

Vote²⁰⁰⁴

Election 2004

prepared by LCWR Region VII Justice Coordinators

August 2004 edition — Packet #4



As we approach the elections of 2004, we renew our call for a new kind of politics — focused on moral principles not on the latest polls, on the needs of the poor and vulnerable not the contributions of the rich and powerful, and on the pursuit of the common good not the demands of special interests.

— Faithful Citizenship,
U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2003

Our moral framework does not fit easily into the categories of right or left, Democratic or Republican. Our responsibility is to measure every party and platform and how it touches human life and dignity.

— Bishop Joseph Fiorenza, 2000

Sometimes it seems few candidates and no party fully reflect our values. . . . We must challenge all parties and every candidate to defend human life and dignity, to pursue greater justice and peace, to uphold family life and to advance the common good.

— Faithful Citizenship,
U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2000



The Candidates and the Issues

The fourth and final packet in our Election 2004 series offers a comparison of the positions of Republican nominee George W. Bush and Democratic nominee John F. Kerry on 10 of the most important issues in this campaign:

- Civil Liberties
- Consistent Ethic of Life
- The Economy
- The Environment
- Free Trade Policy
- Health Care
- International Debt Relief
- Middle East
- National Security
- Women's Issues

The positions are based on the candidates' records on the issues and on statements made throughout the campaign up to the time of publication (late July 2004). Some positions may change after both major parties hold conventions and finalize their platforms.

This packet was prepared by the justice coordinators of the following LCWR Region VII congregations. The LCWR Region VII Justice Coordinators are members of nonpartisan organizations. This document does not reflect endorsement of any candidate or party.

This entire packet is available as a pdf file on the web sites listed below. Individual issue sheets are also available.

- Sisters of the Holy Cross – Notre Dame, Indiana (www.cscsisters.org)
- Sisters of Mercy – Detroit Regional Community (www.mercydetroit.org)
- Sisters of Saint Joseph – Nazareth, Michigan (www.ssjnazareth.org)
- Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – Monroe, Michigan (www.ihmsisters.org)
- Adrian Dominican Sisters – Adrian, Michigan (www.adriansisters.org)
- Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan (www.grdominicans.org)
- Bernardine Franciscans – Farmington Hills, Michigan (www.bfranciscan.org)
- and
- Capuchin Franciscans – Detroit, Michigan (www.capuchinfranciscans.org)
- Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (www.pimeusa.org)

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Passage of the USA Patriot Act in 2001	Supported ²	Supported ³
Making the USA Patriot Act permanent	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
Specific features of the USA Patriot Act:		
* Secret searches (so-called <i>Sneak and Peek</i> provision)	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
* Enemy Combatant designation (allows persons to be held indefinitely without being charged with a crime)	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
* Secret monitoring of attorney-client conversations	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
* Relaxation of protections against wire-tapping	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
* Elimination of consent decrees (these measures prevent local police departments from spying on innocent people)	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
Domestic Security Enhancement Act (Patriot II)	Supports ²	Opposes ¹
<i>Sources:</i>		
¹ <i>Ending the Era of John Ashcroft</i> , remarks by Senator John Kerry, Iowa State University, December 1, 2003		
² <i>Remarks by the President on the USA PATRIOT Act</i> , Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 19, 2004		
³ U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes, 107th Congress, 1st Session		

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Issue: Consistent Ethic of Life Issues

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Abortion Rights	Opposes abortion except in instances of rape, incest or when a woman's life is in danger	Supports a woman's right to choose
	Signed bill banning partial birth abortion into law	Has opposed the ban on partial birth abortion several times, as undermining a woman's right to choose
	Opposes funding for groups offering abortion	Opposes banning abortion on military bases
	Supports parental notification for minors (under 18 years)	Would only nominate candidates for Supreme Court justices who support abortion rights
Assisted Suicide	Opposes doctor-assisted suicide	Supports the right of states to decide whether to legalize assisted suicide or not
	November 22, 2001, Memorandum: Revoke licenses of doctors involved	
Cloning	Supports banning and criminalizing <i>all</i> cloning, including therapeutic cloning research	Opposed to <i>human cloning</i> , except for therapeutic purposes
Death Penalty	Supports ; signed more death warrants than any other elected official alive today in the United States	Opposed expanding the federal death penalty in 1994 but voted for the full legislation (including ban on assault weapons and funding for local law enforcement officers) which ultimately included the expansion
	Has not taken a position on the Innocence Protection Act	Voted against death penalty for terrorism in 2002 and reversed his vote in 2004

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Death Penalty, continued		Voted against death penalty for drug-related murders
		Supports the Innocence Protection Act
Gun Control	Opposes safety devices on all handguns	Voted against bill allowing guns being sold without trigger locks
	Opposes background checks on gun show purchases	Supports background checks on gun show purchases
	Opposes requiring safety course before gun purchase	Unclear about requiring safety course before gun purchase and allowing lawsuits against gun manufacturers
	Opposes allowing lawsuits against gun manufacturers	
	Opposed ban on assault weapons in 1999, but would now sign a law on restrictions — without promoting such legislation	Supports the Brady Bill
Stem Cell Research	Opposes federal funding for SCNT (Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer or therapeutic cloning) research	Would end the present ban on stem cell research; supports full federal funding for SCNT
	Funded research utilizing only stem cell lines produced before August 2001	Would allow therapeutic cloning to obtain stem cells
	Supports adult stem cell research but not with embryonic stem cells	
Sources:		
Abortion Rights		Death Penalty
www.ontheissues.org www.womensissues.about.com/cs/election2004/a/blcandidates.htm		www.ontheissues.org <i>San Jose Mercury News</i> , Wednesday, February 9, 2000 www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1079904/posts <i>Boston Globe</i> , December 7, 2003 <i>News-Leader</i> , Springfield, Missouri, February 2, 2004
Assisted Suicide		Gun Control
www.ontheissues.org www.nysrighttolife.org www.hospitalmanagement.net		www.ontheissues.org www.presidentmatch.com
Cloning		Stem Cell Research
www.grassrootsconnection.com		www.grassrootsconnection.com www.ontheissues.org

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003	Supports <p>Introduced and signed into law the act touted to add 5.5 million jobs by the end of 2004. The administration's plan failed these projections in all but one state, with 13 states losing jobs since its implementation. ¹</p>	Opposes <p>Voted against the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003 ²</p> <p>Has pledged to create 10 million jobs in four years with an economic plan that cuts corporate taxes and taxes on middle-income families, but raises taxes on high-income earners ³</p>
Tax Cuts	Supports <p>The average 2003 tax cut under the Jobs and Growth Tax Act was \$1,217. The top 1 percent of Americans received 21 times this average. ²</p>	Opposes <p>Has pledged to roll back the tax cuts for those making over \$200,000 annually ⁸</p>
<i>For middle class and low income people</i>	Opposes <p>Seventy-three percent of households received a little over half of the \$1,217 average tax cut. ²</p>	Supports <p>Would protect the increases in the child tax credit and the reduced marriage penalty</p>
Outsourcing	Supports <p>The administration's "2004 Economic Report" states that "the movement of U.S. factory jobs and white-collar work to other countries is part of a positive transformation that will enrich the U.S. economy over time, even if it causes short-term pain and dislocation." ⁶</p>	Opposes <p>Has proposed that U.S. federal contracts should be awarded to corporations employing American workers. Has pledged to close tax loopholes that provide incentives for corporations moving offshore. ⁷</p> <p>Would offer a tax credit to cover new jobs in manufacturing and other industries that are losing work to other nations</p>

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Increasing the Minimum Wage	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Supports state flexibility which would allow states with minimum wage rates of at least \$5.15 an hour, the current federal level, to opt out of any future federal minimum wage increases⁹</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Was an original co-sponsor of legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$6.65 an hour by January 1, 2003⁹</p> <p>Supports increasing the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation⁹</p>
Position on Deficit Reduction	<p>The FY 2005 budget claims to cut the deficit by more than half over the next five years. However the budget omits a series of very likely costs in taxes, defense spending and other areas. When these costs are added, the deficit for 2009 is about \$400 billion, significantly above the target.¹⁰</p>	<p>Has pledged to reduce the federal budget deficit by 50 percent in the next four years by rolling back the Bush administration's tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and through measures such as collecting royalties for mineral rights on federal lands and cutting subsidies to high-income corporate farmers⁵</p>
Sources:		
<p>¹ AFL/CIO "Jobs Crisis in America" http://www.aflcio.org/yourjobeconomy/jobs/jobcrisis.cfm http://www.aflcio.org/yourjobeconomy/jobs/ns04022004.cfm</p> <p>² NETWORK Election 2004 Chart — Budget and Taxes http://www.networklobby.org/nep/Election2004/Budget_and_Taxes_0422.pdf</p> <p>³ "Kerry Promises 10 million Jobs," <i>Washington Times</i>, March 27, 2004 http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040327-121746-8718r.htm</p> <p>⁴ "2006 Cuts in Domestic Spending on Table," <i>Washington Post</i>, May 27, 2004 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58762-2004May26.html</p> <p>⁵ "Kerry Plan Echoes 'Clintonomics' Era," MSNBC – April 7, 2004 http://editor.msnbc.msn.com/id/4687592</p>	<p>⁶ "Bush economic report praises 'outsourcing' jobs," <i>Pittsburgh Post Gazette</i>, February 10, 2004 http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04041/271362.stm</p> <p>⁷ "Kerry Tax Plan Aims to Slow Outsourcing," <i>The Detroit News</i>, March 26, 2004 http://www.detnews.com/2004/politics/0403/29/politics-104684.htm</p> <p>⁸ "John Kerry on Tax Reform" On the Issues http://www.issues2000.org/2004/John_Kerry_Tax_Reform.htm</p> <p>⁹ NETWORK Election 2004 Chart — Social Safety Net http://www.networklobby.org/nep/Election2004/Social_Safety_Net_0422.pdf</p> <p>¹⁰ "Does the President's 2005 Budget Really Cut the Deficit in Half?" Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – February 3, 2004 http://www.cbpp.org/1-16-04bud.htm</p> <p>¹¹ "Poorer Families Cut from Child Tax Credit," <i>Seattle Post Intelligencer</i>, May 31, 2003 http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/124545_taxes31.html</p>	

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Issue: The Environment

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Clean Air Act	Opposes Introduced the “Clear Skies” Initiative in 2002 which promotes minimal reductions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury by the electric utility industry ¹ Finalized rules in 2002 that weaken provisions requiring older plants to upgrade pollution controls when making significant renovations ¹ Relaxed a 2000 ruling that would have required up to 90 percent cuts in toxic mercury emissions from utilities ²	Supports Introduced the National Acid Rain Reduction Act to reduce emissions of acid rain causing pollutants by setting new standards for coal burning power plants and light trucks ¹ Co-sponsored the Clean Power Act of 2003 which would, by 2009, cap carbon dioxide emissions from power plants at 1990 levels, reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide by 75 percent, and cut mercury pollution by 90 percent ¹ Voted for a 2003 amendment to delay weakening Clean Air Act provisions pending a study of its effects on human health and pollution levels ²
Clean Water Act	Opposes Proposed a process that would exempt 20 million acres of wetlands and 60 percent of streams from federal protection ¹	Supports Voted to prevent rollbacks of drinking water standards that would result in higher allowable levels of arsenic ¹
“Polluter Pays” Funding for Toxic Waste Clean Up	Opposes Shifted the funding for Superfund toxic clean up from corporate polluters to citizens ¹	Supports Co-sponsored and voted for legislation to reinstate the “polluter pays” tax that pays for Superfund cleanups ¹
Protection of Public Lands	Opposes Signed into law an act that accelerated forest thinning through increased logging as a way to prevent forest fires ¹	Supports Voted to cut subsidies for timber sales in national forests and to use a portion of the savings to increase funding for forest fire prevention ¹

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Sustainable Energy Policy	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Released an energy plan in 2001 that relies primarily on traditional sources of energy such as oil, coal, gas and nuclear power and would allow drilling in the Arctic National Wild Life Refuge ¹</p> <p>Signed off on plans in 2002 to build a permanent nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada ¹</p> <p>Announced, in 2002, a modest increase in fuel efficiency standards for SUVs and light trucks of 1.5 miles per gallon over the next three years — none for other passenger cars ¹</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Would create a renewable energy trust fund aimed at reducing oil consumption by 2 million barrels per day ³</p> <p>Voted to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wild Life Refuge ¹</p> <p>Voted against approving a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada ¹</p> <p>Proposed increasing fuel efficiency standards from 24 mpg to 36 mpg by 2015 ¹</p>
Kyoto Protocol	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Rejected the Kyoto Protocol, calling for the United States and other industrialized countries to make cuts in emissions and has instead called for more research before considering a mandatory restriction on Global Warming emissions ¹</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Served in the Congressional Delegation to the 1997 Kyoto and Hague 2000 climate talks and has pledged to reengage the United States with the international community to create a global binding treaty to cut emissions and protect the environment ¹</p>
Environmental Regulation Enforcement	<p>Opposes</p> <p>The EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance has lost more than 120 inspection and civil enforcement positions. The total number of EPA staff conducting inspections is at its lowest level since the agency's founding. ¹</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Supports elevating the EPA to a Cabinet-level agency ¹</p>
Sources:		
<p>¹ League of Conservation Voters' 2004 Presidential Candidate Profiles www.lcv.org/Files/OpenFile.cfm?id=1948</p>		
<p>² "Bush's Mercury Cut Delay Could Endanger Newborns Group," Common Dreams, December 5, 2003 www.commondreams.org/headlines03/1205-07.htm</p>		
<p>³ "Bush vs. Kerry at a Glance," MSNBC, March 8, 2004 www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4448630/</p>		

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Issue: Free Trade Policy

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Free Trade Policy	Strongly supports free trade, saying that the case for it is “not just monetary but moral” ¹	Supported establishment of a rule-based global trading system ²
Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)	Supports the establishment of FTAA by January 2005 ³	Will oppose FTAA unless stronger labor and environment standards are included ⁴
Trade Promotion Authority (“Fast Track”)	Supported the restoration of fast track authority (Approved by Congress in 2002) ⁵	Supported (May 23, 2002) ⁶
Environmental and Labor Standards in Trade Agreements	Opposes linking trade agreements to labor and environmental issues ⁷	Supports the inclusion of environmental and labor standards in all new trade agreements ⁸
Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)	Supports CAFTA — signed on May 28, 2004	Opposes CAFTA as currently negotiated and signed ⁹
Outsourcing	Supports — outsourcing would prove to be “a plus for the economy in the long run,” and is simply a “new way of doing international trade” ¹⁰	Wouldn’t ban outsourcing, but will offer tax credits to U.S. companies that maintain U.S. factories and will “close every single loophole that gives companies incentives to move jobs abroad” ¹¹
Andean Free Trade Agreement	Supported extension of 1991 Andean Trade Preference Act	Supported — voted in favor (May 23, 2002) ⁶

Issue**Bush****Kerry****Australia Free Trade Agreement**

Supports — sent Australia FTA to Congress for consideration on July 2, 2004¹²

Supports, but notes that it “represents a missed opportunity to set a higher benchmark for future trade agreements by cementing the principle that labor and environmental standards are in the core of all new trade agreements”¹³

Sources:

- ¹ “Issues 2000,” *The Economist*, September 30, 2000
- ² The Hyde Park Declaration 00-DLC1, August 1, 2000
- ³ Remarks to the Organization of American States, April 17, 2001
- ⁴ 2004 Democratic Presidential Primary Debate in Iowa, January 4, 2004
- ⁵ Kelley Shannon, Associated Press, in the *Los Angeles Times*, April 24, 2000
- ⁶ Voting Record, 107th Congress. NETWORK Connections, January/February 2003
- ⁷ “Issues 2000,” *The Economist*, September 30, 2000
- ⁸ Associated Press, Policy Q and A, “Trade,” January 25, 2004
- ⁹ www.johnkerry.com, CAFTA Statement, May 28, 2004
- ¹⁰ “Bush economic report praises ‘outsourcing’ jobs,” Warren Vieth and Edwin Chen, reporting in the *Los Angeles Times* (2/10/04) on President Bush’s Annual Economic Report to Congress, released on February 9, 2004
- ¹¹ www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/01/19/national/main594119.shtml
- ¹² CongressDailyPM, July 2, 2004
- ¹³ Congressional Record, June 24, 2004

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Issue: Health Care

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Health Insurance ¹	Private Sector Proposes spending \$88 billion over 10 years to insure 4 million more Americans (10 percent of the uninsured) Supports Tax Credits that individuals can use to purchase private insurance and Health Savings Account	Public Sector Proposes spending \$895 billion to cover 27 million Americans (65 percent of the uninsured) FEHBP (Federal Health Benefits Program) buy-in available to all Americans and small businesses Supports government intervention: using tax money to expand employer-sponsored coverage and government-sponsored insurance programs. Would cancel the tax cut for people earning more than \$200,000.
Medicare/ Medicaid The Medicaid Modernization plan gives states the option of switching their Medicaid and SCHIP funding to a block grant allotment. ²	Supports Would change the program's status from an entitlement backed by open-ended federal support to a model of capped funding with fewer required coverages	Opposes Upholds Medicaid's entitlement status and opposes block granting. Proposes expanding Medicaid and SCHIPs by bolstering these programs with more tax dollars. Kerry hopes to cover all uninsured children in households earning up to \$55,000 and all parents in households earning up to \$37,000.

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Prescription Drug Discount Cards	<p>Supports</p> <p>The cards do not provide government subsidies, but they allow people in the health insurance program for the elderly and disabled to buy one of 73 privately administered cards, approved by the government, that offer lower prices at drugstores or mail-order pharmacies.</p> <p>The Bush administration says the average savings on brand-name drugs is 11 to 18 percent for discount card holders.</p>	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Favors strategy to lower drug prices that the new law prohibits: allowing the government to negotiate discounts directly with pharmaceutical companies and making it legal for people of all ages to import U.S. manufactured drugs from Canada and other countries where they are sold at lower prices</p>
<p>Global AIDS</p> <p>The U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria Act 2002 ³</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Signed into law by the president. Pledged to fund HIV/AIDS programs at \$15 billion over five years. Funding requests for this initiative have fallen short of this goal by \$800 million. ⁴</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Co-authored and introduced a bi-partisan bill with Senator Bill Frist authorizing increases in U.S. spending for global HIV/AIDS, for fiscal year 2003–04. ⁵</p>
Patients' Bill of Rights Sue HMOs ⁶	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Would put limits on patient lawsuits against HMOs</p> <p>Threatened to veto Senate's version of the Patients' Bill of Rights</p>	<p>Supports</p> <p>Voted yes on allowing patients to sue HMOs, and collect punitive damages (June 2001)</p>
Nationalized Health Care ⁷	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Favors improving current system over government-based system</p>	<p>Opposes</p> <p>Let people buy into government system, fund by reversing tax cuts</p>
Sources:		
<p>¹ "Candidates offer very different health care plans," Molly M. Ginty, May 18, 2004 www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1837/context/archive</p> <p>² www.aidsvote.org/profile</p> <p>³ www.aidsvote.org/candidates.html</p> <p>⁴ www.wglobalscorecard.org/Apr04AIDS.htm</p> <p>⁵ Women's Health USA 2003. www.mchb.hrsa.gov/pages/page_20.htm</p> <p>⁶ www.cnn.com/Election/2004/special</p> <p>⁷ http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004/special/president/issues/index.health.html</p>		

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Debt Relief Legislation/ Initiatives	Signed HR 2131 into law in 2001. It authorizes appropriations for debt reduction. ¹	In 1987, introduced S.J.Res. 193 calling for a bipartisan commission to resolve third-world debt ¹
	Brokered debt relief for Pakistan in return for its support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism in Afghanistan ²	Co-sponsored bill S. 1021 to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through 2004. A related bill (HR 2131) providing \$225 million for debt relief became law. ¹
	Urged France, Germany and Russia to forgive or reconfigure Iraq's \$120 billion in odious debt . ¹	Voted yes on FY 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (S2522) which opposed user fees in highly indebted countries. Signed by President Clinton on November 6, 2000. ³
	Reduced development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa in FY 2002 ⁵	Co-sponsored Debt Relief Enhancement Act of 2002 calling for modifications in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative ⁴
	Weakened language calling for deeper debt relief in the Biden-Santorum Debt Relief Bill-S2525, May 16, 2003 ⁶	Introduced AIDS Assistance bill in 2002 which called for more comprehensive debt relief ¹
	Signed U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria bill into law on May 27, 2003, but has yet to implement debt relief provisions of that law ¹	Co-wrote provision in AIDS Relief Act of 2003 calling for debt reduction so resources could be redirected to fund HIV/AIDS programs ¹
		Voted yes on the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2002 (HR 2069) on July 12, 2002 ⁴

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism (SDRM)	Blocked approval of SDRM , a procedure under which indebted countries could call a moratorium on servicing their private and public sector debt ⁷	
FY 2004 Budget	Requested \$75 million for HIPC Trust Fund (amount needed is closer to \$1 billion) Called for a one-year suspension of new federal loans to countries qualifying for debt relief ¹	
World Bank Lending Practices	Supports World Bank grants rather than loans to indebted countries ⁸	Supports opening the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions to wider participation and scrutiny ⁹

Sources:

- ¹ Jubilee USA Network; Debt Cancellation Comparison Sheet
- ² "U.S. assures Pakistan of immediate debt relief," published by Dawn: The Internet Edition, October 21, 2001, www.jubileeplus.org
- ³ <http://thomas.loc.gov> and *Economic Justice News*, Vol. 3, No. 5, December 2000
- ⁴ All voting records from <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- ⁵ www.jubileeusa.org
- ⁶ "Debt relief initiative for poor countries held up" by Allan Beattie, *Financial Times*, February 12, 2004
- ⁷ "U.S. blocks IMF debt proposal" by Gary Duncan, published in *The Times*, April 14, 2003
- ⁸ "Bush proposes shifting Bank's lending to grants" by Soren Ambrose. *Economic Justice News*, Vol. 4, No. 2, July 2001
- ⁹ The Hyde Park Declaration 00-DLC1, August 1, 2000

Issue	Bush	Kerry
<p>There is little or no difference between Bush's and Kerry's position on the Middle East conflict. Both candidates are unconditional supporters of Israel, place blame for the violence and unrest on the shoulders of the Palestinians, and refuse to acknowledge Israel's 37-year illegal occupation of Palestinian lands.</p>		
<p>Unconditional support for the State of Israel is a key U.S. foreign policy objective.</p>	Agrees ¹	Agrees ²
<p>Responsibility for unrest in the Middle East lies principally with the Palestinians.</p>	Agrees ¹	Agrees ²
<p>Palestinian resistance to the occupation rather than the occupation itself is at the root of the conflict in the Middle East.</p>	Agrees ¹	Agrees ²
<p>Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is genuinely interested in seeking peace with the Palestinians.</p>	Agrees ¹	Agrees ⁴
<p>Israel's attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are justified as acts of self-defense.</p>	Agrees ¹	Agrees ²
<p>Israel's construction of a barrier wall well within Palestinian territory.</p>	Supports ¹	Supports ⁴
Sources:		
<p>¹ George W. Bush, address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Washington, D.C., May 18, 2004</p>		
<p>² John F. Kerry, address delivered at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., January 23, 2003</p>		
<p>³ John Kerry, campaign speech, Salem, New Hampshire, January 26, 2004, reported in <i>Haaretz</i>, January 27, 2004</p>		
<p>⁴ <i>John Kerry Statement on Yesterday's Suicide Bombing in Jerusalem</i>, issued by Kerry Campaign Office, February 23, 2004</p>		

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Issue: National Security

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Nuclear Weapons		
Star Wars missile defense	Supports	Supports
Development and funding for new, more “usable” nuclear weapons such as the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), i.e., weapons that don’t need missiles to carry them to their target	Supports	Opposes
Securing nuclear weapons and weapons-usable materials globally (Iran, Russia, North Korea, etc.)	Questionable (Bunn & Wier, “Securing the Bomb,” Harvard University, May 2004)	Supports (www.johnkerry.com — press release, July 12, 2004)
Human Rights and Democracy		
U.S. arms sales and military training to human rights abusers	Supports	Opposes
International Cooperation		
Policy of “preemptive” war	Supports	Unclear
Negotiation, diplomacy and working through international institutions over military intervention	Opposes	Supports
Spending Priorities		
Reduction of the \$447 billion Pentagon budget to fund programs that help meet human needs	Opposes	Supports
Nuclear Test Ban Treaty	Opposes	Supports
<p>Source: www.Peace-Action.org</p>		

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Issue: Women's Issues

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Issue	Bush	Kerry
Ratification of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women)	Opposes Expressed initial support but has not taken steps to ratify it ¹	Supports Voted for sending the treaty to the full Senate for ratification in 2002 ²
Family Medical Leave	Opposes Repealed regulations making family paid leave available through state unemployment compensation funds ³	Supports Co-sponsored the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 ⁴
Sufficient Federal Funding for Head Start	Opposes Proposed turning funding for Head Start over to individual states ⁵	Supports Pledged full federal funding for Head Start ²
No Child Left Behind	Supports Signed the “No Child Left Behind Act” into law. Budgeted \$9.4 billion less than the levels authorized by Congress. ⁷	Supports Voted for the “No Child Left Behind Act.” Pledged increased funding.
Violence Against Women Act	Opposes Cut funding for Violence Against Women Act programming by \$4.7 million in FY 2004 budget ⁹	Supports Established one of the nation’s first offices to assist rape victims while working in the District Attorney’s Office in Massachusetts ⁴ Co-sponsored the original Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ⁴
Equal Pay for Women at Work	Opposes Ended the Labor Department’s “Equal Pay Matters” initiative ¹⁰	Supports Pledged improved data collection about pay disparities and meaningful remedies for violations of equal pay laws ¹¹

Issue	Bush	Kerry
Affirmative Action	Opposes Filed a brief with the Supreme Court challenging the University of Michigan’s admissions practices ⁵	Supports Voted in favor of affirmative action programs and voted against banning affirmative action hiring with federal funds ⁴
Sufficient funding for HIV/AIDS programs	Opposes Pledged to fund HIV/AIDS programs at \$15 billion over five years. Funding requests for this initiative have fallen short of this goal by \$800 million. ¹⁴	Supports Co-authored and introduced a bi-partisan bill with Senator Bill Frist authorizing increases in U.S. spending for global HIV/AIDS, for fiscal year 2003–04 ¹⁶
U.N. Population Fund (Supports programs to advance poor women’s reproductive health, end sexual trafficking and prevent spread of HIV/AIDS)	Opposes Blocked the \$34 million Congress approved in 2002 and last year’s \$25 million allocation ¹⁷	Supports Has pledged to increase funding ¹⁸
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Opposes His TANF Plan freezes funding for basic assistance, child care, and welfare to work programs for the next five years. Does not provide an adjustment for inflation. Limits eligibility to a five-year lifetime maximum benefit and limits benefits to two years in any single episode. ¹²	Supports Opposed the TANF Reauthorization Bill because it lacks funding for child care and does not restore benefits to immigrants ⁴ Supports new disability protections as part of TANF reauthorization. Supports an exemption that would protect HIV-positive beneficiaries from losing health care and other supports due to welfare sanctions. ¹⁶ Voted to continue federally administered food stamp programs ⁴
Affordable Housing	Opposes Proposed replacing the Federal Housing Voucher Program with a “Flexible Voucher Program” and would give broad new powers and freedom from rules to local housing authorities including erasing a requirement that three-fourths of the vouchers go to families who are extremely poor ¹³	Supports Sponsored a 2003 bill to create a National Housing Trust Fund to spur the construction of new, affordable rental units for low-income people ¹³

Sources:

- ¹ Global Women's Issues Scorecard — CEDAW Ratification
<http://www.wglobalscorecard.org/Aug03cedaw.htm>
- ² Human Rights Watch
<http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/cedaw>
- ³ National Women's Law Center
<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/AdminRecordOnWomen2004.pdf>
- ⁴ National Women's Alliance "Election Guide" — John Kerry
http://www.nwaforchange.org/nwa/downloads/Election_Guide/13kerry.pdf
- ⁵ National Women's Alliance "Election Guide" — George Bush
http://www.nwaforchange.org/nwa/downloads/Election_Guide/08bush.pdf
- ⁶ "On the Issues" — John Kerry
http://www.issues2000.org/John_Kerry.htm
- ⁷ The Center for American Progress: "The Failed Promise to Leave No Child Behind"
<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=44515>
- ⁸ "Kerry Blasts Bush on School Funding, *USA Today*, May 4, 2004
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politicselections/nation/president/2004-05-04-kerry-schools_x.htm
- ⁹ National Network to End Domestic Violence
<http://www.nnedv.org/pdf/04CJS.pdf>
- ¹⁰ The Center for American Progress: "Marching on For Equal Pay," May 7, 2004
<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=68060>
- ¹¹ John Kerry's Statement on Equal Pay Day, April 21, 2004
http://www.vote-smart.org/speech.php?can_id=S0421103
- ¹² Michigan Poverty Law Program: "Bush's Plan for TANF Reauthorization"
<http://www.mplp.org/materials/Newsletter/02Spring/Publicbenefits2.htm>
- ¹³ Network Election Guide — Affordable Housing
http://www.networklobby.org/nep/Election2004/Affordable_Housing_0422.pdf
- ¹⁴ Global Women's Issues Scorecard: Women and the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
<http://www.wglobalscorecard.org/Apr04AIDS.htm>
- ¹⁵ Physicians for Human Rights "Health Action AIDS" Campaign
<http://www.phrusa.org/campaigns/aids/news0520.html>
- ¹⁶ AIDS Vote
http://www.aidsvote.org/profile_kerry.html
- ¹⁷ "Expendable Women," *New York Times*, July 5, 2004
- ¹⁸ U.N. Association "Presidential Candidates"
http://www.unausa.org/newindex.asp?place=http://www.unausa.org/policy/usunrelations/kerry_brief.asp