



What Are the Issues?

There are many issues that are important to the people of the United States. Presidential candidates use these issues in their campaigns. Studying each candidate's stance on important issues can help voters decide which candidate to vote for.

Defense and National Security

The security of the United States is one of the most important issues for voters. Presidential candidates tell voters how they plan to use the U.S. military to keep the nation safe. They also make plans for preventing terrorist attacks in America and for working with other countries to prevent terrorism around the world.

The Economy

Jobs, taxes, and government spending all impact the U.S. economy. Candidates tell voters how they will create jobs and how they think the government should spend the nation's money. Candidates also propose tax increases or decreases that they plan to enact if they are elected.

Health Care

How candidates receive and pay for health care is an important issue for voters and candidates. Some candidates believe that all Americans should have health insurance, even if the government must pay for it. Other candidates believe it is up to each person to provide health insurance for his or her own family.

Immigration

Immigration means coming into a foreign country to live. Every year, nearly one million people immigrate to the U.S. from other countries. Candidates, and the American people, often disagree about immigration

laws. These laws tell who can come into the United States to live and work. Some candidates believe laws should make it easy for immigrants to come into the U.S. legally. Other candidates believe laws should prevent too many immigrants from entering the country.

Gun Control

The 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives citizens the right to keep and bear arms. Candidates often disagree on what this amendment means, however. Some candidates believe that the government should not control who owns firearms or the types of guns people can own. Other candidates believe that people should have to pass background checks before they buy guns. They also believe certain types of firearms should be illegal.

Education

Candidates for president often discuss issues about education. They tell voters how they believe government money should be spent for schools and propose laws about how schools could improve the education of students. Some candidates believe parents should be able to choose to send their children to public, private, charter, or online schools using government money. Other candidates do not believe government money should be spent on non-public schools.

The Environment

Presidential candidates disagree on many issues affecting the environment. Some candidates believe the government should not control how citizens and companies get and use energy. Other candidates believe the government should pass laws limiting the kinds of energy used in order to keep the environment clean.