



ELECTION 2008: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

THE STUDENTS IN DR. MORELLO'S POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASS OFFER YOU A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE MAJOR CANDIDATES IN THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

BARACK OBAMA

- **Candidate's Name:** Barack Obama
- **Candidate's Political Affiliation:** Democratic
- **Candidate's Bio:** Barack Obama is 47 yrs old. He graduated from Columbia University with a majored in political science and then he graduated from Harvard Law School, graduated magna cum laude, and was the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review
- **Candidate's Official Website:** <http://www.barakobama.com>

- **Candidate's Headquarters:** P.O. Box 8102 Chicago, IL 60680
- **Candidate's Platform; Where does Barack Obama stand on**
 - **Iraq-** He is against the war in Iraq and feels that we need to leave.

- **Terrorism-** Has a very comprehensive strategy with five elements that will help us win the war on terrorism. 1. Getting out of Iraq and on to the right battlefield in Afghanistan and Pakistan. 2. Developing the capabilities and partnerships we need to take out the terrorists and the world's most deadly weapons. 3. Engaging the world to dry up support for terror and extremism. 4. Restoring our values. 5. Securing a more resilient homeland.
- **Education-** He feels that schools must prepare students to meet the demands of the global economy and help students take their place as committed and engaged citizens. It must ensure that all students have a quality education regardless of race, class, or background. Barack Obama is committed to strengthening our public schools to maximize our country's greatest natural resource in the American people.
- a. **Economy-** He feels we should implement a 21st century economic agenda to help ensure that America can compete in a global economy while ensuring the middle class as a thriving and growing class. He will increase investments in infrastructure, energy independence, education, research and development, modernize, and simplify our tax code so it provides greater opportunity and relief to more Americans.
- b. **Healthcare-** He feels that every American has the right to have believe that affordable health care.
- c. **Environment-** He has been pushing for a comprehensive national energy policy and has introduced a number of bills. He also would like to find a way to get us closer to the goal of energy independence, by using renewable fuels and clean coal.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

John McCain

The content of these web pages was derived from www.johnmccain.com

John McCain was born on August 29, 1936 into a military family. He went on to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and works his way through the ranks to become a Naval Officer. After graduating from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia John McCain completed his education at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated in 1958 and was commissioned as a naval officer. He is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He served in the war from 1967 until 1973. He spent five years of his service in Vietnam as a prisoner of war. He was released in

March of 1973 together with 600 other POWs. After his release he continued his service in the Navy and eventually retired a captain in 1981.

John McCain is currently serving his fourth term in the U.S. Senate and lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Cindy and their four children.

Where does Senator McCain stand on the issues?

[Iraq](#)

[Taxes/Economy](#)

[Healthcare](#)

[Environment](#)

Where John McCain stands on Iraq

Bolster Troops on the Ground

*Believes a greater military commitment is necessary in order to achieve long term success.

*More troops are necessary to clear and hold insurgent strongholds.

*Would like to embed American personnel in Iraqi police units.

Implement New Counterinsurgency Strategy

*Believes it is necessary because of the current force structure and power vacuum in many areas of the country.

*Would like to see Iraqi and American forces using force to clear areas occupied by insurgent and stay and hold the areas.

*He believes this strategy will create strongholds in which insurgents find it difficult to operate.

* He wants to focus on the safety of the local population and provide an environment in which rebuilding is possible

*John McCain also believes that ultimately the future of Iraq lies in the hands of the Iraqi people, but that they still need help in the present.

Keep Senior Officers in Place

*Wants the Pentagon to stop the policy of rotating generals.

*The officers which have served in Iraq have situational awareness and expertise needed to prevail.

Call for International pressure on Syria and Iran

*He believes Syria needs to address the situation with insurgents and terrorist operating inside its borders

*He believes Iran has aided Shiite militias by providing them with training, weapons, and technology.

*He proposes that the international community apply pressure on Syria and Iran to change their behavior.

Win the Home front

*John McCain wants to inform Americans that military defeat exposing the United States to national security threats for generations.

*He wants to be honest with the American people in saying that there is a long and difficult path ahead, but with hope ahead.

To read more about Senator McCain's views on Iraq visit www.johnmccain.com

Where John McCain Stands on Taxes

*Permanently repeal the alternative minimum tax (AMT), which he believes will save middle class families an average of \$2700.

*Keep tax rates low.

*Make it harder to raise taxes

*He wants to reward saving and investment by providing low taxes on dividends and capital gains.

* Ban internet taxes, new cell phone taxes.

*Make the research and development tax credit permanent in order to keep America competitive.

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Where John McCain Stands on Healthcare

* He believes families should be in charge of their health care dollars and control their care.

*Promote prevention of chronic illnesses.

*Provide access to health care for all citizens.

*Give veterans the choice of health care providers

*Promote competition in the health care system

* Develop national standards for measuring and recording treatments and outcomes

To read more about Senator McCain's views on healthcare visit www.johnmccain.com

Where John McCain Stands on the Environment and Energy

* He believes that national security depends on energy security

*He proposes we use improved technology and sensible habits to increase energy efficiency

*He encourages the use of flexible-fuel

*Proposes that the current electric power grids have more capacity added to them in order to be able to support plug-in hybrid vehicles

*Cut subsidies for industries that do not need them, and use the savings to initiate a challenge to improve the cost, range, size, and weight of electric batteries for cars

*Increase our own oil production

*Find a way to use our coal resources without emitting excessive greenhouse gases.

*Provide for safe storage of spent nuclear fuel in order to capitalize on the zero emission energy provided by nuclear energy

To read more about Senator McCain's views on energy and the environment visit www.johnmccain.com