



| | Abolition/reduction of nuclear weapons | NPT/nuclear non-proliferation | Anti-nuclear terrorism measures |
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| Hillary Clinton | | The current administration's practice of avoiding a dialogue with Iran and North Korea is a mistake. Just as dialogue continued with the U.S.S.R. and Cuba during the Cold War, I will engage in direct contact to persuade these countries to end their nuclear weapons development. | |
| Barack Obama | I will set, and pursue, the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, taking several steps down the long road toward their elimination: stopping the development of new nuclear weapons, working with Russia to take U.S. and Russian ballistic missiles off hair-trigger alert, and seeking dramatic reductions in U.S. and Russian stockpiles of nuclear weapons and material. | I will crack down on nuclear proliferation by strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty so countries like North Korea and Iran that break the treaty's provisions will automatically face strong international sanctions. I will secure all loose nuclear materials in the world within four years. | We must talk openly about nuclear weapons because the best way to keep America safe is not to threaten terrorists with nuclear weapons, it's to keep nuclear weapons away from terrorists. |
| John Edwards | America cannot continue to develop nuclear weapons. I will lead an international effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons and the world will be far better off. | I will create a Global Nuclear Compact to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would support peaceful nuclear programs, improve security for existing stocks of nuclear materials, and ensure more frequent verification that materials are not being diverted and facilities are not being misused. I would contain Iran's nuclear ambitions with diplomatic measures that isolate Iran and force its government to finally understand that the world community will not allow it to possess nuclear weapons. | In an unstable country such as Pakistan, if a radical government takes possession of nuclear weapons, the situation may spiral out of control. There is no more urgent task than preventing terrorists from acquiring a nuclear weapon or another weapon of mass destruction. |

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| John McCain | | Tehran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons poses an unacceptable risk. The U.S. should also privatize the sanctions effort by launching a disinvestment campaign. By persuading individuals, pension funds, and financial institutions to divest from companies doing business with Iran, we can isolate and delegitimize a hostile government. And every option must remain on the table. Military action isn't our preference. It remains, as it always must, the last option. We have some way to go diplomatically before we need to contemplate other measures. But it is a simple observation of reality that there is only one thing worse than a military solution, and that, my friends, is a nuclear armed Iran. | |
| Mitt Romney | | The 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was meant to prevent countries from acquiring dangerous nuclear technologies and fissile materials such as plutonium and highly enriched uranium. However, effective enforcement of this obligation is often lacking. Countries can consequently ignore their obligations under the NPT with little fear of sanction or penalty. Just think of the signal a nuclear Iran would send to other rogue regimes with nuclear ambitions--this could be the tipping point in the development and proliferation of nuclear regimes. We need to update our efforts for the 21st century, including a new commitment to stringent security regimes. | Combating the threat of nuclear terrorism needs to be a top Presidential priority. We should appoint a new Ambassador-at-Large to prevent nuclear terror. Working with the International Atomic Energy Agency, this initiative would promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while providing new safeguards against diversion of fissile materials to terrorists. |
| Mike Huckabee | | There is no way Iran will acquire nuclear weapons on my watch. But before I look parents in the eye to explain why I had to put their son's or daughter's life at risk in military action against Iran, I want to know that I have done everything possible to avoid that conflict. | |
| Rudy Giuliani | | | America needs expanded security capabilities and credible deterrent threats to stop an attack on U.S. soil. |