



Issues Comparison of the Major Party Candidates		Barack Obama 	John McCain 
* See notes on the next page for clarification			
Energy	1. Offshore ocean drilling	Limited	Supports
	2. Construction of more oil refineries	Unclear*	Supports
	3. Construction of nuclear power plants	Opposes*	Supports
Immigration	4. Building a fence to stop most illegal entry from Mexico	Supports	Supports
	5. Deporting those who are here illegally	Opposes	Opposes
	6. Providing some path to citizenship (for those here illegally)	Supports	Supports
Life	7. Giving legal protection to unborn children	Opposes	Supports
	8. Federal ban on all forms of human cloning	Mixed*	Supports
	9. Government funding for abortion	Supports	Opposes
	10. Abstinence-only sex education in schools	Opposes	Supports
Marriage & Homosexuality	11. Federal Defense of Marriage Act (a law since 1996)	Opposes	Supports
	12. Federal Marriage Amendment	Opposes	Opposes*
	13. State marriage amendments	Opposes	Supports
	14. Federal hate crime laws to include sexual orientation	Supports	Opposes
School Choice	15. Giving parents tax credits to use in the school of their choice	Opposes	Supports
	16. Giving them vouchers for the same reason	Opposes	Supports
	17. Allowing parents to home school their children with little or no government interference	Opposes	Supports
Taxes & Spending	18. Passage of a law requiring a balanced budget	Opposes	Supports
	19. Replacing income tax with a national sales tax	Opposes	Opposes
	20. The elimination of Congressional earmarks	Supports	Supports
War & Peace	21. The immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq	Opposes	Opposes
	22. Setting a concrete timetable for pulling out the troops	Supports	Opposes
	23. Increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan	Supports	Supports
	24. Allowing homosexuals to serve openly in U.S. military	Supports	Opposes
Judicial Appointments	25. Appoint judges who are strict constructionists, ones that will not legislate from the bench	Opposes	Supports

BARACK OBAMA (barackobama.com)

1. "Obama Shows New Openness to Offshore Oil Drilling," *U.S. News & World Report*, Aug. 4, 2008
<http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/campaign-2008/2008/08/04/obama-shows-new-openness-to-offshore-oil-drilling.html>
2. "Obama Eyes Active Role in Oil Markets," Reuters, Mar. 20, 2008—"he rejected claims that environmental restrictions were to blame for insufficient oil refining capacity, saying oil companies had kept it that way in order to make refining profitable." http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/03/20/obama_eyes_active_role_in_oil_markets/
3. "McCain Calls to Build 45 Nuclear Plants," *ABC News*, Aug. 5, 2008—favors going forward only when it's proven that it can be done safely. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5518964&page=1>
4. "Latinos upset Obama voted for border fence," CBS2Chicago, Nov. 20, 2006
<http://cbs2chicago.com/local/barack.obama.border.2.333613.html>
- 5-6. Campaign website
7. Statements and voting record (OnTheIssues.org)
8. Bioethics.com; opposed to reproductive cloning, but supports therapeutic cloning
- 9-10. Glassbooth.org
11. Statements and voting record (OnTheIssues.org)
12. Voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment (2006-163)
13. "Obama rejects proposed California gay marriage ban," *Sacramento Bee*, July 1, 2008.
<http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/1051404.html>
14. Statement on U.S. Senate website, 12.6.07
- 15-17. Campaign website.
18. Glassbooth.org
19. A response from Senator Obama, FairTax, June 9, 2008
http://linderfairtax.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Letters.View&ContentRecord_id=313
20. "Obama, Clinton embrace earmark moratorium," *Politico*, March 10, 2008.
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0308/8943.html>
- 21-23. Campaign website.
24. "Obama Statement on Pride Month," June 1, 2007.
25. "The Situation Room," CNN, May 8, 2008 and Saddleback Civil Forum on the Presidency, August 16, 2008
http://blogs.suntimes.com/sweet/2008/05/obama_tells_cnns_wolf_blitzer.html
<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0808/16/se.02.html>

JOHN McCAIN (johnmccain.com)

- 1-2. Campaign website
3. "McCain Calls to Build 45 Nuclear Plants," *ABC News*, Aug. 5, 2008
<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5518964&page=1>
- 4-6. Campaign website and NumbersUSA.com
7. Saddleback Civil Forum, Aug. 16, 2008 <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0808/16/se.02.html>
8. Ban on human cloning (1998-10)
- 9-10. Glassbooth.org
11. Voted for the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996
- 12-13. Voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment (2006-163); would support if federal courts act to overturn state amendments—Saddleback Forum
14. Local Law Enforcement Enhancement (2002-147)
- 15-17. Saddleback Forum and campaign website.
18. Glassbooth.org
19. "McCain Hedges on National Sales Tax," Washington Wire, *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 14, 2008
<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/01/14/mccain-hedges-on-national-sales-tax/>
- 20-22. Campaign website.
23. "Emphasis Shifts to Afghanistan," *Baltimore Sun*, July 16, 2008
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation/politics/bal-te.campaign16jul16,0,3010442.story>
24. Republican Primary Debate, Nov. 28, 2007
25. Remarks on Judicial Philosophy, May 6, 2008 and The Saddleback Civil Forum on the Presidency, August 16, 2008
<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/5385b2dd-fc8f-4bc9-9fb0-da2e2f1d9f98.htm>
<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0808/16/se.02.html>





Interest Group Ratings

	Year(s)	Barack Obama	John McCain
ABORTION			
National Right to Life Committee	2005-06	0%	75%
NARAL Pro-Choice America	2007	100%	0%
Planned Parenthood	2006	100%	0%
BUDGET, SPENDING, AND GOVERNMENT REFORM			
Americans for Tax Reform	2007	5%	70%
National Taxpayers Union	2006	16%	88%
Citizens Against Government Waste	2005-06	13%	91%
CIVIL LIBERTIES & RIGHTS			
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	2007	80%	50%
Human Rights Campaign	2005-06	89%	33%
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights	2007	85%	15%
CONSERVATIVE GROUPS			
American Conservative Union	2007	7%	80%
Eagle Forum	2007	7%	46%
The Club for Growth	2007	33%	100%
FAMILY AND CHILDREN ISSUES			
Family Research Council	2007	0%	42%
Children's Defense Fund	2007	60	10
American Family Association	2005-06	0%	66%
IMMIGRATION			
English First	2007	0%	100%
American Immigration Lawyers Association	2006	88%	75%
LIBERAL GROUPS			
Americans for Democratic Action	2007	75%	10%
Irregular Times / Progressive Patriots	2007	50	0
National Journal—Composite Liberal Score	2006	95.5	43.3

More Interest Group Ratings can be found at www.votesmart.org

Presidential Voter Guide

2008 General Election

Party & Candidate	DEMOCRATIC Sen. Barack Obama 	REPUBLICAN Sen. John McCain 
Background Info Education Experience	<p>Barack Hussein Obama Jr. Born: August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii Wife: Michelle Children: 2 United Church of Christ</p> <p>JD, Harvard, 1991 BA, Columbia Univ., 1983 Attended Occidental College</p> <p>U.S. Senator from Illinois, 2005-present Illinois State Senator, 1996-2004 Attorney and lecturer</p>	<p>John Sidney McCain III Born: August 29, 1936 in Panama Canal Zone Wife: Cindy Children: 7 Episcopal</p> <p>National War College, 1973- 74 BS, U.S. Naval Academy, 1958</p> <p>U.S. Senator from Arizona, 1987-present U.S. Representative, 1982-86 Captain, U.S. Navy, Vietnam, 1958-81</p>
Vice Presidential Running Mate	<p>Sen. Joe Biden</p>  <p>U.S. Senator since 1973 representing Delaware; Attorney & Adjunct Professor</p>	<p>Gov. Sarah Palin</p>  <p>Governor of Alaska since 2006; served two terms as Mayor of Wasilla</p>
Contact Details	<p>Obama for America P.O. Box 8102 Chicago, IL 60680 866-675-2008</p> <p>www.barackobama.com E-mail form on website</p>	<p>John McCain 2008 P.O. Box 16118 Arlington, VA 22215 703-418-2008</p> <p>www.johnmccain.com E-mail form on website</p>