



George W. Bush Flip-flopper in Chief

“I think credibility is important. It is going to be important for the president to be credible with Congress, important for the president to be credible with foreign nations.”

-George W. Bush as 2000 Presidential Candidate, 10/11/00

George Bush’s has not earned his reputation as a “resolute” leader

Many people express reservations about George Bush’s policies, but believe that at least you “know where he stands.” But the truth is George Bush has repeatedly shifted his position on many critical issues. Whether the motivation is polls, the influence of special interests, or political expediency, the plain truth is that George Bush never met a position he couldn’t change...sometimes within days!

Flip-Flops on National Security

| The Issue | George Bush Then | George Bush Now |
|---|---|--|
| Creating a Department of Homeland Security | 3/19/02: Opposes. It “doesn’t solve the problem.” | 6/6/02: Flip-flops and takes the credit for the idea. |
| Forming the 9/11 Commission | 5/23/02: Opposes. | 9/20/02: Flip-flops after 9/11 families publicly press for it. |
| Giving the Commission extra time to complete work | 1/19/04: Opposes. | 2/04/04: Supports after, again, the 9/11 families protest. |
| Condoleeza Rice testimony | 3/9/04: Rice won’t testify as a “matter of principle.” | 3/30/04: Orders Rice to testify. |
| George Bush testimony | 2/26/04: Commits to meet only for 1 hour, with 2 Commission members. | 3/10/04: Agrees to give up time limit for testimony. |
| A National Intelligence Director | 8/2/04: No budget power, no staffing power, and no Cabinet position. | 9/8/04: Now supports giving the Director budgetary power. |
| Winning the War on Terror | 4/13/04: “...can you ever win the war on terror? Of course, you can.” | 8/30/04: “I don’t think you can win [the war on terror]” 8/31/04: “...we are winning, and we will win the war on terror.” |
| Osama Bin Laden | 9/17/01: “I want justice... And there’s an old poster, out West, as I recall, that says wanted dead or alive” | 3/13/02: “I don’t know where he is...I truly am not that concerned about him.” |
| North Korea and Iran | After 9/11, these two countries were part of the “Axis of Evil” that should be prepared to suffer our wrath. | Now, both countries have more complete nuclear weapons programs than Saddam ever had, and Bush shrugs his shoulders. |

**George W. Bush:
Make Up Your Mind, National Security is At Stake**

Santa Clara County Democratic Party | www.sccdp.org | 408-445-9500

For more information:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=42263>

http://www.democrats.org/specialreports/top10_flipflops/

Flip-Flops on Iraq

| The Issue | George Bush Then | George Bush Now |
|---|--|---|
| Nation Building | 10/3/00: "If we don't stop extending our troops all around the world in nation-building missions, then we're going to have a serious problem..." | 3/06/03: Supports: "We will be changing the regime of Iraq, for the good of the Iraqi people" |
| U.N. Resolution | 3/6/03: Put it to a vote, no matter what, so nations state their position. | 3/18/03: Withdraws resolution and attacks without a U.N. vote. |
| Reason for War #1: WMDs/Imminent Threat | 5/29/03: "We found the weapons of mass destruction" | 2/07/04: "...we haven't found stockpiles yet, and there's [sic] theories where the weapons went." |
| Reason for War #2: Saddam=Al Qaeda | 9/25/02: "You can't distinguish between Al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror." | 9/17/03: "We've had no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved in Sept. 11." |
| Funding for War | 2/2/04: "We do not anticipate requesting additional supplemental funding for '04." | 5/5/04: "I am requesting that Congress establish a \$25 billion contingency reserve fund..." |

Flip-Flops on Domestic Issues

| The Issue | George Bush Then | George Bush Now |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Gun Control | 2000 Campaign: Supports assault weapons ban. | 9/13/04: Lets it expire without lifting a finger. |
| Freedom to Marry | 2/15/00: Leave it up to the states. | 2/24/04: Pushes federal constitutional amendment. |
| Social Security Surplus | 3/3/01: "We're going to ...keep the government from raiding the Social Security surplus." | 2/26/02: "the president's new budget uses Social Security surpluses to pay for other programs...ultimately diverting more than \$1.4 trillion..." |
| Caps on CO2 emissions | 9/29/00: Pledges to establish mandatory reduction targets. | 3/13/03: Opposes mandatory caps for power plants. |
| Dealing with OPEC | 1/26/00: "A president should get on the phone when gas prices spike." | 4/1/04: President refuses to personally lobby cartel leaders. |
| Patient Bill of Rights | 1995: Vetoed Texas bill; veto was overturned. 10/17/00: During campaign, praises and takes credit for same bill he vetoed. | 4/5/04: Administration again argues against the Texas bill. |
| 527 Groups and their ads | 3/27/02: Against limitations on 527s in McCain Feingold Campaign Finance Reform bill...they "restrain free speech." | 8/23/04: "I think [527s are] bad for the system. That's why I signed the bill, McCain-Feingold" |

"Well, I think if you say you're going to do something and don't do it, that's trustworthiness."

-George W. Bush, 08/30/00

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