

JOHN EDWARDS

The Plan to Build One America 

Bold Solutions for Real Change

www.JohnEdwards.com

THE PLAN TO BUILD ONE AMERICA: *BOLD SOLUTIONS FOR REAL CHANGE*



"You have a uniquely important responsibility. You are the guardians not only of what kind of president we will have, but what kind of future we will leave to our children."

"You deserve real substance, not mere rhetoric. By describing my detailed plans, I hope this book will allow you to make an informed decision."

Dear Friend:

America is facing great challenges. We need bold ideas for change that are equal to the problems we face. And especially now, our country needs to hear the truth from its leaders.

The truth is that Washington is broken – rigged by the powerful special interests and lobbyists to benefit the very few at the expense of the rest of us. Because our government no longer works for most families, we risk becoming the first generation of Americans that fails to pass on a better life to our children.

This is not the America I believe in. Together, we can reclaim our government and redeem the promise of America for our children. You have a uniquely important responsibility. You are the guardians not only of what kind of president we'll have, but what kind of future we'll leave to our children.

You deserve real substance, not mere rhetoric. By describing my detailed plans, I hope this book will allow you to make an informed decision. It includes my proposals to:

- ***End the War in Iraq:*** We should immediately withdraw 40,000 to 50,000 combat troops and bring home the rest within nine to ten months. We also need a “diplomatic surge” to engage all nations in the region in reaching a political solution in Iraq.
- ***Guarantee Universal Health Care:*** This is a moral issue. I will stand up to the big drug and insurance companies and guarantee health care for every American, while cutting costs and improving care. My plan costs \$90 billion to \$120 billion. To pay for it, I will repeal the Bush tax cuts for families above \$200,000 a year to pay for it.
- ***Support Middle-Class Families:*** I will raise the minimum wage, strengthen workers’ rights to organize and reject bad

trade deals. I will help families save, cut taxes for middle-class families, protect pensions and lift millions out of poverty.

- ***Teach Our Children:*** We must end No Child Left Behind's punitive approach and restore a comprehensive curriculum. I support universal early childhood education, smaller classes and better teacher pay. My College for Everyone plan will make college affordable for every student willing to work part-time.
- ***Achieve Energy Independence and Fight Global Warming:*** The crisis of global warming demands action today. I will cap and reduce greenhouse gases by 80 percent by 2050, as scientists say is necessary, and invest in innovation and renewable energy to create new jobs that cannot be sent overseas.
- ***Revitalize Rural America:*** My Rural Recovery Act will invest in local Main Street businesses, attract new industries like renewable energy and strengthen rural schools. I will stand up for family farms with country-of-origin labeling, antitrust enforcement, a ban on packer ownership and a moratorium on building or expanding concentrated animal feeding operations.

I hope you will read my plan. You might not agree with every detail, but you deserve to know where I stand. When you're done, I want to hear your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts. Please call me at (919) 636-3131 or email me at info@johnedwards.com.

Together, we can – and will – redeem our country's promise and our children's future.

Yours sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "E".

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I. STANDING UP FOR WORKING AND MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES



"I carry the promise of America in my heart, where my parents placed it. Like them, like you, I believe in people, hard work and the sacred obligation of each generation to the next.

"This is our time now. It falls to us to redeem our democracy, reclaim our government and relight the promise of America for our children."

TRUE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

"We have to stop using words like 'access to health care' when we know those words mean something less than universal care. Who are you willing to leave behind without care? Which family? Which child? We need a truly universal solution, and we need it now."

"I don't believe you can sit down at a table with lobbyists for drug companies and insurance companies and negotiate your way to universal care. They are dead-set against this. It's going to take a president who can take them on and beat them. That's what I've been doing my whole life."

"Mr. Edwards transformed the whole health care debate with a plan that offers a politically and fiscally plausible path to universal health insurance."

– Paul Krugman, New York Times columnist

"[E]asily the most impressive health care reform proposal adopted by a national Democrat in 15 years."

– Ezra Klein, The American Prospect

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR TRUE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Summary

Forty-seven million Americans without health care is a moral outrage. John Edwards was the first major presidential candidate to propose a detailed plan that takes on the big drug and insurance companies to guarantee quality, affordable care for every American.

The Edwards Health Care Plan

- *Universal coverage through shared responsibility*
- *Affordable and higher quality health care*
- *New strategies for prescription drugs, long-term care, cancer, HIV/AIDS and nursing shortages*

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE THROUGH SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Outline of the Edwards Plan

- Require by law that every American have comprehensive health coverage, including mental health coverage.
- Require businesses to either cover their employees or help pay their premiums.
- Make insurance affordable by creating new tax credits, expanding Medicaid and SCHIP, reforming insurance laws and taking innovative steps to contain health care costs.
- Create new Health Care Markets to give families and businesses purchasing power and a choice of quality plans, including one public plan.


Impact of the Edwards Plan

- Families without insurance will get coverage at an affordable price.
- Families with insurance will pay less and get more security and choices.
- Employers will find it cheaper and easier to insure their workers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The health care system could evolve into a single-payer approach if Americans choose to enroll in the public plan instead of private insurance.
Honesty about the Cost	<p>We need to be honest about paying for universal health care. The Edwards plan costs \$90-\$120 billion a year. He will pay for it by repealing President Bush's tax cuts for Americans who make over \$200,000 a year and reforming health care to get better care at lower cost.</p>
AFFORDABLE AND HIGHER QUALITY HEALTH CARE	
Get Tough on Big Insurance and Drug Companies	<p>Edwards' cost-saving measures will save an average insured family \$2,000 to \$2,500 a year and eliminate at least \$130 billion a year in wasteful spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outlaw discrimination against people with preexisting conditions and require insurers to spend at least 85 percent of their premiums on patient care. ▪ Make private insurers compete with a public plan available through the Health Care Markets. ▪ Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, regulate misleading drug ads and permit safe reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada.
A New Era in Preventive and Chronic Care	<p>Edwards will require coverage of preventive care at little or no cost and ensure that providers monitor chronically ill patients' health to reduce complications and hospitalizations.</p>
Implement Information Technology	<p>Edwards will require the use of electronic medical records to reduce duplicative tests and medical errors while protecting patients' privacy.</p>

Evidence-Based Medicine	Edwards will create an objective source of reliable medical information to help doctors give the best care and a “Consumer Reports” for health care for patients.
NEW STRATEGIES FOR LONG-TERM CARE, CANCER, HIV/AIDS AND THE NURSING SHORTAGE	
Choice and Dignity in Long-Term Care	Edwards will reform the long-term care system to create choices for older Americans and people with disabilities, provide home and community care and promote dignity for families and workers.
A National Strategy for Cancer Survivorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that Americans with cancer are diagnosed earlier and receive coordinated care, and strengthen family support networks. ▪ Double funding for research priorities, reduce risk factors and close racial and ethnic disparities.
End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guarantee care for HIV-positive individuals through Medicaid before the disease advances. ▪ Prevent HIV/AIDS with science-based steps and fight it in the African-American and Latino, as well as LGBT, communities.
Address the Nursing Shortage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate 50,000 new nurses by investing in nursing schools and scholarships. ▪ Bring back and retain 50,000 existing nurses with new safety standards, safe staffing ratios and a ban on mandatory overtime.

For John Edwards' full plan to guarantee universal health care, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/healthcare

BUILDING ONE ECONOMY WITH TAX REFORM THAT REWARDS WORK

“Our tax code has shifted most of the burden onto the backs of working Americans. There is simply no end to the special tax breaks available to big corporations and wealthy individuals who can afford lawyers and lobbyists.

“It’s time to end the President’s war on work. And it’s time to restore fairness to a tax code that has been driven badly out of whack.”

[Remarks on “Restoring Economic Fairness,” July 26, 2007]

“Former North Carolina senator John Edwards has a tax plan that is... smarter, targeted at taxpayers who need the most help and at creating incentives for savings.”

– Washington Post editorial

“Edwards, at least, is willing to say which taxes he would raise to keep the deficit from going through the roof.... Edwards deserves points for honesty....”

– E.J. Dionne, Washington Post columnist

“We need a president and a tax system that will grow the middle class, not the gap between the haves and have-nots. John Edwards has a fair tax plan that will help middle-class families and promote healthy economic growth.”

– Betty Yee, Chairwoman, California State Board of Equalization

JOHN EDWARDS' TAX REFORM PLAN TO REWARD WORK

Summary	John Edwards will rewrite our tax code to make it simpler and fairer and to help hard-working families succeed. Millions of working and middle-class families will keep more of their paychecks. Those at the very top will again pay their fair share.
The Edwards Tax Reform Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>New tax breaks to strengthen the middle class</i> ▪ <i>Reward work, not just wealth, and repeal the Bush tax breaks for the wealthy</i> ▪ <i>Shut down special loopholes for insiders</i>

NEW TAX BREAKS TO STRENGTHEN THE MIDDLE CLASS

	<i>"It's time for us to put our economy back in line with our values and strengthen three pillars of America's middle class: savings, work and family."</i>
Encourage Savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a new Get Ahead tax credit to match up to \$500 a year in retirement savings for families earning up to \$75,000. ▪ Create new Work Bonds to offer extra savings incentives for low-income workers.
Reward Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to reward low-wage workers by tripling the EITC for single adults and cutting the marriage penalty.
Support Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than double the Child and Dependent Care Credit to up to \$2,500 per child.

REWARD WORK, NOT JUST WEALTH


"It's time to stop promoting the wealth of the wealthy and start making sure that everyone has the chance to move up the economic ladder."

Restore Fair Taxation of Wealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore the investment income tax rate to 28 percent for Americans making more than \$250,000 a year so that wealthy investors don't pay a lower rate on investments than many regular Americans pay on wages. ▪ Repeal the Bush tax cuts for households earning more than \$200,000 a year. ▪ Keep the tax on very largest inheritances while protecting family businesses and family farms.
Simplify Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simplify taxes for up to 50 million families by giving them the option of letting the IRS complete a first draft of their forms for "five-minute filing."

SHUT DOWN SPECIAL LOOPHOLES FOR INSIDERS

Declare War on Offshore Tax Havens	Edwards will fight offshore tax havens by working with other nations to fight tax evasion, crack down on tax shelter promoters and eliminate special tax breaks for corporations' offshore investments.
Close the Tax Gap	Edwards will collect a greater share of the \$300 billion in uncollected taxes every year through better IRS service, targeting audits at wealthy individuals and corporations likely to have committed evasion, and requiring more third-party reporting.
Close Hedge Fund and Private Equity Loopholes	Edwards will close the loophole that elite Wall Street traders use to pay only 15 percent in taxes on their huge incomes, while regular families often pay twice that amount.

For John Edwards' full tax reform plan, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/taxreform

SMART AND SAFE TRADE POLICIES

"Behind all these numbers and statistics are the faces of millions of Americans forgotten in our trade deals. Well, I can tell you that I will never forget them. I saw what happened when the mill that my dad worked in all his life, and where I worked myself when I was young, closed and the jobs went somewhere else. It wasn't just devastating to our community economically – it was devastating to the pride and dignity of the people who worked hard every day trying to make a better life for their kids."

[Remarks on "Smart Trade that Puts Workers First," August 6, 2007]

"If we want trade policies that work for working Americans, we need John Edwards. He's the only candidate with real plans to ensure that working families get their fair share of the benefits of economic growth."

– Leo Gerard, President, United Steelworkers

"The only candidate in this category [of rejecting the free-trade-at-all-cost dogma] is John Edwards, who voted against some of the corporate-written trade deals that came down the pike during his Senate term, and who has made a class-based 'Two Americas' message his signature theme."

– David Sirota, nationally syndicated columnist

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR SMART AND SAFE TRADE

Summary	Having grown up in Carolina mill towns, John Edwards understands the devastating impact trade can have on workers and communities. He will never sign bad trade deals like NAFTA or Peru. Instead he will make sure we have smart and safe trade policies that help regular families.
The Edwards Plan for Smart and Safe Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Smart and safe trade for working families</i> ▪ <i>Demand a level playing field</i> ▪ <i>Help affected workers and communities</i> ▪ <i>Strengthen import safety</i>

SMART AND SAFE TRADE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

A New, Simple Test for Trade	Edwards will reject trade deals for corporate insiders that leave regular workers out in the cold. Instead he will insist on making families better off.
Demand Strong Labor Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require our trading partners to adopt and enforce basic workers' rights to lift up workers around the world, unlike the failed NAFTA deal. ▪ Pursue stronger labor laws by linking them to U.S. trade preference programs, any new bilateral trade agreements and future WTO negotiations.
Require Environmental Standards	Edwards will demand environmental standards to prevent multinational companies from exploiting weak laws and enforcement in other countries.
Fight Currency Manipulation	Edwards will insist that trade deals include strong, clear language on impermissible currency manipulation and make it easier for the Treasury Department to act on unfair trade practices of countries like China.

DEMAND A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Prosecute Violations of Trade Deals

"Today, trade negotiators charged with enforcing agreements seem to think their job is done when an agreement is signed. Signing a trade deal should be the beginning of the process, not the end."

- Assign top Justice Department prosecutors to enforce trade deals.
- Go after illegal trade subsidies and insist that China and other countries end manipulation of their currencies.
- Seek WTO sanctions if necessary.

End Offshore Incentives

- Eliminate the tax breaks that let multinational corporations avoid most or all of their taxes by investing in tax havens, giving them an incentive to move overseas.

HELP AFFECTED WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

Create the Training Works Initiative

"We need to stop bad trade deals. When workers or communities are hurt by trade, we need to invest in those communities much earlier and more aggressively."

- Build career ladders to help low-wage workers gain skills and move into jobs that support families through partnerships of businesses, unions and community colleges.
- Help unemployed workers who have promising business ideas with entrepreneur grants, mentoring and continued unemployment benefits.

Help Dislocated Communities	Edwards will intervene in communities facing mass layoffs with resources, expertise, and planning modeled after military base closing aid.
Strengthen the Job Safety Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer extended unemployment insurance and training benefits to all workers dislocated by globalization, regardless of their industry. ▪ Modernize unemployment insurance to cover 500,000 more workers a year.

STRENGTHEN IMPORT SAFETY

Protect the Food We Eat	Edwards will enforce country of origin labeling on food, reform and expand food inspection and require countries selling food to American families to have safety systems that meet tough standards.
Ensure Toy Safety	Edwards will have zero tolerance for unsafe toys, increase penalties for violations and require independent testing for safety.
Block Counterfeit Medicine	Edwards will require pharmaceutical companies to trace drug shipments electronically, ensuring that they remain safe.

For John Edwards' full plan for smart and safe trade, visit



www.johnedwards.com/trade

STRENGTHENING THE LABOR MOVEMENT

“Let’s stand up for the working people whose labor made this country great. America was built by men and women who worked with their hands. And organized labor has fought for and made better the lives of every working man and woman by giving them a voice. Labor never stands silent where wrongs need to be righted. Will you stand with them? It is time we acknowledged that it is organized labor that has protected the American worker against mistreatment by corporate America. I am proud to stand beside organized labor. Will you stand with them, too? Will you walk with them and march with them?”

[Remarks to the Democratic National Committee, February 2, 2007]

“Senator Edwards’ policies are going to expand the middle class by strengthening families’ financial security, keeping them healthy, and growing our economy with good jobs and strong unions.”

– Cecil E. Roberts, President, United Mine Workers of America

“Only Edwards seems to grasp the significance of our widening class divisions.”

– Katha Pollitt, The Nation

“John Edwards has personally seen the full range of American working families’ strengths and struggles, and he’s used his first-hand experience to build a domestic agenda that puts workers and their interests front and center.”

– Rep. Mike Michaud (Maine), Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO STRENGTHEN THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Summary	Organized labor is the most important anti-poverty movement in American history, helping create millions of good jobs and strengthening the middle class.
The Edwards Plan for Working Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Strengthen labor laws</i> ▪ <i>Enact smarter trade policies</i> ▪ <i>Defend good jobs</i> ▪ <i>Ensure worker safety and help injured workers</i> ▪ <i>Set real standards for government outsourcing</i>
Strengthen Labor Laws	<p>Federal law promises workers the right to choose a union, but the law is poorly enforced and routinely violated by employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass the Employee Free Choice Act to give workers a real choice in whether to form a union. ▪ Make penalties for breaking labor laws tougher and faster. ▪ Ban permanent replacement of striking workers.
Enact Smarter Trade Policies	<p>Trade deals need to benefit American workers, not just increase profits for multinational corporations. Edwards will aggressively enforce deals on the books and will require any new trade agreements to include strong standards on labor, the environment and currency manipulation.</p>
Defend Good Jobs	<p>In many industries, violations of our most basic labor laws have become the new way of doing business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore workers' rights to overtime. ▪ Stop companies from mislabeling employees "independent contractors" to avoid paying benefits and taxes.


**Ensure
Worker Safety
and Help
Injured
Workers**

- Expand minimum wage protections for tipped workers and home care workers.

Simply doing your job should not cause you harm.

- Protect every American worker with federal safety and health standards, including new ergonomics standards and stronger OSHA enforcement.
- Strengthen protections for whistleblowers who report injuries or unsafe conditions.
- Work with states to reform workers' compensation.
- Give public employees a fair chance to compete with private contractors.
- Recognize that work involving essential governmental functions should never be privatized.
- Evaluate companies' records on tax, labor, environmental and other laws before awarding federal contracts.

**Set Real
Standards for
Government
Outsourcing**

*For John Edwards' full plan to strengthen the labor movement, visit
 www.johnedwards.com/workingfamilies*

RESTORING HOPE TO RURAL AMERICA

"Too many people in Washington think of rural America as a place you fly over when you're going from New York to California – but not me. I will never forget rural America – it's part of who I am. I am running for president on behalf of my father and the people he worked with at the mill and the millions of hard-working families like the ones I grew up with."

"The Edwards plan... displays an understanding of the great challenges facing rural regions that are often on the losing end of the 'two Americas' equation that is the theme of the Edwards campaign."

– The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin) Editorial

"John understands rural issues and rural people because he's one of us, and he hasn't forgotten where he came from."

– Former Rep. Ben "Cooter" Jones (Georgia)

"[A] detailed plan that reflects his understanding of and commitment to Rural America. We need the kind of presidential leadership he's offering."

– Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (South Dakota)

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO RESTORE HOPE TO RURAL AMERICA

Summary	As someone who grew up in small rural towns, John Edwards knows that America cannot turn its back on rural areas. Small towns and rural areas are the keepers of American values like family, work, community and freedom.
The Edwards Rural Recovery Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Restore economic fairness</i>▪ <i>Help rural towns and counties grow</i>▪ <i>Protect the rural way of life</i>

RESTORE ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

	<p><i>“Any talk of rural recovery has to start with the economy. Farms and small businesses have been stabbed in the heart by unfair competition. We need to help small towns and rural communities create and keep new businesses and good jobs.”</i></p>
Invest Seed Money for Rural Recovery	<p>Edwards will create the Rural Economic Advancement Challenge (REACH) Fund to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Give Main Street businesses the seed money they need for startup and expansion.▪ Connect rural entrepreneurs with investors and advisors.▪ Organize local businesses into networks to help them succeed together.
Create the New Energy Economy in Rural America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establish the \$13 billion New Energy Economy Fund to jumpstart renewable energies like wind, solar and biofuels.▪ Expand markets for ethanol by requiring new cars to run on both gasoline and E85 ethanol and requiring 25 percent of chain gas stations to carry E85.

Create Fairness for Family Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support locally-owned biorefineries with start-up capital and train residents for “green collar” energy jobs. ▪ Strictly enforce laws against anticompetitive mergers and unfair pricing and require country-of-origin labeling. ▪ Enact a strong national packer ban to protect small and medium-size farmers and ranchers against excessive industry consolidation. ▪ Impose a national moratorium on the construction or expansion of concentrated cattle and hog feeding operations. ▪ Help family farmers by limiting farm subsidies to \$250,000 and expand conservation programs.
Invest in Rural Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prohibit telephone and cable companies from discriminating against rural communities in building broadband networks. ▪ Establish a goal of universal broadband by 2010, starting by identifying gaps in availability, price and speed.
Modernize the Community Reinvestment Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require banks to invest in rural areas and rural small businesses.

HELP RURAL TOWNS AND COUNTIES GROW

Strengthen Rural Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address teacher shortages with higher pay and college scholarships for students who commit to teach in underserved rural schools.
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**Improve
Rural Health
Care**

- Invest in distance learning technology to bring the content of the world's best universities, libraries and museums to rural areas.
- Rewrite unfair Medicare and Medicaid funding formulas that punish rural areas.
- Recruit new nurses for rural clinics and hospitals by paying tuition for students who commit to serve for at least four years.
- Support telemedicine to instantaneously connect local doctors and patients to distant specialists and advanced equipment.

PROTECT THE RURAL WAY OF LIFE

**Rid Rural
America of
Crystal Meth**

Edwards will strengthen enforcement of drug laws in rural areas, make the ingredients of methamphetamines more difficult to get and expand treatment programs for addicts.


**Protect
Lawful Gun
Ownership**

Edwards will protect the right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms for protection, sport shooting and hunting, while also keeping guns out of the hands of criminals.

**Support
Hunting and
Fishing**

Edwards will increase access to public lands, support land and farm conservation programs and protect clean water for fishing.

For John Edwards' full plan to protect the rural way of life, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/rural

ENACTING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

“Immigration is central to the story of America, but today our immigration system needs a fundamental overhaul. Our security is threatened by borders we cannot control. Our economy is harmed by an underground economy featuring a large and unprotected labor force. And our values are violated when 12 million people live in the shadows of our society, vulnerable to abuse and fearful of deportation.”

“John Edwards has a responsible plan to overhaul our immigration laws in a way that makes everyone in America more secure, with dignity and justice.”

– Frank Herrera, Jr., former Chair, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

“Everybody knows we need a solution for the immigration problem – and I think it should be realistic and fair. John Edwards has the best plan I’ve seen to address this important issue.”

– Harry Judd, Member, Board of Selectmen, Bow, New Hampshire

JOHN EDWARDS' COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM PLAN

The Edwards Immigration Reform Plan

- *Secure our borders*
- *Provide an earned path to citizenship that requires English*
- *Preserve family reunification*
- *No new second-class of laborers*
- *End the backlog*

Secure Our Borders

- Secure our borders and stop illegal trafficking.
- Double the number of border patrol agents and invest in surveillance technology to police the borders.
- Crack down on employers that hire undocumented immigrants.
- Vigorously enforce workplace laws and increase fines for businesses that knowingly break the rules.

Provide an Earned Path to Citizenship that Requires English

Edwards believes people who are already here should have the opportunity to earn American citizenship if they avoid a criminal record, pay a fine in recognition that they came here illegally and learn English – the surest path to success in this country.

Strengthen Families


Edwards believes family reunification is an important value that should be reflected in our immigration laws.

No New Second-Class of Laborers

Edwards opposes new temporary guestworker programs that do not provide adequate workplace protections and a reasonable path to citizenship.

End the Backlog

Edwards will end the background check backlog for legal immigrants applying for permanent residence.

For John Edwards' full plan for comprehensive immigration reform, visit
 www.johnedwards.com/immigration

TAKING ON ABUSIVE LENDERS AND HELPING FAMILIES GET AHEAD

“Big financial interests are writing our economic policies – and while their profits are setting records, record numbers of families are going bankrupt and losing their homes. Is it any wonder that so many hard-working, law-abiding middle-class Americans feel as if the economic system is stacked against them?”

“And that’s the problem of the Two Americas. It’s not that some people are doing well – Lord knows, that’s what we all want. It’s that too many people don’t even have a chance. It’s that the system that should be helping more people to succeed increasingly protects those who already have – and it’s doing it at the expense of everyone else.”

[Remarks on “Building One America,” June 21, 2007]

“Senator Edwards is to be applauded for laying out specific proposals to protect families from abusive financial practices, like predatory lending, payday loans and unfair credit card fees.”

– Maude Hurd, President, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

“Senator Edwards has put some hard-hitting proposals on the table.”

– Prof. Elizabeth Warren, Harvard Law School

“Edwards, who has made economic populism key to his campaign, has the most extensive debt plan.”

– Anya Kamenetz, Generation Debt author

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO TAKE ON ABUSIVE LENDERS AND HELP FAMILIES GET AHEAD

Summary	American families are working harder and finding it more difficult to make ends meet. Washington has loosened the rules protecting consumers from predatory loans. John Edwards will take on abusive lenders and give families alternatives to high-cost debt.
The Edwards Plan for Debt and Savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Take on abusive lenders</i> ▪ <i>Help families get ahead</i>

TAKE ON ABUSIVE LENDERS


Protect Families from Abusive Financial Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a tough new federal agency to review financial products and to protect consumers. ▪ Eliminate the Office of Thrift Supervision to eliminate excess bureaucracy.
Limit Abusive Credit Card Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End “bait and switch” tactics by limiting interest rate increases to future balances only. ▪ End the practice of universal default, where a creditor can change borrowers’ terms based on their debt with other creditors. ▪ Disclose the true cost of making only minimum payments. ▪ Restore a 10-day grace period before imposing late fees and penalty rates.
Ban Abusive Payday Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cap interest rates on payday loans at 36 percent, the current ceiling on loans to military families.

Stop Predatory Mortgages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prohibit abuses in the mortgage market, including prepayment penalties, mandatory arbitration, balloon loans and excessive fees. ▪ Strengthen underwriting standards so borrowers get loans they can afford and regulate non-bank lenders and mortgage brokers, some of whom have steered families into high-cost loans.
Create a Home Rescue Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help families facing foreclosure get more affordable mortgages and offer new bankruptcy relief so families can stay in their homes.

HELP FAMILIES GET AHEAD

Support Credit Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help non-profits and states administer low or no-interest emergency loans as alternatives to pricey payday and credit card loans.
Help Families Save	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a Get Ahead credit to match \$500 in retirement savings up to dollar-for-dollar. ▪ Help banks offer free bank accounts to the 28 million Americans without them, so they can save and avoid exorbitant check-cashing fees.
Modernize Community Reinvestment Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reward financial institutions for marketing financial products to underserved consumers at fair terms. ▪ Monitor financial services to ensure all Americans have access.

For John Edwards' full debt and savings plan, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/debtandsavings

II. ENDING THE WAR, RESTORING AMERICA'S MORAL LEADERSHIP



"To lead the world in addressing the challenges of our century, America must restore our moral authority."

"Restoring our moral authority isn't just about feeling good about ourselves. When the world looks to America for leadership, we are stronger and safer, and so is the rest of the world."

ENDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

“The American people voted for change last November and eleven months later we still have the status quo. Congress must be strong enough to stand up to President Bush and must pass a funding bill with a timetable for withdrawal. If the president vetoes that bill, Congress must send it back, again and again, as many times as it takes for the president to finally get the message that he can’t defy the will of the American people. Every member of Congress who believes this war must end has the moral responsibility to use every tool available to them, including a filibuster, to send the president one simple message: No timeline, no funding. No excuses.”

[Radio Address, October 3, 2007]

“Senator Edwards has shown the best leadership of any candidate on Iraq. He recognizes what needs to be done and has a plan that balances what should be done with what we must do to fix President Bush’s mistakes.”

– Rear Admiral David Oliver, U.S. Navy (ret.)

“Americans voted in November 2006 for change in Iraq, yet they still have the status quo. Senator Edwards has been leading a charge of thousands of ordinary Americans to get Congress to finally use its constitutional funding authority to force the President to change his failed policy in Iraq.”

– Rep. Raul Grijalva (Arizona), member of the Out of Iraq Caucus

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR ENDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

Summary	<p>We must end this war and bring our troops home. There is no military solution to the chaos in Iraq. Instead, the Iraqi people must solve the problem politically by taking responsibility for their country.</p>
The Edwards Plan to End the War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Immediately withdraw 40-50,000 troops</i> ▪ <i>Withdraw all combat troops within nine to ten months</i> ▪ <i>Engage other nations to stabilize Iraq</i> ▪ <i>Redeploy troops outside Iraq</i>
Immediately Withdraw 40-50,000 Troops	<p>Edwards opposed President Bush's "surge" that escalated the war and supports immediately withdrawing 40,000 to 50,000 combat troops.</p>
Withdraw All Combat Troops within 9 to 10 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completely withdraw all combat troops in Iraq within nine to ten months. ▪ Prohibit permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq.
Engage Other Nations to Stabilize Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage in direct talks with all nations in the region, including the governments of Iran and Syria, to bring a political solution to the sectarian violence inside Iraq. ▪ Convene a regional peace conference.
Redeploy Troops Outside Iraq	<p>After withdrawal, we should keep Quick Reaction Forces outside Iraq, in friendly countries like Kuwait, to prevent an Al Qaeda safe haven, a genocide, or regional spillover of a civil war. Only minimal troops needed to protect the embassy and humanitarian workers will remain in Iraq; none will conduct combat missions.</p>

For John Edwards' full plan to end the war in Iraq, visit



www.johnedwards.com/iraq

REENGAGING WITH THE WORLD, RESTORING AMERICA'S MORAL LEADERSHIP

"We must move beyond the wreckage created by one of the greatest strategic failures in U.S. history: the war in Iraq. Rather than alienating the rest of the world through assertions of infallibility and demands of obedience, as the current administration has done, U.S. foreign policy must be driven by a strategy of reengagement. We must reengage with our history of courage, liberty, and generosity.

"We must reengage with our tradition of moral leadership on issues ranging from the killings in Darfur to global poverty and climate change. We must reengage with our allies on critical security issues, including terrorism, the Middle East and nuclear proliferation. With confidence and resolve, we must reengage with those who pose a security threat to us, from Iran to North Korea."

[Foreign Affairs magazine essay, August 2007]

"As one of the leaders of the U.S.N.S. Mercy mission to provide relief to victims of the Southeast Asian tsunami, I have seen the incredible potential of America's moral leadership first-hand. Senator Edwards' plans to protect the civil rights of all Americans would go a long way toward strengthening our democracy and restoring our moral leadership."

– Admiral Bill McDaniel, U.S. Navy (ret.)

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR REENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

Summary

We must be driven by a strategy of reengagement with allies and neighbors, and even with challenging countries across the world, like Iran and North Korea.

Deal Directly with Threats

We should engage with countries from Iran to North Korea. We should reward them when they act responsibly and pressure them when they do not, instead of saber rattling about military action.

Reengage with the World's Major Powers

- Maintain strong partnerships with longtime allies like the United Kingdom, Japan and E.U. nations.
- Use diplomatic and economic pressure to convince Russia to forgo authoritarianism and improve human rights.
- Pressure China to commit to international laws on issues like trade, climate change and human rights.
- Help our friend India increase democracy and stability by including it in the U.N. Security Council and supporting peaceful nuclear fuel.

A Framework for Latin America

- Strengthen our unique relationship with Latin America to promote economic development and improvement in human and democratic rights.


A New Vision for Africa

- Lead new efforts toward universal education, global public health and economic opportunity.
- Address the crises in Darfur and Uganda.
- Move toward a broader social and economic development program for Africa.

Attack Global Challenges with Multilateral Institutions

- Create a new global compact to coordinate counterterrorism efforts, work through organizations like the U.N. and NATO to stop nuclear proliferation and Lead a multilateral effort to stop global warming.

For John Edwards' full plan to reengage with the world, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/reengage

A COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY THAT WILL ACTUALLY COUNTER TERRORISM

“Tragically for America and the world, George Bush’s ‘war on terror’ approach walked directly into the trap the terrorists set for us. Islamic extremists wanted to frame the conflict with the U.S. as a war of civilizations, and the Bush Administration, stuck in a Cold War mentality, happily complied.”

[Remarks at Pace University, Lower Manhattan, September 7, 2007]

“Senator Edwards has shown strong leadership on issues of homeland security and keeping America safe in a dangerous new world. From first responders to cybersecurity, his bold proposals reveal his understanding of the tough challenges we face.”

– Rep. David Price (North Carolina), Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

“While his rivals in both parties will undoubtedly try to grab headlines with 9/11-related events, the former North Carolina senator and 2004 Democratic vice presidential nominee is in Manhattan today giving this round’s first — and possibly most substantive — speech on the topic.... [A]s the inevitable parade of White House contenders line up with 9/11 rhetoric, chances are that only Edwards will have come up with a detailed agenda.”
– Congressional Quarterly

JOHN EDWARDS' COUNTERTERRORISM PLAN

Summary

We must replace Bush's so-called "war on terror" doctrine with a real strategy to unify our intelligence and security efforts through closer international cooperation. John Edwards will ensure that intelligence is used to root out and shut down the scourge of terrorism and unite the world against violent extremism.

The Edwards Counter-terrorism Plan

- *Lead a new global compact against terrorism*
- *Improve human intelligence*
- *Bolster support for foreign counterterrorism*
- *Shut down WMD transfers*
- *Escalate efforts against homegrown extremism*
- *Achieve independence from foreign oil*
- *Strengthen homeland security*

Lead a New Global Compact against Terrorism

- Create a modern-day equivalent of NATO for terrorism: the Counterterrorism and Intelligence Treaty Organization (CITO).
- Cooperate on sharing and improving intelligence and security against terrorist cells to enable member nations to track terrorist travel, communication, recruiting, training and financing.
- Establish allied response cells that can take action against imminent terrorist threats.

Improve Human Intelligence

- Increase human intelligence capability and establish new scholarships to improve Arabic and Middle East dialect skills.

Bolster Foreign Counter-terrorism

- Coordinate law enforcement, intelligence and military programs with operations in other countries, led by a more professional corps of ambassadors.

**Shut Down
WMD
Transfers**

- Work with other nations to stop and seize materials that could be made into weapons of mass destruction.
- Help other countries safeguard nuclear facilities and scientists and improve border controls.

**Escalate
Efforts against
Homegrown
Extremism**

- Ensure extremist ideologies do not take hold in our own Muslim communities – in a way that respects diversity and civil liberties and avoids racial profiling.
- Encourage American Muslim participation in public life, empower local mosques to counter extremist ideas and work with Muslim communities to identify and isolate threats before they materialize.

**Achieve
Energy
Independence**

- Reduce our reliance on oil from unstable parts of the world through investing in renewable energy, higher fuel economy standards and innovation.

**Strengthen
Homeland
Security**

- Better protect first responders, including firefighters and police.
- Tighten our border and port security.
- Protect the most vulnerable targets, including chemical plants, sports arenas and computer networks.
- Improve domestic readiness through citizen involvement and training.

For John Edwards' full counterterrorism plan, visit



www.johnedwards.com/counterterrorism

A NEW STRATEGY TO CONTAIN IRAN

“It was a mistake to vote for the Iraq war in 2002. I was wrong and I take responsibility for that mistake. It has been hard to say these words because those who didn’t make a mistake – the men and women of our armed forces and their families – have performed heroically and paid a dear price.

“The truth is that I’ve learned from my mistakes. I learned a clear lesson from the lead up to the Iraq war in 2002: if you give this president an inch, he will take a mile – and launch a war. Others apparently learned a different lesson. Instead of blocking George Bush’s new march to war, they are enabling him once again.

“If we don’t reject the president’s dangerous policy of preventive war, which says that we should shoot first and ask questions later, we will repeat the mistakes he made in Iraq.”

“John Edwards has presented a bold new strategy to contain Iran that would prevent us from repeating the mistakes of Iraq as we approach this critical challenge. His strategy represents a strong step forward from the failed neoconservative approach to a new vision of American leadership on one of the most difficult issues our next president will face.”

– Dr. Barry Blechman, Member, Department of State Committee on Transformational Diplomacy; Chair, Henry L. Stimson Center

“Good for Edwards. I’ve found it infuriating how little the leading Democrats seem inclined to engage with the key strategic elements of Bush’s response to 9/11....”

-- Matthew Yglesias, The Atlantic

JOHN EDWARDS' NEW STRATEGY TO CONTAIN IRAN

Summary	Use all our tools to get Iran to rejoin the international community and give up once and for all its pursuit of nuclear weapons and support of terrorism.
The Edwards Plan to Contain Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Abandon President Bush's preventive war doctrine</i> ▪ <i>Unite the international community</i> ▪ <i>Engage directly</i> ▪ <i>Use a mix of "carrots and sticks"</i> ▪ <i>Work with interested parties</i>
Abandon Bush's Preventive War Doctrine	Edwards will replace President Bush's preventive war doctrine – a dangerous departure from responsible foreign policy – and ask the Joint Chiefs of Staff to rely on proven national security strategies.
Unite the International Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contain Iran's nuclear ambitions with diplomatic measures that isolate Iran and force its government to finally understand that the world community will not allow it to possess nuclear weapons.
Engage Directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negotiate with Iranian leaders using a new international diplomatic strategy.
Use a Mix of "Carrots and Sticks"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fully enforce the Iran Sanctions Act, work with our allies to strengthen economic sanctions, and shut down access to the American financial system. ▪ Create an international fuel bank and increase Iran's refinery capacity.
Work with Interested Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with China and Russia on achieving their objectives without strengthening Iran.

For John Edwards' full plan to contain Iran, visit



www.johnedwards.com/iran

A STRONG MILITARY FOR A NEW CENTURY

"We need a post-Bush, post-9/11, post-Iraq American military that is mission-focused on protecting Americans from 21st century threats, not misused for discredited ideological pursuits. We need to recognize that we have far more powerful weapons available to us than just bombs, and we need to bring them to bear. We need to reengage the world with the full weight of our moral leadership."

[Remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations, May 22, 2007]

"Senator Edwards has led on ideas and policy with a smart, tough, and bold new counterterrorism strategy. His proposal for a new multilateral treaty organization would finally tailor our national security strategy to today's threats."

– Lt. Gen. Michael Hough, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.)

"John Edwards is the only Democratic candidate who is gainfully engaged in a real debate with the Republican presidential candidates about a very crucial topic: what's the best and most productive way to frame and deal with threats to national security."

– Marc Ambinder, The Atlantic

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR A STRONG MILITARY

Summary	John Edwards' plan for rebuilding America's military will look beyond Iraq to clarify the role of our military as we restore our moral leadership in the world and modernize our forces to meet our security missions.
The Edwards Plan for a Strong Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Fulfill essential missions, not ideological fancies</i> ▪ <i>Repair damage done to civil-military relations</i> ▪ <i>Rebuild our force structure</i> ▪ <i>Root out cronyism and waste</i> ▪ <i>Improve our ability to help weak or failing states</i> ▪ <i>Create a national security budget</i>
Fulfill Essential Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that military policy is planned and executed to fulfill essential national security missions, not neoconservative ideological fancies. ▪ Use offensive force only after diplomacy and all other options have been exhausted and we have brought as many countries as possible to our side.
Repair Damage Done to Civil-Military Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institute regular, one-on-one presidential meetings with top military leaders. ▪ Reinstatement of a basic doctrine of national security management: military professionals will have primary responsibility for tactics and operations while civilian leadership will have authority in broad strategic and political decisions.
Rebuild Our Force Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build the military we need to meet the mission we have defined – no more, no less – and base future troop levels on a careful assessment of the post-Iraq threat environment. ▪ Double the budget for recruiting and raise the standards for the recruiting pool.

**Root out
Cronyism and
Waste**

- Invest in equipment maintenance for troop safety.
- Modernize our forces so we do not keep spending money on systems that only meet the needs of today but do not meet the needs of tomorrow.
- “Green the military” to use energy efficiently, increase innovation, save money and reduce reliance on vulnerable supply lines.
- Launch a comprehensive review of fraud, waste and abuse, including missile defense and space-based weapon systems that are unlikely to work.
- Overhaul the rules governing privatization.
- Reform Defense Department compensation policies to reward results rather than bureaucracy and cronyism.


**Improve Our
Ability to
Help Weak or
Failing States**

- Create a “Marshall Corps” of at least 10,000 professionals, modeled on the Reserves, that will work on stabilization and humanitarian missions.
- Provide soldiers and civilians with improved language skills and cultural understanding.
- Create an undersecretary of defense for stabilization efforts.

**Create a
National
Security
Budget**

- Create a unified first-ever National Security Budget that includes all security activities government-wide to prevent redundancies, ensure accountability and coordinate many different agencies.

For John Edwards’ full plan for a strong military, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/military

A SACRED CONTRACT WITH OUR MILITARY AND VETERAN COMMUNITY

"I believe in a sacred contract between our country and America's veterans and military families. We must stand by those who stand by us. When our service men and women sacrifice so much to defend our freedom and secure peace around the world, we have a moral obligation to take care of them and their families."

"As a nation, we didn't deal with the reintegration of veterans after the Vietnam War, leaving thousands of veterans without the care they desperately needed. For example, we cannot ignore that the true cost of war includes an incalculable mental toll. We need to admit our mistakes and learn from them. We can do better."

[Remarks on "Repairing Our Sacred Contract," May 25, 2007]

"We desperately need to stand by those who stand by us. As an Iraq veteran, I believe that Senator Edwards' comprehensive proposals to repair the sacred contract with veterans and their families represent a bold and courageous step forward in our commitment to our heroes."

– Capt. William Edwards, U.S. Army Reserve and Iraq veteran

JOHN EDWARDS' SACRED CONTRACT WITH OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY

Summary

Central to the sacred contract with our veterans and military community is a solemn pledge to every man and woman who risks their life for our country that we will take care of them as they have taken care of us.

The Edwards Sacred Contract

- *Guarantee quality health care*
- *Support military families*
- *Provide educational and economic opportunities*

Guarantee Quality Health Care

- Fully fund veterans' health care and launch a stem-to-stern review of military hospitals to prevent disgraces like the neglect at Walter Reed.
- Dedicate resources for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Provide a "plan for coming home" for every servicemember, with health screenings in a seamless, national chain of care.
- Aggressively resolve the disability claims backlog.


Support Military Families

Edwards will close the gap between military and civilian active duty pay, enable Guard and Reserve families to continue health coverage, give military families a voice in family policies and support Family Readiness Groups.

Provide Educational and Economic Opportunities

- Modernize the GI Bill and provide student loan relief for mobilized Guard and Reserve troops.
- Restore vocational training for veterans with disabilities and occupational challenges.

For John Edwards' full plan for veterans and military families, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/veterans

RESTORING AMERICA'S MORAL LEADERSHIP BY FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY

"To lead the world in addressing the challenges of our century, America must restore our moral authority. Restoring our moral authority means leading by example and making clear that hard challenges don't frighten us, but call us to action.

"And I believe we can begin by leading in areas that – at first glance – might not seem directly related to our self-interest. I'm talking about global poverty, primary education.

"I am optimistic we can do these things because my own life says it is possible. I am optimistic we can do these things because everything I love about America and our entrepreneurial spirit and sense of decency says it's possible. But most of all, I am optimistic because of you and the millions of people like you."

[Remarks on "Transformational Change for the World," March 15, 2007]

"John Edwards ... followed [up on his health care plan] yesterday with an excellent speech on poverty at home and abroad, with some good and specific ideas."

– Nicholas Kristof, New York Times columnist

"[Edwards' global HIV/AIDS] plan is both bold and achievable, and we are thrilled to see Senator Edwards' tremendous leadership on this issue."

– Dr. Paul Zeitz, Executive Director, Global AIDS Alliance Fund

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

Summary	America must be a global leader in the fight against poverty. Solving global poverty is a moral imperative and a security issue because poverty creates the breeding ground for instability and terrorism.
The Edwards Global Poverty Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Enroll every child in primary school</i> ▪ <i>Invest in global public health</i> ▪ <i>Create political and economic opportunity</i> ▪ <i>Establish a cabinet-level post on global poverty</i>
Enroll Every Child in School	Education is critical to bringing countries out of poverty, but more than 100 million young children are not in school. Edwards will endorse the goal of universal basic education by 2015 and commit \$3 billion a year to this cause – enough to enroll 23 million children – and encourage our allies to provide the remaining resources needed.
Invest in Global Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide universal access to preventive and treatment drugs for the three “killer diseases” – HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria – by 2010, investing \$50 billion over five years to meet that goal. ▪ Strengthen public health systems and health care workforces in developing nations. ▪ Double the U.S. investment in clean water and convene an international summit to make water safe worldwide by 2015. ▪ Invest in increased vaccinations and the provision of sterile equipment and basic medications. ▪ Rescind the “global gag rule” that bars U.S. family planning aid to foreign non-profits.

**Create
Political and
Economic
Opportunity**


We can get to the root of global poverty by increasing political opportunity and economic opportunity. Democratic rights allow poor citizens to force their countries to create more progressive laws, fight oppression and demand economic stability.

- Invest in microenterprise programs that encourage entrepreneurship and provide an inexpensive way for poor families to achieve financial security.
- Expand support for the National Endowment for Democracy to strengthen democratic institutions in countries with a history of political violence.
- Promote labor, property and women's rights, encouraging nations to give all their citizens greater economic opportunity.

**Establish a
Cabinet-Level
Post on
Global
Poverty**

- Appoint a senior advisor responsible for global poverty to coordinate development policies across the federal government and be a voice at cabinet meetings for the fight against global poverty.
- Modernize, consolidate, and simplify foreign aid with a new Global Development Act and call on Congress to revamp its committee structure to create clearer and more effective lines of authority.

For John Edwards' full global poverty plan, please visit

 www.johnedwards.com/globalpoverty

A PLAN FOR ACTION IN DARFUR AND UGANDA

"There comes a time when we must say, 'Never again.'

"That time is now. Right now, there is a genocide going on right now in Darfur, in Western Sudan. We need to stand up for the people of Darfur. Because if not now, when?

"We also need to do something to stop the suffering going on everyday in Uganda. We can stop the suffering and Uganda can return to the road to peace. We need to stand up for the people of Uganda. Because if not now, when?"

[Remarks for the National Jewish Democratic Council on April 23, 2007]

"The humanitarian crises in Darfur and Uganda represent a crucial test of America's moral leadership. Senator Edwards has demonstrated his leadership through specific plans to stop the suffering and bring peace to these troubled nations."

– Rep. Melvin Watt (North Carolina), Chair, Congressional Black Caucus from 2005 to 2006

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR ACTION IN DARFUR AND UGANDA

Summary

Today, two neighboring nations in Africa – Sudan and Uganda – contain the most critical humanitarian crises in the world. John Edwards has outlined steps to help end the genocide in Darfur and to support the peace process in Uganda.

End the Genocide in Darfur

- Convene an emergency NATO meeting to accelerate the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces and provide logistical, operational and financial support.
- Deploy American airlift, logistical and intelligence capabilities to assist peacekeeping efforts.
- Establish a NATO-led no-fly zone to cut off supplies to the Janjaweed militias and end civilian bombings.
- Implement new multilateral sanctions on Sudan and individuals complicit in the genocide.
- Lead a public and private effort to divest holdings from companies that do business with the Sudanese government.
- Work with China to reduce its economic support of the repressive regime.

Support the Peace Process in Uganda

- Make a clear public statement of support for the Juba Peace Talks and for the efforts of the U.N. Special Envoy and dispatch a high-level American presidential envoy to work with the U.N.
- Commit sufficient funds to support the U.N. Juba Initiative Fund.

For John Edwards' full Darfur and Uganda plans, visit



www.johnedwards.com/darfur_uganda

PROTECTING THE CONSTITUTION AND RESPECTING OUR FREEDOMS

"We are not the country of Abu Ghraib or Guantanamo. We are not the country of secret surveillance and government behind closed doors. We are Americans, and we're better than that."

[Remarks to the Democratic National Committee, February 2, 2007]

"The core of this presidency has been a political doctrine that George Bush calls the 'Global War on Terror.' He has used this doctrine like a sledgehammer to justify the worst abuses and biggest mistakes of his administration, from Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, to the war in Iraq. The worst thing about the Global War on Terror approach is that it has backfired — our military has been strained to the breaking point and the threat from terrorism has grown."

[Remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations May 23, 2007]


"Senator Edwards' proposals to restore our civil liberties and strengthen the Constitution are sorely needed in a time when we need to balance our need to keep Americans safe with our need to stay true to our values. Senator Edwards has shown real leadership in this critically important area."

– Patricia Madrid, Former New Mexico Attorney General

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION AND RESPECT OUR FREEDOMS

Summary	To spread democracy abroad, we must defend our own constitutional freedoms and the rule of law.
The Edwards Civil Liberties Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reject the use of torture</i> ▪ <i>Restore habeas corpus and shut down Guantanamo</i> ▪ <i>Protect Americans' privacy and freedom</i> ▪ <i>Defend the Constitution</i>
Reject the Use of Torture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect our troops and our values by upholding the Geneva Conventions anywhere American security forces – military or civilian – are engaged. ▪ Set clear guidelines for interrogations, ban torture and end the shameful practice of “extraordinary rendition” that asks other countries to torture people America detained.
Restore Habeas Corpus and Shut Down Guantanamo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shut down the prison at Guantanamo Bay and work to resolve the status of the detainees. ▪ Restore the writ of habeas corpus to reinstate judicial review of detentions.
Protect Americans' Privacy and Freedom	Edwards will end warrantless wiretapping, reject retroactive immunity for telecommunications companies and fix the Patriot Act by including important safeguards. He will also prohibit racial profiling.
Defend the Constitution	Edwards will limit the practice of issuing presidential signing statements, end the abuse of executive privilege and respect the professional judgment of attorneys at the Justice Department.

For John Edwards' full civil liberties plan, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/civilliberties

III. BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



"We as a nation face the same choice we have always faced in difficult times. Will we wander in the same stale direction we have traveled in our recent past? Or will we change direction and move boldly into the future for the sake of our children, if not for ourselves?"

"The choice we must make is as important as it is clear."

ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND HALTING GLOBAL WARMING

"Our generation must be the one that says, 'we must stop global warming' and forever end our dependence on foreign oil. Our generation must be the one that accepts responsibility for conserving natural resources and demands the tools to do it. And our generation must be the one that builds the New Energy Economy. It won't be easy, but it is time to ask the American people to be patriotic about something other than war."

*"Among the leading Democratic candidates, he has the best, most comprehensive global warming program."
– Brent Blackwelder, President, Friends of the Earth*

*"Edwards has played an indispensable role in this campaign. On issue after issue – energy, poverty, health care – he has led the pack with bold progressive policy proposals.... He is at least partly to thank for the fact that '80 percent by 2050' is the standard target for emission reductions."
– David Roberts, Grist*

*"On global warming, too, the Edwards campaign has set the pace. He wants to reduce America's greenhouse-gas emissions by 80 percent before 2050 with a cap-and-trade system of carbon permits.... Those targets match the toughest bill now in Congress. Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama signed on to this bill soon after the Edwards energy plan was released."
– The Economist magazine*

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND HALTING GLOBAL WARMING

Summary	John Edwards has a bold, transformational plan to take on big oil companies, polluters and power companies to address the great environmental challenge of our lifetime. In the first 100 days of his presidency, he will send legislation to Congress to halt global warming and achieve energy independence.
The Edwards Energy Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Halt global warming</i> ▪ <i>Build the New Energy Economy</i> ▪ <i>Meet our rising electricity needs with efficiency</i>

HALT GLOBAL WARMING

Cap, Trade and Auction	Edwards will cap emissions of greenhouse gases and reduce them by 20 percent by 2020 and at least 80 percent by 2050. He will auction the right to emit any greenhouse gases after a short transition period.
Make Polluters Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create the \$13 billion-a-year New Energy Economy Fund, financed primarily through the sale of emission permits. ▪ End taxpayer giveaways for big oil companies, including tax subsidies and sweetheart leases.
Lead the World	Edwards will lead the world to a new global climate change treaty, share clean energy technology with cooperating nations and, if necessary, require climate-change commitments in our trade deals.

BUILD THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

"By harnessing American ingenuity, we can emerge from the crisis of global warming with a new energy economy that embraces innovation, brings the family farm back to life and creates more than one million new jobs."

**The New
Energy
Economy
Fund**

- Double the Department of Energy's budget for research into efficiency and renewable energy.
- Accelerate new energy technologies to market and help new businesses get started.

**Increase Use
of Renewable
Energy**

- Require the use of safe, renewable energy sources like wind, solar power and biomass to generate 25 percent of the nation's electricity by 2025.
- Require oil companies to install biofuel pumps at 25 percent of their gas stations and require all new cars sold after 2010 to be "flex fuel" running on either gasoline or biofuel.
- Develop new methods of producing and using ethanol, including cellulosic ethanol, and offer loan guarantees to new refineries.
- Make permanent the expiring tax credits for the production of renewable energy.

**Transform the
American
Auto Industry**


- Invest \$1 billion a year to help U.S. automakers advance the latest technology, including biofuels, hybrid and electric cars, hydrogen fuel cells, ultra-light materials and drivetrain improvements to ensure the world's most fuel-efficient cars are made in America by union workers.
- Raise fuel economy standards to 40 miles per gallon by 2016.
- Oppose new subsidies for "liquid coal" that will make global warming worse.

**Maximize the
Potential of
Safer Coal**

Edwards will invest \$1 billion a year to develop the ability to permanently store carbon emissions and ban construction of new coal plants that cannot capture their own carbon.

Reject New Nuclear Plants	Edwards opposes subsidies for new nuclear power plants until we can store waste safely.
Open the Grid	Edwards will promote distributed generation of electricity to let families and businesses produce reliable, clean, cost-effective electricity on site.
MEET OUR RISING ELECTRICITY NEEDS WITH EFFICIENCY	
Make Efficiency Profitable	<p><i>"Let's set a national goal of eliminating growth in demand for electricity by getting more out of the power we already use. We can freeze our demand for electricity for a decade."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decouple utilities' energy profits from sales so they profit from efficiency, not just selling more power. ▪ Promote technology that helps consumers use less electricity, from "smart" thermostats to better light bulbs. ▪ Help families weatherize their homes and update efficiency standards for buildings and appliances.
Reduce the Government's Energy Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overhaul federal buildings and vehicles to improve efficiency, reducing energy use by 20 percent. ▪ Dramatically increase the government's use of renewable energy sources. ▪ Make the White House carbon-neutral with energy efficiency steps and the purchase of carbon offsets.
Create GreenCorps	Edwards will create an environmental service group in AmeriCorps so idealistic Americans can help fight climate change.

For John Edwards' full plan to halt global warming, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/energy

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS AND MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

“Education is an issue that’s very personal for me. I grew up in a small, rural town. My family didn’t have a lot of money, but my parents worked hard to put food on the table and a roof over our heads. And they told me that if I worked hard in school, I could be anything I wanted to be.”

[Remarks at Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa, September 21, 2007]

“Edwards is staying ahead of the pack ... when it comes to thinking about education.... [H]e remains the most intelligent candidate in the field when talking about how to improve schools.”

– Jay Mathews, Washington Post education columnist

“John Edwards’ dedication and original ideas have made a difference for North Carolina’s children, teachers, and schools – and he can do it for America too.”

– Jim Hunt, former Governor, North Carolina

“Edwards’ bold education plans borrow from some of the best reform practices we have here in North Carolina.”

– Eddie Davis, President, North Carolina Association of Educators

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS AND MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE


Summary	Every child in America should have the same chance to get a great education. This commitment is at the core of John Edwards' plan to build One America where everyone has a chance to succeed.
The Edwards Education Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Prepare every child to succeed</i> ▪ <i>Invest in excellent teachers</i> ▪ <i>Radically overhaul No Child Left Behind</i> ▪ <i>Create more successful schools</i> ▪ <i>Expand college opportunity</i>
Prepare Every Child to Succeed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the way toward universal preschool by offering Great Promise programs for four-year-olds, operated by the states, to serve all children and help develop early academic skills. ▪ Ensure the healthy development of children under five by replicating North Carolina's Smart Start, which combines health care, child care and other help for new families.
Invest in Excellent Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise pay for teachers in successful low-income rural and urban schools by up to \$15,000 a year using criteria designed with teachers, including incentives to receive national certification for excellence and serve as mentors. ▪ Create a national teachers' university – a "West Point" for teachers – to train excellent teachers to turn around our worst-performing schools. ▪ Help teachers in their early years with more support, smaller classes and lighter teaching loads, and respect education support professionals.

Radically Overhaul No Child Left Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reject cheap standardized tests in favor of better evaluations, like essays and oral examinations. ▪ Use better measures of school performance, such as measuring students' progress over time. ▪ Give states more resources and flexibility to identify and reform underperforming schools, rather than imposing unproven cookie-cutter mandates.
Create More Successful Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create 1,000 more great schools by helping successful schools expand or start new branches. ▪ Create a new School Success Fund for struggling schools, strengthen career education through partnerships with community colleges, invest more resources for low-income children and put us on a path to fully funding special education.

EXPAND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

Create College for Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pay one year of public college tuition, fees and books for more than two million students, modeled on a non-profit Edwards started in North Carolina. In return, students will be required to work part-time.
Overhaul the Student Loan Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliminate billions in bank subsidies for student loans, instead offering the same loans directly from the Department of Education instead.
Simplify Financial Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dramatically simplify the aid application process by using information the government already has.
Hire More Counselors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hire new college counselors for low-income schools to help students with admissions and financial aid.

For John Edwards' full plan to strengthen our schools, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/education

ENDING POVERTY WITHIN A GENERATION

"I grew up in small towns in the South, the son of a mill worker who had to borrow \$50 to bring me home from the hospital. I was blessed to be the first person in my family to go to college and I worked my way through school."

"I ran for the Senate and now for the White House for a simple reason: I want everyone in America, no matter who their parents are or where they were born or what the color of their skin is, to have the chance I had to work hard and build a better life."

[Remarks on the "Road to One America," July 18, 2007]

"Mr. Edwards, who announced his campaign for the presidency in the Ninth Ward, has stood by his commitment to make poverty one of his big campaign issues."

– Bob Herbert, New York Times columnist

"John Edwards is the only candidate out there who seems to think poverty is an important issue."

– Prof. Katherine Newman, Princeton University

"Edwards has already done America a great service by running for president and putting the issue of poverty where it belongs: front and center."

– Errol Louis, New York Daily News columnist

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN TO END POVERTY WITHIN A GENERATION

<p>Summary</p>	<p><i>"What we do about the millions of Americans who wake up every day literally worried about feeding and clothing their kids says something about the content and character of our soul."</i></p> <p>Something is wrong when in the richest country in the world nearly 37 million Americans wake up every day in poverty and politicians in Washington just pretend like it doesn't exist. John Edwards has set an ambitious goal of eliminating poverty by 2036. It is the right thing to do, and it will strengthen the middle class.</p>
<p>The Edwards Plan to End Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reward work</i> ▪ <i>Create opportunity</i> ▪ <i>Support responsible families</i>

REWARD WORK

<p>Make Work Pay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise the national minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2012 and set it to keep rising each year. ▪ Cut taxes for low-income workers by tripling the Earned Income Tax Credit for adults without children. ▪ Strengthen labor laws by passing the Employee Free Choice Act so workers have a real choice to join a union.
<p>Create Opportunities for Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create one million Stepping Stone jobs to help individuals move into permanent work. ▪ Invest more in rural community colleges, link training to actual business needs and support rural small business centers. ▪ Create a Green Collar Jobs program to train 150,000

workers a year in skilled jobs related to renewable energy that cannot be sent overseas.

CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Overhaul Housing Policy

Current housing policies concentrate low-income families in poor neighborhoods, multiplying the effects of poverty, isolating willing workers from entry-level jobs and concentrating children in poor schools.

- Create 1 million affordable housing vouchers over five years to help low-income families move to better neighborhoods.
- Phase out housing projects that tie families to fixed locations that are lower-quality and more expensive than private-sector alternatives.
- Replace dilapidated housing in areas of concentrated poverty and build more affordable housing in economically integrated neighborhoods.

Strengthen Our Schools and Expand College Opportunity

- Prepare every child to succeed with Great Promise universal early childhood education.
- Offer up to \$15,000 bonuses to teachers in successful high-poverty schools.
- Reduce the high school dropout rate with adolescent literacy programs and Second Chance schools.
- Create voluntary incentives to promote economically-integrated schools.
- Make college affordable for every student willing to work for it through College for Everyone.


For the details of John Edwards' education plan, see page 55.

Help Families Save	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create new Work Bonds to match low-income working families' savings. ▪ Subsidize bank accounts for the 28 million Americans without them. ▪ Take on payday and other predatory lenders that rip off low-income families.
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SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE FAMILIES

Expect Responsibility from Fathers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require fathers to support their children, increase child support collection, and help fathers find work.
Cut the Marriage Penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cut the marriage penalty that still costs low-income families thousands of dollars.
Fight Teen Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide more resources to proven programs that prevent teen pregnancy.
Home Visits for New Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer home visits by registered nurses to 50,000 low-income new parents.
Invest in Family Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore funding for family literacy programs that teach both parents and children.

For John Edwards' full plan to end poverty, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/poverty

BUILDING ONE DEMOCRACY

"I have fought the special interests my entire life. As a lawyer, I defended hard-working Americans during the toughest times of their lives against the big corporations that were trying to victimize them. Now, I am running for president to end the corrupt system in Washington and return the power of this government back to the hard-working people of America."

[Remarks on "Restoring Our Democracy," October 13, 2007]

"With his One Democracy Initiative, Edwards has demonstrated that he will take on the dominance of corporate lobbyists to be the leader of something we lack today in Washington: a powerful 'lobby for the public good.' His vision for government reform, like many other issues, is charting a way to reclaim the soul and values of our party and of the country."

– Scott Harshbarger, former President, Common Cause

"John Edwards is championing an expansion of the public financing option to congressional races. It's a good idea, and it's good that Edwards has brought it to the fore in this presidential campaign."

– The News & Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina) editorial

"Public financing has completely transformed Maine's government and elections. John Edwards will bring the same change to Washington, taking on the special interests and strengthening the voice of regular people."

– State Sen. Beth Edmonds (Maine), President, Maine State Senate

JOHN EDWARDS' ONE DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

Summary

Everyone knows that special interests – not the American people – have control over Washington. Money from big corporations and lobbyists is corrupting our democracy. We can not go on as two Americas with two political systems, one for the insiders who can buy unlimited access to our leaders, and another for the rest of us.

The Edwards One Democracy Initiative

- *End the unique power of lobbyists*
- *Reform campaign finance to strengthen small donors*
- *Strengthen the voice of ordinary citizens*

End the Unique Power of Lobbyists

- Prohibit lobbyists from donating to campaigns or fundraising for them.
- Fight lobbyists' bread and butter – earmarked pork-barrel spending – with a constitutional version of the line-item veto.
- Close the revolving door between Capitol Hill and K Street by banning former top officials from lobbying their colleagues and lobbyists from taking executive branch positions related to their former clients.
- Expand the congressional ban on lobbyist gifts and travel to executive branch officials.

Reform Campaign Finance to Strengthen Small Donors

- Create a new Grassroots Presidential Financing System to match small donations under \$100 by eight to one, making the voice of small donors count.
- Reduce the maximum contribution from \$2,300 to \$1,000 per person.

**Strengthen the
Voice of Ordinary
Citizens**

- Create a system of full public financing for congressional candidates.
- Require corporations to disclose their political activities and spending.
- Require that all voting machines, including electronic ones, use paper ballots that can be verified by voters, while maintaining language and disability access.
- Require Election Day Registration in federal elections, fight voter suppression and intimidation and give D.C. residents voting representation in Congress.
- Increase civic engagement by asking one million citizens to participate in biennial Citizen Congresses – national town hall meetings where regular Americans tackle national issues together.

For John Edwards' full One Democracy Initiative, visit



www.johmedwards.com/onedemocracy

RECHARGING OUR COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

“From the moving assembly line to the space race, America led the world in innovation in the 20th century. Americans have always taken impossible tasks and turned them into reality. I believe we will be the country of the 21st Century. We have a great opportunity before us. I’m so relentlessly optimistic about what we can do if we do it together.”

[Remarks for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, August 1, 2007]

“America’s technology preeminence is being seriously challenged from around the world, and America’s workers are starting to lose out. It will take John Edwards’ leadership, visionary thinking, and commitment to supporting broad innovation for America and American workers to stay on top.”

– Leo Hindery, Jr., managing partner, InterMedia Partners and former CEO, AT&T Broadband

“We need to make sure that the tech industry in New Hampshire keeps growing and providing good jobs. John Edwards has a plan to provide the investment in research and innovation that we need to keep our state’s economy and technology moving forward.”

– Joe Foster, Senate Majority Leader, New Hampshire State and 2007 Recipient, Business and Industry Association’s Friend of Business Award

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR RECHARGING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

Summary	Our economic competitors have invested aggressively in education, engineering and infrastructure. We must confront the competitive challenges of the new century.
The Edwards Innovation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Support American ingenuity</i> ▪ <i>Build the New Energy Economy</i> ▪ <i>Strengthen schools</i> ▪ <i>Create universal broadband access</i> ▪ <i>Respect science</i>
Support American Ingenuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make the tax credit for R&D permanent, increase research spending at the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.
Build the New Energy Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in renewable energies, develop a new generation of efficient cars and trucks and energy-saving technologies.
Strengthen Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in pay and training to attract good teachers, strengthen high school curricula and expand college opportunity with College for Everyone.
Create Universal Broadband Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set a goal of giving all U.S. homes and businesses access to real high-speed internet by 2010. Require "net neutrality" and prohibit discrimination against rural and low-income areas.
Respect Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect scientists and researchers from political influence. ▪ Lift stifling restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, increase funding and ban reproductive human cloning.

For John Edwards' full innovation plan, visit



www.johnedwards.com/innovation

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



"There are still Two Americas. One America that lives by the paycheck calendar; another that never has to look at the calendar before writing a check. One America that's afraid it won't be able to leave its children a better life; another whose children are already set for life.

"But it's not enough to talk about the Two Americas. We also need to talk about what we need to do to build One America – where everyone has an equal chance to succeed."

AN AGENDA FOR AMERICAN WOMEN

"Building One America means ensuring that women can make choices in their lives with dignity and can participate in our society fully, as equals. The reality of women's lives today is still something far less. They are expected to do more, and they receive less. That's not right."

[Remarks to Women Employed, May 9, 2007]

"I believe in John's deep and profound commitment to the issues that matter most in women's lives. From health care, to Iraq, to poverty, to our environment, I know John is the most effective national messenger for the values we share and I have complete confidence that – with our help – he will win the White House and improve the lives of women everywhere."

– Kate Michelman, President Emeritus, NARAL

"John Edwards has laid out detailed proposals to strengthen families and help working women. John understands the need to prioritize families through good public policy that recognizes the contributions of America's women."

– Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (South Dakota)


"John Edwards' Agenda for American Women is a smart plan for real change in women's lives – helping balance work and family, plan for a secure retirement and guarantee all our health care needs."

– Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (Texas)

JOHN EDWARDS' AGENDA FOR AMERICAN WOMEN

Summary	To build a larger, more secure middle class, we must do more to strengthen families, help ensure fairness for women in the workplace and protect women's rights.
The Edwards Agenda for Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Help women balance work and family</i> ▪ <i>Fight for women's equality and civil rights</i> ▪ <i>Protect women's health</i>
Help Women Balance Work and Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require employers to offer paid sick days and expand the Family and Medical Leave Act. ▪ Help parents with universal early childhood education, an expanded child care tax credit and Smart Start to improve child care quality. ▪ Expand home health care and offer respite care to give caregivers a break.
Fight for Women's Equality and Civil Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect a woman's right to choose. ▪ Strengthen remedies and enforcement for job and pay discrimination with the Paycheck Fairness Act. ▪ Help female entrepreneurs find capital, and meet the needs of women-owned businesses. ▪ Fully fund the Violence Against Women Act and support rights for women around the world.
Protect Women's Health	Edwards will provide low-cost preventive screenings, double funding for research priorities at the National Institutes of Health and support the innovative Department of Defense breast cancer initiative.

For John Edwards' full agenda for American women, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/women

A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

“It’s time for a new kind of declaration of independence – a commitment to helping older Americans live independently, with choice over their health care, financial security and lifestyle. It’s not enough to congratulate ourselves on living longer, if we are not living stronger.”

“Social Security is one of the most successful government programs in history, but it is also more than that – it is a promise between generations. I am committed to honoring the promise and protecting retirement benefits for working Americans.”

“Seniors can trust John Edwards. He will protect Social Security and strengthen Medicare.”

– Rep. David Obey (Wisconsin), Chair, House Appropriations Committee


“John Edwards’ agenda for older Americans focuses on exactly the right things – helping Americans live independently, with dignity and security.”

– Betty Grove, New London, Iowa

JOHN EDWARDS' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Summary	John Edwards' agenda for older Americans is based on the values of security, dignity and choice to help every older American live as independently as they desire.
The Edwards Plan for Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ensure financial independence</i> ▪ <i>Guarantee health security</i> ▪ <i>Promote living with dignity</i>
Ensure Financial Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep the promise of Social Security. ▪ Honor pension promises and help families save with a universal, portable retirement account. ▪ Fight predatory lenders. ▪ Preserve older Americans' freedom to work.
Guarantee Health Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect the future of Medicare with cost-effective health care reform that improves quality. ▪ Allow Medicare to negotiate drug costs with drug makers, address the "doughnut hole" in the drug benefit, give beneficiaries the choice of a public plan for their prescription drugs and permit safe drug reimportation from Canada. ▪ Train more doctors and nurses in geriatrics.
Promote Living With Dignity	Edwards will promote the choice of home-based care, supportive living options like senior villages and accessible transportation, while improving nursing homes and cracking down on elder abuse.

For John Edwards' full plan for older Americans, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/seniors

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENDA FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

“As someone who grew up in the segregated South, I feel a special responsibility to speak out on issues of intolerance and inequality. It hurts me to say that more than 50 years after Brown v. Board of Education, we still have two school systems in this country, two health care systems and two criminal justice systems. We cannot go on this way if we hope to build One America.”

“John’s commitment to helping those in need, whether they are Hurricane Katrina survivors or standing with workers fighting for a union in a North Carolina meat processing plant, demonstrates the strength of his character.”

– Julius Chambers, former Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

“John Edwards has outlined a bold plan to ensure that every American has the opportunity to realize the American Dream.”

– Rep. Charlie Gonzalez (Texas), Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Civil Rights


“John Edwards’ carefully thought out agenda for equal opportunity will bring bold and transformational change to our country.”

– State Sen. Leland Yee (California)

JOHN EDWARDS' EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENDA FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Summary	Every American – regardless of the color of your skin or the country your family came from – should have an equal chance to succeed.
The Edwards Equal Opportunity Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Enforce civil rights laws</i> ▪ <i>Support educational opportunities and affirmative action</i> ▪ <i>Close health disparities</i> ▪ <i>Protect the right to vote</i> ▪ <i>Reform the criminal justice system</i>
Enforce Civil Rights Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Step up civil rights enforcement and choose judges who will protect the rights of all Americans.
Support Educational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve education for English language learners and help close the enrollment gap with College for Everyone and continued affirmative action.
Close Health Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close shameful racial and ethnic health disparities with universal coverage, new research, low or no-cost screenings, pro-active chronic disease treatment and increased diversity among health professionals.
Protect the Right to Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require voting machines in every neighborhood to be verifiable and accessible, fight voter suppression and allow ex-prisoners who have served their time to vote in federal elections.
Reform the Criminal Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reform sentencing rules to address disparities for crack and powder cocaine, review mandatory-minimum sentences and prison alternatives for first-time, non-violent offenses, and support re-entry programs that include treatment and education.

For John Edwards' full equal opportunity agenda, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/equalopportunity

SECURING EQUAL RIGHTS AND BENEFITS FOR LGBT AMERICANS

“LGBT Americans are entitled to equal respect and dignity under our laws. Discrimination is morally wrong. All Americans should have the same freedoms and the same responsibilities.”

“John Edwards has visibly matured into a statesman who commands authority and attention. He has found his voice and I believe he’s found ours, too.”

– David Mixner, LGBT activist and author and former adviser to Bill Clinton

“John Edwards believes in the equality of every American. This belief underlies his clear plans for guaranteeing equal benefits and rights for the LGBT community.”

– Eric Stern, Former Executive Director, National Stonewall Democrats; Former LGBT Outreach Director, Democratic National Committee

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR SECURING EQUAL RIGHTS AND BENEFITS FOR LGBT AMERICANS

Summary	Edwards will fight against discrimination and intolerance and fight for equal rights and civil benefits for the LGBT community.
Secure Equal Civil Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guarantee gay and lesbian couples in committed relationships the same rights as straight couples, including inheritance rights, hospital visitation rights, and equal pension and health care benefits. ▪ Repeal all of the Defense of Marriage Act. ▪ Oppose divisive Constitutional amendments. ▪ Support equal adoption and immigration rights for LGBT families.
Prohibit Job Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enact the Employment Non-Discrimination Act so workers are judged by the quality of their work. ▪ End the failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.
Punish Violent Hate Crimes	Edwards will enact legislation to strengthen the ability of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.
End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guarantee care for HIV-positive individuals through Medicaid before the disease advances. ▪ Increase support for the Ryan White CARE Act and HOPWA programs to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS. ▪ Invest \$50 billion over five years to fight global HIV/AIDS.

For John Edwards' full plan the LGBT community, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/lgbt

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

“One of the untold stories in America is the relationship between poverty and disability. Nationally, working-age Americans with moderate disabilities are almost 30 percent more likely to live in poverty, and those with significant disabilities are more than twice as likely to live in poverty. We need to break down the barriers that separate people with disabilities from opportunity at school, at work and at home.”

[Remarks on “The Road to One America,” July 17, 2007]

“When people with disabilities face obstacles to full participation in the workforce and community life, we all miss out. John Edwards has a realistic plan to make sure that every American’s potential and achievements are supported.”

– Andrew Imperato, President, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

“Senator Edwards’ never forgetting to include people with disabilities in his speeches and platform tells us that he will not forget us in his administration.”

– August J.P. Longo, Chair, California Democratic Party Disabilities Caucus

JOHN EDWARDS' PLAN FOR BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Summary

John Edwards believes in One America, where every person has the chance to live up to his or her potential. He has announced an agenda to break down barriers to opportunity at school, work and home.

The Edwards Plan to Break Down Barriers

- *A school system that includes every child*
- *Break down transition and transportation barriers*
- *Open up the workplace*
- *Support independent living with dignity*

A School System that Includes Every Child

Edwards will put the federal government on a path toward fully funding its share of special education costs and enforce the right to receive a free and appropriate education in fully accessible schools.

Break Down Transition and Transportation Barriers

- Help students with disabilities find internships and mentors to gain work experience and skills.
- Invest in accessible mass transit, improve mobility for people with disabilities in rural areas and increase paratransit services.


Open up the Workplace

- Lead the way to full inclusion by hiring 100,000 qualified individuals with disabilities in the federal workforce.
- Support telecommuting and flexible work schedules and partner with the business community to combat attitudes that operate as barriers to employment.

Support Independent Living

Edwards will secure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and enable people to choose community-based and home-based care.

For John Edwards' full plan for people with disabilities, visit

 www.johnedwards.com/disabilities

“Mr. Edwards is a man of big plans. No other presidential candidate, of either party, can match the sheer quantity, let alone the ambition, of his policy ideas. He has grand, progressive, goals—to end the war in Iraq (obviously), provide universal health care, address global warming, eliminate poverty in America within 30 years—and detailed blueprints of how to do it all.”

- *The Economist*, July 19, 2007

“[U]niversal healthcare’s a big idea — for which John Edwards was the first to put forth a plan, still the best and most detailed by far... for bold, new ideas in this campaign, John Edwards leads the pack.”

- Bill Press, *The Hill*, October 30, 2007

“John Edwards broke the issue of health care reform open in February, when he proposed a smart and serious plan for universal health insurance — and bravely announced his willingness to pay for the plan by letting some of the Bush tax cuts expire. Suddenly, universal health care went from being a distant progressive dream to something you could actually envision happening in the next administration.”

- Paul Krugman, *New York Times*, September 21, 2007

“John Edwards has helped set the terms of the Democratic presidential debate on many issues... on issue after issue, Mr. Edwards has been the first to stake out where the party’s consensus message seems to end up.”

- *Wall Street Journal*, July 20, 2007

“Edwards has opened a commanding advantage in the race for ideas.”

- Rick Klein, ABC News, July 26, 2007

www.JohnEdwards.com

Paid for by John Edwards for President