



THE FIRST TIME MIKE HUCKABEE WAS ASKED IN A national candidates' debate if he believed in evolution, he raised his hand to say that he didn't accept the theory. The second time, Huckabee initially ducked the question and instead replied, "I'm not planning on writing the curriculum for an 8th grade science book."

Scientists in Arkansas who know Huckabee from his decade as governor say the response is consistent with his approach to many social issues: Take a strong stance but don't impose your views on others. The former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention holds many staunchly conservative positions, including support for displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools and opposition to the use of embryonic stem cells for research. But when it comes time to act, Huckabee has often veered toward the center of the political road.

JOHAN MCCAIN DOESN'T HAVE ANY SCIENTIFIC TRAINING OR expertise. But he trusts the experts. They've told him that global warming is the most urgent issue facing the world, and that makes climate change one of the three issues—along with immigration and the Iraq war—that he's emphasizing in his presidential campaign.

The 71-year-old retired Navy pilot turned Arizona politician discovered the issue during his previous, unsuccessful run for the White House in 2000, says his economic adviser, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office. It's popular lore that the candidate woke up to the issue when confronted by a Dartmouth College student dressed as a penguin at an event that year in New Hampshire. In fact, says Holtz-Eakin, McCain got the message "again and again" during the campaign.

McCain used his position on the Senate Commerce Committee, which he chaired from 2003 to 2005, to focus attention on the subject and has led congressional delegations to both poles to witness its impact. "He's probably more knowledgeable [about it] than all the other candidates," says Timothy Profeta, a former staffer for Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) who now runs Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions.

McCain equates environmentalism with national security. And although he has been a staunch supporter of President George W. Bush's stance on the Iraq war, his views on climate change have triggered some sharp exchanges with Bush Administration officials. In 2002, he declared that White House science adviser John Marburger's comments on global warm-

As chief executive of this largely rural state from 1996 to January 2007, Huckabee persuaded a Democratic-led legislature to expand health coverage for poor children and raise taxes to improve schools and roads and unsuccessfully campaigned for teenage immigrants who did not have proof of citizenship to receive college vouchers after graduating from high school. Those positions were anathema to many of his constituents and a pleasant surprise to others. "He really was much less radical and ideological than we all expected," says Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas in Little Rock. He also supported a bond program to help improve infrastructure at universities.

That centrism is being tested now that Huckabee is on a national stage. Seeking to expand his base among evangelicals, for example, he has promised to fight for constitutional amendments that would ban abortion and gay marriage.

ing, which many scientists saw as overly cautious, had "no credibility" in light of the growing severity of the problem. In a 2005 hearing, he accused Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, of having a "complete lack of concern about future generations of Americans who are affected by climate change." He

has also called the president's approach to global warming "disgraceful." Last month, McCain tasted his first legislative victory on the issue, as Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bill designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using a system that caps and trades emissions allowances that he and Lieberman first proposed in 2003.

John Raidt, a former Commerce Committee staffer and now one of McCain's closest advisers, says McCain "understands the limits of his own understanding; ... he trusts the experts." One of these is R. James Woolsey, former chief of the CIA under President Bill Clinton, who has briefed McCain on issues relating to energy independence. Woolsey teasingly calls McCain a "very quick learner in spite of his record at the Naval Academy"—where he ranked fifth from the bottom of his class.

McCain, who has served 26 years in Congress, also listened to the scientific experts in the stem cell debate. Although he opposes abortion, he voted for a bill to expand President George W. Bush's policy on research with human embryonic stem cells. However, he draws the line at human nuclear transfer, or research cloning, arguing that there is no ethical difference between cloning for research and cloning for reproduction.

Most nonclimate science issues are far down on McCain's list of priorities.

REPUBLICAN JOHN MCCAIN

Home State: **Arizona** Web site: **johnmccain.com**
Current Job: **U.S. Senator** Age: **71**

One issue dear to his heart has been the promotion of healthy living. When the Arkansas legislature rejected his proposal to use millions of dollars in tobacco-settlement funds for health care and medical research, he exercised his right as chief executive to call for a referendum, which passed handily. That effort only intensified after he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and shed 110 pounds.

"He would certainly be a friend" of the National Institutes of Health as president, says G. Richard Smith, who helped with the referendum and now directs the psychiatric research institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. On the campaign trail, Huckabee has talked about funding disease-prevention efforts along the lines of the indoor smoking ban he signed into law while governor.

In a presidential debate and in a television interview, Huckabee sidestepped questions about whether human actions are behind climate change, but he supported a 2006 statement by the National Governors Association calling for more climate change research. "Our responsibility to God means that we have to be good stewards of this Earth," he said in a May debate. That attitude, say environmental advocates, is a marked shift for someone who, as governor, declined to take sides in a court battle with Oklahoma about pollution in the shared Illinois River

and once referred to environmentalists as "wackos."

Although he won four statewide races, Huckabee never created the reservoir of political goodwill enjoyed by his predecessor once removed, Bill Clinton, especially among members of his own party. (The two men hail from the same small town of Hope, Arkansas.) Jeremy Hutchinson, a Republican and former assistant

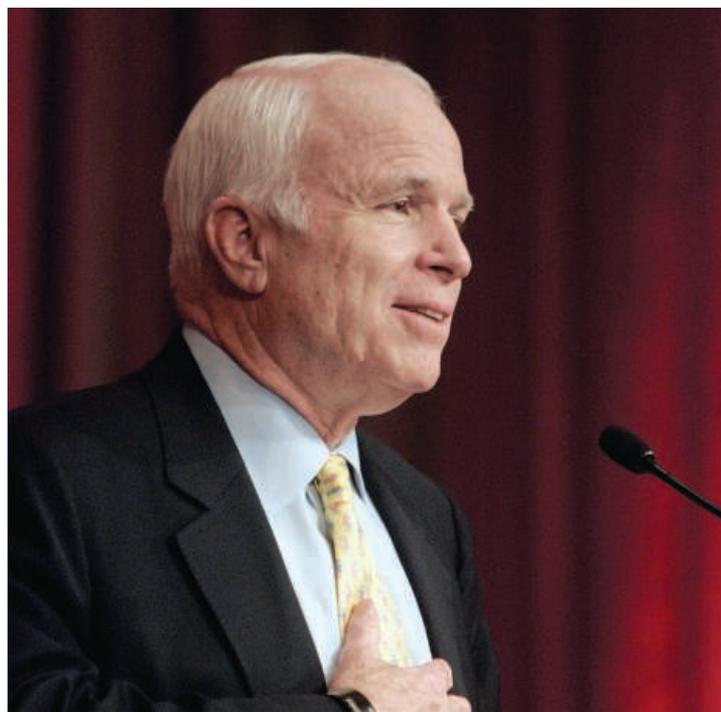
minority leader in the legislature, notes that Huckabee rarely socialized with or lobbied state lawmakers, unlike the famously charismatic former president. "With Clinton, even if you didn't agree with him, you liked him," says Hutchinson. Huckabee also has a short fuse, say several Arkansans inside and outside politics. "He was very thin-skinned and could be pretty vindictive," says Ernest Dumas, a newspaper columnist from Little Rock who was subjected to a 5-minute televised tirade from the governor for his past criticism of Huckabee's highway program.

Jay Barth, a political scientist at Hendrix College in Conway who has written about Huckabee's career, says Huckabee owes his success to a conservative ideology, a winning personality, and media savvy. Huckabee is "very talented [and] never made a lot of political mistakes," says Barth. "Arkansans never loved him the way they loved other politicians, [but] they never hated him," either.

—JENNIFER COUZIN

REPUBLICAN MIKE HUCKABEE

Home State: **Arkansas** Web site: mikehuckabee.com
Most Recent Job: **Governor** Age: **52**



A free-trade advocate, he has sponsored a bill to restrict taxes on Internet use. He also wants to make better use of cyberspace to advance the cause of free-

dom in the tradition of Radio Free Europe. In keeping with his stance on immigration, he has also been involved in expanding H-1B visas for foreign science graduate students studying in the United States.

Sometimes the interests of science take a back seat to those of his constituents. He's supported an amendment to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act that could make it easier to turn over ancient human remains that are unrelated to existing American Indians to tribal representatives, a step that researchers worry will make the remains off limits. And McCain has waffled on the teaching of evolution. In 2005, he told the *Arizona Daily Star* that "there's nothing wrong with teaching different schools of thought [on] ... how the world was created." But the next year, he opined that creationism should "probably not" be taught in science classes.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

OTHER DEMOCRATS IN THE RACE



DEMOCRAT
Joe Biden

Home State: **Delaware**
Current Job: **U.S. Senator**
Web site: joebiden.com
Age: **65**



DEMOCRAT
Chris Dodd

Home State: **Connecticut**
Current Job: **U.S. Senator**
Web site: chrisdodd.com
Age: **63**



DEMOCRAT
Mike Gravel

Home State: **Alaska**
Current Job: **Political Activist**
Web site: gravel2008.us
Age: **77**



DEMOCRAT
Dennis Kucinich

Home State: **Ohio**
Current Job: **U.S. Representative**
Web site: dennis4president.com
Age: **61**