



# take action!

## LISTEN UP!



## State of the Union Address: January 28, 2008, 9pm EST

**W**hen President Bush sizes up the “state of union” Monday night, he will be drawing a picture of the country (and the world) as he sees it. It’s up to you to listen carefully, and to determine whether that picture has more to do with perception or reality.

Just as important as the speaker will be you, the listener. President Bush will be laying out his vision of the state of our country, and our world. What we hear will inform us — about what he plans to do, and about what we can do. So pull up a chair and take notes. If our Union is to be an inspiration for freedom, we should know how that is going to come to pass, and how we can make it happen.

WAND encourages you to take an active role in listening. This Guide consists of a series of handy charts, which are easy to print out and fill in. The charts highlight specific topics to listen for, along with spaces for taking notes and recording conclusions. If possible, please make copies of the completed Guide to mail to the President and members of Congress. Addresses are listed at the bottom.

The State of the Union address is a great opportunity for meaningful action. When you tune in to the President's speech, take care to listen up. It's a vitally important task: an exercise of our responsibility as citizens, an act of patriotism.

### GET CONNECTED!

Check out these great online resources.

WAND Education Fund web site:  
[www.WANEducationFund.org](http://www.WANEducationFund.org)

Will web site:  
[www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org)



WAND's mission is to empower women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs.

[www.wand.org](http://www.wand.org) • [info@wand.org](mailto:info@wand.org)

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691 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
781-643-6740

**Washington Office**  
322 4th St., NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-544-5055

**Field Office**  
250 Georgia Avenue S.E.,  
Suite 202  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
404-524-5999

## **IRAQ: SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

Most recent polls of the U.S. populace indicates that the majority wants to find a way out soon. The President maintains that the “surge” was successful. How will we find a way to end the war and bring the troops home?

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

*What is the future of our military in Iraq?*

Will we have bases? Will the Iraqi government have command and control?

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

*What next? What are the plans for maintaining security after our withdrawal? What are the plans for rebuilding the country? What are the plans to involve other countries?*

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

**What is the financial cost?**

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

**What are the human costs?**

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

**Other significant points:**

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OTHER COUNTRIES; HOW THE U.S. SHOULD RESPOND

The war on terror started in Afghanistan; what did the President say about the war there?

What the President indicated

My own observations and conclusions

Iran is still actively pursuing nuclear power, and therefore the potential for nuclear weapon, despite all diplomatic appeals. Should the U.S. respond, and if so, how?

What the President indicated

My own observations and conclusions

The murder of Benazir Bhutto raised many questions about the situation in Pakistan. How should the U.S. respond?

What the President indicated

My own observations and conclusions

## CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING/ENERGY

If we accept the phenomenon of global warming, how should we proceed to take steps to stop it, and to reverse its effects? How can we make policy that doesn't hurt the economy but does make a difference?

What the President indicated

My own observations and conclusions

What steps can we take *soon* to reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies? If the answer is not simply conservation measures, how can we make wise and timely investments in renewable energy sources? Will it be necessary to resort to nuclear power as an answer to the energy problem?

What the President indicated

My own observations and conclusions

## **MORE SECURITY/MILITARY CHALLENGES**

The administration is actively pursuing ways to fund new nuclear weapons – such as the bunker buster or new warheads. How should the U.S. respond to the possibility of a new nuclear arms race?

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

Some countries have indicated they would like to ban weapons in space. Is the administration justifying its opposition to such a treaty? (Majority of the population supports such a ban.)

**What the President indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

## **THE ECONOMY**

Faced with the prospect of a severe recession, the administration has joined with Congress in proposing swift tax cuts. Do you think this will benefit taxpayers who need it most, or the wealthiest among us? Will it provide an stimulus to the economy? Is there any realistic way to recover from the mortgage crisis?

| <b>Economic issue</b>  | <b>Stategies mentioned by the President</b> |
|--|---|
| <b>Tax Cuts</b>  |   |
| <b>The Deficit</b>   |   |
| <b>Jobs</b>  |   |
| <b>Mortgage Crisis</b>   |   |
| <b>Other</b>   |   |
| <b>CONCLUSION / COMMENTS: Do the President's plans seem realistic and effective?</b> |   |

## FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

The FY08 budget made deep cuts in programs that serve the poorest and least able among us – at the same time that it increased funding for the Pentagon, and sought new funds to build new nuclear weapons. Will the President propose a budget for FY09 that reflects these values?

| <b>Spending category</b>  | <b>Initiatives or funding levels mentioned by the President</b> |
|---|---|
| <b>Education</b>  |   |
| <b>Medicare / Medicaid</b>  |   |
| <b>Social Security</b>  |   |
| <b>Housing</b>  |   |
| <b>Welfare Assistance/<br/>Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)</b>  |   |
| <b>Jobs/employment</b>  |   |
| <b>The Pentagon</b><br>(note: Pentagon spending in the current year is approximately \$502 billion + war appropriations.) |   |
| <b>CONCLUSION / COMMENTS: Do the President's budget priorities reflect your needs and values?</b>                         |   |

## GOOD WORK!

**Next: Take a moment to make copies of your document and send them out.**

**For up-to-date information: Check out: [www.wandactioncenter.org](http://www.wandactioncenter.org)**

### **To contact President George Bush**

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### **To contact your Congresspeople**

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Email: Check out: **[www.wandactioncenter.org](http://www.wandactioncenter.org)**

Mail: Sen. \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

**Thanks! We can build a better world.**