

## 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.