By Ronald Brownstein

LA TIMES

Here is a look at President Bush’s position on the issue:

Abortion

Supports a human life amendment to ban abortions in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the mother is endangered.

Banned rules that severely limit the ability of medical personnel in federally funded family planning clinics to discuss abortion with patients.

AIDS

Increased federal funding on AIDS-related activities by $13.5 billion from Bush.

Has been criticized by members of the National Commission on AIDS for not moving more aggressively to implement wide-ranging proposals aimed at solving the crisis.

Tax Policy

Supports a 30 percent reduction in capital gains for entrepreneurs who start a new business within five years, but opposes President Bush’s broader capital gains reduction.

Would provide some tax relief for the elderly, but not as much as originally promised. Throughout most of the campaign, Clinton presented a middle-class tax cut of 10 percent and a phase-in for children’s tax credits that would be significantly more generous to families with children than the existing dependent’s exemptions.

Now says that taxpayers can take a rate cut or the tax credit option.

Would raise tax rates to about 36 percent on anyone with more than $300,000 in adjusted gross income. Would phase in a 10 percent surtax on millionaires to raise $20 billion annually over the next five years.

While many economists are skeptical, says he would raise $45 billion over the next four years by tightening tax collection on foreign corporations doing business in the United States.

Would offer companies an investment tax credit to encourage modernizing plants and equipment, and would expand government support for the research and development tax credit.

Trade

Extended North American Free Trade Agreement. Would not sign NAFTA treaty unless the United States matched agreement on additional measures to protect American jobs and ensure protection of the environment and worker rights in Mexico; promises to toughen stand against NAFTA over protectionist concerns.

Deficit

Would never submit a balanced budget to Congress; has promised equipment funding by stopping the tax credit but not both.

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