

ISSUES

My vote includes the following checked items; additional thoughts are written in. (Please indicate one response per question.)

MILITARY POLICIES: Do they promote or undermine national security?

1. Military Spending. The U.S. spends \$30 billion per year on our nuclear arsenal, and more on military hardware than all other countries combined. This impacts the nation's economy and domestic policies. We currently spend \$3.9 billion each month on the war in Iraq and \$400 billion annually to support weapons systems and troops around the world. This administration plans to advance a Missile Defense system that will cost many billions annually.

1. Is using finite resources to maintain our superpower status the wisest response to a dangerous and unstable world?
- a. Despite the expense, maintaining and asserting military superiority is crucial for our security.
 - b. The U.S. relies too much on expensive weapons and military force to promote its policies in the world. We need to find peaceful means to achieve peace.
 - c. We need a powerful military for global stability; however, I would cut _____ from the military budget.

2. "Preventive" War, First Strike, "Usable" Nuclear Weapons, Unilateralism. The U.S. arsenal of nuclear weapons is capable of destroying the world many times over. Yet the administration requests more research on and deployment of new types of smaller nuclear weapons that could be more "usable" than existing "doomsday bombs." In doing so, this administration has abandoned decades of treaties and cooperative efforts with the world community.

2. If we abandon treaties and reserve the right to act unilaterally, and pursue development of new nuclear weapons and threaten their use preventively, will we be more or less secure?
- a. Unilateralism, creation of new nuclear weapons, and threats of first strike are destabilizing and dangerous; following this policy will make the U.S. less, not more, safe.
 - b. Treaties fashioned during the cold war were only marginally effective then and have no role in the war on terrorism.
 - c. Working with other nations is ideal, but terrorism calls for decisive unilateral action by the world's only superpower.

3. Support for Our Troops, Our Veterans. The House recently defeated a bill that would authorize \$3.2 billion for veterans' medical care. While the V.A.'s medical budget has increased in the past seven years, spending on each patient has decreased. The Pentagon also opposes giving those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan "imminent-danger pay" and "family-separation allowances" approved by the House in April.

3. What is your opinion on pay and health benefits for the military?
- a. We should support our troops by providing increased health care and special active-troop benefits.
 - b. We can't afford to increase troop and veteran benefits in a time of war.
 - c. Decisions on military matters are best left to those in the Pentagon.

4. The Rights of Our Children to Quality, Public Education. The "No Child Left Behind" Act, the education law signed by President Bush in January 2002, contains a provision requiring high schools to provide their students' names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters. Schools in violation of this provision are subject to having federal aid frozen or revoked.

4. What is your opinion?
- a. It is appropriate to begin military recruitment at an early age, and it is our duty to support and facilitate such recruitment in our public schools.
 - b. Military recruitment in schools is appropriate, but students should be able to withhold their names from automatic release to the military.
 - c. Recruiting in schools is inappropriate. Education should not be linked by law to the military, and a school's federal funding should not depend on its providing private student contact information to recruiters.

DOMESTIC POLICIES: What makes us personally more or less secure?

5. Health Care Access. More than 43 million Americans lack health insurance. Nearly 60 million are without health insurance for at least a portion of each year. Employers face rising health insurance premiums, and employees face increasing cost-sharing. At the same time, physicians are pressed by new cost-containment schemes to work harder and faster, thus providing less care.

5. How should health care be addressed during this election cycle and by this or the next administration?
- a. I support an expanded and strengthened universal "Medicare-for-all" system administered by a transparent and publicly accountable government agency.
 - b. Given budgetary concerns, I support a modestly expanded Medicare system for elders and children through a Medicare drug plan and improved Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits.
 - c. I prefer to retain the current private health-care system.

6. Energy. Dependence on oil contributes to conflicts in many countries, environmental devastation, and global warming. Investing in alternative energy sources could reduce our dependence on foreign energy and polluting fossil fuels, improve our infrastructure, and clean up the environment, while creating new jobs and stimulating the economy.

6. Is it time to consider committing serious funding to energy innovation and the production of energy from sustainable, clean, renewable resources?
- a. We need to reduce our dependence on oil (it involves us in wars, increases air, water, and soil pollution, while doing nothing to halt global warming), and to invest much more in pollution-free renewable energy options.
 - b. Our energy system is complex. Change must come slowly, incrementally, and carefully to avoid market chaos and weakening our economy.
 - c. High energy consumption is an American way of life to which I have a right.

OVER

7. Employment, Living Wages, Financial Security. The U.S. has lost 2.7 million manufacturing jobs in the past 2½ years. An average of 68,000 jobs, blue collar and white collar combined, continue to be lost each month. Wages for many of those who remain employed place them below the poverty level, often despite many hours worked overtime. This has contributed to personal suffering for millions of American families.

8. Public Health, Environment, and Industry. Even under the current Clean Air Act, over 30,000 deaths and 603,000 asthma attacks per year are attributed to air pollution. Increased deaths, property damage from severe disasters, and emerging infectious threats follow in the wake of climate changes. Yet the administration continues to weaken federal regulations governing air pollution, emissions that contribute to global warming, sales of land tainted with PCBs, drilling for oil and gas on federal land, the scientific studies that underpin federal regulations, and other environmentally sensitive protections.

9. Crime and Gun Violence. More than 28,000 Americans die each year by guns—eight young people each day, far more than in any other industrialized nation. Gun violence costs the U.S. economy about \$100 billion annually. Legislation already passed in the U.S. House, and introduced in the Senate, would make gun manufacturers, distributors, and dealers immune to civil lawsuits filed by victims of gun violence. The current federal assault-weapons ban is due to expire in September 2004, at which time the 19 military-style assault weapons originally banned will again be legal.

10. Multilateral Humanitarian Assistance. Two billion people suffer under the combined threats of hunger and malnutrition, inadequate water and sanitation, and life-threatening infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS. Education provides a critical base for all sustainable development, yet nearly 1/6 of the world’s population cannot read or write; the illiteracy rate exceeds 50% in more than 20 countries. The cost to provide adequate food, water, and education to the world’s poorest is only \$60 billion per year.

7. How should the U.S. respond to such a difficult situation for so many of its workers?

- a. All working people should be guaranteed a living wage, or, if below \$20,000, owe no income tax.
- b. The marketplace and employers should determine wages; our economic recovery will help improve everyone’s situation.
- c. This Administration and Congress have far more pressing concerns beyond our borders, such as terrorism, and we all need to tighten our belts for the greater good.

8. As a country, how can we meet our material needs without harming public health or undermining environmental safeguards?

- a. The record on global warming and health threats from environmental pollution is controversial, exaggerated, and requires no intervention.
- b. There is no immediate threat from pollution or climate change for most of us. Human ingenuity and the market will respond to the environment as needed and in good time.
- c. Human survival ultimately depends on the health and vitality of our shared environment, and its protection must be given a high priority when determining industrial processes, corporate projects, and international trade agreements.

OTHER POLICIES affecting personal and public security and safety

9. Given the associated costs and risks to the public, should the U.S. Congress renew and strengthen the federal assault-weapons ban? Should the gun industry enjoy legal immunity?

- a. Assault weapons have no safe role in civil society and should be banned. The gun industry should be held liable for harmful products as with any other consumer product.
- b. Assault weapons should continue to be banned, but the gun industry cannot be held liable for the way guns—legal products—are used.
- c. Gun control laws are unnecessary because it’s people who kill people; the right to bear arms is assured by the Constitution.

10. If the U.S. redirected its resources to supporting and empowering those in the poorest parts of the world by increasing the amount provided to multilateral humanitarian efforts, instead of military assistance, would the world be a safer, more secure place?

- a. If there were less poverty and inequity in the world, there would be less violence, and we would all be more secure. Prioritizing global poverty elimination over military aid would make us all safer.
- b. Unilateralism and military spending are more effective than multilateralism or humanitarian aid.
- c. Poor countries need more loans, not handouts; aid only makes them dependent, less willing to work.

Additional issues of special interest or concern not already covered include:

11.

12.

13.

Please arrange the 6 issues of highest priority to you, including your particular concerns added here at the end, in order from highest priority to lowest:

High _____ Low

Finally, please tell us your age _____ and your gender: M F

Are you registered to vote? Yes No

Do you plan to attend your caucus? Yes No

Do you plan to vote in the general election? Yes No

Thank you for completing this ballot!