

The backbone of America is its middle class. But middle class families are struggling ... Our economic policies must reward work, help families save for the future, and fight the rising costs of middle-class life. -- John Edwards

✓ **In a Working Society, we will reward Work**

- **Raise the Minimum Wage:** Edwards will oversee a raise in the minimum wage to at least \$7.50 / hour.
- **Strengthen Labor Laws:** Edwards believes that if Americans can join a political party by just filling out a card, they should be able to join a union in the same way. Edwards will enforce laws that help workers organize and negotiate with employers, and will boost the ability of unions to create and protect good jobs in manufacturing, technology, agriculture and other industries.
- **Protect Jobs During Labor Disputes:** Edwards will help protect middle-class jobs by imposing a ban on the permanent replacement of striking workers by employers.
- **Expand Tax Credits for Working Families:** Edwards will reward working families by both enforcing and expanding upon the earned-income tax credit to help Americans boost savings and cover expenses.

✓ **Build a Stronger America and Provide Leadership for the Future**

- **Provide Health Care for All Americans:** Edwards will create a new Universal Health Care System that will cover the uninsured, make health care more affordable for those that already have it, reduce the cost to employers of providing health care to workers, and bring parity to the relative importance of mental and physical health coverage within our health care system.
- **Create a New Energy Economy in America:** Edwards will establish the New Energy Economy Fund to jumpstart renewable energies and modernize our auto industry, create new markets for ethanol, and support locally-owned biofuel refineries with start-up capital, among other initiatives. He will move to cap dangerous carbon emissions and will lead the world toward a new Global Climate Treaty.
- **Invest in Education:** Edwards will improve pay for teachers in rural and other hard-to-staff schools and will also offer college scholarships for students who commit to teach in underserved schools after graduation. He will also invest in cutting-edge research to integrate new Internet-based teaching tools into the educational curriculum in rural and remote areas of America.
- **Fair Trade Rather Than Free Trade:** Edwards believes the President and the Congress have an obligation to enforce American rights under existing trade agreements and to suspend trade talks with countries such as South Korea that refuse to open their markets to American products.

✓ **Support the Troops, End the War**

- **Give Troops the Training and Equipment They Need:** Edwards will create a new National Security Budget to improve and protect our military for the challenges ahead in the twenty-first century.
- **Remove Our Troops from Harm's Way in Iraq:** To remain strong, our military must not expend further lives, equipment and goodwill in a sectarian civil war. An immediate redeployment of troops to where they are most needed and an orderly draw-down of forces in the region will allow us to protect our nation, support our men and women in the field, and prepare for the future.

Visit <http://johnewards.com/> to read more of how John Edwards is fighting to rebuild the American middle-class.