



# Presidential Election 2004 A Guide for American Muslims

*The following is a compilation of outreach to American Muslims by the Bush/Cheney and Kerry/Edwards Campaigns and their positions on issues of concern to American Muslims.*

*(Material was compiled from respective campaign websites)*

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## **I. Introduction**

American Muslim participation in National Presidential Elections has been increasing in intensity and scale during the past few election cycles. For obvious reasons in recent history, awareness of the presence of Muslims in the United States has grown exponentially. Unfortunately, awareness of the presence of Muslims or Islam in the United States has not resulted in an accurate understanding of the intellectual history, tenets, or basic message of Islam, or of the wide diversity of the American Muslim community in terms of ethnicity, intellectual or ideological perspectives.

In this 2004 Presidential Election, the American Muslim community has witnessed a palpable increase in outreach efforts by both the Democratic and Republican parties toward the American Muslim community. Whether these outreach efforts are substantive efforts to involve American Muslims in the policy-making apparatus of their country or whether these outreach efforts are niceties limited to garnering the American Muslim vote is a matter of debate.

The Kerry-Edwards Campaign has a section on their website dedicated to outreach to the “Muslim-American” community called, “Building Bridges to the Muslim American Community”. The official website for George W. Bush for Re-Election contains no information specifically targeted toward the American Muslim community.

We also refer American Muslims to two websites: “Muslims for Bush” and “Muslims for Kerry”, both paid for and maintained by American Muslim activists with the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively.

Here we have gathered information about the most important Domestic and Foreign Policy issues of concern to American Muslim communities according to our polling information: Domestically, the PATRIOT Act/Executive Orders/Homeland Security, and Internationally, the Middle East, specifically Iraq and the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

## **II. SPECIFIC OUTREACH TO THE AMERICAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY**

Kerry-Edwards Campaign:

### **BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE MUSLIM AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

John Kerry and John Edwards recognize the many contributions that Muslim Americans have made to our nation and will work to protect and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Muslim Americans. They support rigorous enforcement of our nation’s civil rights laws so that all Americans, including Muslims, can live, work, learn, worship, and gather without fear or discrimination. A Kerry-Edwards administration will not tolerate the targeting of Muslim Americans for threats, violence or discrimination based on their religion.

**END THE ERA OF JOHN ASHCROFT:** The Ashcroft Justice Department has unfairly targeted Muslim and Arab Americans and has selectively enforced the immigration laws against these communities. John Kerry and John Edwards will uphold constitutional rights and protections, and civil rights laws. They will also strengthen terrorism laws that work, including sharing information with local law enforcement. And they will ensure that American citizens held as detainees receive access to counsel, an opportunity for judicial review and at least minimal constitutional safeguards.

**AMEND THE USA PATRIOT ACT:** While John Kerry and John Edwards support the majority of the PATRIOT Act, they, along with a growing number of both Democrats and Republicans, believe that certain provisions should be modified. They support efforts, such as the bipartisan-sponsored Security and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act, to amend the PATRIOT Act to set reasonable limits on access to library, medical, and other records containing the sensitive, personal details of the lives of law-abiding Americans and on the conduct of so-called “sneak and peek” searches.

**END RACIAL PROFILING:** As a former prosecutor, John Kerry knows that racial profiling is nothing more than ineffective law enforcement and must be prohibited. He and John Edwards support the End Racial Profiling Act, which would ban racial profiling and require federal, state, and local law enforcement to take steps to end and prevent racial profiling.

**STRENGTHEN HATE CRIME LAWS:** John Kerry and John Edwards support strong enforcement and equal justice for all victims of hate violence. Both support expansion of our nation’s hate crimes law and Kerry has consistently voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, also known as the hate crimes bill.

**PROMOTING MUTUAL CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING:** Kerry and Edwards will support the establishment of study centers within American universities, expand development of “American corners” in educational and cultural institutions in Muslim countries, and launch a significant translation project. They will work with the private sector and international institutions to help civil society groups and governments aid democracy, public participation, free expression, transparency and efficient economic management.

**PROTECT WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** John Kerry has led the fight for the Workplace Religious Freedom Act which will ensure that no American is forced to choose between the job they need and the faith that sustains them.

### Bush-Cheney Campaign:

No material specific to the American Muslim community on the website

### **III. USA PATRIOT ACT/HOMELAND SECURITY:**

#### Bush-Cheney Campaign:

The Bush Campaign lauds the following accomplishments on its website as a part of its National Security strategy. We have selected pieces that we feel are most relevant to the lives of American Muslims specifically, though all the items on the original list are relevant to all Americans:

**Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act:** The USA PATRIOT Act brought down the artificial wall separating law enforcement and intelligence officers and allowed them to talk to each other as they work to prevent future attacks.

**Creation of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC):** TTIC became operational on May 1, 2003 and has since begun merging, analyzing and disseminating all threat information collected domestically and abroad in a single location.

**Creation of the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC):** TSC consolidates terrorist watchlists and provide 24/7 operational support for thousands of Federal screeners across the country and around the world. The TSC will ensure that America's government screeners are working from the same unified set of anti-terrorist information when a suspected terrorist is screened or stopped anywhere in the Federal system.

**Launch of US-VISIT:** The US-VISIT program is essential to improving border management at our ports of entry. By capturing more complete arrival and departure data, including photo and biometric information, for those who require a visa to enter the United States, the US-VISIT program enhances the security of our citizens and visitors while expediting legitimate travel and trade.

**Improvement of Airport Security:** More than 50,000 newly trained federal screeners are deployed at our nation's airports, where new baggage inspection equipment helped TSA institute 100 percent checked baggage screening. The Federal Air Marshal program was expanded so that thousands of protective air marshals are now flying on commercial aircraft. TSA certified installation of hardened cockpit doors on all 6,000 large passenger aircraft.

**Reorganizing the FBI:** The FBI transformed into an agency focused on preventing domestic terrorism. The FBI established the National Joint Terrorism Task Force at FBI Headquarters and expanded to 66 Joint Terrorism Task Forces among FBI field offices throughout the country.

The Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Joint Venture to identify and remove persons with unknown or questionable identities with access to restricted areas of military installations. As a result, 37 people were arrested and 28 removed from the country.

DHS is also operating the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), which tracks foreign students who come to the United States, ensuring they are actually enrolled and attending classes.

DHS launched the Arizona Border Control Initiative deploying over 200 specially trained U.S. Border Patrol Agents to the Arizona border by the summer of 2004 bringing the total of agents permanently assigned to the Tucson sector to over 2000. The Initiative also calls for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle patrols beginning in June 2004, assigning 4 additional A-Star 350 helicopters and an additional \$1 million slated for new sensor technology.

[Kerry-Edwards Campaign Website:](#)

### **Launch And Lead A New Era Of Alliances**

The threat of terrorism demands alliances on a global scale - to utilize every available resource to get the terrorists before they can strike at us. As president, John Kerry will lead a coalition of the able - because no force on earth is more able than the United States and its allies.

### **Modernize The World's Most Powerful Military To Meet New Threats**

John Kerry and John Edwards have a plan to transform the world's most powerful military to better address the modern threats of terrorism and proliferation, while ensuring that we have enough properly trained and equipped troops to meet our enduring strategic and regional missions.

### **Deploy All That Is In America's Arsenal**

The war on terror cannot be won by military might alone. As president, John Kerry will deploy all the forces in America's arsenal - our diplomacy, our intelligence system, our economic power, and the appeal of our values and ideas - to make America more secure and prevent a new generation of terrorists from emerging.

### **Free America From Its Dangerous Dependence On Mideast Oil**

To secure our full independence and freedom, we must free America from its dangerous dependence on Mideast oil. By tapping American ingenuity, we can achieve that goal while growing our economy and protecting our environment.

### **Track And Stop Terrorists**

Many of the intelligence problems that allowed terrorists to slip into our country before 9/11 have not been addressed. John Kerry and John Edwards will improve our ability to gather, analyze, and share information so we can track down and stop terrorists before they cause harm.

### **Protect Our Borders And Shores**

Today, our borders, our ports, and our airports are not as secure as they must be. John Kerry and John Edwards will make our airports, seaports, and borders more secure without intruding upon personal liberties.

### **Harden Vulnerable Targets**

Chemical industry lobbying has kept the Bush administration from strengthening security at chemical plants, where an attack could endanger 1 million Americans. John Kerry and John Edwards will always put Americans' safety ahead of big business interests and take strong measures to harden likely targets-including nuclear plants, trains, and subways-against possible attack.

### **Improve Domestic Readiness**

Our first defenders will respond to any attack with courage and heroism-but they also need the equipment and manpower to do the job. John Kerry and John Edwards will back up their words with resources and ensure that America's first responders have everything they need to protect their communities.

### **Guard Liberty.**

We must always remember that terrorists do not just target our lives - they target our way of life. John Kerry and John Edwards believe in an America that is safe and free, and they will protect our personal liberties as well as our personal security.

## **IV. CIVIL RIGHTS**

### Kerry-Edwards Campaign:

### **Expand Opportunity In Jobs, Education, And Health Care**

As president, John Kerry will pass tax cuts that benefit all Americans, not just the very wealthy. He will support resources and reforms for schools to meet high expectations and extend the ladder of opportunity to all American children. And he will fight to erase disparities in health and health care with a plan to make high-quality, affordable health care available to all Americans.

### **Rigorously Enforce Our Civil Rights Laws**

As president, John Kerry will strongly enforce our nation's civil rights laws, support affirmative action to reduce discrimination and expand opportunity, and strongly enforce equal justice for all victims of hate violence. He will also back the

Fairness Act to reverse damage done to civil rights laws by right-wing judges and only appoint judges with a record of enforcing the nation's civil rights and anti-discrimination laws.

### **Make Immigration More Fair And More Secure**

John Kerry strongly supports responsible reform of our immigration laws that honors our tradition as a nation of immigrants and makes America stronger. He will offer a reform bill in his first 100 days that allows immigrants to earn legalization, encourages family reunification, and strengthens our border protections. By reforming our immigration laws, John Kerry will honor America's promise and strengthen America's economy and security.

### **Ensure Equality For Americans With Disabilities**

As president, John Kerry will enforce laws that ensure fairness for Americans with disabilities and fight recent judicial and legislative actions that weaken them. He will also fight for strong enforcement of the ADA and oppose the ADA Notification Act.

### Bush-Cheney Campaign:

#### **First President Ever to Ban Racial Profiling**

President Bush is the first President ever to ban racial profiling on the federal level. Shortly after taking office in 2001, President Bush directed the Attorney General to develop a specific plan of action to end racial profiling at the federal level, stating that "[i]t's wrong and we will end it in America." The Justice Department issued final policy guidance barring federal law enforcement officials from engaging in racial profiling in June of 2003. [SOURCE: DOJ Press Release, "Justice Department Issues Policy Guidance to Ban Racial Profiling," 06/17/2003]

## **2. Increased Prosecutions of Bias-Motivated and Color-of-Law Crimes**

Bias-motivated crimes cut deeply against our national ideal of one nation and one people. Under President Bush, the Civil Rights Division has aggressively pursued the perpetrators of bias-motivated crimes.

- Police Abuse. During the first three years of the Bush Administration, the Civil Rights Division charged 217 law enforcement officers with willfully and knowingly depriving individuals of their civil rights, up from 198 during the last three years of the previous administration.
- Criminal Civil Rights Violations. During the first two years of the Bush Administration, the Civil Rights Division charged 316 defendants with criminal civil rights violations, and successfully prosecuted 243. That is substantially more than the 260 defendants charged and 210 successfully prosecuted during the last two years of the previous administration.
  - Cross-Burning. Since 2001, the Civil Rights Division has brought 35 cross-burning prosecutions, charging a total of 50 defendants.
- 9/11 Backlash. The Civil Rights Division has aggressively cracked down on "9/11 backlash" crimes - crimes committed against individuals

perceived to be of Arab, Asian, or Muslim descent.

-- Working with the FBI and the United States Attorneys' offices, the Civil Rights Division has investigated over 500 allegations of such bias-motivated crimes; brought successful federal prosecutions against 18 defendants in 13 cases; and assisted local prosecutors in initiating an additional 125 prosecutions.

-- The Community Relations Service has sponsored more than 250 town meetings around the country and held more than 25 meetings with community leaders to address civil rights concerns. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

### **3. Increased Pattern & Practice Investigations Into Civil Rights Violations by Law Enforcement Agencies**

Under President Bush, the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division has vigorously investigated - and, where appropriate, prosecuted - law enforcement agencies for patterns and practices of depriving individuals of their civil rights.

- Over the last few years, the Special Litigation Section has adopted a more transparent approach for remedying problematic law enforcement practices. The Section strives to keep target agencies fully informed of findings and potential violations, and works hard to find cooperative solutions that can achieve greater relief in less time, with less cost and rancor.
- The Civil Rights Division opened 4 new pattern or practice investigations in 2003 and 5 new investigations in 2002, compared to 3 in 2001 and 4 in 2000. It has filed seven lawsuits against law enforcement agencies and has reached settlement agreements in 13 suits - compared to just 2 settlements over the last three years of the previous administration. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

### **4. Tripling Human Trafficking Prosecutions**

President Bush has made it a top priority of his Administration to combat the scourge of trafficking in persons, especially of women and children.

- Since January of 2001, the Justice Department has successfully charged, convicted, or secured sentences for 149 traffickers –triple the number from the last three years of the Clinton Administration. At least 87 of those cases involved sex-trafficking allegations.
- Since January of 2001, 94 human trafficking convictions have been secured, nearly twice the number convicted during the previous three years. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004; DOJ Press Release: "Attorney General Ashcroft Issues First Annual Report on Human Trafficking," 05/18/2004]

## **5. Substantially More Favorable Resolutions for Title VII Plaintiffs Before the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission**

Plaintiffs bringing complaints of civil rights violations in employment have fared far better before the EEOC during the Bush Administration than they did during the Clinton Administration.

- Between 2001 and 2003, reasonable cause determinations in favor of plaintiffs increased by 42.4%, merit resolutions increased by 45.8%, and successful conciliations increased by 37.4% over the last three years of the Clinton Administration.
- During the same time span plaintiffs received an average of \$140.5 million in benefits a year during the Bush Administration, compared to an average of just \$105.6 million under Clinton. [SOURCES: <http://www.eeoc.gov/stats/enforcement.html>]

## **6. Increased Focus on Equal Opportunity Employment**

Fighting discrimination in employment is a core function of the Civil Rights Division. Under President Bush, the Civil Rights Division has increased the Division's commitment to fighting discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and religion.

- The Civil Rights Division authorized 9 lawsuits in 2002, compared to 8 in 2001 and 8 in 2000.
- The Civil Rights Division has investigated new cases at a substantially higher rate during the Bush Administration than it did during the previous administration, opening 27 cases during the first half of 2003, 41 cases in 2002, and 51 cases in 2001, compared to just 17 cases opened in 2000.
- During the first three years of the Bush Administration, the Civil Rights Division secured \$1,302,700 in civil penalties and damages, compared with just \$1,075,100 over the previous three years. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

## **7. Vigorously Enforcing Voting Rights**

President Bush has vigorously enforced voting rights legislation, ensuring that every American has an opportunity vote and that every vote that is cast is counted.

- The Civil Rights Division has actively applied Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires the Justice Department to review changes in voting schemes:
  - The Justice Department reviewed 11,783 submissions under Section 5 between January 2001 and May 2003, including 2,339 redistricting plans – up from 10,282 submissions and 162 redistricting plans during the last two years and four months of the Clinton Administration.
  - The Department also pre-cleared more redistricting submissions (2066) and filed more objections (25) than were pre-cleared (148) and objected to (5) during the last two years and four months of the Clinton Administration.

- In the last year, the Civil Rights Division has litigated four vote dilution cases alleging violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. It has prevailed in three of them.
- President Bush signed into law the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and the Civil Rights Division has been busy implementing it. The law requires jurisdictions to provide for provisional voting, provide voter information at polling places, comply with Federal rules for mail-in registration, and properly manage statewide voter registration lists.
- Beginning in 2002, the Civil Rights Division has engaged in a massive outreach campaign to state and local election officials and local language minority groups to ensure that language minority groups covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act have access to bilingual voting materials. All 296 political jurisdictions covered by Section 203 - including 219 Spanish-speaking subdivisions - were included in the campaign.
- The Disability Rights Section has actively enforced Federal requirements that polling places be made accessible to persons with disabilities, and has issued guidance to local election officials instructing them how to make polling places fully accessible. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

### **8. Doubling Enforcement of Laws Protecting Institutionalized Persons**

Under President Bush, the Civil Rights Division has essentially doubled its enforcement efforts under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). CRIPA provides important protections for some of our most vulnerable citizens: those in mental institutions, juvenile justice facilities, and State-run facilities for the aged and persons with developmental disabilities. As of March 2004, the Administration had opened 39 new CRIPA investigations involving 46 new facilities, compared to just 19 investigations involving 33 facilities in the last three years of the Clinton Administration. [SOURCE: Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

### **10. Increased Protection of Civil Rights in Housing, Lending and Public Accommodation**

President Bush has taken seriously the Civil Rights Division's charge to protect against sex discrimination, religious discrimination, and failure to accommodate the disabled in the provision of housing, lending, and public accommodation.

- The Civil Rights Division initiated 51 new lawsuits in 2002, compared to 45 in 2001, 46 in 2000, and 46 in 1999.
- The Civil Rights Division increased its rate of obtaining consent decrees under President Bush, from 39 in 2000 to 40 in 2001 to 43 in 2002.
- Since November 2001, the Civil Rights Division has opened 15 formal investigations into allegations of religious discrimination in the land-use context, in violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized

Persons Act of 2000. [SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

### **11. Increased Attention to Desegregation Cases**

Under President Bush, the Civil Rights Division has moved aggressively to ensure compliance with existing desegregation consent decrees, resolve longstanding desegregation cases, and reduce barriers to quality education for all children.

- During the first two years of the Bush Administration, the Civil Rights Division has sent 78 case review letters to school districts to ensure compliance with existing desegregation orders – more than two and a half times as many as were sent during the final two years of the previous administration.
- The Bush Administration has obtained favorable settlements for plaintiffs in several decades-old cases, including a \$500 million settlement in a case to desegregate Mississippi's higher education system and a \$300 million settlement in a case jointly brought by the Department of Justice and the NAACP against Yonkers, New York.[SOURCES: DOJ Fact Sheet: "Civil Rights Accomplishments," 07/23/2003; Testimony of Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 03/02/2004]

## **V. IRAQ AND PALESTINE/ISRAEL:**

### **Middle East:**

#### Kerry-Edwards Campaign:

John Kerry and John Edwards believe that bringing security and stability to the Middle East is vital to American national security, to the security of Israel and other countries in the region, and to the aspirations of the Palestinian people for a viable Palestinian state. In a Kerry-Edwards administration, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be an afterthought, but a priority that will always get the consistent, high-level attention it deserves.

John Kerry and John Edwards are fundamentally committed to the security of our ally Israel and the creation of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors. John Kerry and John Edwards support the creation of a democratic Palestinian state dedicated to living in peace and security side by side with the Jewish state of Israel.

John Kerry and John Edwards believe that history, our own best interests and our shared values of freedom and democracy demand that the United States always maintain its special relationship with and steady policy of friendship and support for Israel. For the past two decades, John Kerry has built a record of support for Israel in the US Senate that is second to none. The commitment he

and John Edwards have made to Israel's safety, security and existence as a Jewish state has never wavered, and it never will.

From his many trips to the region, John Kerry knows a majority of Israelis and Palestinians share a desire for peace and a better tomorrow -- a day when a viable Palestinian state exists alongside the Jewish state of Israel. From his own trip to Israel in 2001, John Edwards shares this view, and a conviction to restoring American leadership in the Middle East.

John Kerry and John Edwards will bring determined leadership to ending the violence and developing a new Palestinian leadership - one that is committed in word and deed to fighting terror and meeting the needs of its people.

John Kerry and John Edwards will work tirelessly to achieve a stable, lasting peace with security in the Middle East and ensure that American leadership is a source of hope in the region.

### **Statement by John Kerry on International Court of Justice Ruling Regarding Israel's Security Fence**

*For Immediate Release*

**Beaver, WV** - Senator John Kerry released the following statement today regarding the International Court of Justice ruling on Israel's security fence:

"I am deeply disappointed by today's International Court of Justice ruling related to Israel's security fence. Israel's fence is a legitimate response to terror that only exists in response to the wave of terror attacks against Israel. The fence is an important tool in Israel's fight against terrorism. It is not a matter for the ICJ.

"I have made very clear from the start that I do not believe that the ICJ should even be considering this issue given that they do not have jurisdiction.

"We were right to oppose the resolution in the General Assembly and to convey this opinion to the ICJ. Several months ago, I joined in sending a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urging him to "act so that the ICJ does not...issue an advisory opinion on the legality of the security fence Israel is building."

"Our nation is rightly discussing with Israel the exact route of the fence to minimize the hardship it causes Palestinians. And Israel's own Supreme Court has looked at the very same issues and we should respect that process."

Bush-Cheney Campaign:

#### **1. "Our Nation is Stronger and Safer With Israel as Ally" [Speech to American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)]**

[Click Here](#)

2. In a section of the Bush-Cheney Campaign website entitled, "Conservative Values", the statement, "Bush Continues to be a Strong Supporter of Israel" is listed as a one of many proofs that Bush has strong moral values, along with a Constitutional ban on gay marriage, appointing conservative judges, and the creation of the Faith Based Initiative.

[Click Here](#)

### **Iraq:**

#### Bush-Cheney Campaign:

"In Address to the Nation, President Sets Path to a Free & Self-Governing Iraq"

[Click here](#)

#### Kerry-Edwards Campaign:

##### **Winning The Peace In Iraq**

More than a year ago, President Bush stood on an aircraft carrier under a banner that proclaimed "mission accomplished." But today we know that the mission is not accomplished, hostilities have not ended and our men and women in uniform stand almost alone with the target squarely on their backs.

Our military performed brilliantly in the war's first mission: ending the regime of Saddam Hussein. Today, Americans share a desire for Iraqis to live with the blessings of democracy and security. John Kerry and John Edwards have a practical plan to win the peace in Iraq and bring our troops home.

We must change course in Iraq. Having gone to war, we cannot afford to fail at peace. The United States must take immediate measures to prevent Iraq from becoming a failed state that inevitably would become a haven for terrorists and a destabilizing force in the Middle East.

John Kerry and John Edwards will forge a new policy to promote stability, democracy, protection of minority and women's rights in Iraq, and peace in the region. John Kerry and John Edwards will work to gain new military and financial commitments from other nations so America isn't carrying the burden and risk virtually alone.

John Kerry and John Edwards will make the creation of a stable and secure environment in Iraq our immediate priority in order to lay the foundations for sustainable democracy. They will:

**Persuade NATO to Make the Security of Iraq one of its Global Missions** and to deploy a significant portion of the force needed to secure and win the peace in Iraq. NATO participation will in turn open the door to greater international involvement from non-NATO countries.

**Internationalize the Non-Iraqi Reconstruction Personnel in Iraq**, to share the costs and burdens, end the continuing perception of a U.S. occupation, and help coordinate reconstruction efforts, draft the constitution and organize elections.

**Launch a Massive and Accelerated Training Effort to Build Iraqi Security Forces** that can provide real security for the Iraqi people, including a major role for NATO. This is not a task for America alone; we must join as a partner with other nations.

**Plan for Iraq's Future** by working with our allies to forgive Iraq's multi-billion dollar debts and by supporting the development of a new Iraqi constitution and the political arrangements needed to protect minority rights. We will also convene a regional conference with Iraq's neighbors in order to secure a pledge of respect for Iraq's borders and non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs.