

Candidate Positions on Issues

Pat Donnellson (Democrat)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters.

Foreign Policy

The United States is damaging its reputation around the world by not using diplomacy in its actions toward other countries. The United States should

- work with the United Nations to solve global conflicts.
- not take military action without UN approval, unless the United States is directly attacked by another country.
- create a U.S. Department of Peace with a cabinet-level position for the secretary of peace.

Crime and Punishment

Only education and weapons restrictions—not additional severe punishment—will help lower crime rates. The United States should

- adopt a constitutional amendment to ban the death penalty, which does not prevent crime and has been shown to have been inappropriately applied in the past.
- invest heavily in education and community policing, which will help curb violence.
- outlaw the private ownership of any type of firearm, no matter what its intended use.

Environment

The most serious crisis facing our country and the world is global warming. The United States should

- require trucks and SUVs to meet the same emission standards as cars.
- set a goal of having all cars run on alternative fuels by 2025.
- raise the gas tax. This would pay for research into alternative fuels. It would also provide government subsidies for oil companies that transition into producing alternative fuels or for auto manufacturers that transition into producing vehicles that run on alternative fuels.
- provide federal funding for mandated environmental education in schools.

Social Services for the Poor

Our social services do not effectively help eliminate poverty. The United States should

- create government-subsidized health insurance that would be available to all Americans.
- allow individuals to subscribe to private health insurance plans, but tax those plans to help pay for government-sponsored health care.
- raise the annual income figure that the federal government uses to define poverty so that more people will qualify for welfare (transitional aid), which will help them work their way out of poverty.
- make housing a right for all Americans.

Terry Lankan (Democrat)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters.

Foreign Policy

The United States is developing a reputation as an aggressive empire. The United States should

- play a lead role in strengthening the United Nations to take some of the pressure off the U.S. military to act as the world's police force.
- expand the State Department's role in military planning to focus more on diplomacy.

Crime and Punishment

The government should focus on crime prevention. The United States should

- eliminate the death penalty for all crimes but terrorism, because the death penalty has never proven to be a deterrent for criminals.
- place a greater emphasis on preventing crime and on rehabilitation programs for first-time offenders.
- eliminate an individual's right to own handguns because such weapons are most frequently used to commit crimes. Ownership of other types of firearms, such as rifles, should remain legal.

Environment

The government needs to be active in protecting the environment and preventing global warming. The United States should

- offer tax credits for individuals and businesses that voluntarily reduce carbon emissions through the use of solar power, hybrid cars, and other methods.
- provide tax credits for businesses that invest in alternative energy research. Offer other government incentives to the oil and auto-manufacturing industries to encourage them to turn to alternative fuel production and consumption.

Social Services for the Poor

The United States should do more to reduce poverty levels and enable more people to live middle-class lifestyles. The United States should

- expand government-subsidized health insurance programs to include any elderly or disabled person or any child who applies for it.
- cover 100 percent of prescription drug costs for anyone on publicly subsidized health insurance.
- provide universal, full-day preschool and kindergarten for all children living in poverty.
- expand subsidized housing and Medicaid to include new immigrants.
- limit the amount of time someone can receive welfare (transitional aid) benefits. This will ensure that people are moving toward financial independence rather than relying on government handouts.

Cory Mathews (Democrat)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters.

Foreign Policy

Although the United States needs to remain a strong and independent nation, it also needs to rely on diplomacy with other nations—rather than military action—to solve global problems. The United States should

- encourage the United Nations to take a more active role in peacekeeping missions.
- take military action against other nations only if U.S. security is directly threatened or the United States is directly attacked.
- use military action only as a last resort to avoid squandering the lives of our young people.

Crime and Punishment

Increased crime-prevention measures are a far more effective method of keeping us safe than are additional punishments for crime. The United States should

- eliminate the death penalty except for cases involving terrorism.
- keep communities safe and prevent crime by expanding federal funding for community-policing initiatives.

Environment

This country needs to be a global leader in the fight against global warming. The United States should

- enact tougher regulations on automobile emissions.
- enact stricter clean air and water laws.
- develop alternative fuel sources in order to help the country reduce its dependence on oil.
- end subsidies to oil and gas companies and reinvest that money in research to develop alternative fuel sources.

Social Services for the Poor

We need to continue to help the poor rise above poverty. The United States should

- expand government-subsidized health insurance for the poor (Medicaid) to include any children who do not have health insurance for any reason.
- allow the federal government to bargain with drug companies in the United States and abroad to acquire the safest drugs at the lowest prices for people who have publicly subsidized health insurance.
- roll back tax cuts that help the wealthiest individuals in order to fund social and educational programs for the poor.
- work to eliminate poverty through a minimum wage hike and additional job-training programs.

Taylor Andrews (Republican)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters

Foreign Policy

This country needs to be a moral leader in the world. The United States should

- fight for freedom and democracy wherever there is a need.
- use diplomacy rather than military action when possible, but not hesitate to use military force when U.S. interests are threatened or attacked.
- never get involved in other countries' affairs without an exit strategy.

Crime and Punishment

Increasing the punishment for crimes will help deter criminal activity. The United States should

- support mandatory minimum-sentencing laws for criminals in all states.
- increase funding for local law enforcement to make streets safer and to prevent crime.
- retain the death penalty as currently used.
- not enact any additional limits on an individual's right to own weapons. The country must focus on criminals who possess weapons illegally, not on citizens who own them legally.

Environment

Americans can thank unregulated business for improving their quality of life. The United States should

- keep minimal environmental restrictions, but should not enact any additional regulations that might affect a company's ability to do business.
- focus on areas of the country, like toxic waste sites, that need to be cleaned up.
- rebuild on these cleaned-up areas to create jobs as well as new sites for businesses and homes.

Social Services for the Poor

Instead of expanding social services, the government needs to get Americans to focus on hard work and perseverance. The United States should

- keep the current government-subsidized health insurance programs (Medicare and Medicaid), but provide no additional funding for health programs.
- allow faith-based organizations to compete for federal funds to provide social services for the poor, rather than the federal government providing those services.
- enact federal tax cuts across all income levels so that Americans can keep more of the money they earn.
- enact additional tax cuts for U.S. businesses and encourage them to use the additional revenue to create more jobs and help people work their way out of poverty.

Casey McMahon (Republican)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters.

Foreign Policy

We need to promote our national interests abroad. The United States should

- ideally emphasize diplomacy and multinational actions, but act alone if necessary.
- promote and protect our interests in other countries, even if doing so requires military action.
- fight for freedom and democracy—which are basic human rights—wherever there is a need.

Crime and Punishment

The best way to prevent crime is to keep criminals off the streets. The United States should

- expand mandatory minimum-sentencing laws.
- retain the death penalty as currently used.
- allow law-abiding Americans to be able to protect themselves and their families by legally owning any type of firearm.
- step up its efforts to seize illegal firearms to prevent them from being used in criminal activities.

Environment

It is not the government's responsibility to protect the environment. The United States should

- roll back current environmental regulations that affect businesses.
- offer tax incentives to businesses for voluntary compliance with minimum environmental regulations.
- recognize that the problem of global warming is exaggerated by alarmists who want the government to prevent manufacturing and energy companies from being successful.

Social Services for the Poor

We need to remove the federal government from the business of providing social services. The United States should

- keep the current government-subsidized health insurance programs (Medicare and Medicaid) to prevent a health care crisis.
- allow private companies to administer parts or all of the plans in order to make those plans more cost efficient.
- distribute federal funds to states based on their poverty rates. States should then be responsible for administering any social services appropriate for their populations. This will allow states to focus on the issues most relevant to their citizens.
- enact a federal law requiring all states to fund a full day of kindergarten in districts with a child poverty rate greater than 20 percent.

J. A. Curley (Republican)

Below are your positions on four issues of interest to voters.

Foreign Policy

This country should be the champion of democracy and freedom around the world. The United States should

- defend the ideals of democracy and freedom wherever they are threatened.
- act alone to promote the country's national interests.
- move the UN headquarters from New York City to Switzerland.

Crime and Punishment

The government should have a zero-tolerance policy for criminal behavior. The United States should

- increase penalties for crimes, because punishment is the best deterrent.
- expand mandatory minimum-sentencing laws.
- apply the death penalty automatically to felonies involving drug trafficking and terrorism.
- remove any possibility of parole for criminals who commit violent felonies.

Environment

Our natural resources should be used in ways that are most beneficial to all. The United States should

- privatize national parks so that companies can efficiently manage them and determine the best use for the land. In some instances, there might be better uses—such as mineral or oil extraction—for the land than preservation.
- recognize that global warming is a theory perpetuated by alarmists. The government should not provide federal funding for research into alternative fuels.
- not enact any laws that would require businesses to adopt costly environmentally friendly policies.

Social Services for the Poor

The government should rely on private businesses and faith-based charities to provide social services. The United States should

- end government-subsidized health care programs (Medicare and Medicaid).
- turn Medicare and Medicaid programs over to private health insurance providers to decrease the cost of administering such programs.
- end all federally funded welfare programs. It is not the government's responsibility to provide social services.
- provide full federal funding for faith-based social service agencies, which can then administer social services to the needy.