

National Budget Priorities

What's at stake Nov. 2: National Budget Priorities



John Kerry



George W. Bush

- ✓ Kerry supports tax breaks for the middle class. He proposes new health care and college tuition tax credits for working families funded by rolling back Bush's tax cuts for the nation's wealthiest 1 percent. (www.johnkerry.com)
- ✓ John Kerry will fully fund Head Start, create a new National Education Trust Fund, expand health care coverage and fully fund federal affordable housing programs. (www.johnkerry.com)
- ✓ John Kerry will cut the federal deficit in half in four years by rolling back tax cuts for the wealthiest, ending corporate welfare and restoring fiscal discipline. (www.johnkerry.com)
- ✓ Will meet America's domestic priorities such as rebuilding the nation's schools and highways and providing health care for families and education for their children. (www.johnkerry.com)
- ✓ Will help states end their fiscal crises by investing \$25 billion a year in vital programs such as education, public safety and health services, creating jobs and strengthening services to working families. (www.johnkerry.com)

The Bush Record

- ▶ Under President George W. Bush's tax cuts, millionaires ultimately receive an average tax break of \$136,398, per year. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers get only \$652. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
- ▶ Over the past four years, states have struggled to close budget deficits totaling \$235 billion. Federal policies over this period have cost the states a net total of \$155 billion. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 2004; National Conference of State Legislators, July 2004)
- ▶ The Bush tax cut lowered taxes on income from investments—which benefits primarily the wealthiest—two-and-a-half times the tax cut on earnings. (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy)

✗ His 2001–2003 tax cuts benefit mostly the wealthiest—over the next 10 years, 50 percent of the tax cuts will go to those making more than \$1 million, the nation's richest 1 percent.

(Citizens for Tax Justice, 1/8/03)

✗ Bush plans to cut funding for education, the Homeland Security Department, Head Start, nutrition programs for women, infants and children and home ownership, job training, medical research and science programs in fiscal year 2006. (*The Washington Post*, 5/27/04)

✗ Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy and economic policies have contributed to the largest federal budget deficit in the nation's history, even though Bush inherited a more than \$230 billion budget surplus when he took office in 2001. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2/1/04)

✗ Is spending billions to rebuild Iraq's roads and schools while neglecting America's domestic priorities. (S. 1689 and H.R. 3289)

✗ President Bush's economic policies, budget choices and massive tax cuts for the wealthy have fueled the worst state fiscal crises since World War II. Many states and cities have been forced to slash services, close offices and lay off workers.

(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; National Conference of State Legislatures)

Learn the issues,
Check the records and



How you vote is a personal decision, but after researching the candidates' records, **your union and the AFL-CIO have endorsed John Kerry for U.S. president.** For more information, visit www.votenov2.com.