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CANDIDATES' POSITIONS

JOHN MCCAIN



BARACK OBAMA



DIGNITY OF WORK

Voted for the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. Voted against past bills to increase minimum wage. Opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, which would provide workers with greater protection and freedom in organizing unions.

Voted for the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 and supports indexing future wage increases to inflation. Supports the Employee Free Choice Act, which would provide workers with greater protection and freedom in organizing unions.

ECONOMY

Supports tax cuts for those making more than \$250,000, and increasing exemptions for dependents. Would maintain cuts to capital gains tax and cut corporate tax from 35% to 25%.

Supports tax cuts for the middle class, seniors and the poor by closing corporate tax loopholes. Opposes extending tax cuts for the wealthy. Supports tax code changes to eliminate abusive shelters and streamline the tax system.

ENVIRONMENT

Co-authored the Climate Stewardship Act of 2007, which would reduce carbon emission levels to 60% below the 1990 level. In 2005, voted against funding renewable energy and standards requiring 10% of electrical energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. Supported increasing fuel economy to 35 MPG.

Co-sponsored Climate Stewardship Act of 2007 and supports a stiffer 80% cut in carbon emissions. Supports investing \$150 billion over ten years in renewable energy. Co-authored Fuel Economy Reform Act of 2007, calling for a 40 MPG fuel standard. Supports requiring 25% of all energy to come from renewable sources by 2025.

EDUCATION

Supports school competition and vouchers as ways to improve quality of education and give parents a choice in schools. Supports a higher tax deduction for Education Savings Accounts, and tax-deferred Family Security Accounts for higher education.

Supports charter schools and increasing teacher pay. Supports increasing Head Start and Early Start funding to cover more at-risk children. Supports a \$4,000 annual tax credit for higher education.

FOREIGN POLICY

Supports continuing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and eradicating malaria in Africa. Encourages private philanthropy but has no position on the Millennium Development Goals. Supports the development of a missile defense system and supports reducing our nuclear stockpiles.

Supports funding the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and eradicating malaria in Africa. Supports meeting the US commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Supports expanding diplomatic corps. Opposes the development of a missile defense system and supports reducing our nuclear stockpiles.

HEALTH CARE

Believes cost containment is the best way to expand access to healthcare. Supports tax credits for individuals who purchase their own health insurance and helping states create insurance pools for uninsured or hard to insure individuals.

Supports reforms that would ensure quality coverage for all. Supports tax credits for low- and middle-income households to expand access to health coverage and market reforms to guarantee insurability.

IMMIGRATION

Believes border security is the "first and foremost priority." Co-sponsored 2006 immigration bill providing current immigrants with a path to citizenship that includes learning English and paying fines, strengthening border control, and creating guest-worker program that issues visas after proof that a job cannot be filled by a U.S. citizen. Voted to build a fence along the Mexican border.

Supports a path to citizenship that includes learning English, paying fines, and legal protections against worker abuse. Supports expanding and simplifying the immigration process to encourage family reunification and meet demand for jobs employers cannot fill. Voted to build a fence along the Mexican border.

IRAQ WAR

Voted for the war in Iraq and supported the 2007 troop surge. Stated that "I would much rather lose a campaign than lose a war."

Pledges to withdraw all combat brigades from Iraq within 16 months. Stated in October 2002: "I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war."

LIFE

Supports a federal abortion ban except for rape, incest and risk to mother's life. In 2005, voted against expanding health services and education to reduce abortions. Supports the death penalty.

Opposes a federal ban on abortion. In 2005, voted to expand health services and education to reduce unintended pregnancy. Supports guaranteed paid maternity leave. Supports the death penalty but helped pass a law requiring taped confessions in order to reduce wrongful convictions.

POVERTY

Authored legislation that requires HUD to give abandoned housing units to community organizations. Supports HOME plan to offer federally backed fixed-rate mortgages to sub-prime borrowers in danger of foreclosure.

Co-sponsored a bill to create a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build 1.5 million units over ten years. Authored legislation to allow those facing foreclosure to refinance with a federal guarantee and reduce mortgage company fraud. Was lead sponsor of the Global Poverty Act, which sets an agenda to cut extreme poverty by half in 2015.