citizenship, must go home and reapply legally. Will provide all illegal immigrants a 120-day window to register with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and leave the country. Those who register and return to their home country will face no penalty if they later apply to immigrate or visit; those who do not return home will be, when caught, barred from future reentry for a period of 10 years.
 - Supported scholarships for Arkansas illegals, because we should not punish children of illegals.



- Will not tolerate sanctuaries for illegals. The federal government must crack down on rogue cities that willfully undermine our economy and national security.
- Opposes giving driver's licenses to illegals and supports legislation to prevent states from doing so. In 2005, signed legislation that prevents illegals in Arkansas from getting driver's licenses.
- Not tolerate employers who hire illegals, and will punish them with fines and sufficient penalties so that they will see it is not worth the risk. Institute a universal, mandatory citizenship verification system as part of the normal hiring process.
- Prevent the IRS and the Social Security Administration from accepting fraudulent Social Security numbers or numbers that don't match the employees' names.
- Opposes the economic integration of North America that would create more open borders among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- Establish an Economic Border: Move toward passage of the FairTax. The FairTax provides an extra layer of security by creating an economic disincentive to immigrate to the U.S. illegally.

HOMELAND AND NATIONAL SECURITY (no distinction between immigration and homeland security)

- Build the Fence: complete by 2010 with interlocking surveillance camera system along border.
- Border Patrol: Fully support all law enforcement personnel tasked with enforcing immigration law.
- Empower local law enforcement and ensure better cooperation on enforcement by supporting legislative measures such as the CLEAR Act, which aims to systematize the relationship between local law and federal immigration officials.
- Ensure document security
- Discourage dual citizenship
- Fight terrorism by increasing spending on armed forces & intelligence

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Achieve energy independence by the end of second term. Will pursue all avenues of alternative energy: nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, clean coal, biodiesel, and biomass.
- Remove red tape that slows innovation.
- Set aside a federal research and development budget matched by the private sector to seek the best new products in alternative fuels. Our free market will sort out what makes the most sense economically and will reward consumer preferences.
- Will create jobs and grow our economy by developing technologies that we can sell to the rest of the world to meet their needs.
- Record in Arkansas—In 2001 called for more state autonomy on brownfields & Superfund cleanups and supported State Revolving Loan Fund for flexible Clean Water. (www.ontheissues.org)

ETHICS, ELECTORAL AND REGULATORY REFORM

(No website category, source: www.ontheissues.org)

- Would limit campaign contributions, but no public financing.
- Disclosure of political gifts, but not prohibit them (2000).
- Supports term limits for state legislators (2002).
- Require photo ID for voting, to avoid fraud (Sep 2007).
- Comfortable with Church endorsements of candidates.

FAMILY VALUES

- Believes that America's strength comes from family values. Believes in "covenant" marriage.
- Teach kids immovable standards of right & wrong.
- Federal funds & state involvement in fatherhood initiatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS



- **Women's Right to Choose**
 - Supports passage of a constitutional amendment banning abortion and does not believe in states rights for moral issues like abortion. Believes there is no consensus or compromise on such issues.
 - Believes that Roe v. Wade should be over-turned.
 - Applauds the Supreme Court's recent decision in Gonzales v. Carhart forbidding partial birth abortion.
 - No tax funding for organizations that promote abortion.
 - As Governor, led Arkansas to pass a human life amendment in state constitution.
- **Civil Rights** (not on website, source: www.ontheissues.org)
 - Is opposed to racial profiling (Dec. 2007)
 - Supports principles embodied in the equal Rights Amendment (Feb. 2001)
 - No Affirmative action for state contracts or colleges (Nov. 2002)
 - More federal funding of IDEA for disabled education. (Mar 2000)
- **Marriage Equality**
 - Supports passage of a federal constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.
 - As Governor of Arkansas, passed a state constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage in 2002.

OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

- **Gun Rights**--Consistently opposed banning assault weapons and opposed the Brady Bill. As Governor, protected gun manufacturers from law suits and was the first Governor in the country to have a concealed handgun license.
- **Judges**—"Will appoint justices and judges who share judicial philosophy (e.g., Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Antonin Scalia, Justice Clarence Thomas, and Justice Samuel Alito), and who have established themselves within the conservative legal community as faithful adherents of originalism and textualism. The stakes are simply too high to do otherwise."
- Opposes Torture as unproductive, and should not be US policy.

FOREIGN POLICY

- **War on Terror**--To fight this war, focus on renewed diplomacy and inclusion, constantly changing tactics and strategies. Use all weapons available—intelligence, diplomatic, economic, political as well as military.
 - Improve human intelligence capacity, both the operatives who gather information and the analysts who figure out what it means. Promote swift, surgical air strikes and commando raids by our elite units.
 - Will expand the army and increase the defense budget without raising taxes by limiting increases in other discretionary spending.
- **Pakistan**--Will get tough with President Musharraf who has allowed Al Qaeda and the Taliban to have bases in Waziristan.
- **Middle East & Iraq**—Fight smart and know the cast of characters, not just the national political leaders and their leading opponents, but clerics, tribal and clan leaders. I will support moderates, not extremists, with no favoring of Sunnis or Shiites. Goal in the Middle and Near East is to correctly calibrate a course between maintaining stability and promoting democracy. First destroy the terrorists who already exist, then attack the underlying conditions that breed terror.
- **Israel**—Views Israel as the US's staunch ally in the War on Terror, the only fully-functioning democracy in the Middle East, and our greatest friend in that region. Will always ensure that Israel has access to the state-of-the-art weapons and technology she needs to defend herself.
- **Cuba**—Supports isolation of Castro's totalitarian regime both economically and diplomatically. Will oppose any efforts to lift trade and travel restrictions on the Cuban dictatorship and will veto any legislation seeking to lift restrictions until three conditions are met: scheduling of free, fair and internationally-supervised multi-party elections, freeing of all political prisoners, and legalization of all political activity and civil liberties.
- Supports the Powell Doctrine of using overwhelming force to accomplish a mission

For more information go to: www.mikehuckabee.com, www.ontheissues.org

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