

STUDENT LIFE

Election 2008: Your guide to presidential campaigns

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The 2008 Election is rapidly approaching, and for most Behrend students it will be their first opportunity to legally place a vote for the next president of the United States.

Many are very enthusiastic about their right to vote and avidly research the platforms of every candidate involved, but for a busy college stu-

dent, it can be difficult to find the time to investigate the candidates or watch a party debate on television.

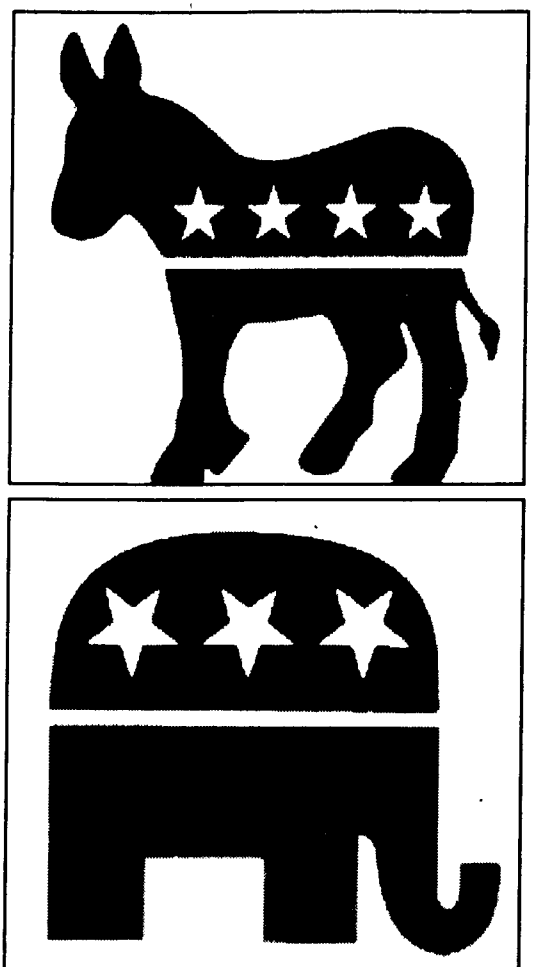
Politics can be sort of confusing at times, too, and it's sometimes difficult to understand just what promises, pledges and beliefs the presidential hopefuls are making to their audiences.

So we've decided to make it a little easier on you by compiling this layout that may aid you in making your

voting decision if you're on-the-fence concerning who you may vote for, or if you'd just like to compare your choice with the candidate you've already chosen.

On this page you will find a description--in Layman's terms--of the United States presidential candidates respective platforms.

As the year progresses, the Beacon Student Life page will provide polling, results, and other election coverage.

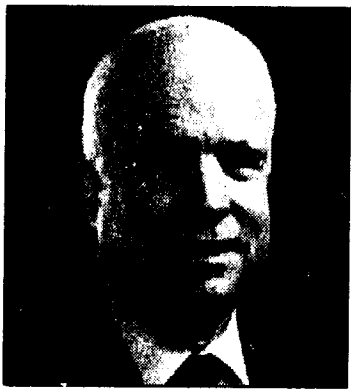


Republicans

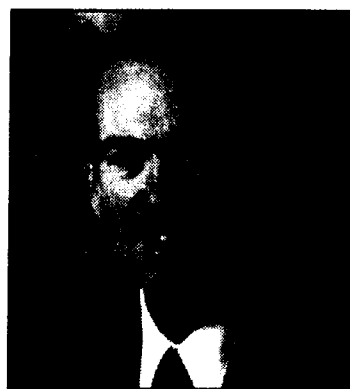
Democrats

John McCain Mike Huckabee Mitt Romney

Barack Obama Hillary Clinton John Edwards



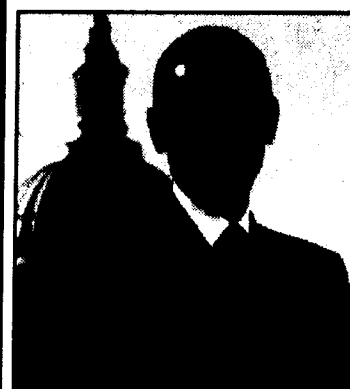
War in Iraq: Believes in and supports the Bush Administration's current plan and handling of the situation. Also claims that he would attack a nuclear Iran.
Immigration: Seeks to tighten current control of the borders, but is willing to negotiate a path to citizenship for illegals that are already in the U.S.
Same-Sex Marriage: Supports same-sex unions, but not marriage.
Economy: Seeks a way to lower taxes and aid small businesses.
Abortion: Anti-abortion.
Executive Power: As a POW, speaks avidly against any kind of torture.
Health Care: Seeks to make generics easier to get and wants to import prescription drugs for lower costs.
Primary and/or Caucus wins to date: New Hampshire, South Carolina.
Endorsements: Curt Schilling, Wilford Brimley.



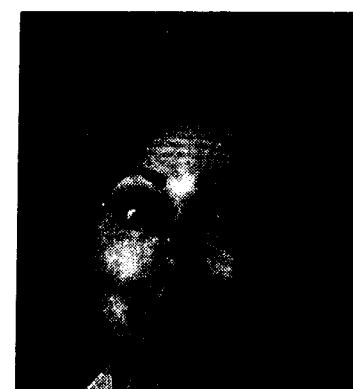
War in Iraq: Critical of the Bush Administration's strategy, but is against immediate withdrawal.
Immigration: Feels illegals currently in the country are a part of the economy and opposes their deportation. Seeks to improve border control.
Same-Sex Marriage: Opposes same-sex marriage.
Economy: Wants to balance budget; feels that government spending is out of control.
Abortion: Anti-abortion.
Executive Power: Feels that Guantanamo Bay prison is actually favorable to the conditions of state prisons.
Health Care: Supports health insurance premiums.
Primary and/or Caucus wins to date: Iowa.
Endorsements: Rick Flair, Chuck Norris, Ted Nugent.



War in Iraq: Supports current Administration plan, but admits that some mistakes have been made.
Immigration: Supports construction of a fence at Mexican border.
Same-Sex Marriage: Opposes both same-sex marriage and civil unions.
Economy: Against tax increases and seeks to maintain equal trade to keep American businesses in competition.
Abortion: Was pro-choice, but has changed to pro-life.
Executive Power: Supporter of enhanced interrogation and feels that Guantanamo should be doubled.
Health Care: Believes in universal health care, but not if taxes would be raised.
Primary and/or Caucus wins to date: Wyoming, Michigan, Nevada.
Endorsements: Ann Coulter, Donnie Osmond, Randy Owen



War in Iraq: Supports full withdrawal by March 2008, and has opposed the war since it's commencement.
Immigration: Supports fence along Mexican border as well as tougher laws to keep illegals from finding jobs.
Same-Sex Marriage: Supports civil unions but not same-sex marriage.
Economy: Supports tax incentives for companies that keep jobs in the US.
Abortion: Pro-choice.
Executive Power: Feels that Bush Administration ignores law when it is inconvenient and proposes to stop warrantless wiretapping.
Health Care: Supports universal healthcare and mandatory insurance for the youth.
Primary and/or Caucus wins to date: Iowa.
Endorsements: Kal Penn, Gene Wilder, Oprah Winfrey, George Clooney, Will Smith, Chris Rock, Kate Walsh.



War in Iraq: Opposes troop increases but doesn't support cutting of funds. Feels US should be out of Iraq by 2009. Originally voted for the war.
Immigration: Supports path to citizenship for most illegals already in the country; supports tougher border patrol laws.
Same-Sex Marriage: Supports civil unions but not same-sex marriage.
Economy: Supports middle-class tax breaks.
Abortion: Pro-choice.
Executive Power: Seeks to close Guantanamo.
Health Care: Supports universal healthcare as well as lower prescription drug costs.
Primary and/or Caucus wins to date: New Hampshire, Michigan, Nevada.
Endorsements: Maya Angelou, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Billy Jean King, America Ferrera, Barbara Streisand.



War in Iraq: Supports immediate withdrawal of troops and cutting funds for proposed troop increases despite originally voting in favor of the war.
Immigration: Feels speaking English should be required for citizenship, supports a path to citizenship for illegals already in the country. Supports increased border security.
Same-Sex Marriage: Supports civil unions but not same-sex marriage.
Economy: Supports tax changes that will benefit the poor and middle class.
Abortion: Anti-abortion.
Executive Power: Seeks to end Presidential signing statements, warrantless wiretapping as well as torture.
Health Care: Supports universal healthcare.
Endorsements: Danny Glover, Tim Robbins.

Sources:
[Mother Jones Magazine](#)
[The Pittsburgh Channel.com](#)
[NYTimes.com](#)

"Do not yield. Do not flinch. Stand up. Stand up with our President and fight. We're Americans. We're Americans, and we'll never surrender. They will."

"How could I get up there and say, 'People, we've got to do better,' when I was the poster child for everything that was wrong? I've always believed leaders don't ask others to do what they're unwilling to do."

"And the American people are the greatest people in the world. What makes America the greatest nation in the world is the heart of the American people: hardworking, innovative, risk-taking, God-loving, family-oriented American people."

"A good compromise, a good piece of legislation, is like a good sentence; or a good piece of music. Everybody can recognize it. They say, 'Huh. It works.' It makes sense."

"In too many instances, the march to globalization has also meant the marginalization of women and girls. And that must change."

"I was wrong to vote for this war. Unfortunately, I'll have to live with that forever. And the lesson I learned from it is to put more faith in my own judgment."