

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Circling the Oval Office



Speculation about the contenders in the 2008 presidential election has been swirling for months, and with last year's midterm election out of the way, the race for the White House is starting to heat up. Who will throw their hats into the ring? A look at who's in the race, who's out and who's somewhere in the middle for 2008. *Click on the category names to sort the columns.*

Name ↓	Status	Party Affiliation	Age	Experience	Top Issues / Comments
Allen, George	Taking a pass	Republican	54	Senator (former), Virginia	Announced he wouldn't run in December; lost re-election to Senate; was a favorite candidate among fiscal conservatives
Bayh, Evan	Taking a pass	Democrat	51	Senator, Indiana; Governor (former), Indiana	Announced he wouldn't run in December; he initially bet that his political successes would give him broad appeal, but later withdrew
Biden, Joe	Declared	Democrat	64	Senator, Delaware	Senate Foreign Relations committee chair; said in December he would seek the Democratic nod; a vocal opponent of Bush's troop-surge plan. His recent gaffes have detracted from the start of his campaign.
Bloomberg, Michael	Undeclared	Republican	64	Mayor, New York	Has been urged to run as an independent; a billionaire who financed the costliest mayoral campaigns in the city's history
Brownback, Sam	Declared	Republican	50	Senator, Kansas	Supports traditional family, flat tax, curbs on federal spending, and Congressional and judicial term limits; broke with Bush and objected to troop-surge plan
Clark, Wesley	Undeclared	Democrat	62	Retired four-star general, NATO commander	Supports review of the Patriot Act; environmental protection; affirmative action; was a candidate in the 2004 primaries, but withdrew
Clinton, Hillary Rodham	Formed exploratory committee	Democrat	59	Senator, New York	Long considered the Democratic front-runner; vocal on issues including child welfare, homeland security, health care, and reproductive rights; former first lady
Dodd, Christopher	Declared	Democrat	62	Senator, Connecticut; Representative (former), Connecticut	A Washington insider whose father was a senator; called himself a dark horse in the Democratic field; longtime Senate Foreign Relations committee member; vocal on education, children's issues, Latin American issues

Edwards, John	Declared	Democrat	53	Senator (former), North Carolina	Ran for president in 2004 primaries, later became vice-presidential candidate for John Kerry; causes include ending poverty, universal health care, strengthening the middle class, and fighting global warming
Feingold, Russ	Taking a pass	Democrat	53	Senator, Wisconsin	Announced he wouldn't run in December; said he could best advance a progressive agenda from the Senate
Frist, Bill	Taking a pass	Republican	54	Senator (former), Tennessee	Announced he wouldn't run in November 2006; said he would return to the medical profession and overseas missions; had an appeal as a centrist figure, but said he wanted a "sabbatical from public life"
Gilmore, Jim	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	57	Governor (former), Virginia	Said he saw a conservative "void" he could potentially fill; positioning himself as an alternative to the more moderate Mr. Giuliani and Mr. McCain; touts his security credentials and tax cuts
Gingrich, Newt	Undeclared	Republican	63	Speaker of the House (former)	Architect of the "Contract with America" plan that helped Republicans capture the House in 1994; a favorite despite leaving office in disrepute eight years ago; name recognition, Southern background seen as assets
Giuliani, Rudy	Declared	Republican	62	Mayor (former), New York	Mayor of New York during 9/11 period; the religious right's weakened influence in the 2006 elections could help him
Gore, Al	Undeclared	Democrat	58	Vice President (former) under Pres. Bill Clinton; Senator (former), Tennessee; Representative (former) Tennessee	He was the Democratic candidate in 2000; won a plurality of the popular vote; longtime commitment to environmental issues, particularly raising awareness about global warming
Gravel, Mike	Declared	Democrat	76	Senator (former), Alaska	Supports education funding; repeal of the Electoral College; universal health care; term limits at the federal level
Hagel, Chuck	Undeclared	Republican	60	Senator, Nebraska	Fierce critic of the Iraq war within the GOP; Vietnam war veteran
Huckabee, Mike	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	51	Governor (former), Arkansas	Could reach out to Christian conservative voters; he told the WSJ that he potentially had a double advantage as a Southerner and an ex-governor
Hunter, Duncan	Declared	Republican	58	Representative, California	Announced his candidacy in October; says national security is the country's top issue; supports a strong military, U.S.-Mexico border fence; supports Bush troop-surge plan
Kerry, John	Taking a pass	Democrat	63	Senator, Massachusetts	Won the Democratic nomination in 2004; what he called a "botched joke" suggesting soldiers are uneducated during his campaign hurt his positioning as the alternative to Mrs. Clinton
Kucinich, Dennis	Declared	Democrat	60	Representative, Ohio	Ran unsuccessfully in 2004; supports universal health care, international cooperation, keeping jobs in the U.S., and repeal of the Patriot Act
McCain, John	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	70	Senator, Arizona	Considered the biggest name among the Republican hopefuls; supports limited government, curbing

					government spending, strong national defense, lower taxes
Obama, Barack	Declared	Democrat	45	Senator, Illinois	Seen as a political sensation that could topple a bid by Clinton, but as perhaps too inexperienced; supports ethics, lobbying reform; opposes troop-surge plan; would be first African-American president
Pataki, George	Undeclared	Republican	61	Governor (former), New York	Status as the 9/11 governor could aid him, but his socially moderate stances could alienate conservative Republicans; he is also potentially less popular than Mr. Giuliani, another New York Republican
Paul, Ron	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	71	Representative, Texas	Supports limited constitutional government; low taxes; free markets; monetary policy based on commodity-backed currency
Richardson, Bill	Formed exploratory committee	Democrat	59	Governor, New Mexico	Has executive credentials, diplomatic experience as UN ambassador, and Hispanic heritage at a time when that constituency is politically critical
Romney, Mitt	Declared	Republican	59	Governor (former), Massachusetts	Political causes include defeating violent factions of Islam, competition with Asia and simplifying the tax code
Santorum, Rick	Taking a pass	Republican	48	Senator (former), Pennsylvania	Said he would not run after his 2006 Senate re-election defeat; was a leading contender among social conservatives
Tancredo, Tom	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	61	Representative, Colorado	Supports cracking down on illegal immigration, limiting legal immigration
Thompson, Tommy	Formed exploratory committee	Republican	65	Governor (former), Wisconsin; Secretary of Health and Human Services (former)	Says he isn't sure yet whether he'll run, and doesn't "want to be on a fool's errand," said he would run on the issues of health-care reform and energy independence
Vilsack, Tom	Declared	Democrat	56	Governor, Iowa	Announced his candidacy in a speech mentioning issues including health care, education, moving troops out of Iraq, and developing renewable energy sources. Iowa, his home base, is a critical swing state.
Warner, Mark	Taking a pass	Democrat	52	Governor (former), Virginia	Spent much of the past two years preparing for a bid, then in October announced he wouldn't run, citing family and saying he wanted a "real life." He was seen as a strong centrist challenge to Clinton.

Source: *The Wall Street Journal*; the Associated Press; candidates' offices

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