



2008 rural voter GUIDE

JOHN McCAIN - Republican Senator from Arizona

Building a better future in rural America won't be easy – but it will be downright impossible if we don't get a grip on what's happening and understand how the candidates plan to help us move forward. Here's what you should know about Senator John McCain.

HEALTH CARE

- Supports a free-market, consumer-based health care system; pledges affordable health care for every American without a mandate
- Believes that universal health care is possible without a tax increase
- Proposes tax credits for individuals and families to buy their own insurance

EDUCATION

- Voted for No Child Left Behind
- Plans to empower parents by expanding their ability to choose among schools for their children
- Believes all federal financial support must be tied to giving parents the ability to move their children and the associated funds from failing schools
- Proposes incentives for high-performing teachers in challenging environments

THE ECONOMY

- Looks to make the Bush tax cuts permanent; called for steps to reduce the price of gas in summer of 2008 by suspending the 18.4 cent-a-gallon federal gas tax and the diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Believes the repeal of the alternative minimum tax and middle-class tax cuts are the right stimulus for the economy
- Advocates cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 to 25 percent
- Voted yes on NAFTA in 1993 and believes that free trade “is vital to the future of America”

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Be ready to cast your vote. For help, check your Secretary of State's Web site or call their office. Or go to LeagueOfRuralVoters.org.

Sources: <http://politics.nytimes.com/election-guide/2008/issues>
<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/>
<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/issues/>
U.S. Congressional Record

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Supports the privatization of all health insurances
- Stated that “Every man, woman and child in America needs to know it's going broke, and we've got to do the hard things . . . And you have to go to the American people and say we won't raise your taxes. We need personal savings accounts, but we [have] to fix this system.” Oct. 2007

ENERGY

- Plans to expand domestic oil exploration and the supply of natural gas and encourage the market to use alternative, low-carbon fuels such as wind, hydro and solar power
- Opposes tax incentives for developing wind power
- Opposes the 2007 Federal Renewable Fuel Standard to blend ethanol into the nation's fuel supplies by 2015
- Would commit \$2 billion annually for 15 years to advance clean coal technology and proposes a national energy strategy that will rely on American industry and science

IMMIGRATION

- Would finish securing U.S. borders through funding for resources on the ground, training facilities, support staff and new technologies
- Plans to implement a secure, accurate and reliable electronic employment verification system; would prosecute employers hiring illegal immigrants
- Would require undocumented immigrants to enroll in a program to resolve their status – those not deported would either leave or follow a path to legal status including learning English, paying back taxes and fines, and passing a citizenship course

FARM POLICY

The current Farm Bill goes beyond agriculture, covering a range of issues vital to rural residents: nutrition, economic development, research, resource conservation, trade, credit access and more.

- Has opposed every Farm Bill since 1997; voted to uphold the President's unsuccessful veto of the current Farm Bill
- Has consistently voted against federal crop insurance and disaster assistance programs; failed to vote this year on reforming farm payments to include a cap
- Has voted against country-of-origin labeling and rules banning packer ownership of livestock

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BARACK OBAMA - Democratic Senator from Illinois

Building a better future in rural America won't be easy – but it will be downright impossible if we don't get a grip on what's happening and understand how the candidates plan to help us move forward. Here's what you should know about Senator Barack Obama.

HEALTH CARE

- Would require health insurance for all children; aims for universal coverage; plans to expand Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program
- Would require employers who don't provide health coverage to pay into national health insurance
- Co-sponsored Healthy Kids Act of 2007 to ensure more affordable children's health care coverage; has worked to pass a number of laws to improve women's health care

EDUCATION

- Looks to reform No Child Left Behind
- Would ensure access to high-quality early childhood education programs and child care opportunities, and recruit and reward well-qualified teachers
- Wants to make science and math education a national priority, reduce the high school dropout rate, and empower parents to raise healthy and successful children by taking a greater role in their child's education at home and at school

THE ECONOMY

- Looks to repeal Bush tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000; wants to pump \$75 billion into the economy through tax cuts and direct spending aimed at working families, seniors, homeowners and unemployed
- Would provide an immediate \$250 tax cut for workers and their families and an immediate, temporary \$250 bonus to seniors in their Social Security checks
- Looks to strengthen the ability of workers to organize unions; will work to increase the minimum wage
- Wants to amend the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) so that it works for American workers; would eliminate tax breaks for companies moving overseas

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Strongly opposed to privatization and instead looks to strengthen Social Security through payroll taxes
- Looks to strengthen retirement savings by reforming corporate bankruptcy laws to protect workers and retirees, eliminating income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 and creating automatic workplace pensions

ENERGY

- Looks to invest \$150 billion over 10 years in clean energy to create a skilled clean technologies workforce, develop and deploy clean coal technology and ethanol, and expand locally-owned biofuel refineries
- Supports tax incentives for developing wind power
- Proposes increasing fuel economy standards and would require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. come from clean, sustainable energy sources by 2025

IMMIGRATION

- Would secure U.S. borders through support for additional personnel, infrastructure and technology at borders and ports of entry
- Plans to remove incentives to enter U.S. illegally by cracking down on employers hiring undocumented immigrants
- Would allow undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens

FARM POLICY

The current Farm Bill goes beyond agriculture, covering a range of issues vital to rural residents: nutrition, economic development, research, resource conservation, trade, credit access and more.

- Voted for the current Farm Bill and supported the override of the President's veto
- Supports efforts to cap payments to farmers at \$250,000
- Has consistently voted for country-of-origin food labeling and a ban on packer ownership of livestock

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Sources: <http://politics.nytimes.com/election-guide/2008/issues>
<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/>