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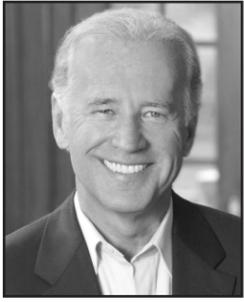
Q. What roles do you support the Federal Government playing in alleviating hunger?

Q. Do you support access to universal breakfast for all children in public schools? Why or why not?

Q. In order to provide assistance to legal immigrants who have been in the country for less than five years, would you support the expansion of food stamp eligibility to them?

Q. In your eyes, what is the single most effective policy measure to enable food insecure individuals to become food secure? What will you do to promote this policy?

Q. In both rural and urban areas, many Americans lack convenient access to food. As President, how would you increase individuals' and communities' access to food?



JOSEPH BIDEN (D)
Delaware Senator

A. The federal government has played and should continue to play a vital role in our nation's "safety net." Throughout my career, I have consistently supported increasing funding to these programs. My commitment to ending hunger led me to join the Senate Hunger Caucus & to cosponsor The Hunger-Free Communities Act.

A. Hungry children struggle to pay attention & to learn. Students who eat breakfast at school perform better on tests – including reading & math. Our commitment to our children's education demands that we provide them with the resources & support they need to succeed in the classroom – starting with a good breakfast.

A. I support a reasonable extension of food stamp eligibility to legal immigrants who have been in the United States for less than five years. Our nation's poorest children should get the nourishment they need no matter if they arrived legally to the U.S. yesterday or six years ago.

A. The number of Americans experiencing food insecurity has increased from 31 million individuals in 1999 to more than 35 million individuals in 2005. To put these families on a path to becoming secure, we must ensure that assistance programs (such as the Food Stamp, WIC, & school lunch programs) have the resources they need & work effectively to reach those in need.

A. We should expand programs that directly connect producers with underserved neighborhoods through community farmers markets and cooperatives. Second, we must expand opportunity – from investing in education preschool through college to working toward universal health care to investing in job creation.



HILLARY CLINTON (D)
New York Senator

A. It is unacceptable that in the United States, 35.1 million people live in food insecure households. The federal government has an important role to play in addressing this problem. I support all federal programs aimed at addressing hunger & will ensure that they are reformed & funded so that they can better meet the needs of America's families.

A. Ensuring that children have breakfast is vital to reducing hunger & improving learning. Students who eat breakfast perform better on math, reading, & cognitive tests. Children who experience hunger have higher levels of physical, emotional & behavioral problems. We should make the school breakfast program available to all children living in low-income communities.

A. I was proud to support legislation that extended food stamp eligibility to legal immigrant children & to adult legal immigrants who have been in the United States for five years or more. This law was an important step forward, & will restore benefits for hundreds of thousands of individuals in need.

A. We need to address the root cause of the food security problem – economic insecurity. I have proposed a new economic blueprint that will put us on a path toward shared prosperity by creating more good jobs, restoring fairness to our economy, & renewing the bargain that if you work hard you can get ahead.

A. I will work to increase access to locally grown & distributed food. As Senator, I was proud to start the Farm-to-Fork initiative, to provide consumers with better access to fresh, high quality, locally grown products through farmers' markets, retailers, restaurants & schools. Given Farm-to-Fork's success, I would consider working to replicate it around the country.



JOHN COX (R)
Businessman

A. It is a crime that any child should ever go hungry. I would be dedicated to the eradication of this blight. Having said that, it is clear that it is not government's obligation to create & distribute food: its role is to provide the necessary structures that allow the free market to operate (rule of law, going after corruption, etc).

A. I think every child should have breakfast. Provided by a government monopoly school as the only alternative? Absolutely not. While some children benefit, if we just treat symptoms we put off treating the cause. A better idea would be government vouchers for poor parents with incentives, coupled with more free market enhancements.

A. We need legal immigration. More importantly, it is part of our national heritage. Food stamps treat symptoms & not the actual problem. I would rather see government dedicated to a vibrant economy that creates jobs for all Americans (especially legal immigrants) & food stamps with short time limits & limited eligibility (so it is not an incentive to trade stamps).

A. Food security is all about adequate supply (to meet demand), pricing, education, job creation & opportunity. If government focused itself on these things alone, (without the distraction & waste of a corrupt political system) we would all be better off, as would the world be better able to attack hunger.

A. A truly unfettered free market is the best way to offer cost-effective access to all products (especially food). Government cannot equalize human conditions. Every time it tries, it creates winners & losers. Humans are self interested for the most part. We can harness that self-interest & make it work for the benefit of all.



JOHN EDWARDS (D)
Former North Carolina Senator

A. More than 35 million Americans face what the government calls food insecurity – they don't have consistent access to the nutrition necessary to lead a healthy life without resorting to emergency solutions. I support the full range of federal programs to ensure that families have enough nutritious food.

A. School lunch and breakfast programs are critically important. We have to ensure that all children get the nourishment they need to stay healthy & ready to learn. Studies have consistently shown that students who eat breakfast perform better in school.

A. Yes. Ensuring that everyone in America has access to nutritious food is essential for improving public health. While I served in the Senate, I fought to restore eligibility for food stamp benefits to legal immigrants.

A. Hunger is one symptom of the fact that 37 million Americans live in poverty. I've proposed a national goal of cutting poverty by a third in a decade & ending it within 30 years. We can accomplish this by raising the minimum wage, creating jobs, protecting organizing rights and helping families save.

A. As president, I will support efforts to promote full-service supermarkets in urban & rural areas, as well as community projects like farmers' markets & food pantries. We also need to expand the school fresh fruits & vegetables program in the Farm Bill.



BARACK OBAMA (D)
Illinois Senator

A. Our nation works best when Americans, often acting through their government, take responsibility as their brothers' & sisters' keepers. I support strengthened food stamp & food & nutrition programs. We need to do more to help folks help themselves. I will expand transitional jobs & the EITC, promote responsible fatherhood, improve education in low-income areas, & provide a tax cut to working Americans & seniors.

A. I believe that school breakfast is a critical part of the school day. It should be supported by USDA commodities and we need to make sure that low-income children who are eligible for the reduced price program actually receive these meals.

A. Yes. The food stamp program is a valuable safety net. We don't want to live in a country where our neighbors are going hungry; that makes our life poorer. Furthermore, the vast majority (79%) of benefits go to households with children. Most of the rest go to households with either a senior or disabled individual.

A. Our food stamp program targets those who need it the most & expands in times of economic trouble. It also helps its recipients eat more healthily. I will increase funding & protect it from cuts. Most importantly, I will provide the leadership this country needs by speaking about the key role that food stamps play in alleviating hunger.

A. I support improved access to food through local & regional food systems. As president, I will emphasize the need for Americans to Buy Fresh & Buy Local, implement USDA policies that promote local & regional food systems, support funding for farm-to-school projects, & allow schools to give priority to local sources when ordering food (& grow vibrant rural economies).



BILL RICHARDSON (D)
New Mexico Governor

A. The federal government must guarantee that no one in America goes hungry. In New Mexico, I convened a hunger summit that led to the state partnering with private organizations & food banks to provide food to those in need. As President, I'll do the same for the entire nation.

A. Yes. We must do a better job of caring for our children's health, especially underprivileged children who too often lack access to good nutrition. Universal access, then, must be offered to all public school students.

A. Yes. Legal immigrants have every right to be here, and neither they—nor their children—should be denied access to food stamps that will keep them from going hungry.

A. The most effective policy is to grow the economy. Beyond that, however, there are many steps that can be taken, including eliminating taxes on food, which I did as Governor, & which I will urge all governors to do once I become President.

A. We need to offer tax incentives to grocery stores—and not just convenience stores—to locate in underserved areas. All of the evidence points to one fact—when families cannot easily get to nutritious food, they do not tend to eat nutritious food.

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The Congressional Hunger Center's mis-
sion is to fight hunger by developing
leaders. Since its inception in 1993, it
has been involved in various education-
al, research, and advocacy projects to
alleviate both domestic and international
hunger.

PRESIDENTIAL VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE ON HUNGER ISSUES



This guide was created in collaboration with Drake University Law School and the Congressional Hunger Center. Today, hunger is a pressing issue on the minds of many American voters. A recent poll conducted by the Alliance To End Hunger found that "most respondents ranked hunger as the biggest moral issue (42%) when compared to protecting the environment (23%), abortion (17%) or gay marriage (13%)." This informative, fact based, non-partisan voter education guide was designed to provide information about each 2008 Presidential candidate's platform on hunger.

This questionnaire was made available to all 2008 presidential candidates. This guide contains the answers from those who responded.

The following candidates were mailed this questionnaire and contacted by phone but did not respond by the announced deadline: Chris Dodd, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Gravel, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Alan Keyes, Dennis Kucinich, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo and Fred Thompson. People who are interested in their views on this matter should contact their campaigns directly.