ABORTION

What is "partial birth" abortion? The term often used by opponents, refers to a late-term (second and third trimesters) procedure of dilation and extraction (D&K). It involves inducing a breech delivery, emptying the skull, and completing the delivery.

What is the “gag rule”? It denies funding for any international family planning organization that performs abortions or lobbies for abortion rights – even if U.S. funds aren’t used for that purpose.

BUSH: Opposes except in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life. Supports waiting periods, parental notification and parental consent. Called for an end of late-term abortions in 2003 State of the Union and for new restrictions on abortion in 2002. Has said Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, both very opposed to Roe v. Wade, are model justices. On his first day in office he instituted the gag rule, overturning a decision of President Clinton and restoring a policy that had been in effect under both Regan and his father. As governor of Texas, he signed a bill requiring parental notification of minors seeking abortion. Signed a bill passed in 2003 by Congress outlawing late-term abortions. But while Mr. Bush is clearly opposed to abortion, he doesn't discuss it frequently. During his first two years in office, he only mentioned abortion in four speeches. Bush chose the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade to declare the United States "must protect the lives of innocent children waiting to be born."

CLARK: Supports abortion rights. He has publicly said he’s "pro-choice." Clark said the ban on late-term abortion signed by President Bush in October 2003 was unconstitutional and could foreshadow a "return to the dark days before Roe v. Wade."

DEAN: Supports abortion rights. Says the issue should be reviewed as a medical decision without government involvement. Opposes late-term abortion except to save the mother's life or preserve her health. But, opposed Congressional bill banning the medical procedure signed into law by President Bush in 2003. He stood against legislative proposals that would require parental notification, or a judge’s opinion in place of a parental notification, because he believes there are certain cases where a doctor would be better suited than a judge to make the decision. Opposes the “gag rule” and vowed to overturn it on his first day in office.

EDWARDS: Was rated a perfect "100" by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League in 2002. Was given a "Zero" by the pro-life National Right To Life group in 2003. Supports abortion rights. Has a somewhat mixed message on late-term abortions. During his 1998 Senate campaign he said, "I think ‘partial birth’ abortions should be banned. These are terribly gruesome procedures. I think the only exception is where there is a grave, serious threat to the health of the mother" (AP, 9/19/98). But, in 1999, Edwards voted against banning late-term abortions. In 2003, he missed the late-term ban vote, but said later that he would have voted against it as he did in 1999. Voted against bills that would ban abortions on military bases and disallow overseas military abortions.
ABORTION/cont.

GEPHARDT: Was rated a "65" out of 100 by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League in 2002. Was given a "7" out of 100 by the pro-life National Right To Life group in 2003. Supports abortion rights. But, before he first ran for president in 1988, Gephardt opposed abortion rights. In 1977, Gephardt took the House floor to declare his support for a Right-to-Life amendment to the Constitution. In 1977, he also sponsored a bill forbidding the use of federal funds for most abortions. By 1986, he'd announced his change of position. In the late 80s and early 90s, he voted on both sides of the issue – supporting in 1988 both a ban on federal and local funding for abortion in the District of Columbia and the use of federal funds for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or a threat to the mother's life. By 1993, Gephardt switched and voted to allow the District of Columbia to use local funds to pay for abortions. In 1998, he voted to override President Clinton's veto of a ban on late-term abortions. Although he missed the 2003 vote on late-term abortions because he was campaigning, he said that he supports a ban on late-term abortions if the measure included an exception for the life and health of the woman. But, Gephardt supported both a Democratic version of the ban (with an exception for the "health" of the mother) and for the Republican version (with an exception for the "life" of the mother). Opposed the Republican Congress push to enact the global “gag rule.” Opposed attempts to eliminate funding for family planning, domestic and abroad, for groups such as Planned Parenthood. Vowed to appoint judges who will uphold women’s constitutional rights, including Roe v. Wade. Told a National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League meeting in January of 2003 that his "eyes were opened" on the abortion issue by his wife, Jane.

KERRY: Was rated a perfect "100" by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League in 2002. Was given a "Zero" by the pro-life National Right To Life group in 2003. Supports abortion rights. Supports late-term abortion rights and voted against the bill banning the procedure that was signed into law by President Bush in 2003. Against parental notification for minors' abortions. Pledged that if elected president he would nominate to the high court only supporters of Roe vs. Wade but said he would not use a "litmus test" for appointing judges. Supports lifting a ban imposed by Bush on aid to overseas groups that provide counseling or assistance in receiving an abortion. Opposes the "gag rule.”

KUCINICH: Was rated "25" out of 100 by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League in 2002. Was given a "40" out of 100 by the pro-life National Right To Life group in 2003. Transformed from an abortion opponent to an abortion rights supporter in 2002. In 2000, 2001 voted to ban late-term abortions, but voted against the bill banning the procedure that was signed into law by President Bush in 2003. He also voted in favor of a bill barring the transportation of minors to get an abortion. But, in 2002, Kucinich voted in favor of a law that would make it easier to transport minors seeking abortions over state lines and against a ban on abortions performed overseas on military bases, reversing a previous vote. In 2003, he said he would only appoint a judge who pledged to support Roe v. Wade and it would be a litmus test. In 2001, voted in-favor of “gag rule.”
**ABORTION/cont.**

**LIEBERMAN**: NARAL gave him a 100 percent rating for 2001 and 2002 and a career score of 95 percent. Was given a "Zero" by the pro-life National Right To Life group in 2003. Supports abortion rights. Voted five times against a ban on late-term abortions, including in 2003. He was the only one of the presidential candidates not to skip the vote on the late-term abortion ban bill in 2003. He has said that he supports parental notification for minors, but voted against a federal bill requiring it. He voted for an alternative bill that would require consent from an adult family member unless the doctor thought it was in the minor's best interest not to tell the parents.

**MOSELEY BRAUN**: Supports abortion rights. Opposes the ban on late-term abortions. Supports the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion.

**SHARPTON**: Supports abortion rights. He vows to only appoint pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court. Opposes ban on late-term abortions.
BUSH: Has both opposed and supported affirmative action. Opposes quotas and preferences in government hiring and educational admittance. The administration joined the 2003 Supreme Court challenge to the University of Michigan's admissions policy giving preference to minority students. Mr. Bush denounced the Michigan policy as "fundamentally flawed" and unconstitutional, but he did not say the use of race is always unconstitutional in selecting students. The Court eventually disagreed with Bush in a 5-4 vote that race can be a factor in the admissions process. Would not specify as to whether or not race should be a consideration by saying, “There are clearly unconstitutional means to achieve diversity. There are race-neutral ways to achieve diversity, which I have put in place as the governor of Texas, and that will lead the courts to define the outer limits of the Constitution.” Supported giving 10% of government contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses.

CLARK: Supports affirmative action. Signed an amicus brief with the University of Michigan in its Supreme Court cases.

DEAN: Strongly supports race sensitive affirmative action.

EDWARDS: Strongly supports affirmative action. Signed friend-of-the-court brief that urged the Supreme Court to uphold the University of Michigan’s affirmative action policy.

GEPHARDT: Supports affirmative action. Early in his career he voted against extending the deadline to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. Representing a mostly white constituency, he and John Ashcroft were on the same side of the busing issue when both men asked the Justice Department to end mandatory busing in St. Louis. By the late 1980s he changed his views and later argued against the nomination of Ashcroft to the post of U.S. Attorney General because of his alleged insensitivity to racial issues. At the 2003 Rainbow/Push Coalition forum he said he would issue an executive order to protect affirmative action policies.

KERRY: Supports affirmative action. Opposes quotas that reserve specific numbers or percentages of benefits to minorities. Supports programs that seek to enhance diversity, for example, by fostering the growth of minority small businesses.

KUCINICH: Supports affirmative action. At the 2003 Rainbow/Push Coalition forum he said he would issue an executive order to protect affirmative action policies.
LIEBERMAN: Supports affirmative action but said that many programs are inconsistent with the law. Opposes quotas. In 1995, he raised some questions about his support for affirmative action and said, "You can't defend policies that are based on group preferences as opposed to individual opportunities." But, now he says he supports affirmative action. He hopes it will be phased out by 2010. While Connecticut attorney general, he instituted an affirmative action program that resulted in over half of his office's employees consisting of women and minorities. In response to Proposition 209, the civil rights initiative of California (prohibits the state, local governments, schools, and other government instrumentalities from discriminating or giving preferential treatment to any individual based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin): “I can’t see how I could be opposed to it. It is basically a statement of American values. It takes the language and the values underlying the civil rights acts Congress has passed and says not only should we not discriminate against somebody, we shouldn’t discriminate in favor of somebody based on the group they represent.” Supports legislation to end racial profiling.

MOSELEY BRAUN: Supports affirmative action and says it is one way to solve what she calls the “nation’s contradictions between the society’s commitment to equality…and how minorities are actually treated.” Supports an approach to slavery reparations that provides more equity capital to minority entrepreneurs.

SHARPTON: Supports affirmative action and it is one of his top ten reasons why he is running for president. He said it’s not just about getting African Americans into colleges and high positions, but it’s about advancing the right black people. At the Rainbow/Push Coalition forum, he pointed out that Supreme Court Justice “Clarence Thomas is my color, but he’s not my kind.”
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

BUSH: Bush, who in the past opposed a soft money ban, stayed clear of the fierce congressional debate over McCain-Feingold. He said the bill was "flawed in some areas," but signed it into law in March 2002. Did not accept federal matching funds in the 2000 primaries but did accept federal matching funds for the general election. Claimed to want to update limits while still allowing people to support issue advocacy. Wants to ban corporate and union contributions. Does not plan to accept matching funds for 2004 primaries. He intended to accept taxpayer financing during the general election campaign, even though he has consistently declined on his federal tax returns to give $3 to the fund.

CLARK: Despite flirting with taking a pass on federal matching funds for the primaries, in November Clark said he supports public financing and committed to taking the spending limits that come with it.

DEAN: Although Dean sent a letter to the Federal Election Commission this summer indicating that he would accept federal matching funds – and the subsequent spending limitations - his campaign’s fund-raising success gave him reason to change his mind. After polling his Web supporters, Dean on Nov. 8 decided to opt out of the federal primary matching fund program.

EDWARDS: Voted for McCain-Feingold. Supports public financing and is committed to taking the spending limits that come with it. Called for a ban on campaign contributions from federally registered lobbyists to federal candidates and says he's never accepted money from a federally registered political action committee, or PAC. But, Edwards does accept contributions from state lobbyists and in fact had his own PAC, New American Optimists, the money from which he used to travel the country before officially entering the presidential race.

GEPHARDT: Voted for McCain-Feingold. Supports public financing and committed to taking the spending limits that come with it.

KERRY: Voted for McCain-Feingold. On Nov. 14, following Dean's lead, Kerry decided to opt out of the federal primary matching fund program. Kerry's stance on public financing had been one of the campaign's hot topics. His wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, is one of the nation's wealthiest women and earlier in the campaign many speculated that she would finance Kerry's campaign if he had fund-raising trouble. But, since the vast majority of her $500+ million fortune belongs solely to her – not Sen. Kerry – her ability to contribute to the campaign is limited to the same amount as anyone else: $2,000 for the primaries. Kerry could use any assets he owns himself (he is personally worth several million dollars) and one-half of any jointly-held assets the couple has, which includes a Boston townhouse worth more than $7 million. Kerry does not accept contributions from PACs to his presidential campaign. But, Kerry himself had a so-called "leadership PAC" before he officially entered the presidential race that accepted soft-money contributions. The PAC, Citizen Soldier Fund, bankrolled much of Kerry's pre-campaign presidential travel to places like Iowa and New Hampshire.
KUCINICH: Voted for McCain-Feingold. Supports public financing.

MOSELEY BRAUN: Supports public financing.

SHARPTON: Committed to taking public financing and the spending limits that come with it. He believes the government should finance all political campaigns.
**DEATH PENALTY–CRIME**

**BUSH:** Supports the death penalty for violent criminals. Oversaw 152 executions during his six years as governor of Texas. Supports mandatory sentencing and strict parole. As governor of Texas, he increased state funds for prison construction and staff and pushed legislation requiring violent juvenile offenders be tried in adult courts. Increased federal prison spending by 8% in 2003 mainly to account for many more inmates convicted of drug-related crimes. Seeks to limit damages awarded in lawsuits. The Bush administration proposed a $1 billion, five-year program to reduce the backlog of cases involving DNA testing, and to boost crime lab capacity.

**CLARK:** Supports death penalty in general. Clark said it is time to reopen the cases of death-row inmates across the country and use new technologies to help determine whether the convictions were just. Clark told the Arkansas Black Legislative Caucus in October: "I'm very uneasy about the death penalty." He also called for "unpacking all those cases" to see if death sentences were wrongly applied.

**DEAN:** Opposes the death penalty except in cases involving the murder of a child or police officer. Supports the death penalty for terrorists who take human life. In 1992, he said he didn’t think the death penalty was a deterrent and said, “I don’t support the death penalty for two reasons. One, you might have the wrong guy, and two; the state is like a parent. Parents who smoke cigarettes can’t really tell their children not to smoke and be taken seriously. If a state tells you not to murder people, a state shouldn’t be in the business of taking people’s lives.” He changed his views about the death penalty after the Polly Klaas case in which the 12-year-old California girl who was abducted, sexually attacked and murdered back in 1993 by a man with a long criminal record who was out on parole. Believes that if the government invests in social programs, it will pay off in the future. The more money the government dedicates to education, the less they will have to put into prisons.

**EDWARDS:** Supports the death penalty. Proposes $5 billion in aid to first responders, including police officers, in order to strengthen community policing efforts and domestic defense. Co-sponsored legislation to increase support for cops on the beat and add 50,000 new officers. Proposes a three-part plan to reform the probation and parole system that would strengthen the punishments for breaking parole, enable probation and parole officers to be active on the street, and rehabilitation programs to stop the cycle of repeat offenses. Opposes cuts to the COPS program. Supports tougher drunk driving laws through a .08 blood alcohol content nationwide standard for drunk driving.

**GEPHARDT:** Supports the death penalty. Supports DNA testing for federal executions. Supports the COPS program. Voted against putting more money into social alternative programs vs. prisons. Gephardt sponsored the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or other assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any violent or hate crime laws.
KERRY: Opposes the death penalty except for terrorists. Sponsored the Innocence Protection Act, which would require DNA testing for all federal executions. Would support moratorium on the death penalty to better understand how it has been applied. Believes life imprisonment is worse than death penalty. Voted against limiting death penalty appeals. Supports expanding the COPS program and proposed an amendment that would add 100,000 police officers in community policing assignments. Voted for more funding and stricter sentencing for hate crimes and co-sponsored the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

KUCINICH: Opposes the death penalty. In 2003, amended the Child Safety Protection Act (H.R. 1501), which would assist states through grant money to obtain assistance in compiling the records of violent juveniles and establish a statewide computer system with the information.

LIEBERMAN: Supports death penalty even for minors. Voted to limit death penalty appeals. Supports more DNA testing to make sure that the death penalty is fair.

MOSELEY BRAUN: Opposes the death penalty.

SHARPTON: Opposes the death penalty and believes it should be eliminated nationwide.
DRUGS-LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

BUSH: Opposes legalizing marijuana and took a stance against state medical marijuana laws when the Supreme Court was asked to overturn an appeals court ruling that blocked the punishment or investigation of physicians who tell patients they may be helped by marijuana. The Supreme Court rejected the Bush administration’s appeal. Bush’s 2003 National Drug Control Strategy seeks to reduce drug use by 10 percent over two years, and 25 percent over five years. The strategy also includes a $600 million initiative over three years to help addicted Americans find needed treatment. Bush’s strategy also seeks to disrupt the drug market by engaging drug producing and drug trafficking countries. To help secure America’s borders, the President’s budget includes $2.1 billion for drug interdiction. The Administration is also requesting $731 million in dedicated funds in 2004 for the Andean Counter Drug Initiative to be applied in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

CLARK: Has said he does not currently have a position on medical marijuana. In the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ debate he said he has never used marijuana.

DEAN: Opposes legalizing marijuana even for seriously ill and dying patients, but supports the FDA looking into the issue. Medical marijuana advocacy groups criticize Dean for being the only one of the candidates to kill a medical marijuana bill. He opposes the idea because he says legislators and politicians should not be practicing medicine. In the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ debate he admitted to having used marijuana in the past.

EDWARDS: He has not co-sponsored or voted on any legislation directly addressing medical marijuana, but has publicly stated that he would not change the existing marijuana laws. He said he could not endorse the medical use of marijuana while a number of medical professionals continue to oppose the practice. He said he would set up a committee to study pain relief in relation to marijuana. In the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ debate he admitted to having used marijuana in the past.

GEPHARDT: Opposes legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes. In 1998 voted for a resolution discouraging states from legalizing marijuana.

KERRY: Has not addressed or voted on any legislation involving the medicinal use of marijuana. In the Nov. 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ debate he admitted to having used marijuana in the past.

KUCINICH: Kucinich supports the use of medical marijuana "without reservation." He co-sponsored the Truth in Trials Act that would remove the federal gag on medical marijuana defendants, allowing them to present evidence about the medical aspects of their marijuana related activity. He said as president he would sign an executive order that would permit its use. When asked at the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ Democratic debate if he has used marijuana in the past, Kucinich responded, “No, but I think it ought to be decriminalized.”
LIEBERMAN: Opposes the legalization of marijuana. He co-sponsored a resolution in 1998 condemning efforts to legalize marijuana and other Schedule 1 drugs for medical use. He said that state efforts to legalize marijuana circumvent the established FDA drug approval process. When asked at the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ Democratic debate if has used marijuana in the past, Lieberman responded, “Well, you know, I have a reputation for giving unpopular answers in Democratic debates. I never used marijuana, sorry.”

MOSELEY BRAUN: She said marijuana should be "decriminalized," but never proposed any changes in federal law as a senator. She has not voted on any legislation addressing medicinal marijuana use. She suggests more research into the possible benefits and dangers of marijuana. When asked at the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ Democratic debate if she has used marijuana in the past, Braun responded, “I’m not going to answer.”

SHARPTON: He has not spoken on the issue of medical marijuana. When asked at the November 4 ‘Rock the Vote’ Democratic debate if he has used marijuana in the past, Sharpton responded, “I grew up in the church. We didn't believe in that.”
The "No Child Left Behind Act" was signed into law in January 2002 and aims to hold educators accountable for failures in America’s schools. The most immediate changes took place in the 2003-2004 school year when students in poorly performing schools became eligible for tutoring or other educational services, which will be funded by taxpayers. Children in failing schools could also be eligible for transfers to more successful public schools. New testing requirements in math, reading and science will begin to take effect in the fall of 2005.

**BUSH:** Signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, which creates education standards and accountability for each state. A common complaint among teachers is that the act created a new emphasis on testing, which they believe shifts the focus in the classroom from teaching to testing. Bush also advocates overhauling the Head Start program by increasing 2004 funding by $203 million, and requiring half its teachers to have college degrees by 2008. Bush’s 2004 budget increases education funding to $53.1 billion.

**CLARK:** Has been critical of Bush administration funding for No Child Left Behind. Testified to Congress in 1998 asking for more support for military families’ schools.

**DEAN:** Opposes the No Child Left Behind bill and criticizes it for being an unfunded mandate. Proposes modeling an education program after a program he created in Vermont called Success by Six. The early childhood initiative includes specialized child care, universal access to early childhood health services, healthy babies home visitation and other services proven to increase school readiness and reduce child abuse, sexual abuse, and teen pregnancy. Opposes federal government control over schools and is against standardized testing as any type of benchmark. Suggests providing incentives to inspire a younger generation to enter the teaching field. Supports federal aid to help local communities fix the most rundown schools. Would fully fund the “Individuals with Disabilities Act.” Opposes school vouchers.

**EDWARDS:** Voted in favor of the "No Child Left Behind" bill in 2001. Proposes an after school program for all children. Proposes a “College for Everyone” plan to provide free tuition for the first year at a community college or public university for students who pass college prep classes and work at least 10 hours a week at a part-time job. Supports increase in teacher salaries by doubling federal assistance. Proposes to offer free college tuition for students who will commit to teach at least five years in schools with teacher shortages. Opposes school vouchers. Supports higher pay for teachers that work in disadvantaged areas.

**GEPHARDT:** Voted for the "No Child Left Behind" bill in 2001. Calls for a program that would establish a “Teacher Corps” modeled on the ROTC that would pay off college loans for those who were willing to teach for at least five years. He aims to recruit 2.5 million teachers through this program by 2010. All participants would be trained and held to certain standards by the government throughout their teaching career. Opposes school vouchers. Supports increasing federal investment in after school programs.
EDUCATION/cont.

KERRY: Voted for the "No Child Left Behind" bill in 2001, but has since called for increased funding. Supports Early Start, Head Start and Smart Start. Criticized the proposal that would give control of Head Start preschool programs to the state. He would increase funding for special education. Member of Education Committee. Introduced a bill to provide universal pre-kindergarten. Opposes school voucher programs. Proposed a “national service a way of life.” The components of his plan include “High School Service” which would require all high school students to perform community service before receiving diplomas, “Retired but Not Tired”, a program for seniors, “Summer of Service” for teens not old enough to work. Proposes free public education for people who do two years of volunteer work and for quadrupling the number of Peace Corps volunteers from 6,700 to 25,000. He said he’d pay for the program by closing corporate tax loopholes.


LIEBERMAN: Voted for the "No Child Left Behind" bill in 2001. Voted in favor of several school voucher proposals and supports limited experimentation with the voucher system. In the 2000 Election, Gore strongly opposed school vouchers and in 2001, Lieberman signed a letter to President Bush that opposed school vouchers.

MOSELEY BRAUN: Opposes the No Child Left Behind plan. Supports an increase in federal funding for schools and an expansion of the Head Start program.

SHARPTON: Opposes school vouchers.
ENVIRONMENT

BUSH: Supports drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Bush advocates hydrogen fuel technology and proposes spending $1.7 billion over five years for development of hydrogen powered fuel cell vehicles. The goal is to have hydrogen vehicles reduce the U.S. demand for oil by 11 million barrels per day by 2040. Bush wants to reduce power plant emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury by 70% over 15 years. Supports allowing companies the ability to swap pollution allowances. Bush proposes a global climate change plan that will cut greenhouse gas intensity by 18% over 10 years. Bush canceled U.S. support for the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Supports a Healthy Forest initiative that aims to restore forests and rangelands to their natural conditions and prevent future catastrophic wildfires.

CLARK: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Told Rolling Stone magazine: “if you want to protect it, you've got to start now. Unfortunately, this administration has rolled back the legacy we will leave for our children and grandchildren. I believe in clean air. They believe in letting power plants modernize without pollution controls. I believe in clean water and preserving wetlands. They believe 'shit happens.' I don't believe in opening up old-growth forests for logging in the name of fire prevention.”

DEAN: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Supports the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository in Nevada. Proposes to focus on energy efficiency, specifically wind and solar power, requiring 20 percent of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020. Supports elevating EPA to cabinet level. Proposes promoting “livable communities” to strengthen downtown and urban areas. Supports adding carbon pollution reductions in the Kyoto Protocol. Opposes Bush's Clean Water Act because he says it has resulted in a 20 percent loss of wetlands. When Dean was governor, the state acquired and conserved 470,000 acres of land, which is nearly 8 percent of Vermont.

EDWARDS: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Originally opposed the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste bill, but when he found out that a similar waste depository in North Carolina would not have to expand with the addition of the Nevada depository, Edwards changed his vote, drawing criticism from environmentalists. Would create a $500 energy tax credit. He led an unsuccessful floor campaign this past January to try and slow implementation of the administration's Clean Air Act reform. Proposes a $500 million federal program to boost production of cleaner-burning energy sources, such as ethanol. Co-sponsored the Clean Power Act of 2002 and 2003, which aims to reduce power plant emissions of four major pollutants. Supports limits on the logging industry. Proposes limits on pollution from large hog farms by establishing limits for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia from large livestock operations, tightening regulations on spraying the waste as fertilizer, and applying tougher penalties for violations.
GE PHARD T: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Opposes expanded offshore drilling. Proposes the "Apollo Project" requiring that 10 percent of the nation’s energy come from renewable resources within 10 years, a figure that would increase to 20 percent within 20 years. Proposes tax credits to auto manufacturers to help them convert existing factories to make hybrid and fuel cell vehicles and to consumers who buy the cars. Also supports a 30 percent tax credit for business investment in renewable energy generation and would double federal spending on wind, solar, and other alternative power sources. Although he voted against a bill sponsored by McCain and Kerry that would have raised fuel efficiency standards, he says he is for raising so-called CAFÉ fuel efficiency standards.

K E R R Y: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Opposes Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository in Nevada. Also, supports a smaller version of the $500 energy tax credit proposed by Edwards. On Earth Day 2003, Kerry suggested that Washington establish "environmental empowerment zones" to concentrate federal efforts against pollution-related health problems in low-income neighborhoods. Supports 20 percent of the nation’s electricity from wind and other renewable sources by 2020, but has been reluctant to endorse the Cape Wind project seven miles offshore from Nantucket Island, where his family has a vacation home. Proposes “New Manhattan Project” to make U.S. independent from foreign oil within ten years.

KUCINICH: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Voted for incentives for alternative fuels. Supports the protection of the Great Lakes from drilling. Would expand public ownership of utilities to make more environmentally friendly.

LIEBERMAN: Opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Opposes the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository in Nevada. Called for a crackdown on power plant emissions. Proposes to reduce dependence on foreign oil by two-thirds in ten years with the goal of being independent in the next two decades. His plan relies on lowering the amount of fuel used by vehicles and on a process that turns coal into hydrogen. Some environmentalists are concerned with Lieberman's proposal to use coal because he plans to bury the carbon monoxide, the by-product of the process, deep underground. Lieberman opposed changes to the Clean Water Act.

MOSELEY BRAUN: No public position on drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Braun has criticized the Bush administration's environmental policies generally. Would give tax breaks for use of alternative fuels, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and strengthen emissions controls.

SHARPTON: No public position on drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. Would raise automobile fuel efficiency standards to a minimum of 45 MPG. Would put a cap on carbon dioxide emissions.
What's the difference between civil unions and gay marriage? Civil unions, which have only passed in Vermont, extend many but not all legal rights to the couple and so far do not include federal rights. Also, civil unions are not recognized across state lines and gay rights supporters say that the separate but equal label for long-term commitment furthers the stigma around same-sex couples.

BUSH: Opposes extending marital rights to gay couples as well as gay adoptions. The White House has put government lawyers to work on exploring measures to enshrine that definition in the law. White House spokesman Scott McClellan has declined to say whether Mr. Bush favors a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. But, he said, "This is a principle he will not compromise on." Supports “Don’t ask, don’t tell” military policy. Opposes extending hate crime legislation to include sexual orientation. Did not comment on Supreme Court’s ruling that struck down remaining anti-sodomy laws. Has appointed openly gay men to AIDS czar position and ambassadorships.

CLARK: Supports legislation recognizing civil unions between gays and lesbians. Opposes same-sex marriages. Has indicated he supports “re-looking” at the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” rule and would consider lifting the rule.

DEAN: Supports legislation recognizing civil unions between gays and lesbians. In 2000, signed civil union bill for same-sex couples in Vermont after the state Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples must be granted equal rights. Dean responded to the court’s decision, saying it was the correct decision, but that gay marriage made him “uncomfortable, the same as anyone else.” If elected, he would recognize civil unions nationally. Opposes efforts to ban gay marriage, but doesn’t plan to push a federal law to make them legal. Supports nationwide state recognition of the rights of American homosexual couples who marry in Canada. Considers gay marriage a state issue. Opposes Defense of Marriage Act. Supports extending rights to homosexual couples under tax law, immigration law and other federal policies as well as easing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" rule. Supports including gender identity in discrimination laws. In 1992, signed sexual orientation nondiscrimination law in Vermont, one of the earliest state gay rights laws. Supports strengthening penalties for hate crimes. Supports gay adoption rights.

GAY RIGHTS

GEPHARDT: Supports legislation recognizing civil unions. Opposes gay marriage. Supports lifting the ban on gays in the military. Voted for "don't ask, don't tell" in 1993, but now says it has failed. Voted for the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. He co-sponsored the Domestic Partnership and Obligations Act that would extend benefits to partners of gay federal employees. Supports extending Social Security benefits to gay families. Condemns anti-sodomy laws as invasion of privacy. Co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 1996 and 2001-2, which would ban sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace. In 1994, voted to pass an Improving America's Schools Act amendment that prohibited federal dollars for any program that promoted homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative. Supports increased funding of HIV/AIDS research. Supports gay adoption rights. His daughter, Chrissy, announced in 2003 that she is a lesbian and has joined her father's campaign to address gay rights issues.

KERRY: Supports legislation recognizing civil unions. Opposed to gay marriage. Co-sponsored legislation that would extend benefits to partners of gay federal employees. Voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, calling it an example of raw politics, of gay bashing, and of wedge issues. Supports lifting the ban on gays in the military. Opposed the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 1993. Supports gay adoption. In 1994, supported an Improving America's Schools Act amendment that prohibited education materials that promoted homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative. He was the original author of the 1985 Civil Rights Act, which would have amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Co-sponsored Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 2001.


**GUN CONTROL**

**BUSH:** Supports instant background checks at gun shows and voluntary (not mandatory) safety locks. Supports more funding for aggressive gun law enforcement and minimum sentencing requirements for the use of guns in commission of a crime. Opposes gun registration. As governor of Texas, supported legislation allowing concealed weapons. Says he supports the reauthorization of the 1994 assault weapons ban.

**CLARK:** Is a gun owner and a hunter but supports a waiting period for gun purchases and thinks assault weapons belong only in the military.

**DEAN:** Believes gun control is an issue best decided by individual states. Supports the assault weapons ban and the Brady Bill and believes both should be renewed. Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check. After that, the states should make their own laws because each state has different problems. Dean is the most conservative of the Democratic candidates on the gun control issue and was once given an "A" grade by the NRA as governor of Vermont.

**EDWARDS:** Supports assault weapons ban. Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check. Voting record shows that he does not support any increased gun regulation. While there’s no National Rifle Association rating on record for Edwards, research done by North Carolina’s NRA affiliate shows that “in every instance where a recorded Senate vote was taken” regarding gun control, Edwards voted “against the NRA’s position.”

**GEPHARDT:** Urged President Clinton to drop the assault weapons ban from his crime bill in 1994, but now says he supports it. Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check. Prior to 1986, he was an outspoken foe of gun control, reflected in his “A” grade from the NRA. In 1986, his rating fell to a "D" and after 1994, he has received an “F.” Supports the Brady Bill, which requires background checks for handgun purchases.

**KERRY:** Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check. Kerry introduced a gun safety lock bill in October of 2001 that would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to create basic safety standards for gun safety locks and ensure that only safe trigger locks are available for purchase by customers. Voted in favor of the Brady Bill in 1993.

**KUCINICH:** Supports reauthorization of the assaults weapon ban. Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check.

**LIEBERMAN:** Opposes a licensing proposal, made by Gore in the 2000 election, which would require anyone wanting to buy a new handgun to get a license. Supports closing the gun show loophole, which permits sales at gun shows without a background check. Favors of "smart gun" technology. Voted in favor of the Brady Bill in 1993.
GUN CONTROL/cont.


SHARPTON: Supports licensing and registration at the federal level.
HEALTH CARE

BUSH: Proposes health insurance tax credits for low and middle-income taxpayers who lack employer coverage. There is a $1,000 maximum benefit for individuals, $3,000 maximum benefit for families, and full credit for individuals earning less than $15,000 a year and families earning less than $60,000 a year. Bush proposes a $27.3 billion expansion of support for disease research at the National Institutes of Health. He also proposes “Project BioShield,” a $6 billion program for purchasing vaccines to protect against bio-terrorism. Bush wants to allow those who prefer the current Medicare system to remain in it, while those who do not have access to medical coverage similar to the coverage provided to federal employees. The president has committed up to $400 billion over the next ten years in his FY 2004 budget to pay for modernizing and improving Medicare, including prescription drug benefit for seniors.

CLARK: Clark claims his $695 billion plan would provide coverage to 31.8 million of the estimated 43.6 million Americans without health insurance, including universal coverage for the 13.1 million uninsured Americans under 22 years old. Clark also would provide tax credits to poor and middle-income families who make less than $90,000 a year to buy insurance through their employers, and open to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to people who cannot afford private insurance. Clark's plan would not go into effect until 2006 and would be funded by rescinding President Bush's tax cuts for those making over $200,000 a year. Clark says he can save the government $125 billion over ten years through bulk purchasing, electronic record-keeping and modernization.

DEAN: Proposes a non-single-payer universal health care plan, similar to the current federal employees’ plan. Claims every child would be covered under this plan as would those up to the age of 25 who make up to three times the poverty level. Some adults would also qualify for coverage under an expansion of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Under Dean’s plan, poor families would pay nothing, while moderate-income families would pay a capped premium at a percentage of their income. The plan’s goal is to cover 31 million of the 41 million currently uninsured. Would pay for his $88 billion plan by repealing the Bush tax cuts. Supports adding a prescription drug benefit plan to Medicare. Also supports re-importation of drugs from Canada.

EDWARDS: Proposed a non-single-payer system that would provide coverage for all children and a total of approximately 21 million uninsured. Cost: $35 billion to be paid for by repealing Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and by cutting government spending. Supports expanding universal health insurance for children to include their working-class parents and allowing people 55 and older to buy into the Medicare program at a reasonable cost. He criticized Gephardt’s health plan for taking almost $1 trillion from working class families and giving it to big corporations. Proposed a mandate that parents must provide their children, up to age 21, with health insurance by using private insurers or an expanded government plan. If parents don’t enroll their children, and ignore a warning, then the children would automatically be enrolled in a government provided insurance program and the parents would see a reduction in their tax benefits equal to the cost of the government program. Supports adding a prescription drug benefit plan to Medicare. Also supports re-importation of drugs from Canada.
HEALTH CARE

GEPHARDT: Supports universal health insurance and expanding Medicare/Medicaid and claims his plan would cover 97 percent of Americans. His plan involves a federal requirement that employers purchase health insurance for their workers. The federal government would give employers a flat tax credit that would cover about 60 percent of a company’s insurance cost credit, compared to the 30 percent credit in the current law. He would expand public programs to insure people not covered by employers including reducing the age eligibility for Medicare to 55 and allowing parents of low-income children to use the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. The cost estimates range as high as $200 billion annually to be paid for by completely eliminating President Bush’s tax cut. Opposes the Medicare prescription drug bill that passed in July 2004 because he said it comes too close to privatizing Medicare and does not provide equal coverage for all senior citizens. Supports bringing generic drugs to the market sooner to lower prescription drug costs.

KERRY: Kerry supports the creation of single-payer health care system costing $72 billion a year to be paid for by repealing the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy; plans on making health care coverage for all Americans a top issue. He would expand the current state children’s health insurance program to cover low-income young adults through age 24. He would also create a “premium rebate pool” that would help businesses pay for certain catastrophic health care costs. For small business and unemployed, he would allow individuals to buy into the type of health plans that are currently available to members of Congress and federal employees, with tax credits to the unemployed and workers in small businesses. Kerry also requires pharmacy benefit managers to disclose rebates and incentives from drug makers and get generic drugs on the market faster to lower drug costs.

KUCINCH: Supports a single-payer, universal health care program to be phased-in over 10 years at a cost of more than $2 trillion. The cost of the plan would be paid for by a new 7.7 percent payroll tax on all employers, eliminating billions in employer tax deductions and by using the money currently used to pay for Medicare. Claims that all children would be covered in the first three years, all seniors in the first four. Supports regulating drug prices and pharmaceutical corporation profits to lower drug costs.

LIEBERMAN: Proposals include an expansion of CHIPS, allowing parents to buy into Medicaid at a cheaper rate as well as ways to lower consumers’ health care costs. He called Gephardt’s health plan the “king of big spending Democratic ideas of the past.” Proposes to spend $150 billion over the next 10 years to create an American Center for cures to oversee the effort to find cures for chronic diseases. Supported the July 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug Bill, noting that it was just an initial step towards drug coverage for seniors. Also supports bringing generic drugs to the market faster to lower drug costs.

MOSELEY BRAUN: Has proposed a Medicaid-style single-payer system that would be universal and, unlike Gephardt’s proposal, would eliminate the employer’s role. The federal government would pay the cost of premiums. Her proposal would be paid for by repealing the Bush tax cuts although there’s no estimate of the cost of her plan as of yet.
SHARPTON: Supports a national universal government-controlled health care system. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee every American the right to health care of equal high quality. He is concerned about childhood obesity.
IRAQ-HOMELAND SECURITY

BUSH: Developed a doctrine of pre-emption in the wake of September 11, 2001, with the goal of terminating possible future threats. Argued that the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq was a threat to the United States and used military force to remove the regime. Seeks to establish an Iraqi regime that does not threaten the U.S. and supports peace in the Middle East. Bush has asked Congress for $87 billion to continue the military presence and pay for reconstruction through 2005. Has shifted the Justice Department’s focus to prevention of terrorism and has established the Department of Homeland Security. Passed the USA Patriot Act, which expands the government’s ability to tap telephones, monitor business records, detain terrorist suspects, and share information between the law enforcement and intelligence wings of the government. Bush’s FY04 budget provides $41.3 billion for homeland security.

CLARK: Strongly opposed the war with Iraq though on 9/18 when asked if he would have supported the congressional Iraq resolution he stated, “At the time, I probably would have voted for it, but I think that’s too simple a question. … On balance, I probably would have voted for it.” On 9/19, he clarified his statement telling the AP: “Let’s make one thing real clear, I would never have voted for this war, never … I would have voted for the right kind of leverage to get a diplomatic solution, an international solution to the challenge of Saddam Hussein.” When asked in the 9/25 CNBC debate about whether he would vote for the $87 billion supplemental spending bill for the Iraq war, he called the question a “hypothetical” and said he doesn’t answer hypotheticals. Clark did say: “We need answers … the president needs to tell us how he’s going to pay for it. This can't be an addition to the deficit. We want to see where the money's coming from.” In October, Clark said he would not back any reconstruction funding unless the president outlines an exit strategy from Iraq. "Eventually, we're going to have to do our part in the reconstruction of Iraq," Clark said on Oct. 28. He thinks North Korea and Iran are larger threats than Iraq. Supports stronger inspection programs to investigate nuclear threats in Iran and North Korea. Clark outlined his success strategy for Iraq on November 6 in South Carolina. Calls for “The New American Patriotism” to recognize that we “can’t be safe at home unless we are secure abroad.”

DEAN: Strongly opposed war against Iraq. Would not have endorsed military action – or voted for the October 2001 congressional resolution - unless President Bush proved that Saddam Hussein possessed nuclear weapons. Favored another UN Resolution with a disarmament deadline. Believes al-Qaeda is more of a threat than Iraq and that it was "the wrong war at the wrong time." Accused the Bush administration of misrepresenting the facts in Iraq and misleading the nation and said those who put the language into the State of the Union address should resign. Called for the resignations of Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Tenet. Proposes to reallocate $8 billion from the administration’s missile-defense program to the cooperative threat-reduction program with the Russians. Supports providing more money to firefighters, police officers, and other first responders.
EDWARDS: Voted in favor of the October 2002 congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force to disarm Saddam Hussein. Favored disarmament of Iraq with or without U.N. approval. Called for an inquiry into the issue of pre-war intelligence. Called for increased international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan. Proposes a strategy to invest new resources in domestic security and strengthen America's defense against future terrorist threats. Would create a domestic anti-terror agency to supplement the FBI.

GEPHARDT: Voted in-favor of the October 2002 congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force to disarm Saddam Hussein. Has said he would have favored U.N. support for the war. Has called for UN and NATO involvement in re-building of Iraq. Criticizes Bush for under funding the homeland security. Proposed a homeland security “trust fund” so states and local communities would have the safety resources they need. Would increase number of immigration personnel. Voted against the first Gulf War, but says in retrospect that it may have been the wrong decision.

KERRY: Voted in-favor of the October 2002 congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force to disarm Saddam Hussein. Kerry criticized Bush for lack of "diplomacy" in not building a broader coalition to remove Hussein. Kerry said that Bush "misled" us with intelligence reports that promised weapons of destruction. Called for gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq. Said a failure to "achieve the peace" would undermine war on terror. In 1991, he voted against the first Gulf War. On homeland security, he proposed a six-point plan, which includes enlisting the National Guard and AmeriCorps, creating a community defense service, reforming domestic intelligence, upgrading public health, promoting better information-sharing among local and national police and federal agencies, and improving port security.

KUCINICH: Voted against the October 2002 congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force to disarm Saddam Hussein. Called Bush's arguments "fraudulent." Would decrease Pentagon budget to prevent wasteful spending and free money for education and health care. Supports the right to defend the nation, but sees a difference between offense and defense. Would create a "Department of Peace." Accused Bush of misrepresenting the intelligence information about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction.

LIEBERMAN: Voted in-favor of the October 2002 congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force to disarm Saddam Hussein. Has called for the removal of Saddam Hussein since 1991, when he voted for the first Gulf War. Supports an inquiry into the issue of pre-war intelligence that claimed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Calls for more funding and troops in postwar Iraq. Supports asking NATO to assume command of the Iraq forces. Calls for the release of a plan and timetable for creating an Iraqi interim authority. He believes one of the first responsibilities of government is to provide for the common defense. Has proposed a “frontline initiative” which would spend an additional $7.5 billion on first responders and another $7 billion for firefighters and local budget relief. Called for better port security, proposing an additional $1.2 billion in federal funding. Supports refocusing the National Guard to issues of homeland security. Calls for George Tenet’s resignation.
MOSELEY BRAUN: Anti-war and favored U.N. agreement for disarmament.

SHARPTON: Anti-war and opposed military action in Iraq. He preferred U.N. peace efforts. Conducted a hunger strike to end U.S. navy bombing exercises on Vieques Island.
**TAXES**

**BUSH:** Initiated Jobs and Growth Act of 2003, a three-part plan estimated to replace 1.4 million of the 2 million lost jobs since 2001. This plan includes accelerating the 2001 tax cuts, supporting dividend and capital gains tax relief to give small businesses incentives to grow and encourage job-creating investment, and creating “Personal Re-employment Accounts” to provide the unemployed with money to help them find work. Signed $1.35 trillion tax cut legislation in 2001. Signed $350 billion tax cut legislation in 2003.

**CLARK:** Would preserve Bush tax cuts for middle- and low-income families, while vowing to repeal or modify the Bush tax cuts for people making more than $200,000 a year and unveiled plan to save $2.35 trillion over 10 years. $40 billion would be directed toward improving homeland security and creating police, fire and Coast Guard jobs. Another $40 billion would be given to the states to help with their budget woes. The remaining $20 billion would be given as tax breaks to businesses who hire new employees. Said he could save taxpayers $125 billion by enlisting the financial support of U.S. allies and demanding competitive bidding for government contracts in the Iraq debate.

**DEAN:** Would repeal all of the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts to fund his health-care plan and reduce the federal deficit. He is against all tax cuts because he says they are bad for the economy. His stump line is, “I would go back to the Clinton era of taxes because I think most Americans would gladly pay the same taxes they paid when Bill Clinton was president if they could only have the same economy that they had when Bill Clinton was president.” He boasts of repeatedly balancing Vermont’s budget, even though state law allows deficit spending.

**EDWARDS:** Would preserve Bush tax cuts for middle- and low-income families, while scaling back tax cuts for high-income families. Promises to cut middle-class taxes by $160 billion over ten years. Edwards' proposal includes the government matching retirement plans such as 401(k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts. For people earning less than $50,000, the government would match individual contributions up to $500. The plan also includes a tax credit of up to $5,000 for first time house buyers with moderate incomes. He would cut capital gains taxes to families earning less than $130,000 a year. They would not pay taxes on the first $1,000 of capital gains and their rates would be reduced by about half beyond that. The lower rate applies to stocks held for at least 3 years and gains of up to $10,000 per family. Those families would not pay taxes on their first $500 of dividend earnings. Then, he would increase capital gains taxes on people earning more than $350,000 to ensure that investment gains of wealthy would be taxed at the same 25 percent rate as middle class incomes. Proposes energy tax credit to help households pay heating bills. Supports a 10% tax cut for companies that do not move abroad. Would increase the estate tax exemption to $7 million per family. Voted against both the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts.
GEPHARDT: Opposed to the Bush tax cut and would repeal all of Bush’s tax cuts and put the money into Medicare, Medicaid and national health insurance. Gephardt supported a $900 billion tax cut package as a Democratic alternative in the 2001. He has been a long time proponent of simplifying taxes. He was chosen to give the rebuttal to Ronald Reagan’s prime-time speech on taxes in 1981, along with Bill Bradley and one other Democrat. In 1982, he introduced the Bradley-Gephardt “Fair Tax” plan in May 1982 that proposed scrapping a broad range of deductions for businesses and individuals in return for a system of three tax brackets, a top rate of 28 percent for individuals and a flat corporate rate of 30 percent. The bill did not pass, but it became a model for the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Voted against both the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts.

KERRY: Supports freezing Bush’s tax cut. Favors tax cuts for the lower and middle class workers, but would raise taxes for the wealthy. He voted against the budget resolution that allowed up to $350 billion in new tax cuts, but did not vote against all tax cuts because he supports tax relief for the middle class. He calls for a one-year tax “holiday” on the first $10,000 of wages. Offers tax credits to small businesses and their employees to make health insurance more affordable. Voted against the 2003 Bush tax cuts. In 2001, he didn’t vote on the final Bush tax cut bill but spoke out against it. He did vote against the Senate’s version of it before it went to a House-Senate conference.

KUCINCH: Opposed to Bush tax cut. He voted with Gephardt to support the 2001 Democratic alternative tax cut of $900 billion. He wants to raise employers’ taxes to help fund universal health care. Voted against both the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts.

LIEBERMAN: The first to call for freezing the Bush tax cuts. He wants to put tax rates back where it was when Clinton was president. Proposes eliminating the capital gains tax for new small and medium sized businesses. Voted against both the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts.

BRAUN: Opposed to the Bush tax cuts. Calls them “reckless economics.” Would repeal the tax cuts to fund a health insurance plan.

SHARPTON: Would repeal the Bush tax cuts. Proposes a significant increase in taxes for the wealthy, a smaller increase for the next 19%, and for the bottom 80 percent (those earning less than $80,000 a year) would receive a large tax cut.
BUSH: Supports free trade and expansion of NAFTA. Signed fast track bill into law in 2002, which speeds up negotiations throughout the world for trade similar to NAFTA. Believes greater trade freedom will stimulate the economy. Expanded trade rights to developing countries. Supports trade with China and Chinese and Taiwanese entrance into the WTO. Signed free trade bills for Chile and Singapore in 2003.

CLARK: Supports NAFTA and wants to open borders with "fair trade, not free trade." Would also strengthen environmental protections in free trade deals.

DEAN: Dean supports free trade agreements, but calls for "free trade to be equal trade." Proposes raising the minimum wage and expanding unemployment insurance to cover more full and part-time workers. As governor, Dean sent a letter to then-President Clinton supporting the passage of NAFTA. Since becoming a presidential candidate. But, as a presidential candidate, Dean says NAFTA was good for Vermont, but now he's has "seen the devastation the deal caused" and wants to renegotiate trade pacts to make labor standards equal, include provisions for fair trade and environmental protection.

EDWARDS: Voted in-favor of giving China permanent normal trade status, or PNTR, in 2000. Voted against a 2003 trade agreement between the United States and Chile. Voted against a 2003 trade agreement between the United States and Singapore. Voted in-favor of a 2002 bill to enlarge duty-free status to particular products from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. Amended a trade bill in 2002 with a provision that would provide nonbinding instruction to U.S. negotiators to seek fairer deals for the textile industry in future trade talks as well as two measures to help laid-off workers.

GEPHARDT: Voted against NAFTA and China PNTR because they take jobs away from America, but wants to adjust or change the existing trade treaties rather than cancel them altogether. Voted against both bills in the House of Representatives. Proposes raising the U.S. minimum wage and then pushing the World Trade Organization (WTO) to require every country to enforce a comparable minimum wage according the country’s cost of living. The WTO would compensate for some of the costs. He said he would never sign a trade treaty that sent jobs overseas if he were president. Has not missed the AFL-CIO winter gathering once in 19 years. In 1995, he became an aggressive spokesperson on the trade deficit, introducing trade legislation and calling for punitive tariffs on countries deemed to trade unfairly with the U.S.

KERRY: Voted for NAFTA and PNTR for China. Supports increasing ties with trading partners, but is sensitive to allowing unfettered access that is similar to NAFTA. Missed 2003 votes on trade agreements between the United States and Chile and the United States and Singapore. Voted in-favor of a 2002 bill to enlarge duty-free status to particular products from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. Voted in-favor of giving the president so-called "fast track" authority, which allows the president to submit trade pact agreements for expedited review by Congress, and would require an up-or-down vote without amendment.
KUCINICH: Would repeal NAFTA. Voted against PNTR for China. Would pull out of WTO and replace them with what he calls “fair agreements.” Voted against 2003 trade agreements with Chile and Singapore.

LIEBERMAN: Voted for NAFTA and PNTR for China. He does not support canceling NAFTA because it would devastate the economy. Missed 2003 votes on trade agreements between the United States and Chile and the United States and Singapore. He supports a tax credit to renew the American manufacturing sector. Supports cracking down on China’s “cheating” and would incorporate worker rights and environmental protection into trade agreements. Calls for an “American Manufacturing Tax Credit” that would give an incrementally larger credit the more a company produces within the U.S. He would add an investment tax credit for purchases of information technology and would eliminate capital gains taxation for investments in small and mid-size manufacturing firms. Proposes more federal grants for communities that lose large numbers of manufacturing jobs. Proposes a new public-private partnership to produce the next generation of manufacturing processes and promises to wire the nation with high speed internet by 2010. He would eliminate the “Bermuda Tax Loophole” that allows manufacturers to reduce their taxes if they move their headquarters abroad.

BRAUN: Voted in-favor of NAFTA in 1993. Also voted in-favor of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In 1997, voted against giving the president so-called "fast track" authority, which allows the president to submit trade pact agreements for expedited review by Congress, and would require an up-or-down vote without amendment. In 1997, Moseley Braun voted against granting permanent normal trading relations to China.

SHARPTON: Has said very little on trade issues.