

Voters for Peace & Security

2008 Presidential Voter Guide

Voter4Peace.org

Making Peace A Presidential Priority

America needs a foreign policy that embodies the best values of the American people; one that's based on the promotion of peace and security, nuclear non-proliferation and the use of multilateral diplomacy over preemptive conflict. In order to achieve these goals, we need strong and committed leadership.

The 2008 presidential election opens the opportunity for dramatic progress. US foreign policy has not featured so prominently in an election cycle in decades. More than a dozen candidates are battling for the presidency, offering competing visions of a future role for the US in the international community.

This non-partisan guide provides an overview of where the candidates stand on peace, diplomacy, leadership and security. The positions of the candidates are reviewed according to three main issues:



IRAQ - A timeline to bring every soldier home.

IRAN - Prevent an unnecessary war with smart, bold diplomacy.



NUCLEAR WEAPONS - Halt the development of a new generation of US nuclear weapons, and lead the international community toward a nuclear-free world.

To view a comprehensive survey of candidate statements and positions and to find all the references for the information posted in this guide, please visit voter4peace.org.





Peace & Security Are My Presidential Priorities

Voters for Peace and Security is a project of Peace Action West. We are working to get presidential candidates to adopt a smarter foreign policy platform and frame the debate about America's role in the world.

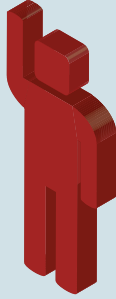
Our campaign is centered around three main actions:

Train and Mobilize Voters: We will train and mobilize peace minded voters and concerned citizens to attend candidate campaign events, ask effective questions and record the candidates' statements.

Educate About the Issues: We will educate and organize concerned citizens in early caucus and primary states. Our website, voter4peace.org, is a resource center as well as an action and organizing tool for all voters and advocates for peace and security.

Rank Peace Top Priority: We will work with the different campaigns, members of the media, and the public at large to make this a top political issue, and to make sure that peace and security are a central part of candidate stories, debates and interviews.

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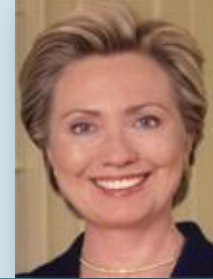
Sen. Joseph Biden



Sen. Sam Brownback



Sen. Hillary Clinton



IRAQ

Timeline For Withdrawal

Sen. Biden supports withdrawing "almost all" US troops from Iraq by the summer of 2008.

Opposes and voted against Senate legislation for a timeline for Iraq withdrawal: "It's a bad idea to do a timeline in a war. It just gives your enemies a chance to say, 'This is the time at which you're defeated.'"

Sponsored a bill in 2007 to begin withdrawing troops in 90 days, and voted for several bills setting an end date for withdrawal of combat troops.

Continued US Troop Presence

Supports leaving a residual force of approximately 20,000 troops in or near Iraq for counter-terrorism and training.

Sen. Brownback supports a long-term military presence in Iraq.

Has stated that the US may need a residual troop force to train Iraqi troops and conduct counterterrorism operations.

NUCLEAR POLICY

New Nuclear Weapons

Opposes Bush Administration plans to build new nuclear weapons including the Reliable Replacement Warhead and has voted to cut funding for "nuclear bunker-busters."

Sen. Brownback voted to fund the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, a new bunker-busting nuclear weapon. A bipartisan effort eventually killed funding for the weapon.

Opposes Bush administration plans to build new nuclear weapons including the so-called Reliable Replacement Warhead and has voted to cut funding for "nuclear bunker-busters".

Reducing Nuclear Stockpile

No clear position

No clear position.

Supports "substantially reducing nuclear arsenals in all states that possess them."

IRAN

Military Action

Sen. Biden prefers diplomacy with Iran, though he would not rule out military action.

Sen. Brownback has said that all options should remain on the table and that tactical nuclear strikes should not be ruled out.

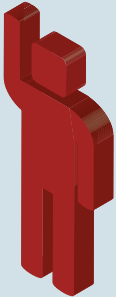


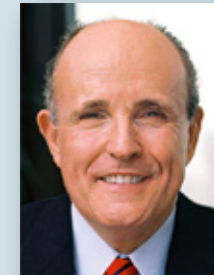
While stressing diplomacy, Sen. Clinton believes "no option can be taken off the table" in preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

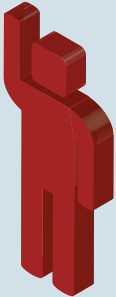
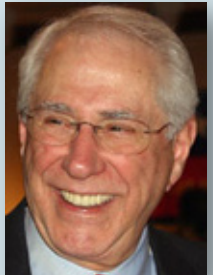


Diplomatic Action

Sen. Biden believes diplomacy with Iran is the "best way to achieve our objectives."

Sen. Brownback is opposed to opening up diplomatic ties with Iran.

Sen. Clinton supports diplomatic engagement with Iran.

| <p>Voter4Peace.org</p>  | <p>Sen. Chris Dodd</p>  | <p>John Edwards</p>  | <p>Rudy Giuliani</p>  |
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| <p>IRAQ</p> <p>Timeline For Withdrawal</p> <p>Continued US Troop Presence</p> | <p>Supports beginning redeployment of US troops immediately, to be completed within one year. In 2007, he voted for an amendment that required redeployment by March 31, 2008.</p> <p>Sen. Dodd has stated that the “overwhelming bulk” of troops should be moved to Afghanistan, Qatar, Kuwait, or the US, but has not articulated a clear position on this issue.</p> | <p>Sen. Edwards has said that withdrawal of combat troops should begin immediately and be completed in 12 to 18 months.</p> <p>Supports leaving U.S. troops behind to protect the US embassy and humanitarian workers (estimating 2,500 to 5,000 troops). Opposes any combat role for those troops.</p> | <p>Opposes legislation that would tie war funding to a schedule for troop withdrawal, calling such efforts a “timetable for defeat.”</p> <p>Supports continued US troop presence in Iraq.</p> |
| <p>NUCLEAR POLICY</p> <p>New Nuclear Weapons</p> <p>Reducing Nuclear Stockpile</p> | <p>Opposes Bush Administration plans to build new nuclear weapons including the Reliable Replacement Warhead and has voted to cut funding for “nuclear bunker-busters.”</p> <p>Sen. Dodd has said he would be “very committed” to the elimination of nuclear weapons around the world, including the US stockpile.</p> | <p>Sen. Edwards opposes the development of new nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Supports moving toward a “nuclear-free world,” including leading an international effort to improve the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.</p> | <p>No clear position.</p> <p>Mayor Giuliani has stated that he didn’t think the US should be talking about reducing its own nuclear weapons because of China and Russia’s arsenal and nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea.</p> |
| <p>IRAN</p> <p>Military Action</p> <p>Diplomatic Action</p> | <p>Sen. Dodd has said that the US must exhaust all options, including diplomacy and economic pressure, though the US should “never take any option off the table to advance our national security.”</p> <p>Supports “robust diplomacy and direct negotiations coupled with economic pressures on Iran’s financial and energy sectors.”</p> | <p>While focusing on diplomacy, Sen. Edwards believes that all options must remain on the table to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Sen. Edwards supports direct engagement with Iran, combining pressure and incentives to convince Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons.</p> | <p>He has said he would consider the use of military force to deal with Iran’s nuclear technology program and declined to rule out the use of tactical nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Has stated that the US should be “open to the possibility of negotiations, but ready to walk away if talking went nowhere.” Believes that with Iran all options are on the table.</p> |
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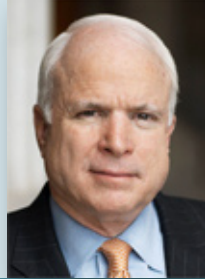
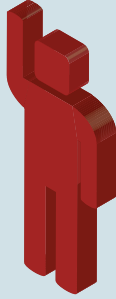
| <p>Voter4Peace.org</p>  | <p>Mike Gravel</p>  | <p>Mike Huckabee</p>  | <p>Rep. Duncan Hunter</p>  |
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| <p>IRAQ</p> <p>Timeline For Withdrawal</p> <p>Continued US Troop Presence</p> | <p>Supports a timeline for withdrawal that begins immediately and is completed within 120 days.</p> <p>Sen. Gravel supports withdrawing all armed forces from Iraq, except Marine Corps guards serving embassy guard duties.</p> | <p>Gov. Huckabee opposes setting a timeline for withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.</p> <p>Supports maintaining current troop levels indefinitely.</p> | <p>Rep. Hunter has voted against several bills in 2007 that would have withdrawn US forces from Iraq.</p> <p>Supports maintaining current troop levels indefinitely.</p> |
| <p>NUCLEAR POLICY</p> <p>New Nuclear Weapons</p> <p>Reducing Nuclear Stockpile</p> | <p>No clear position.</p> <p>Supports reducing our current stockpile of nuclear devices to "a couple hundred."</p> | <p>No clear position.</p> <p>No clear position.</p> | <p>No clear position.</p> <p>No clear position.</p> |
| <p>IRAN</p> <p>Military Action</p> <p>Diplomatic Action</p> | <p>Opposes military action against Iran.</p> <p>Supports a "diplomatic solution to the current situation" with Iran.</p> | <p>No clear position.</p> <p>Gov. Huckabee has expressed the need to engage in "ongoing conversations" with Iran.</p> | <p>Rep. Hunter would consider preemptive military action against Iran, possibly using tactical nuclear weapons.</p> <p>No clear position.</p> |
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Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Sen. John McCain

Sen. Barack Obama



IRAQ

Timeline For Withdrawal

Supports a full withdrawal of US troops, starting immediately and finishing in approximately 3 months.

Opposes setting a timeline for withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

Supports a phased withdrawal of troops from Iraq, beginning immediately and withdrawing one to two combat brigades per month.

Continued US Troop Presence

Opposes continued US troop presence in Iraq.

Supports maintaining current troop levels indefinitely.

Supports leaving some US troops behind in Iraq for counter-terrorism, force protection, and training of Iraqi security forces.

NUCLEAR POLICY

New Nuclear Weapons

Opposes the development of new nuclear weapons.

No clear position.

Opposes making a "premature decision" to produce the Reliable Replacement Warhead.

Reducing Nuclear Stockpile

Supports eliminating nuclear weapons.

John McCain supports maintaining existing US nuclear stockpiles.

Supports reducing current stockpiles.

IRAN

Military Action

Opposes military action against Iran.

Believes military force should be the last option, but all options must remain on the table.

Prefers diplomacy, but believes all options must remain on the table.

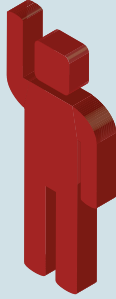
Diplomatic Action

Supports engaging in diplomatic efforts with Iran.

Supports exerting economic pressure on Iran. Does not support unconditional dialogue with Iran.

Supports "sustained, direct, aggressive" diplomacy with Iran.

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Rep. Ron Paul



Gov. Bill Richardson



Mitt Romney



IRAQ

Timeline For Withdrawal

Rep. Paul supports a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. In May 2007, he voted to redeploy combat forces from Iraq within 180 days.

Supports withdrawal: "I would withdraw all of our troops, including residual troops, by the end of this calendar year."

Opposes legislation that would tie war funding to a schedule for troop withdrawal calling such efforts a "date for surrender".

Continued US Troop Presence

Rep. Paul does not have a clear position on leaving a residual force, but he has voted in favor of a ban on permanent US military bases in Iraq.

Opposes continued US troop presence in Iraq.

No clear position.

NUCLEAR POLICY
New Nuclear Weapons

No clear position.

Opposes the development of new US nuclear weapons: "We want other countries to take the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty seriously. If we're going to do that, we need to start taking it seriously ourselves."

No clear position.

Reducing Nuclear Stockpile

No clear position.

Supports reductions: "We should negotiate further... reductions in our arsenals, beyond what has already been agreed, over the next decade."

Has stated the he would not reduce the US nuclear arsenal because Iran is building nuclear technology.

IRAN

Military Action

Opposes military action against Iran.

Opposes military action against Iran.

Has stated that the "military option remains on the table" and that the world can not live with or contain a nuclear Iran because Iran is "an irrational regime that celebrates martyrdom."

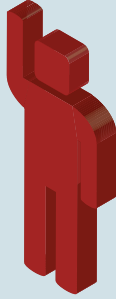
Diplomatic Action

Rep. Paul supports direct diplomacy with Iran without preconditions.

Has stated that the US should "engage directly with the Iranians and to lead a global diplomatic offensive to prevent them from building nuclear weapons."

Gov. Romney believes we shouldn't be "engaging Iran in direct, bilateral negotiations over their nuclear program, we shouldn't let Iran try to position it as an Iran vs. a U.S. thing."

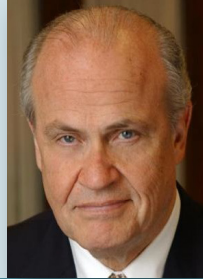
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Rep. Tom Tancredo



Fred Thompson



About Peace Action West

Peace Action West advocates for a foreign policy that embodies the best values of the American people.

As a membership organization, we foster broad-based civic activism to create a strong voice for peaceful and pragmatic solutions to global problems. Our activities serve as a bridge between the public and the officials who make decisions that affect the lives of millions of people.

By mobilizing diverse constituencies through grassroots action we work to:

- * Achieve a world free of nuclear weapons in the future while stopping the development, testing, spread and use of those weapons today;
- * Protect human rights around the world by controlling the global trade in lethal weapons;
- * Advance national spending priorities that meet the nation's real security and domestic needs;
- * Promote resolution of international conflicts through cooperation and diplomacy.

IRAQ

Timeline For Withdrawal

Voted against House legislation to tie war funding with a withdrawal timetable calling such a measure "a prescription for failure".

Sen. Thompson said he "would do essentially what the president's doing," and that we need to allow time for the current plan to work.

Continued US Troop Presence

Supports maintaining current US troop levels indefinitely.

No clear position

NUCLEAR POLICY
New Nuclear Weapons

Rep. Tancredo supports new nuclear weapons, and he voted to fund the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, which was later killed by a bipartisan effort.

No clear position

Reducing Nuclear Stockpile

No clear position.

No clear position

IRAN

Military Action

Rep. Tom Tancredo, has stated that military action against Iran would be "a disaster and an embroilment in a conflict that I'm not sure we can be successful in."

Sen. Thompson would support a preemptive military attack on Iran in the event that Iran was close to obtaining nuclear weapons.

Diplomatic Action

Rep. Tancredo supports regime change in Iran rather than diplomacy with the country's current leaders.

While Sen. Thompson has said that diplomacy should be preferred overall in dealing with "dangerous regimes," meeting directly with Iran at this time would "look like we were weak."

All references, articles and further information about candidates' statements and their positions can be found at voter4peace.org.

For more information about this guide and/or about Voters For Peace and Security please contact us:

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