

# Deb Fischer's Positions

## The Economy

Fischer wants to stop tax increases and reform the tax code to create stability and simplicity for small businesses. To do this, she would make the Bush tax cuts permanent and eliminate the alternative minimum tax and the estate tax. In addition, she says she will work to close corporate loopholes and reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 to 24 percent. Promoting free trade is also part of Fischer's unemployment plan. She would like to see the U.S. seek new trading relationships and improve upon existing relationships by lowering or removing foreign tariffs on U.S. goods. She would also push for regulations that enforce adherence to international intellectual property laws.

In the Senate, Fischer promises to remove excessive regulations and mandates that restrict small businesses. She says she will attempt to implement an independent review of congressional acts to ensure the safety of those who may be affected. Repealing the Dodd-Frank Act, which was passed to impose limits on Wall Street and banks in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, is important to her. If that is not possible, she will work to eliminate the Durbin Amendment, which increases fees on bank debit and credit cards, and the Volcker Rule, which limits trading by banks in speculative financial instruments using their own accounts.

Fischer wants to stimulate local businesses and jobs by reducing energy costs as well. Ending cap-and-trade legislation that puts a mandatory cap on environmental emissions is part of her plan. She also wants to eliminate U.S. reliance on foreign oil and replace it with domestic oil production like offshore drilling and refineries.

# Bob Kerrey's Positions

## The Economy

### Stimulus

Kerrey advocates the recapitalization of Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) is important to recreating capitalization stability. He does not want to provide banks with the authority to create new products and services. He thinks that the legislation instructing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to develop and institute risk-based deposit insurance premiums will shift the burden from well-capitalized and well-managed banks to those institutions that are most likely to draw on the insurance fund.

[http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Profiles/Senate/Nebraska/Bob\\_Kerrey/Views/The\\_Economy/](http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Profiles/Senate/Nebraska/Bob_Kerrey/Views/The_Economy/)

### Budget cuts

Kerrey outlined \$1.13 trillion in cuts to reduce federal spending during a press conference at his campaign headquarters.

<http://www.bobkerrey.com/news/press-releases/senator-bob-kerrey-announces-1-13-trillion-in-cuts>

The final part of Fischer's job and business stimulus plan entails a repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. She wants to reform medical malpractice liability laws to reduce costs created by preventing lawsuits. Right now, insurance companies are unable to compete across state lines- Fischer wants to change that. Finally, she wants to implement Association Healthcare Plans that would allow small businesses to provide more affordable coverage to their employees.

<http://debfisher2012.com/2012/06/senator-deb-fischer-jobs-plan/>

#### Health care and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

Fischer wants to overturn The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. According to her website, Deb Fischer says, "I believe we can reduce costs and increase accessibility to health care, not with big government, but with free-market reforms." Fischer does not specify what "free-market reforms" she is talking about.

<http://debfisher2012.com/issues/healthcare/>

#### Health care and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

##### Views on the Affordable Care Act

Kerrey thinks that Obamacare is a step in the right direction but it's still not perfect. He believes that Americans should have access to affordable health coverage that is high quality. If elected he will continue to perfect the act.

<http://www.bobkerrey.com/issues/health-care>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/06/bob-kerrey-deb-fischer\\_n\\_1654654.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/06/bob-kerrey-deb-fischer_n_1654654.html)

##### Health care

Kerrey has said health care provided under federal law saved his life when he returned from Vietnam. The only criterion of eligibility for health care should be being a citizen or a legal, taxpaying resident. He advocates severing the link between employment and health care so entrepreneurs can focus on creating jobs. Health care reform should place all Americans in the same pool in order to share risk. Consumers should have choice between competing options. The Affordable Care Act was a step in the right direction. However, a law as important as health care reform should

ideally be based on real cost controls, bipartisan support and meaningful input from Nebraskans.

[http://www.diffen.com/difference/Bob\\_Kerrey\\_vs\\_Deb\\_Fischer](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Bob_Kerrey_vs_Deb_Fischer)

<http://www.bobkerrey.com/issues>

Additional healthcare information:

Kerrey opposes the employer mandate in Affordable Care Act, saying it “will accelerate an already breaking-down employer-based system.” He also advocates raising Social Security taxes and reducing benefits.

[http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/bob-kerrey-slams-health-insurance-mandate/article\\_8ff9c23c-f8e9-11e1-b9ad-001a4bc-f887a.html](http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/bob-kerrey-slams-health-insurance-mandate/article_8ff9c23c-f8e9-11e1-b9ad-001a4bc-f887a.html)

Obamacare

Kerrey likes Obamacare but he would call for a few changes, but keep the basic format. The program should include an individual mandate that requires people to buy health insurance or pay a fine. It should also create a market-oriented approach, that would create private insurance exchanges to provide health insurance.

[http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/debate-between-kerrey-and-fischer---live-now/article\\_b91cc408-0984-11e2-b6b8-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/debate-between-kerrey-and-fischer---live-now/article_b91cc408-0984-11e2-b6b8-0019bb2963f4.html)

### Student aid (need vs. merit)

Keeping college affordable Prior to the 2004 Legislative election, Fischer “...served on the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the state’s oversight agency for higher education institutions.” Fischer wants to “provide state funding for tax incentives and financial aid to help make college more affordable.” Her campaign does not

### Student aid (need vs. merit)

Kerrey supports funding Pell Grants (financial aid) for Nebraska and the country. He says it is the right thing to do because 74 percent of recipients of Pell Grants earned less than \$ 30,000

<http://www.bobkerrey.com/news/ryan-fischer-plan-would-cut-financial-aid-for-college-stu->

outline specifics.

PERLINK”[http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Deb\\_Fischer\\_Education.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Deb_Fischer_Education.htm)”

[http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Deb\\_Fischer\\_Education.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Deb_Fischer_Education.htm)

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120520/NEWS01/705209899>

### Farm-price supports

Attending to agriculture, Fischer hopes to bring the “Nebraska Way” to the U.S. Senate. This includes dividing the farm bill into smaller sections that will allow it to pass more quickly and aid local farmers. She supports lower taxes for farmers and the protection of their property rights. Also, she says she will strive to ensure that access to water is provided to farmers.

Deb Fischer does not mention opinions about farm-price supports. Fischer receives subsidies for her approximately 12,000 acres that are being used for grazing. Fischer and her husband filed a lawsuit against neighbors, Les and Betty Kime, in Cherry County over a land boundary dispute. The Kimes allowed Fischer’s cattle to graze on their land for free. The Fischers “attempted to acquire the land” before going to court. The Fischers wanted to avoid going to court but their attorney insured them going to court would be the best option to resolve the dispute.

[http://journalstar.com/elections/friends-neighbors-defend-fischer-against-ad-attack/article\\_7ae115cb-aead-5ebd-9967-7954e789d360.html](http://journalstar.com/elections/friends-neighbors-defend-fischer-against-ad-attack/article_7ae115cb-aead-5ebd-9967-7954e789d360.html)

[http://journalstar.com/elections/kerrey-tv-ad-accuses-fischer-of-land-grab/article\\_56789001-8a35-54fa-991c-df48a-da852dd.html](http://journalstar.com/elections/kerrey-tv-ad-accuses-fischer-of-land-grab/article_56789001-8a35-54fa-991c-df48a-da852dd.html)

dents

Kerrey wants to create a law that promotes high standards and achievements without prescribing a rigid one-size fits all approach to education. He would make early education a high priority.

<http://www.1011now.com/news/political/misc/Meet-Bob-Kerrey-Democratic-Candidate-for-Senate-172892151.html>

### Farm-price supports

Kerrey was an early promoter of ethanol in Nebraska, using subsidies to build the industry.

—Rick Svatora, research director for Nebraskans for Kerrey.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0512/76384.html>

### Israel and Palestine

Deb Fisher does not outline specifics about Israel and Palestine. On her website, she says she will not play politics with our national security.

<http://debfisher2012.com/issues/national-security/>

### Iran and nuclear power

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Sen. Deb Fisher does not directly outline a plan to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear power. On her website, she writes: "America cannot allow nuclear arms to get in the hands of terrorist states or allow rogue nations to threaten or bully others with nuclear threats. That is why we must fight – and win – the war on terrorism. To succeed in this mission, fight-

### Israel and Palestine

Kerrey supports a peace agreement between Syria and Israel. Such an agreement would decrease the potential for tragedy in southern Lebanon. Also, it will increase the chances that Lebanon could become more independent from Syria. "The future of the South Army and the future of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon-will require generosity. The Lebanese Army should integrate the SLA fighters into its own ranks and make them welcome. It should similarly integrate those Hezbollah combatants who request it. Regarding the Palestinians, some of whom have resided in camps in Lebanon since 1948, Lebanon should likewise be generous. Those Palestinians who request it should be accorded citizenship and Lebanon should make a special effort to integrate them fully into its national life. It seems presumptuous of me to advise a country which fought a long civil war over just such issues to now take bold action to integrate its marginalized groups. But if Lebanon fails to do so it will be neither peaceful nor independent, and its weakness will lessen the chances of peace in the region."

[http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Profiles/Senate/Nebraska/Bob\\_Kerrey/Views/Israel/](http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Profiles/Senate/Nebraska/Bob_Kerrey/Views/Israel/)

### Iran and nuclear power

Kerrey opposes war with Iran. "I think it would be a disaster. It'll make Iraq and Afghanistan look like a cakewalk." But he supports plans for cooperative threat reduction on nuclear weapons.

<http://www.thinkprogress.org>  
<http://www.ontheissues.org/international/>

ing terrorism needs to be the top priority of the federal government, not an afterthought.”  
<http://debfisher2012.com/issues/national-security/>

### Gay rights

Fisher does not address LBGTQ issues on her website. On a PDF explaining her conservative record, she says she supports a federal anti-gay marriage amendment.

<http://debfisher2012.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Deb-Fischer-Conservative-Record.pdf>

### DREAM Act

Fisher opposes the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which provides a path for citizenship for children of illegal immigrants. Her website

[Bob\\_Kerrey\\_Homeland\\_Security.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Domestic/Bob_Kerrey_Homeland_Security.htm)

### Gay rights

Kerrey supports the right of gays and lesbians to marry, and he brings it up frequently. “People who are opposed to it are going to have to be explaining to their grandkids: why, why, why was that the rationale?” he said. “We’re going to be embarrassed in 25 years.”

As a U.S. senator, Kerrey sponsored a bill: A bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/21/opinion/bruni-principle-over-politics.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/21/opinion/bruni-principle-over-politics.html?_r=0)  
Generally on civil rights, Kerrey has said in his manifesto, “A New Agenda for the New Decade”: “The more ethnically and culturally diverse America becomes, the harder we must all work to affirm our common civic culture .... This means we should resist an ‘identity politics’ that confers rights and entitlements on groups and instead affirm our common rights and responsibilities as citizens. Multiethnic democracy requires fighting discrimination against marginalized groups; empowering the disadvantaged to join the economic, political, and cultural mainstream; and respecting diversity while insisting that what we have in common as Americans is more important than how we differ.”

[http://www.ontheissues.org/Domestic/Bob\\_Kerrey\\_Civil\\_Rights.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Domestic/Bob_Kerrey_Civil_Rights.htm)

### DREAM Act

Kerrey supports Mitt Romney’s plan to offer citizenship to any immigrant serving in the U.S. military, but he also supports President Barack Obama’s order to stop deporting chil-

states she will “eliminate” illegal immigration, secure our borders and stop sanctuary cities. In Nebraska’s Unicameral, she voted against providing in-state tuition for illegal aliens. Her specific plans include increasing the number of border patrol and enforcement agents, enacting stricter penalties for employers who hire illegal immigrants, and increasing funding for state and local officials to combat it as well.  
<http://debfisher2012.com/2012/04/deb-fischer-announces-plan-to-stop-illegal-immigration/>

### Abortion and contraception

Deb Fischer is 100 percent pro-life. In 2010, while in the Unicameral, Fischer co-sponsored and helped pass the Adopt the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, LB 1103, which added stages for pre-abortion counseling. In the cases of incest and rape, Fischer says abortions should be legal. Also, “abortions should be legal when the life of the woman is endangered.” Fischer would prohibit “public funding of abortions and of organizations that advocate or perform abortions.” Fischer’s campaign is endorsed by the Nebraska Right to Life and Susan B. Anthony List.

<http://debfisher2012.com/issues/protecting-life/> [http://www.ontheissues.org/Social/Deb\\_Fischer\\_Abortion.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Social/Deb_Fischer_Abortion.htm)

### Climate change

In the Oct., 2 debate with Bob Kerry, Deb Fisher said she does not believe human pollution was linked to global climate change. Fisher’s statement caused University of Nebraska-Lincoln scientists to release a statement asserting that human pollution is causing climate change.

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/nu-scientists-chose-proactive-course-with-climate-change-statement/article\\_c8d05665-](http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/nu-scientists-chose-proactive-course-with-climate-change-statement/article_c8d05665-)

dren of illegal immigrants who came to U.S. as children.

<http://watchdog.org/52125/fischer-and-kerrey-put-on-a-great-debate/>

### Abortion and contraception

Kerrey says the better practice would be to trust women rather than regulating half the population. He said it makes no sense to call for the deregulation of business and the regulation of the half of the population who are women. He has called the abortion decision a difficult one and one that government should stay out of. There are better ways, he says, to reduce the number of abortions performed in the United States.

[http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Bob\\_Kerrey\\_Abortion.html](http://www.ontheissues.org/social/Bob_Kerrey_Abortion.html)

### Climate change

Kerrey thinks that global warming is man-made.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20121001/NEWS/121009969>

dc4d-50a5-bff3-371f59f59878.html

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20121001/NEWS/121009969>

[http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/article\\_9af2c2f4-1369-11e2-bc56-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.dailynebraskan.com/news/article_9af2c2f4-1369-11e2-bc56-0019bb30f31a.html)

### Fossil fuels vs. alternative energy sources

Fischer intends to make amendments that are aimed to increase the production of U.S. energy. She intends to reduce regulations and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) power, increase the production of domestic oil and gas, and move alternative energy research into the private sector.

To limit the EPA, she wants all significant regulations made to require congressional approval before they become active. In addition, she wants to reduce regulations on greenhouse gases.

To increase domestic oil and gas production, Fischer supports drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and on offshore sites. She wants federal land to be opened up for oil shale development. Locally, Fischer supports the Keystone XL Pipeline and ethanol use. She would like to see development in nuclear infrastructure and a reduction in regulations concerning their environmental impact and construction. In addition, she would like to expand clean coal technology and coal power plants that are in operation.

Finally, Fischer says that alternative energy needs to be moved into the private sector in free market conditions. She encourages, but does not donate to, research into alternative energy sources.

### Fossil fuels vs. alternative energy sources

#### Fossil fuels

Kerrey supports the creation of a domestic emissions trading system to reduce greenhouse gases by 10 percent. He also wants to promote innovative agreements for community and regional partnerships to achieve national environmental goals and standards through local strategies. And he wants to end government subsidies for sprawl.

[http://www.ontheissues.org/International/Bob\\_Kerrey\\_Energy\\_+\\_Oil.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/International/Bob_Kerrey_Energy_+_Oil.htm)

In regard to the Keystone XL Pipeline, Kerrey has said the state of Nebraska needs to decide the placement of the proposed oil pipeline in order to protect the interests of landowners and the safety of the state's drinking-water supply.

<http://lww.thevoterguide.org/v/lwvnegreateromaha12/race-detail.do?id=10798466>

On other matters related to energy, Kerrey wants to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, increase ethanol production, and maintain tax incentives for corn-based ethanol. He also supports federal programs to increase energy efficiency, such as home weatherization programs. And he would fund programs that saved tax dollars by assessing local hospitals and schools to increase their efficiency and reduce their energy consumption.

<http://www.studentvote.ne.gov/pdf-docs/kerrey-questionnaire.pdf>

### Disaster aid

Fisher does not outline her opinions on federal funding for disaster aid.

### Disaster aid

Kerrey wants to expand the federal crop insurance program and streamline the process for declaring areas hit by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and other events eligible for disaster relief. He urges the House of Representatives to pass the five-year Farm Bill, which would renew disaster relief to farmers and ranchers. The bill would also the Department of Agriculture aid livestock operations hurt by the drought and to compensate ranchers for livestock losses. Finally, the bill would assist communities by providing money for preventing and fighting wildfires.

<http://www.bobkerrey.com/news/kerrey-lays-out-specific-proposals-after-visiting-nebraska-area-ravaged-by-fire-and-drought>

### Federal deficit

Fisher says the government needs to cut spending and increase jobs in order to balance the nation's budget. She said she will limit Medicaid fraud, reduce number of federal employees and repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120918/NEWS/120919729>

### Federal deficit

Kerrey supports the "Buffett Rule"—the idea that no household earning \$1 million a year or more should pay a smaller percentage of its income in taxes than a middle-class family—to bring about tax fairness and to reduce the payroll tax (for Social Security and Medicare), which often is the largest tax paid by working Nebraskans.

<http://www.studentvote.ne.gov/pdf-docs/kerrey-questionnaire.pdf>