



# DNC PLATFORM – AS RELATED TO 2008 QUESTIONNAIRE

1. EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL: None mentioned. Platform discussion focused on more government control through more programs or increased funding of programs.

2a. FEDERAL TAX CUTS 2001 PERMANENT: No, not for everyone. "For families making more than \$250,000 we'll ask them to give back a portion of the Bush tax cuts to invest in healthcare and other key priorities. p. 24

2b. FLAT TAX OR NATIONAL SALES TAX: No discussion of these options. p. 24

2c. SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATE ACCOUNTS: "We will fulfill our obligation to strengthen social security to make sure it provides guaranteed benefits Americans can count on...". "We will not privatize it." p.16-17.

3. FEDERAL COMMUN. LAW TO RESTRICT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO INTERNET PORN: No mention of FCC law. "Online and on TV we will give parents the tools to block content they find objectionable." p. 49

4. REPEALING DOMA: Yes. "We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempt to use this issue to divide us". p. 52.

5a. EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH FEDERAL FUNDING: "We will lift the current Administration's ban on using federal dollars for embryonic stem cells – ". p. 21.

5b. PROHIBIT ABORTION EXCEPT FOR LIFE OF MOTHER: No. "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports" abortion, "regardless of the ability to pay...and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right". p. 50

6. IRAQ TROOPS HOME IMMEDIATELY: "We can safely remove our combat brigades at the pace of 1 or 2 per month and expect to complete redeployment within 16 months. "...keep a residual force in Iraq to perform specific missions...". P. 28-29.

7. GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN: "...every American man, woman, and child be guaranteed affordable, comprehensive healthcare." P. 9. "Healthcare should be a shared responsibility between employers, workers, insurers, and the government." "Individuals should have the option of keeping the coverage they have or choosing from a wide variety of health insurance plans, including many private health insurance options and a public plan." "Families should have health insurance coverage similar to what Members of Congress enjoy." "Coverage should be made affordable for all Americans through tax credits and other means." p. 10.

8. FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS LAW TO PROVIDE INFO ON ADOPTION AND REFERRALS: No discussion of providing adoption referrals by law. However, platform states "strong supporting a women's decision to have a child by ensuring access and availability of programs for pre- and post-natal care, parenting skills, income support and caring adoption programs.

9. ABSTINENCE FUNDING UNDER TITLE 5: No mention of abstinence or Title 5 funding. P. 50

10. INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROTECTION OF BORDERS: No mention. p. 30-33.

11. FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT: Oppose.

12. ADDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAW: Support and promise to enact such a law. p. 52.

13. TEN COMMANDMENTS : No mention. p. 48.

14. AMEND TAX CODE FOR CLERIC FREEDOM TO SPEAK ON CANDIDATE POSITIONS: No mention.

15.& 16. JUDGES: NA. See p. 55, paragraph 7.

*This is a short synopsis of the DNC Party Platform as it applies to our candidate survey questions. For more detailed information we encourage you to visit <http://www.demconvention.com/assets/downloads/2008-Democratic-Platform-by-Cmte-08-13-08.pdf>.*

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1. EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL: “We support choice in education for all families, especially those with children trapped in dangerous and failing schools, whether through charter schools, vouchers or tax credits for attending faith-based or other non-public schools, or the option of home schooling.” P. 44

2a. FEDERAL TAX CUTS 2001 PERMANENT: Yes. “Along with making the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent so American families will not face a large tax hike, Republicans will advance tax policies to support American families, promote savings and innovation, and put us on a path to fundamental tax reform.” P. 24

2b. FLAT TAX OR NATIONAL SALES TAX: A two-rate flat tax. “Over the long run, the mammoth IRS tax code must be replaced...”. As a transition we support giving all taxpayers the option of filing under current rules or under a two-rate flat tax with generous deductions for families. This gradual approach is taxpayers’ best hope of overcoming the lobbyist legions that have thwarted past simplification efforts.” p. 24

2c. SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATE ACCOUNTS: “We are committed to putting Social Security on a sound fiscal basis.” “We believe the solution should give workers control over, and a fair return on, their contributions. No changes in the system should adversely affect any current or near-retiree. Comprehensive reform should include the opportunity to freely choose to create your own personal investment accounts which are distinct from and supplemental to the overall Social Security system.” p. 19

3. FEDERAL COMMUN. LAW TO RESTRICT CHILDREN’S ACCESS TO INTERNET PORN: No mention of FCC law. But states “The Internet must be made safe for children.” We commit to do whatever it takes, using all the tools of innovative technology, to thwart those who would prey upon our children. P. 47

4. REPEALING DOMA: No. “Republicans have been at the forefront of protecting traditional marriage laws, both in the states and in Congress. A Republican Congress enacted the Defense of Marriage Act, affirming the right of states not to recognize same-sex ‘marriages’ licensed in other states.” p. 53

5a. EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS: No to embryonic stem cells research, but yes to stem cell research. “We call for a major expansion of support for the stem-cell research that now shows amazing promise and offers the greatest hope for scores of diseases – with adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells – without the destruction of embryonic human life.” p. 40

5b. PROHIBIT ABORTION EXCEPT FOR LIFE OF MOTHER: “Faithful to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence, we assert the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion and will not fund organizations which advocate it.” p. 52

6. IRAQ TROOPS HOME IMMEDIATELY: “To those who have sacrificed so much, we owe the commitment that American forces will leave that country in victory and with honor. That outcome is too critical to our own national security to be jeopardized by artificial or politically inspired timetables that neither reflect conditions on the ground nor respect the essential advice of our military commanders. As the people of Iraq assume their rightful place in the ranks of free and open societies, we offer them a continuing partnership.” p. 13

7. GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN: No. “Republicans believe the key to real reform is to give control of the health care system to patients and their health care providers, not bureaucrats in government or business.” “It is not enough to offer only increased access to a system that costs too much and does

not work for millions of Americans. The Republican goal is....Better health care for lower cost...” by providing more choices, tax benefits, and more market competition by allowing interstate competition. A state-regulated national market for health insurance means more competition, more choice, and lower costs. Families – as well as fraternal societies, churches and community groups, and small employers – should be able to purchase policies across state lines.” pp. 38 & 40.

8. FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS LAW TO PROVIDE INFO ON ADOPTION AND REFERRALS: No discussion of providing adoption referrals by law. However platform states “Every effort should be made to empower them (women) to choose life. We salute those who provide them with alternatives, including pregnancy care centers, and we take pride in the tremendous increase in adoptions that has followed Republican legislative initiatives.”

9. ABSTINENCE FUNDING UNDER TITLE 5: Yes, increase abstinence funding. “We renew our call for replacing “family planning” programs for teens with increased funding for abstinence education, which teaches abstinence until marriage as the responsible and expected standard of behavior. Abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is 100 percent effective against out-of-wedlock pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS when transmitted sexually.” P. 45

10. INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROTECTION OF BORDERS: “Border security is essential to national security.” “We simply must be able to track who is entering and leaving our country.” “Our determination to uphold the rule of law begins with more effective enforcement, giving our agents the tools and resources they need to protect our sovereignty, completing the border fence quickly and securing the borders, and employing complementary strategies to secure our ports of entry. Experience shows that enforcement of existing laws is effective in reducing and reversing illegal immigration.” p. 3

11. FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT: Support. Because our children’s future is best preserved within the traditional understanding of marriage, we call for a constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage as a union of a man and a woman, so that judges cannot make other arrangements equivalent to it. In the absence of a national amendment, we support the right of the people of the various states to affirm traditional marriage through state initiatives. p. 53

12. ADDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAW: No mention of adding to federal antidiscrimination law. “We consider discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability, or national origin to be immoral, and we will strongly enforce anti-discrimination statutes.” p. 51

13. TEN COMMANDMENTS: No mention of new law, but states our law already protects display. “Our Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion and forbids any religious test for public office, and it likewise prohibits the establishment of a state-sponsored creed. The balance between those two ideals has been distorted by judicial rulings which attempt to drive faith out of the public arena. The public display of the Ten Commandments does not violate the U.S. Constitution and accurately reflects the Judeo-Christian heritage of our country.” p. 53

14. AMEND TAX CODE FOR CLERIC FREEDOM TO SPEAK ON CANDIDATE POSITIONS: No mention.

15. & 16. JUDGES: Republicans will insist on the appointment of constitutionalist judges, men and women who will not distort our founding documents to deny the people’s right to self-government, sanction federal powers that violate our liberties, or inject foreign law into American jurisprudence. P. 20 Judicial activism is a grave threat to the rule of law because unaccountable federal judges are usurping democracy, ignoring the Constitution and its separation of powers, and imposing their personal opinions upon the public. This must stop. p.19

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# FRANK LAUTENBERG - D (INCUMBENT US SENATOR)

<http://www.lautenbergforj.com/home.php>

## **Voted with Democratic Party 96.5 percent of 627 votes.**

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), was scored by the Washington Post on the percentage of votes on which a lawmaker agrees with the position taken by a majority of his or her party members. The scores do not include missed votes. Overall, Senate Democrats voted with their party 87.6% of the time, and Republicans voted with their party 80.8% of the time (votes for 110th Congress). Source: Washington Post, "US Congress Votes Database" Sep 8, 2007. <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/110/senate/party-voters/> .

**Public political years – to the present:** In 1982 he received the Democratic nomination for a US Senate seat from New Jersey. He is in his second non-consecutive term in office, first serving eighteen years from 1982 - 2000, and again from 2003 to the present. Lautenberg retired at the end of his 1994-2000 term. Lautenberg unexpectedly returned to politics in 2002, when the other New Jersey senator, Democrat Robert Torricelli, withdrew his candidacy for reelection, because of corruption charges. The NJ Supreme Court stepped in to override state election law and allow a candidate replacement (Lautenberg) after the legal deadline.

1. EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL : Voted NO to pass a bill that would permit tax-free savings accounts of up to \$2000 per child annually to be used for public or private school tuition or other education expenses. Bill S.1134 ; vote number 2000-33 on Mar 2, 2000. [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=106&session=2&vote=00033](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=106&session=2&vote=00033).

2. Taxes: Voted NO on legislation generally related to extending the tax cuts initiated by President Bush, including extending the tax cuts on capital gains and dividends. This bill which passed, also removed the alternative minimum tax from about 15 million middle-income Americans. Tax Relief Act of 2005; Bill S. 2020 ; vote number 2005-347 on Nov 18, 2005. [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=1&vote=00347](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=1&vote=00347) .

3. Embryonic Stem Cells: Voted YES on the Embryonic Stem Cell Research Act (S.5) which sought to overturn current US policy, and authorize the National Institute of Health to fund stem cell research that requires the destruction of human embryos. (Amendment No. 2719 to the Senate State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 H.R. 2764.)

*"I am totally for embryonic stem cell research. It represents kind of a last ditch hope..."*  
*The Record, Hackensack, NJ, 5/23/08, Where They Stand, '08 Senate Issues.*

4. Iraq: Voted YES for a non-binding resolution to revise U.S. policy on Iraq which was defeated. The measure directed the president to begin a phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq within 120 days of the resolution's enactment. The main sponsor, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, sought redeployment by Mar. 31, 2008, of all U.S. combat forces out of Iraq. It included exceptions for certain forces charged with protecting coalition members as well as those who support infrastructure, conduct training, equip Iraqi forces and conduct counter-terrorism operations. Vote 75: SJ RES. 9, 3/15/07. <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/members/1000123/key-votes/> .

5. Healthcare: Lautenberg says everyone should have access to the same healthcare as those in the US Senate. "One plan is to make government produce the insurance for everybody but I don't think that's the right way to do it." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm-sT0IZrAk&feature=related> . US Senate Primary Debate, moderator Michael Aron, posted, May 31, 2008.

6. Abortion: Voted YES to undermine the Mexico City Policy by providing taxpayer funding to international groups that perform and promote abortions as a method of family planning. (Amendment No. 2719 to the Senate state, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 H.R. 2764, Roll Call No. 319.)

Voted NO on the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which prevents abortionists from terminating an infant after its head is out of the birth canal. Vote No. 402, S.3. Became Public Law No: 108-105 [GPO: Text, PDF]. [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=108&session=1&vote=00402](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=108&session=1&vote=00402) .

Voted NO on a bill to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions. Bill made exception for an abortion necessary to save the life of the minor. Authorizes any parent to sue unless such parent committed an act of incest with the minor. Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act; Bill S.403 ; vote number 2006-216 on Jul 25, 2006. [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=2&vote=00216](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=2&vote=00216)

7. Preserving Marriage: Supports same-sex marriage. Says, "anything else is not equal". <http://www.bluejersey.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=7579>.

Voted NO on a US Constitutional amendment preserving marriage between one man and one woman only and prohibiting same-sex "marriage". Marriage Protection Amendment; Bill S. J. Res. 1 ; vote number 2006-163 on Jun 7, 2006.

8. Hate Crimes: Voted YES on this thought crimes amendment (No. 3035) to the Dept. of Defense Authorization to establish federal "hate crimes" for certain violent acts based on the actual or perceived race, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation of any person. (Roll call No. 350, Amendment No. 3035.)

# DICK ZIMMER - R (CANDIDATE FOR US SENATOR)

website: <http://www.zimmerforsenate.com/>

## **Voted with Republican Party 76% of the time in US Congress, 1996.**

Dick Zimmer was scored by the Washington Post on the percentage of votes on which a lawmaker agrees with the position taken by a majority of his or her party members. The scores do not include missed votes. Overall, House Republicans voted with their party 85.9% of the time, and Democrats voted with their party 92.3% of the time (votes for 110th Congress). <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/110/house/party-voters/> .

**Public political years – to the present:** Zimmer served as a member of the New Jersey State legislature for nine years (1982-1991), and was elected to the United States House of Representatives in (1991-1997) serving six years representing New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. In 1996 Zimmer ran for the US Senate, but lost to Democrat Robert Torricelli. After leaving Congress, Zimmer joined the Princeton, NJ office of an international law firm Dechert Price & Rhoads. For the last seven years, Zimmer has been practicing law at the firm of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher as a member of the firm's Public Policy Practices Group.

1. EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL : Favors vouchers and charter schools. (Zimmer Campaign Researcher Rick Ober via e-mail). "I'm concerned that there are schools, particularly in some of our urban areas in this state,..." where, "The children are graduating, through no fault of their own, without the skills that they need to cope in the new global economy. "...they need the same right that the wealthy have already had by being able to send their kids to prep school, that the middle class have always had by being able to move to a community with good public schools, but the poor can't have because they can't move out and they're sending their kids to schools which the teachers themselves won't send their own children to. "...the best thing that we could do for the public schools is to give them a dose of competition. And just like any other monopoly, the public schools have become arrogant and expensive and unresponsive to the people they're supposed to serve. And that's why I'm in favor of vouchers. . . ." Two Different Pleas for Change: Excerpts from a Second Senate Debate, NY Times, October 18, 1996. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9500E4DE1031F93BA25753C1A960958260> .

2. TAXES: Has signed the National Taxpayer Protection Pledge of the non-partisan group Americans for Tax Reform. "Every time I ran for Congress I signed the Americans for Tax Reform National Taxpayer Protection Pledge and I NEVER violated it..". "I promise to oppose any effort to increase taxes". "When I served in Congress, I consistently fought for lower taxes and an end to pork-barrel spending. I promise to continue those fights in the U.S. Senate." [http://www.votesmart.org/speech\\_detail.php?sc\\_id=374506&keyword=&phrase=&contain=](http://www.votesmart.org/speech_detail.php?sc_id=374506&keyword=&phrase=&contain=) .

3. EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS: Question: Would you vote for federal funding of embryonic stem cells research? Zimmer: "I would vote for it. I believe there's significant po-

tential for important breakthroughs in the science related to that area of research.' The Record, Hackensack, NJ, 5/23/08, Where They Stand,'08 Senate Issues.

4. IRAQ: "We need to extricate our combat troops as quickly as possible, using a tough and pragmatic strategy to avoid creating regional chaos and a failed state that would become a haven for Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. We must allow our military leaders to assess the situation and develop plans to withdraw our troops in a responsible manner." Says, "setting an arbitrary deadline for withdrawal without regard to the military and political realities would be a terrible disservice to both our courageous troops and to the Iraqi people." Source: Campaign website, [www.zimmerforsenate.com](http://www.zimmerforsenate.com), "Issues" Sept. 18, 2008.

5. HEALTHCARE: Zimmer believes health care should be accessible and affordable for all Americans without imposing unwarranted government controls, damaging the principle of patient choice, or sacrificing America's quality of medical care. Zimmer has consistently opposed the creation of a government-run national health care system, warning that this would result in higher taxes, the erosion of patient choice and a decline in quality of service. Source: Campaign website, [www.zimmerforsenate.com](http://www.zimmerforsenate.com), "Issues" Sept. 18, 2008.

6. ABORTION: Zimmer said he believes "in a woman's right to choose and I believe it's protected by the Constitution." He said he favors "reasonable restrictions" such as parental notification and a ban on partial-birth abortion. GOP Senate Candidates Debate at FDU, Schwaneberg, The Star Ledger, April 22, 2008. [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/04/gop\\_senate\\_candidates\\_debating.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/04/gop_senate_candidates_debating.html) .

7. PRESERVING MARRIAGE: Zimmer favors gay civil unions, "but not marriage," ever as he opposes a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Pol Hopes McCain Will Blaze His Comeback Trail, GOP Senate Hopeful Says 'Blue' Jersey is Ripe for Change, New Jersey Jewish News, May 15, 2008.

8. HATE CRIMES: No response from campaign, and no statements available.