



# Democracy 101

New Jersey Student/Parent Mock Election



This is the last of four campaign issues that will be on the 2008 national Mock Election ballot.

The content of this page offers teachers some ideas for student projects as they prepare to vote in the Mock Election in October.

## Question 4: Healthcare Policies and Costs

Which of the following statements most closely reflects your beliefs about healthcare policy and costs?

a) The federal government has no responsibility for healthcare of private citizens. It should be the responsibility of each individual to gain healthcare coverage through health insurance companies. Self-reliance and the free market system should be used for all services in the United States.

b) The federal government should largely stay out of providing healthcare to Americans. This should be done mainly through the private sector. Only the most needy citizens should be provided a basic level of medical assistance.

c) The federal government should play a major role in assuring that affordable, quality healthcare is available to all Americans. Federal healthcare insurance should be provided to citizens who cannot get private healthcare coverage.

d) A national healthcare insurance program is needed. All Americans should be provided quality healthcare through a federal program, funded by tax revenues. Healthcare is too important to be left to the private enterprise.

e) Uncertain, need to learn more about this issue.

## Campaign Issue 4

### *Healthcare Policies and Costs*

#### Explore

What is the position of each candidate for President of the United States? Go to [www.njmockelection.org](http://www.njmockelection.org) and examine the links in the right column of that web page. For example, [www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org) offers a comparison of Senator McCain's and Senator Obama's opinions. The editorials published in New Jersey's newspapers, as well as news articles on the Internet, offer timely information about the candidate's positions and statements they make every day.

#### Express

Students can clip from the local newspaper statements the candidates have made about the nation's healthcare system and how they would improve it. With that information, students can propose their own plan for improving health insurance coverage, as if they were running for office.

#### Debate

This and other campaign issues offer great material for students to conduct debates in classes. The school's debate team coach (or any teacher) can organize and videotape a debate within the school or with a neighboring school. Clips of the debate can be sent to YouTube, which has already received numerous Mock Election videos produced by students. This is a great way to put N.J. schools on display.

#### Create

Students can conduct a survey of other students, using the questions on this page. They can write a news article about the results and send the article to the local newspaper.

This page was prepared and distributed by the New Jersey Press Foundation, as part of its statewide literacy and Newspaper in Education Program.

**For past issues:** [www.njmockelection.org](http://www.njmockelection.org)