

Candidate Profiles

Cory Mathews (Democrat)

Cory Mathews is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Mathews served as a combat physician during Operation Desert Storm and earned a Purple Heart after saving the lives of three fellow soldiers when their helicopter was shot down. Upon returning from Desert Storm, Mathews worked as an emergency room physician before running for office. After serving two terms as a Democrat in the Florida legislature, Mathews was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and has served five consecutive terms. Mathews has been married for more than 20 years and has two daughters, ages 19 and 14.

Mathews opposes the death penalty except for instances of terrorism. To keep communities safe and to prevent crime, Mathews wants to expand federal funding for community policing initiatives.

Mathews is a strong environmentalist who has coauthored and consistently voted in favor of clean air and water laws and legislation to enact tougher restrictions on car emissions. To help the United States end its dependence on oil, Mathews wants to encourage the development of alternative fuel sources. As president, Mathews would work to end subsidies for oil and gas companies and reinvest the savings in research to develop alternative fuel sources.

Mathews believes that although the United States needs to be a strong and independent nation, it also needs to rely on diplomacy, rather than military action, to solve global problems. Except for instances in which U.S. security is directly threatened or the United States is directly attacked, Mathews would like to see the United Nations take more responsibility for peacekeeping missions. Mathews believes that the lives of our young people are too precious to squander and that U.S. military action should be used only as a last resort.

At home, Mathews would like to see Medicaid, the publicly subsidized health insurance program for the poor, expanded to include any children who do not have health insurance. Mathews also wants to allow the federal government to bargain with drug companies in the United States and abroad to acquire the safest drugs at the lowest prices for people on Medicaid.

During a lengthy career in public service, Mathews has fought to roll back tax cuts that help the wealthiest individuals in order to fund public education and social programs for the poor. Mathews is a strong believer in the need to eradicate poverty in America. Through a minimum-wage hike and additional job-training programs, Mathews believes that the United States can eliminate poverty and strengthen the middle class.

Although illegal immigration is a problem, the only way the United States will solve the problem is by offering a realistic solution that appeals both to Americans and to undocumented immigrants. Mathews proposes that a guest worker program be created. This would allow people to come to the United States for up to three years to obtain work. At the end of that three years, they could continue to work in the United States if they begin the process of becoming a citizen. Otherwise, they would need to return home. Anyone currently in the United States illegally, Mathews believes, should be admitted immediately to the guest-worker program. The government should also provide English-language classes for people enrolled in the program, as not knowing English is often a major impediment to applying for citizenship.

Taylor Andrews (Republican)

Taylor Andrews attended Oxford University in England as a Rhodes Scholar, eventually earning a PhD in political science. Andrews then spent several decades as a professor at a prestigious university in California before becoming the president of a university in New Jersey. Andrews has been married for 27 years and has a son and daughter, ages 22 and 20. After a distinguished career as a scholar, Andrews retired from education and ran for governor of New Jersey. Andrews is currently serving a second term as New Jersey's governor.

Andrews supports minimum-sentencing laws for criminals but wants to increase funding for local law enforcement in order to make streets safer and to prevent crime. Andrews supports the death penalty as currently used. Andrews does not support any additional limits on an individual's right to own weapons and feels that the United States needs to focus on criminals who possess weapons illegally, not citizens who own them legally.

Andrews is a strong believer in the power of unregulated business to improve the American quality of life. Andrews thinks that minimal environmental restrictions are necessary, but also believes there is no need for additional restrictions. Instead, Andrews feels that government needs to focus on areas of the country, such as toxic waste sites, that need to be cleaned up. Cleaning up these sites and rebuilding on them, Andrews believes, will create jobs and provide future sites for businesses and homes.

Andrews believes that the United States needs to be a moral leader in the world. It should fight for freedom and democracy wherever there is a need. While this will ideally involve diplomacy rather than military action, Andrews says that the country should not hesitate to use its military when U.S. interests are threatened or attacked. However, Andrews feels that American forces should never be deployed to another country without having an exit strategy.

Andrews advocates keeping the current publicly subsidized health insurance programs, Medicare and Medicaid, but wants the federal government to provide no additional funding for health programs and no federal funds for stem cell research or cloning.

Andrews feels strongly that any American can succeed with hard work and perseverance. The answer to society's problems is not to require the federal government to put more money into social programs but to encourage individuals to take responsibility for themselves. Andrews wants to see federal tax cuts across all income levels so that Americans can keep more of the money they earn. Additional tax cuts for U.S. businesses will encourage those businesses to use the additional revenue to create more jobs. Andrews also wants to allow faith-based organizations to compete for federal funds to provide social services for the poor, rather than the federal government providing those services.

Finally, Andrews feels that the government needs to do more to encourage legal immigration and discourage illegal immigration. Andrews feels that the most effective way to do that would be to create a guest worker program that allows people to come to the United States for up to three years to obtain work. At the end of the three years, they could continue to work in the United States if they begin the process of becoming a citizen. Otherwise, they would need to return home. Anyone currently in the United States illegally would need to return to his or her home country to apply for the guest worker program.

Storyboard for Campaign Commercial

Use the storyboard template below to design your campaign commercial. In the sections labeled “On screen,” quickly explain what viewers will see during this part of the commercial. In the “Narration” sections, briefly explain what the actors and narrators will say.

<div>1</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>	<div>2</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>
<div>3</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>	<div>4</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>
<div>5</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>	<div>6</div> <div>On screen:</div> <div>Narration:</div>