2008 Presidential Primary Season

Red, White, Black or Blue?

Newsmaker
Ethnic Media group in New Orleans

Presidential Primary
VOTE!
Saturday, February 9, 2008
2008 Presidential Primary Season:
Red, White, Black or Blue?

Senator Hillary Clinton
Senator Barack Obama
Senator John McCain
Governor Mitt Romney

Continued next page.

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By Cheryl Maimor

This historical National Primary season has brought more excitement to America’s democratic process. The diverse field of candidates and urgent issues are driving voters in record numbers, but do results show a preference for Red, White Black or Blue?

This Saturday, Louisianans will again travel to the polls and caucus to voice their preferences for candidates for President. Here’s a snapshot of Louisiana:

Louisiana Demographics (2006 Census ACS)
- Population: 4,367,968
- Gender: 48.5 male, 51.5 female
- Race: 64.4 white, 31.6 black, 1.3 asian, 0.2 indian, 0.0 pacific islander, 2.9 hispanic
- Age: 74.6% 18 years and over; 12.2% 65 years and over; Median age: 39.6
- Median Household Income: $39,337
- Families Below Poverty Level: 14.4%
- Education: 86.8% of those over 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher

Democratic Primary Saturday, Feb 9th
- Delegates at Stake: 68
- Delegates at Stake: 47

McCain Dominates Big States
- Sen. John McCain surged closer toward the Republican nomination yesterday by capturing the biggest Super Tuesday states, including California, but failed to knock out his rivals, who deprived him of victories across GOP strongholds in the South and West. As millions of Republicans went to the polls in 21 states, the senator from Arizona racked up hundreds of delegates on the strength of winner-take-all primaries in the Northeast and elsewhere. But his inability to win in more than half of the states voting yesterday complicated his hopes of rallying the party behind his candidacy. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee scored a surprising sweep of his native South, while former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney picked up a number of states in the West but fell short in critical battlegrounds that would have established him as McCain’s primary challenger. Huckabee and Romney vowed last night to stay in the race as it moves to Virginia, Maryland, the District on Tuesday. The multiple-front clash represented a virtual national primary as Republicans voted to choose a standard-bearer, with more states voting at once than in any other GOP nomination battle. McCain appeared poised to emerge with roughly half of the 1,911 delegates he needs to clinch the nomination, a huge one-day take after an epic, year-long fight to define the Republican Party in a post-George W. Bush era. McCain easily captured New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, after being endorsed by former New York mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a defeated rival. McCain also won Missouri, Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma and Delaware. His victory in California appeared to be by a large margin, though Romney will probably collect a sizable number of delegates because they are apportioned by congressional district.

Prior to his Iowa victory, were predicting that Super Tuesday would seal the nomination for Sen. Clinton. On the contrary, it only served to further entwine the two candidates in a contest which is igniting thongs of voters from every race, gender, ethnic background and age demographic, and pushing voter participation to record levels in a Democratic primary.

In most of the 22 states participating in Super Tuesday, Democrats out Voted Republicans some at a rate of 2 to 3 to one, which may indicate that Democrats if they pick the right candidate who can unite the party, will have a very good chance of winning the general election, as more states (red states) have come into play for Democrats. It also suggests that there is lackluster support for the Republican offerings.

Super Tuesday Results
- Sen won victories over Sen. Bar- rack Obama in California, Massa- chusetts, New Jersey and New York last night, giving her presi- dential campaign a crucial boost. But Obama countered by winning of a string of states, including the general election battleground of Missouri, in the seesaw race for the Democratic nomination. The results ensured that the fierce Arizona, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Those victories helped stem what appeared to be gathering momentum around Obama’s candidacy since he won in South Carolina on Jan. 26. But Obama won in more places than his New York rival, racking up victories in his home state of Illi- nois, as well as Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Min- nesota, North Dakota and Utah. His narrow victory in Missouri came after Clinton appeared on the brink of winning there. Only the outcome in New Mexico re- mained unresolved early this morning. In many of the states Clinton won, Obama had surged from far behind to narrow the gap in the days before Super Tuesday. Her ability to hold off his charge brought a sense of relief to her campaign advisers, but the likeli- hood that neither would emerge victorious from the battle among delegates was a sign that their roller-coaster competition would continue.

Clinton and Obama Remain Locked in Dead Heat

Something is happening across the country, that much cannot be denied by anyone witnessing this epic battle between Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama over the Democratic Presi- dential nomination. And though the punditry is now collectively predicting that this race will end at the Democratic National Convention in Colorado this summer, Obama and his movement have surprised the establishment, who contest for delegates will continue into critical primaries in Louisi- ana, Washington and Kansas (Republican) on Saturday, Feb 9th, with other Large and impor- tant states like Virginia, Mary- land and D.C, on Tuesday Feb 12, and Texas and Ohio on March 4, and possibly beyond, in what has become the party’s most competi- tive race in at least a quarter of a century. Clinton claimed four of the five biggest prizes in Super Tuesday’s 25-state Democratic competition. She also captured

Super Tuesday February 5th 2008

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Embrace Hope. Vote Change.
First-Ever Convening of Ethnic Media and Civil Rights Groups in New Orleans

By Christine Senteno

The first-ever convening of Louisiana ethnic media, civil rights and immigrant rights groups met in New Orleans’ Generation Hall Jan. 26. They discussed the challenges of covering news while the city’s structures and ethnic makeup are changing rapidly. New America Media and LSU’s Manship School of Communication hosted the event where representatives from African American, Latino and Vietnamese news organizations shared concerns of reaching their own communities, growing their revenues and looking common ground with other ethnic groups.

Ethnic media’s critical role during and after Hurricane Katrina has shifted to a new challenge: how to cover the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans from mainstream, establishment news sources. Ethnic news outlets need to look for ways to get news from their communities out across the nation. They bring a different perspective to the national debate that is often overlooked.

New Orleans Agenda Publisher Vincent Sylvain shared, “Obviously, there is a need for ethnic media. The audience is there. They need the information.”

Director Sandy Close said NAM said she wanted to create a network that has the support of academics, journalism schools, civil rights groups and ethnic media outlets to promote inter-group relations. Civil rights advocates explained access to housing, jobs, and healthcare, as well as quality education and public safety are major concerns for all communities in New Orleans. Environmental concerns are also a top issue.

Jacques Morial said many people across the nation are getting news about the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans from mainstream, establishment news sources. Ethnic news outlets need to look for ways to get news from their communities out across the nation. They bring a different perspective to the national debate that is often overlooked.

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National Council of La Raza Program Coordinator Catherine Han Montoya said many community based organizations talk about these issues in silos without looking for opportunities to collaborate. These matters go beyond one topic, one community or one city.

She continued, “As my uncle eats the kim chee and my aunt eats the enchilada I recognize these issues are not just happening at the policy level, they are happening at the dinner table.”

Pollster Sergio Bendixen presented NAM’s recent national poll findings.

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Louisiana Presidential Primary Special

Candidates On the Issues

Barack Obama

Party: Democratic
Occupation: Lawyer
Current Job / Position: Senator from Illinois

Q: Do you have a plan to make health care more accessible to Americans? If so, how would you do it?
A: Every American has the right to affordable, comprehensive and portable health coverage. My plan will ensure that all Americans have health care coverage through their employers, private health plans, the federal government, or the states. My plan builds on and improves our current insurance system, which most Americans continue to rely upon, and creates a new public health plan for those currently without coverage. Under my plan, Americans will be able to choose to maintain their current coverage if they choose to. For those without health insurance I will establish a new public insurance program, and provide subsidies to afford care for those who need them. My plan includes a mandate that all children have health care coverage and I will expand eligibility for the Medicaid and SCHIP programs to help ensure we cover all kids. My plan renews all employers to contribute towards the cost of health coverage for their employees or towards the cost of the public plan. Under my plan a typical family will save $2,500 each year.

Q: What specific changes would you make to the Social Security program?
A: Social Security is indispensable to our workers and seniors. It is a great reflection of our values and commitments, and I want to make sure it is solvent and viable for the American people, now and in the future. The focus of reform options should be on protecting the basic integrity and fairness of Social Security. I will work in a bipartisan way to maintain Social Security’s solvency for future generations. I believe everything has to be on the table that is genuinely intended to strengthen the program. We can close the gap with an equitable mix of benefit and tax changes similar to those recommended by the bipartisan Greenspan Commission in 1983.

Q: Do you support setting a deadline for either a withdrawal or a partial pullback of troops from Iraq? If so, what would be the date of that deadline?
A: I opposed this war from the beginning, when it was unpopular to do so, in part because I believed it was a diversion from the real threat of al Qaeda and that giving this President the authority would lead to the open-ended occupation we find ourselves in today. Now our soldiers find themselves in the crossfire of a civil war and our military is stretched thin. I support beginning the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq immediately, and under the plan I introduced in January 2007, we would have begun withdrawing forces engaged in combat operations on May 1, 2007. A withdrawal of our troops is the best leverage we have to press the Iraqi political leaders to make the political compromises necessary to end their civil war.

Q: Do you support affirmative action? If you do, why do you think it is a benefit to our country? If not, what do you think would be gained by changing or eliminating it?
A: I support affirmative action. When there is strong evidence of prolonged and systemic discrimination by organizations, affirmative action may be the only meaningful remedy available. Affirmative action programs, when properly structured, can open up opportunities otherwise closed to qualified minorities without having an adverse impact on the opportunities for whites. And while I support affirmative action for minorities, I also support efforts to increase opportunities for qualified students from low-income college to attend colleges and universities – regardless of their race.

Q: What would be your top three overall priorities if elected?
A: My top priority as president will be ending this war in Iraq, a war that should have never been authorized and never been waged. In doing so, I will work to keep our country safe from terrorists and to restore American credibility around the world. Providing universal health care to the 47 million Americans who currently do not have it will be another top priority of my administration, as will combating global warming and putting our country on the path toward energy independence. But all of the issues that I have focused on in this campaign – whether it’s creating a 21st century education system and fighting poverty or achieving comprehensive immigration reform and strengthening our economy – are vitally important and must be prioritized by the next president. And all of these issues share one thing in common: in order to fully address them, we have to do more than change political parties. We have to fundamentally change our politics and transform the way business is done in Washington.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Party: Democratic
Occupation: Lawyer, U.S. Senator
Current Job / Position: Senator from New York

Q: Do you have a plan to make health care more accessible to Americans? If so, how would you do it?
A: Yes, I recently unveiled a plan that will provide quality, affordable health care to all Americans, including the 47 million who don’t have coverage today. I believe we have a moral imperative to provide quality health care for all Americans, and when I am President, enacting legislation to provide guaranteed quality, affordable health care will be my top domestic priority. My plan is based on the principles of shared responsibility and choice. If you have a plan like, you keep it. If you want to change plans or aren’t currently covered, you can choose from the same plans available to Members of Congress or opt into a public plan like Medicare. My plan will lower costs and improve quality, making health care affordable and accessible to everyone. It will lower health care costs by modernizing the system, focusing on preventive care, coordinating and streamlining care for chronically ill patients, and getting rid of the hidden cost of providing care to the uninsured. Under my plan, working families will get a tax credit to help pay for their premiums, insurance companies won’t be able to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions, and people won’t lose coverage if they switch or lose their jobs.

Q: What specific changes would you make to the Social Security program?
A: I have a clear, straightforward plan to deal with Social Security. First, return to fiscal responsibility. That will give us the kinds of options we had in the late 1990s, when we had a plan to keep Social Security solvent until 2055. Second, set up a bipartisan process to address Social Security’s long-term challenges. Third, as part of that process, we should consider a range of modest fixes to strengthen the program. But I will never agree to privatization, and I do not believe we should fix Social Security on the backs of the middle class or our nation’s seniors. I also believe that in addition to protecting Social Security for future generations, we need to do more to promote retirement savings. That’s why I have a plan to give every American the chance to open a new American Retirement Account, with gener-
Data Around Town

There was a good time to be had in New Orleans, during Mardi Gras, At the Zulu Ball, and Data was there. Here are some highlights:

Mr. & Mrs John C. Charles and their daughter, dressed to impress.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin at the Mayor’s Ball stops to enjoy the moment and strike a pose.

Mr. & Mrs John C. Charles and their daughter, dressed to impress.

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Judge tosses Katrina lawsuit against Engineer Corps

NEW ORLEANS, Jan 30 (Reuters) - A federal judge in New Orleans on Wednesday dismissed a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the failure of the city’s levee system during Hurricane Katrina’s floods in 2005. U.S. Judge Stanwood Duval ruled that the Corps, which designed and built the levees and floodwalls meant to keep the below-sea-level city from being inundated, was shielded by a 1928 law that protects the federal government from lawsuits over flood control projects.

In his ruling, Duval scolded the agency for “its failure to accomplish what was its task.” “Millions of dollars were squandered in building a levee system ... which was known to be inadequate by the Corps’ own calculations,” Duval wrote in his ruling, issued in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Katrina’s storm surge breached outflow canals bound by levees and floodwalls in August 2005, flooding 80 percent of the city and killing as many as 1,600 people.

Lead plaintiffs’ attorney Joe Bruno said in a statement he would appeal the decision. “I know I’m fighting an uphill battle, but I’m not going to give up,” Bruno said.

Wednesday’s ruling will not affect a similar case involving the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, a navigational canal that Duval had previously indicated was not protected by the 1928 Flood Control Act.

Hundreds of thousands of claims have been filed against the Corps over the flooding, Bruno said. He set the total value of the claims between $30 billion and $50 billion. (Reporting by Russell McCulley; Editing by Erin Seba)
Stimulus Efforts Not Enough to Halt Economic Decline

The Time Is Now

Edwin Buggage
Data Editor

Election Day is finally here and it is truly been an interesting turn of events in the city and the state post Hurricane Katrina. It has been a rough time for many of us as we try to put the pieces of our lives back together. So many people are still scattered about the country trying to find their way home or just simply make sense of what has happened to the lives they once knew. This election as has many of the recent elections post Katrina is about much more than previous ones. The decisions we make today and the people we choose to represent us will have mine just how stimulating their will be. In mid-January, U.S. House leaders and President George W. Bush struck an unlikely alliance in the name of stimulating the faltering economy. They must have realized that a tightening pocketbook and unemployment line quotas are anathema to vote-happy American ranks.

Remember the 1992 presidential election when economics emerged as a major issue, thanks in part to Independent candidate H. Ross Perot’s crusade for a balanced federal budget? The billionaire’s campaign helped give Bill Clinton an electoral edge over Bush’s father, then-incumbent President George Herbert Walker Bush. Together, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with Bush and Minority Leader John Boehner arrived at a $150 billion compromise that provides tax rebates of $300 and up to $550 for households with children; unemployment insurance and increased food stamp benefits; and increased food stamps not only help connect them to the working world, giving them desperately-needed skills and putting them on the road to economic self-sufficiency.

It’s wonderful that our nation’s leaders want to show their love to their constituents in an election year. But will they still love us after the election? That is the real question here. Is it worth digging our nation further into debt for a short-term feel-good gain? Is it worth putting our future in jeopardizing important initiatives that fail to achieve the best result?

I would be remiss if I didn’t applaud our leaders for putting aside partisan politics to further efforts to help safely restoring America. The rare show of bipartian cooperation gives me hope that comprehensive and effective stimulus legislation will eventually see the light of day.

It is the NUL’s ultimate hope that final legislation will look more like what the U.S. Senate is considering - one that includes an extension of unemployment benefits as well as increased food stamps - but also includes funds for summer jobs.

Our leaders should also use their stimulus package as a springboard for future efforts to level the economic playing field for all Americans of all tax brackets.

Marc Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.
AT&T presented Corporate Contribution grants to recipients at a reception held at the New Orleans African American Museum of Arts (NOAAM) on January 31. Standing bottom from L-R: Linda Lewis, Armstrong Services; Gina Recasner, NOAAM; Marsha Broussard, NOAAM; Elise Felix, Anthony Bean Community Theater; Adolph Bynum, NOAAM. Standing center from L-R: Ben McLeish, Desire Street Ministries, J.B. Watkins, Desire Street Ministries; Ronald Markham, New Orleans Jazz Orchestra; Tony Felix, Anthony Bean Community Theater. Standing top L-R: Keith Hitchens, AT&T Louisiana; Charles Johnson, NOAAM.
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ous matching tax cuts of up to $1,000 to help middle-class families save.

Q: Do you support setting a deadline for either a withdrawal or a partial pullback of troops from Iraq? If so, what would be the date of that deadline?

A: Yes. I have voted for end dates in May 2008, June 2008, and December 2008. But President Bush is not willing to set an end date. When I am President, I will end the war in Iraq, I will convene a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, my Secretary of Defense, and my National Security Council to draw up a viable plan to bring our troops home starting within the first 60 days of my administration. When I am President, I will withdraw our forces from the sectarian fighting. There will be no American soldiers refereeing a civil war. No more combat patrols in Baghdad.

Q: Do you support affirmative action? If you do, why do you think it is a benefit to our country? If not, what do you think would be gained by changing or eliminating it?

A: I support affirmative action that opens the doors of opportunity, but I don’t believe in quotas to guarantee results. For millions of Americans, affirmative action policies helped knock down barriers of the past that prevented them from attending school, entering the workforce, or starting a small business. I was in support of the University of Michigan affirmative action cases because I believe that diversity in higher education is a vital national interest. The benefits of diversity are real and not only in our school system but also in our economy and society overall. As President, I will support strong and sensible affirmative action. I will call upon corporate America to be as diverse as the customers it serves. I will call on schools to support programs to meet the needs of all of its students from different backgrounds. And I will build an administration that reflects America’s diverse backgrounds and values.

Q: What would be your top three overall priorities if elected?

A: When I am President, my top three priorities will be providing quality, affordable health care to all Americans, ending the war in Iraq, and strengthening the middle class. It is a tragedy that there are 47 million Americans without health insurance and many more just a pink slip away from losing the coverage they have. Health care just isn’t affordable for many people – premiums have been skyrocketing and half of all personal bankruptcies in the United States are caused by medical bills. My plan will focus on offering high-quality care – ensuring that Americans have access to preventive, basic, and chronic care that is coordinated and delivered by well-trained health care professionals. And I will implement cost-savings measures throughout the health care system so that cost is no longer a barrier to having health insurance for any American. The war in Iraq is sapping our military strength, absorbing our strategic assets, diverting attention and resources from Afghanistan, alienating our allies, and dividing our people. As I have said previously, if President Bush does not end the war, when I am President, I will. For 35 years, I have worked to improve the lives of America’s children and families, and I will continue to do so when I am President. I will create new well-paying jobs through investments in alternative energy and innovation, increase the minimum wage, support our unions, and keep and create middle-class tax cuts.

I want to eliminate incentives for American companies to ship jobs and profits overseas, and I plan to invest in new industries at home to make America competitive in the global economy. I will ensure that all American children have access to quality education, starting with Pre-K and continuing until college, and that they are prepared to enter the workforce so that all Americans have a chance to live up to their potential.

John McCain
Party: Republican
Occupation: Military Officer, Politician
Current Job / Position: Senator from Arizona

Q: Should the government have a role in expanding access to health care? What, if anything, would you do to restructure the health care system?

A: I believe real health care reform must put individuals and families, not bureaucrats, at the center of our health care system. Americans deserve leadership for real reform that provides greater access to high-quality health care and ends spiraling costs. But the road to reform does not lead through Washington and a hugely expensive, bureaucratic, government-controlled system. We have all tangled enough with the existing bureaucracy to know that even more will diminish, not improve, quality. I believe the best way expand access and controls costs, without hurting the quality of our health care, is to harness competition to offer more affordable insurance options for as many Americans as possible, and to leverage innovation – such as low-cost health clinics in retail stores for example – and cost-effectiveness of our nation’s firms to put an end to existing rigid, unfriendly bureaucracies. I support the development of a secure national medical records and placing greater emphasis on preventative care so fewer people spend time in hospital and emergency care. We must build a national market where insurance is more available, portable, and accessible across state lines; in which patients’ rights are respected; and to spend time in hospital and emergency care. We must build a national market where insurance is more available, portable, and accessible across state lines; in which patients’ rights are respected; and to spend time in hospital and emergency care. We must build a national market where insurance is more available, portable, and accessible across state lines; in which patients’ rights are respected; and to spend time in hospital and emergency care.
NEW ORLEANS – While a majority of the total delegates needed towards receiving the Democratic nominee is at stake statewide, 37 of the state party's 67 delegates will be chosen in a party caucuses on March 1. The delegates are appointed on the basis of the popular vote in each of Louisiana's seven congressional districts. The other 30 delegates will be chosen by the party's State Central Committee of which those members will also be elected on February 9. Through a formula used by the party, select party leaders are included in that number, some committed to a candidate and others uncommitted.

Originally not expected to be a major player in the Democratic delegate race, but as Senator Barack Obama continues to surprise skeptics across the country Louisiana's 67 delegates have gained more importance. Obama's position on supporting the recovery of the Gulf Coast should make him the favorite among those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Stephanie Kirchgassner and Christopher Grimes of Financial Times write that Obama has been able to transcend racial lines like no other presidential candidate. They referenced one of his addresses in 2005 as an example.

"The Bush administration's in-\textit{opine} in handling the crisis, he declared on the 'Senate floor in 2005, was "color blind". It was not racism, Mr. Obama said, but bad assumptions - that Americans could all load up their sports utility vehicles with $100 of petrol and a credit card and find their way to safety - that were to blame."

They go on to point out that, "The statement, which drew dis-\textit{inctions} between race and class that are not often articulated in American politics - serves as a poignant example of why Mr. Obama today is considered the first viable black candidate for president. While other politicians - both black and white - saw Ka-\textit{trina} as an example of the nation's indifference to poor blacks, he of-\textit{fered} another point of view: one that could allow white America to examine its responsibility for the tragedy without feeling the sting-\textit{ing} accusation of racism, a rebuke that often creates a divide that is impossible to bridge."

Yet with voter pride remaining high among Black voters and Louisiana's high percent-\textit{age} of African American voters, Senator Obama should do well in the Pelican State. African Ameri-\textit{cans} make up 44% of the total registered Democrats and 29.8% of the combined total of Demo-\textit{crats}, Republicans and others in Louisiana. The Boston Globe reports that, "Obama has won the African-American vote in all the Democratic primaries and caucuses so far, and based on that performance is expected to win it again in the 22 states that hold Democratic ballots today (Tuesday, February 05, 2008)....

If Obama wins by big margins in heavily black areas, he could gain a trove of delegates to the party's national convention that would be the equivalent of winning sev-\textit{eral} small states," thus also giving more significance to Louisiana's 67 delegates this Saturday.

In Louisiana only voters regis-\textit{tered} as being affiliated with the Democratic or Republican Party may vote for the following offices in their respective party; Presi-\textit{dential} Nominee, State Central Committee members and Parish Executive Committee members.

Q: Would you roll back tax cuts that were supported by the Bush administration?
A: As someone who has consis-\textit{tently} and strongly been pro-life, I fully believe that Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that should be overturned. Roe v. Wade is the most egregious example of judges who impose their own views by legislat-\textit{ing} from the bench rather than strictly rule what the Constitu-\textit{tion} says. The Supreme Court ruling on the horrific practice of partial-birth abortion in April was a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of life and integrity of the judiciary. It also clearly speaks to the importance of nominating and confirming strict construction judges who interpret the law as it is written, and do not usurp the authority of Congress and state legislatures. Although critical, I also believe that the reversal of Roe v. Wade would represent only one step in the long path toward ending abortion.

Q: What would be your top three overall priorities if elected?
A: Winning the War Against Islamic Extremists: As president, I would take all my responsibil-\textit{ities} to the American people seri-\textit{ously}. But I would have one re-\textit{sponsibility} that would outweigh all the others and that is to protect the security of this great nation from all enemies. In particular, we must understand that we confront a lengthy struggle against Islamic extremism that will not be won quickly or easily. But we will win it. While our ultimate victory is not in doubt, the length and inten-\textit{sity} of this struggle remain to be determined. It’s up to us. We must recognize that our enemies are in this fight to win, and I assure you that I would employ all instru-\textit{ments} of national power - military, intelligence, law enforcement, economic and political - to defend our nation and defeat them. Re-\textit{forming} Government: Americans have lost trust that their govern-\textit{ment} and its elected officials will serve America’s interest, not their own. I would use my presidency to restore that trust. I would fight to ensure a political process wor-\textit{thy} of the sacrifices that have been made by so many to keep us free and proud. I would see to it that the institutions of self-\textit{government} and its expected pillars of democracy, not commodities to be bought, bartered, or abused. Special interests have too much influence in Washington. That will end. I will secure the border, bring spending under control, veto pork-barrel spending bills, and keep taxes low. I would reform a tax code that is too complex and too burdensome. I will work to mod-\textit{ernize} Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and bring account-\textit{ability}, choice and competition to underperforming schools, so our best students of the 21st century. Reform-\textit{ing} Health Care for all Americans: I would address health care in America, an issue that touches every family in this nation and impacts our economy and fiscal outlook. I believe we can fix our health care system and lower costs without sacrificing quality. But I know the answer is not to increase the amount of bureau-\textit{cracy} through a government-\textit{controlled} health care and single-\textit{payer} system. The answer is to, for example, enhance the ability of the market participants to offer affordable and portable insurance options for as many Americans as possible and to help those with-\textit{out} insurance to access the health care system with the dignity and the care that all Americans ex-\textit{pect} and deserve.
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