

Compare THE Candidates



John Kerry

Good jobs

- ✓ Plans to create 10 million new jobs in his first four years as president. His energy policy alone will create some 500,000 good jobs. (Associated Press, 3/25/04)
- ✓ Supports workers' right to overtime pay protection and co-sponsored legislation to stop Bush administration efforts to take overtime pay from millions of U.S. workers. (AFL-CIO questionnaire, 2003; S. Amdt. 1580, 2003)
- ✓ Co-sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act, which would allow workers to freely choose whether to join a union—free of management intimidation and harassment by signing cards authorizing union representation. (H.R. 3619, 11/21/03)

Health Care

- ✓ Will provide a health care plan that covers every child in the United States by providing aid to states to automatically enroll every eligible school child in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and by expanding eligibility for Medicaid health coverage. (www.johnkerry.com)
- ✓ Will extend health affordable health care coverage to 95 percent of Americans so they get the same health coverage as members of Congress. Kerry's plan will lower private health insurance costs, expand the number of people with health insurance and keep U.S. businesses competitive. (Reuters Health, 5/16/03; "The Impact of Sen. John Kerry's Health Care Proposal on Health Care Costs," Kenneth Thorpe, June 2004)



George W. Bush

Good jobs

- ✗ Bush will be the first president since Herbert Hoover in the Great Depression to end his term with fewer jobs than when he started. Nearly two-thirds of the jobs created between August 2003 and May 2004, when the economy finally began adding some jobs, were in low- and minimum-wage industries. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2001–August 2004; Economy.com, July 2004)
- ✗ The Bush administration developed and issued new rules that could cost millions of workers overtime pay protections, including nurses and police officers. Those new rules went into effect Aug. 23. A new report says the rules could take away the right to overtime pay from more than 6 million workers. (Federal Register, vol. 68, no. 61, 3/31/03; www.epinet.org)

- ✗ Does not support the Employee Free Choice Act.

Health Care

- ✗ Proposed a 30 percent cut in funds for children's hospitals in his 2004 budget and in 2001 proposed slashing \$11 billion from the State Children's Health Insurance Program. (Bush 2004 budget; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
- ✗ By proposing individuals pay the first \$1,000 of annual health care costs, Bush's proposal will make health care more expensive for working families, and his plan will not stop health care costs from rising. ("Federal Costs and Newly Insured Under President Bush's Health Insurance Proposal," Kenneth Thorpe, 5/5/04)

The Bush Record

- ▶ **Bush's failed economic policies have contributed to the loss of 1.7 million private-sector jobs.** (Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2001–August 2004)
- ▶ **The inflation-adjusted income of the nation's median household fell \$1,535 between the time Bush took office and 2003. Meanwhile, from the first quarter of**

2001 through the first quarter of 2004, corporate profits leaped by 28.4 percent. (U.S. Census Bureau; Economic Policy Institute analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data)

- ▶ **Since George W. Bush took office, the number of uninsured Americans rose by more than 5 million.** (U.S. Census Bureau)
- ▶ **During at least some part of 2002 and 2003, nearly 82 million Americans between the ages of 18 and 65 did not have health insurance.** (Families USA)

WHY VOTE?

ALL working families have **a lot at stake** in the **2004 election.**

- ▶ America has **lost 1.7 million private-sector jobs** since President George W. Bush took office.
- ▶ The number of **African Americans in poverty rose** by 647,000 to nearly 8.8 million between 2001 and 2003.
- ▶ Nearly **45 million** people had **no health insurance** in 2003, a 13 percent increase since Bush became president in 2001.
- ▶ Fifty-nine percent of **Latinos lack health insurance**, compared with 23 percent of non-Latino whites.
- ▶ President Bush supported and signed a Medicare prescription drug bill that created a huge gap in coverage that could **cost seniors thousands of dollars a year** and forbids Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices.
- ▶ President Bush **exploited national security concerns** to take away the collective bargaining rights of more than 230,000 federal workers in various government agencies.
- ▶ President Bush's proposed level funding of after-school programs would **deny 1.32 million children after-school care.**
- ▶ President Bush **opposes equal pay legislation**, including S. 76 and S. 841, Senate bills Sen. John Kerry co-sponsored.
- ▶ President Bush **opposes using federal taxpayer dollars to modernize and repair the crumbling substandard schools** about 14 million children attend.
- ▶ President Bush **cut \$270 billion from the federal Pell Grant program** for college students and dropped 84,000 students from the eligibility rolls for Pell Grants.
- ▶ **Sen. John Kerry** has a plan to create good jobs and protect America. He will work to fix the nation's health care crisis and overhaul the Medicare prescription drug law. He strongly supports workers' freedom to join a union, will fight to stop rising college tuitions and will make college education affordable through a college opportunity tax credit.

MY VOTE
MY RIGHT
DON'T LET THEM STEAL IT AGAIN
AFL-CIO