

American Solutions
2008 Action Pack for Activists
Solutions Day 2008 Edition



AMERICAN SOLUTIONS
for Winning the Future
WWW.AMERICANSOLUTIONS.COM

About This Document: This document provides an overview of the strategy for American Solutions in 2008. In this document, American Solutions volunteers will find basic background on the vision, goals and strategies, and suggested activities for involvement in American Solutions. This document is intended for American Solutions supporters who have volunteered to host workshops for Solutions Day 2.0.

“Why should I get involved with American Solutions?”

As a citizen, there are many things you can do to help make this a better country for yourself, and your children and grandchildren. The country needs you to be an active citizen to achieve the scale of real change necessary to transform our broken political and governmental system.

Through supporting American Solutions, you will get long-term solutions (as opposed to quick fixes) that will meet our nation’s challenges, and a concrete strategy for uniting the country.

"I want to help with American Solutions. What should I do now?"

Thank you for getting involved with American Solutions!

This year, in 2008, you can get involved in a great number of ways:

1. **Sign up**—Join the movement at AmericanSolutions.com.
2. **Solutions Day 2008**—Attend or host one of our nationwide workshops on September 27, 2008.
3. **Platform of the American People**—Introduce the Platform at your local political party for adoption or discussion. Spread the word about the Platform of the American People with friends, families, associates, and groups.
4. **Drill Here. Drill Now. Pay Less.**—Get involved in our big campaign to develop sources of domestic energy! Sign the petition at AmericanSolutions.com and inform your friends and elected officials.
5. **Platform Scorecard**—Ask your candidates if they agree with America’s core values as outlined in the Platform Scorecard and what they would support if elected. (Coming soon.)
6. **Solutions Lab**—Make your voice heard through our ideas exchange and collaboration Platform.
7. **Organize a Local Chapter**—Form a local Real Change chapter with our self-organizing tools available at AmericanSolutions.com.
8. **Solutions Academy**—Learn the issues through internet-based self-education at our online Solutions Academy.
9. **513Connect**—Contribute to our goal of being heard by all 513,000 elected officials in America. Through 513Connect, you can identify your elected officials at every level of government. (Coming soon.)
10. **Solutions Action Center & Action Pack**—Apply Real Change in your community with specific “go-do’s.”
11. **Spread the word**—Recruit 5 of your friends to join the Real Change movement.

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Solutions Day 2008: We Have The Power

Solutions for Energy, the Economy, Education, and Health

DISH Network #219 • DirecTV #577 • www.SolutionsDay2008.com
Saturday, September 27 • 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm EDT
Cobb Galleria Centre • Atlanta, Georgia

Second Annual Solutions Day

Solutions Day is an annual event to inform, connect, and mobilize citizen leaders to help win America's future. More than 100,000 people participated nationwide at the inaugural Solutions Day. Our second annual Solutions Day, available at www.SolutionsDay2008.com, will be historic in its content and its citizen involvement.

The theme of Solutions Day 2008 is “We Have the Power” and will focus on providing citizens with the tools, knowledge, and training they need to transform government at all levels—from school boards and city councils to state legislatures and Congress (513,000 elected offices).

A Tri-partisan Event

American Solutions is a tri-partisan organization. Our tri-partisan agenda, the Platform of the American People only includes issues that have the support of a majority of Democrats, a majority of Republicans and a majority of independents. American Solutions was present at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions to talk about these issues that unite an overwhelmingly majority of Americans. Solutions Day will include participation by prominent Democrats and Republicans, including former Democratic Governor Roy Romer of Colorado, former Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro, former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Republican Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, NBA legend Dominique Wilkins, and many others.

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Solutions Day 2008: We Have The Power

Solutions for Energy, the Economy, Education, and Health

Energy

As clearly demonstrated by nearly 1.5 million Americans signing the “Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less” petition, the American people want to drill for more American energy to lower gas and diesel prices. In addition to drilling here and drilling now, we need to simultaneously develop alternative energy sources such as clean coal, nuclear, wind, solar, biofuels, flex-fuel cars, hydrogen, and prizes for technological breakthroughs for new ways to successfully move toward affordable energy independence. A new book by Newt Gingrich entitled “Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less” will be available at Solutions Day along with the premiere of a new energy movie, “We Have the Power,” produced by Citizens United.

Economy

The American economy needs real investments for long-term growth to create the best jobs, with the best take-home pay, and with the greatest prosperity for safe pensions and retirements. We are developing an “Energy Jobs Investment Act” which draws the distinction between a “stimulus” package which doesn’t create long term real growth and a serious investment strategy to create real jobs, keep money here in the United States, and make our workers more competitive in the world market.

Education

Bob Compton’s documentary “Two Million Minutes” (see www.2mminutes.com) makes a compelling case that Americans have to learn more, faster, and longer. We will all be engaged in lifetime learning. American Solutions is dedicated to working with everyone who wants to see every American get ahead by having the best learning system in the world.

Health

The Center for Health Transformation will host the health and healthcare portion of Solutions Day. Founded by Newt Gingrich in 2003, the Center is a collaboration of leaders dedicated to creating a 21st Century Intelligent Health System that saves lives and saves money. The Center is widely recognized for its leadership in creating, identifying and accelerating the adoption of health solutions and policies leading to better health at lower cost. For more details visit www.healthtransformation.net.

To participate in Solutions Day visit www.SolutionsDay2008.com

"I want to help with Solutions Day. What do I do now?"

Thank you for agreeing to host a Solutions Day workshop! You can host a workshop in one of two ways. Through a live webcast or by watching satellite television (DISH Network—219, Direct TV – Channel 577).

September 27th promises to be an exciting and historical day for all Americans. By hosting a Solutions Day workshop, you are affording people in your community the opportunity to transform government at all levels from the world that fails to the world that works.

We are deeply grateful for the initiative you have displayed in agreeing to host a Solutions Day workshop. Below, we have included a list of suggested steps for setting up your workshop.

1. Reserve a Workshop Location

Please make it your first priority to identify a local venue in which your workshop can be held. Some helpful things to be mindful of when choosing a location:

- A free or a low-cost venue is ideal. You may wish to host the workshop in your home. However, if you think you need a larger space, you might want to consider seeking permission to use one of the following venues:
 - A university, community college, or technical school
 - Your town's public or private school
 - A place of worship
 - A community center or city hall
 - Your homeowners' association meeting room
 - Your apartment building's community room
 - Conference room of a business or corporation
 - YMCA, YWCA, or a similar association that has a meeting room
 - American Legion or VFW hall
 - Political party headquarters
 - A private room at a local restaurant
 - A think tank
 - Please be sure to reserve the venue for the entire day of Saturday, September 29th.
 - Please be sure your venue has a high speed internet connection and a computer with a projector to webcast streaming video, or a television that receives either the DISH Network or Direct TV.

2. Register Your Workshop Location

If you choose to host a public workshop event, please make it your second priority to publicize your workshop event. In the event you would like your community members to attend:

- We encourage you to begin publicizing your workshop location through local media, church bulletins, and other community outlets.

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- Please submit the full street address of your workshop location and your contact information at www.SolutionsDay2008.com so we can help drive people to your event.

3. Invite Your Local Elected Officials and Community Members

One of the key tenants of Solutions Day is to transform government, not only through the power of the federal government and presidency, but through the power of all 513,000 elected offices, and so we encourage you to invite your community leaders to your Solutions Day workshop. To help get you started, we have included:

- A sample invitation to send to your friends, local elected officials, and other contacts.
- A sample phone script for you to use if you prefer to call your contacts instead of message them.
- Please remember to instruct all attendees and hosts to register at www.SolutionsDay2008.com.

4. Prepare

Please remember that preparation for Solutions Day is critical. Equipment:

- One of the best ways you can prepare is to make sure your equipment is working properly.

Solutions Day Schedule of Events:

- Americans will organize in workshops on September 27th. Newt will begin the day with an address at 1:00 PM (EDT). The program will begin at 1:00 PM (EDT) and continue through 7:00 PM. (EDT)



Frequently Asked Questions About Solutions Day 2008

Why are we holding Solutions Day?

On September 27, 2008 citizens have the opportunity to start the change in their government. They can choose to do it at the school board level, the city council level, the county commission level, the state legislature level, the congressional level, or the presidential level. If you have an idea that you want to promote that is going to make life better for yourselves, your neighbors and your fellow Americans, this is your opportunity to get involved. It's not often that one of these opportunities comes along. It's time for citizens to take back their government! Solutions Day is about you. This is your opportunity -- and it doesn't matter whether you're a Democrat, Republican or Independent. It's about you, your family, and your future.

What will happen on Solutions Day?

On September 27th, American Solutions General Chairman Newt Gingrich will outline the challenges facing our country and how to address these challenges through fundamental transformational change. At American Solutions, we believe real change requires real change. You are invited to watch this on the internet and on satellite television (DISH Network's channel 219 and Direct TV's channel 577). We encourage you to gather with friends and organize events to talk about the ideas discussed on Solutions Day. You can register at www.SolutionsDay2008.com to be notified to watch the presentation on the Internet or attend live at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, Georgia. The workshops will be broadcast on the internet and on satellite television (DISH Network's channel 219 and Direct TV's channel 577).

What are the main components of a Workshop?

Moderators: Nationally known leaders and experts that will guide the discussion on a certain topic.

Hosts: Individuals that organize workshops in their community or home. Hosts will welcome participants to their location, offer a brief introduction, and help facilitate discussion on the ideas raised during the workshops.

Participants: Individuals that wish to attend a workshop and collaborate on ideas.

Locations: A workshop location could be a large group gathering at a public venue (college, church, community center, etc), three or four people in their living room, or an individual on their own computer.

When and where will Solutions Day take place?

American Solutions will broadcast the opening presentation on September 27th live from the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, and it will include special guests from around the country. The event begins at 1:00 (EDT) and will last until 7:00 PM (EDT).



“I’d like to share Solutions Day 2008 in my community. How can I do that?”

One of our main objectives at American Solutions is to get all elected officials in America to stop focusing on the issues that divide us and start focusing on the issues that Americans are united on. You can help us achieve our goal of a Red, White and Blue country by contacting your local elected officials and letting them know about they can participate in Solutions Day 2008. It is time to transform government through all 513,000 elected offices! To help get you started, we have included:

- A sample letter to send to your friends, local elected officials, and other contacts.
- A sample phone script for you to use if you prefer to call your contacts instead of message them.

One of the best ways to reach a large number of people is through outreach to the key players in your community. Here are some ways you can do this:

- Distribute the information on Solutions Day 2008 to local, state, and federal officials from your area.
- Consider taking the issues we are spotlighting on Solutions Day 2008 (Energy, Economy, Education, and Health) and contacting local leaders in your community who are knowledgeable about those areas.

On the web...

- Consider placing banner ads on key websites promoting the Solutions Day 2008. They are available on our website for your use. You can find them at www.SolutionsDay2008.com.
- Reach out to key, state-level bloggers.
- Send emails to people in your contact database.

On the radio...

- Call talk radio to share information about Solutions Day 2008.

Traditional media...

- Write letters to the editor or op-eds supporting the ideals of Solutions Day 2008.



“Whom should I tell about Solutions Day 2008?”

The first step to making Solutions Day 2008 a success is inviting people you know to become citizen activists.

We’ve put together this list so that you can get a head-start on assembling your list of friends to contact about Solutions Day 2008.

This list is by no means exhaustive, so please think about other friends, neighbors, and colleagues you plan to invite to participate. Invite everyone you can think of, regardless of party affiliation.

You’ll find the list of potential local officials to invite on a separate page.

1. Your friends and neighbors
2. Your colleagues from work
3. People you do business with, such as your physician, dentist, car dealer, etc.
4. People who may be members of your local Chamber of Commerce
5. Contacts in your Rolodex
6. Friends from your Christmas or holiday card list
7. High school and college alums
8. Service club members, such as Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, and Jaycees
9. Fraternal organizations, such as the Elks, Moose, Eagles, and Knights of Columbus
10. Friends from your church and church-affiliated groups
11. Members of like-minded clubs, such as your local Republican or Democratic Party organizations (and affiliates such as Young Republicans or Democrats, College Republicans or Democrats, etc.)
12. Women’s groups, such as the National Association of Women Business Owners, Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Republican and Democratic Women’s Clubs
13. Veterans from your local VFW, American Legion
14. Taxpayer groups, such as Americans for Prosperity
15. Senior citizen groups
16. Parents from your local PTA
17. Teachers, especially those who teach civics and government
18. Local school administrators (principals, superintendents)
19. People you’ve met while volunteering on political campaigns

“How do I find all of my elected officials?”

Every community has its own unique set of elected officials. Here’s a broad list of those who might be elected in your community.

You can access the name and contact information for many elected officials by visiting www.congress.org. There, you can type in your zip code and/or name of your community and the names of many elected officials will pop up.

Another source to help identify your local county and city elected officials is the National Association of County Officials website, www.naco.org. There, you can do a very easy search by typing in the name of your county – and all the officials will pop up. Some have email information and some don’t, so you may need to do a little more sleuthing by calling your local government office.

For those without internet connection, you can still take a look at the “blue” pages (the government pages) of your phone book. Please take a look at the list and identify those individuals you want to inform about the Platform of the American People and “Drill Here. Drill Now. Pay Less.”

1. U.S. Senator
2. U.S. Representative
3. Governor
4. Statehouse officials – Lt. Governor, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Public Service Commissioner
5. State Legislators – State Representatives, State Senator, State Assembly
6. Mayor
7. County or City Executive
8. Town or City Council
9. County Commission
10. County Legislator
11. Board of Supervisors
12. County, District, Prosecuting, City or Commonwealth’s Attorney
13. Sheriff or other elected law enforcement official (Constable)
14. Judges
15. School Board/School Superintendent
16. Clerk of the District Court
17. Clerk of the Court
18. County, City or Town Clerk
19. Auditor
20. Comptroller
21. Election Commissioner/ Supervisor of Elections
22. Engineer
23. Surveyor
24. Recorder
25. Tax Assessor
26. Property Appraiser
27. Treasurer/Tax Collector
28. Coroner/Medical Examiner
29. Register of Deeds
30. Public Defender



Sample Letter about Solutions Day 2008

Dear _____,

We are at a critical point in American history.

The American people are calling for both parties to move beyond red-versus-blue partisanship. They are calling for their elected officials to actually represent their values and principles. They are calling for real change.

Solutions Day is an annual event to inform, connect, and mobilize citizen leaders to help win America's future. More than 100,000 people participated nationwide at the inaugural Solutions Day. Our second annual Solutions Day, to be held on September 27, 2008 (information available at www.SolutionsDay2008.com), will be historic in its content and its citizen involvement.

The theme of Solutions Day 2008 is "We Have the Power" and will focus on providing citizens with the tools, knowledge, and training they need to transform government at all levels—from school boards and city councils to state legislatures and Congress (513,000 elected offices).

American Solutions was present at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions to talk about these issues that unite an overwhelmingly majority of Americans. Solutions Day 2008 will include participation by prominent Democrats and Republicans, including former Democratic Governor Roy Romer of Colorado, former Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro, former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Republican Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, NBA legend Dominique Wilkins, and many others.

Imagine how much healthier America would be if in January 2009 both parties were committed to adopting a set of solutions the American people favor by large majorities.

The American people are united. Now, both parties have a historic choice: continue politics as usual, or stand for real change. I hope you'll join me on September 27th in urging the Republican and Democratic parties to stand with the American people for real change.

Sincerely,



Phone Script for Sharing Information on Solutions Day 2008

Hello _____. My name is _____, and I am calling to tell you about Solutions Day 2008. I hope you'll join me on September 27th in urging the Republican and Democratic parties to stand with the American people for real change.

- The American people are calling for both parties to move beyond red-versus-blue partisanship. They are calling for their elected officials to actually represent their values and principles. They are calling for real change.
- Solutions Day is an annual event to inform, connect, and mobilize citizen leaders to help win America's future.
- More than 100,000 people participated nationwide at the inaugural Solutions Day.
- American Solutions was present at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions to talk about these issues that unite an overwhelmingly majority of Americans.
- The theme of Solutions Day 2008 is "We Have the Power" and will focus on providing citizens with the tools, knowledge, and training they need to transform government at all levels—from school boards and city councils to state legislatures and Congress (513,000 elected offices).
- Solutions Day 2008 will include participation by prominent Democrats and Republicans, including former Democratic Governor Roy Romer of Colorado, former Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro, former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Republican Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, NBA legend Dominique Wilkins, and many others.
- The American people are united. Now, both parties have a historic choice: continue politics as usual, or stand for real change.
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