Issue:

Critical Policy Issues

1. The 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN: WHERE DO THEY STAND ON HIV/AIDS ISSUES

Description:

The Campaign to End AIDS, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), Housing Works, AIDS Action, and Health GAP sent a comprehensive 19-question AIDSVote.org survey to all candidates. GMHC also examined voting records, news articles, campaign websites and debate transcripts to determine candidates’ positions.

Lessons Learned:

The reports and analyses illustrate several differences between Democrat and the Republican candidates.

All eight Democrats support comprehensive sex education, whereas seven of the eight Republicans oppose it.

McCain supports abstinence-only-until-marriage funding, while Obama wants to end federal funding for this antiquated, sexist, and inhumane program.

Seven Democrats, including Clinton and Obama, support syringe exchange, no Republican does.

Five Democrats support lifting the ban on HIV-positive travelers and immigrants from entering the U.S. Most Republicans either oppose lifting the ban or have not declared a position.

One issue receiving bipartisan support is the question of a national AIDS strategy: Five Democrats and Republican Governor Mike Huckabee.

The survey and report represent an opportunity to educate candidates and voters on important HIV/AIDS issues.

Next Steps:

Organizers will continue to engage both candidates and voters on HIV/AIDS policy.

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Our mission: GMHC fights to end the AIDS epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected.