



*“America is a land where every day dreams become possible and where everyday people achieve the impossible. They ask only for a government that believes in America’s ideals as much as they do. And we are going to build a nation where the American Dream is more than a phrase, it is a destination and a destiny we are committed to reaching – together.”*

**-- John Kerry**

John Kerry entered the Navy after graduating from Yale University and received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three awards of the Purple Heart for his combat service in Vietnam. When Kerry returned home, he felt compelled to question the decisions he believed were protecting the powerful in Washington at the expense of the soldiers fighting in Vietnam. Kerry was a co-founder of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a spokesperson for the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Kerry went on to serve as top prosecutor in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. He took on organized crime, putting the Number Two mob boss in New England behind bars, and he modernized the District Attorney's office, creating an innovative rape crisis crime unit. As a lawyer in private practice, he worked long and hard to free an innocent man wrongly given a life sentence for a murder he did not commit. In 1984, Kerry was elected to serve in the United States Senate, and has been reelected three times; most recently with 81 percent of the vote.

*Here is some of what John Kerry has done and will do to make America a better place:*

**Improve Education:** Our public schools should be a place where children embark on a lifetime of learning. John Kerry believes we should fully fund education reforms; recruit, train and reward quality teachers; rebuild and modernize schools. He will work to expand college assistance and fight efforts to divert public school funds to private schools. Kerry also believes we need a new commitment to early childhood education that puts children on a path to success.

**Protect Social Security, Medicare and Pensions:** John Kerry will protect and modernize Medicare, including adding a meaningful prescription drug benefit. Kerry believes that Social Security is a sacred contract between the generations. He will protect Social Security and strengthen it for the future. And he will encourage retirement savings and investment, expand access to pensions and protect workers' pension and savings plans.

**Create Jobs:** John Kerry believes that the key to economic security is good jobs. After losing nearly 2 million jobs in the last two years, it is time to put America back on the right track. John Kerry will create good jobs with good benefits and decent wages and renew our cities through rebuilding infrastructure, school construction and modernization, tax credits and cleaning up polluted areas of our country.

**Expand Access to Quality Affordable Health Care:** Spiraling health care costs put increased pressure on working families, small businesses, employees and employers alike. John Kerry believes that if we want a strong economy and strong families, we should not rest until we have tackled the health care crisis and made health care more affordable and accessible to every American. Kerry also supports expanding access to prescription drugs and guaranteeing parity for mental health illnesses.

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**Safer Streets and Communities:** As a former prosecutor, John Kerry understands that a commitment to the front lines of law enforcement is the key to keeping our communities safe. Kerry worked to create the COPS program to put 100,000 police officers on America's streets and is leading the fight for police and firefighters on the frontlines of public safety and Homeland Security. Kerry will make sure America has the police, firefighters, and public health experts trained and equipped to keep America safe.

**Protect and Expand Civil Rights:** John Kerry will provide leadership committed to civil rights, equal rights, and affirmative action - unlike the current Administration that does not even support a meaningful hate crimes bill. We need to finally guarantee that in America workers have the right to organize a union, women have the right to choose, and justice and opportunity belongs to everyone regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

**Support Rural America:** John Kerry will protect and support rural America and family farms. In the Senate, he defended family farmers from large predatory agribusiness interests, to open new markets for American farmers and to improve flood and disaster insurance and drought assistance. He supports increased aid for rural America for health care and efforts to open opportunities and resources for rural schools and hospitals through broadband technology.

**Make America Energy Independent:** John Kerry has led the fight to make our vehicles more efficient, and encourage the use of new clean energy sources like solar power, ethanol, biomass and hybrid fuel cells. He will institute a program to increase our energy independence for our national security, our economic security and our environment.

**Make Our Country More Secure:** John Kerry believes that America needs a new strategy for homeland security that takes steps as big as the threats we face. His plan will put faith in the people on the frontlines – and back it up with real resources. Kerry believes that our first defenders must have the gear and support they need, and the benefits and protections they have earned. With new technology and ingenuity, by doing more to sustain our first defenders and calling on Americans to do more for their country, we can make our country stronger, safer, and more secure.

**Protect Our Air, Water and Land:** John Kerry has long been a champion of our environment, fighting to keep our air and water clean, and to protect our coastlines and public lands from exploitation. He will work to improve environmental quality, to protect our health from toxic, air and water pollution, to preserve our cherished public lands, and to protect the global environment.

**Keep Our Promise to America's Veterans:** John Kerry is a decorated Vietnam combat veteran who has fought to ensure we have a military second to none, that our troops are taken care of when we send them into harm's way and that when we bring them home we give them the respect they are due. John Kerry will ensure that this country keeps its commitment that we will never leave our veterans behind.

**Defend the Right to Choose:** John Kerry believes that women have the right to control their own bodies, their own lives, and their own destinies. He believes that the Constitution protects their right to choose and to make their own decisions in consultation with their doctor, their conscience, and their God and he will defend this right as President.

**Keep America Strong And Honor Our Global Commitments:** As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, John Kerry has worked to shape American foreign policy to reflect American values, protect human rights and answer the challenge of a changing world. Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator that must be disarmed and, even though the Bush Administration's diplomatic failures alienated would-be allies and unnecessarily complicated the task of coalition building, Hussein has brought military action upon himself by refusing for twelve years to comply with the mandates of the United Nations and must be removed once and for all as a threat to his people and the world.

**Fight for Working Families:** John Kerry has fought to raise the minimum wage, outlaw striker replacement and to provide workers with Family and Medical Leave to spend time with a new child or care for a family member. He has helped beat back efforts to weaken worker safety rules and cut funds from worker training and employment programs. He will work to protect and strengthen a workers' right to organize a union in order to secure fair working conditions, better wages, health care and a secure retirement.

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