



Where Do the Candidates Stand?



John McCain **REPUBLICAN**

Southern Baptist

Sarah Palin, VP

Independent Bible Church

www.gop.com 202-863-8500

DEMOCRAT Barack Obama

United Church of Christ

Joe Biden, VP

Roman Catholic

202-863-8000 www.democrats.org

Sanctity of Human Life | Abortion | Stem Cell Research

- “At what point is a baby entitled to human rights?” “At the moment of conception.” “I have a 25-year pro-life record in the Senate.” (SF)
- Voted to oppose Roe v. Wade. “I will be a pro-life president.” (SF)
- Supports parental consent and state and federal curbs on abortion
- Supports banning partial-birth abortion and protecting babies born alive
- Opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos; reluctantly voted to allow using human embryos left over from fertility clinics. (PEW)
- “At what point is a baby entitled to human rights?” “Answering that question with specificity, you know, is above my pay grade.” (SF)
- “I am pro-choice. I believe in Roe v. Wade.” (SF)
- Co-sponsored Freedom of Choice Act – would overturn all curbs on abortion
- Voted against Illinois state version of Born Alive Infant Protection Act (HE)
- Supports federal funding of embryonic stem cell research; voted for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, vetoed by President Bush. (PEW)

Marriage and Gender

- “What is marriage?” “A union between one man and one woman.” (SF)
- Will support a constitutional marriage amendment if courts show necessary (SF)
- Supported the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
- Opposes homosexual marriage; as a Federalist, leave civil unions to states
- Supports maintaining military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy
- Would veto a federal hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation
- “What is marriage?” “The union between a man and a woman.” (SF)
- Would not support a constitutional amendment to uphold that definition (SF)
- Advocates repeal of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
- Supports state sanctioned homosexual marriage and equal rights civil unions
- Advocates overturning military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy
- Would sign a federal hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation

U.S. Supreme Court Judges | Death Penalty | Freedom of Religion

- “Which Supreme Court Justice would you not have nominated?” “Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Stephen Breyer, David Souter, John Paul Stevens” (SF)
- Favors “non activist” justices who strictly adhere to the U.S. Constitution
- Supports the death penalty for federal crimes and has also supported legislation to allow the death penalty for acts of terrorism.
- Permit faith-based groups to hire people who share their beliefs
- “Which Supreme Court Justice would you not have nominated?” “Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, John Roberts” (SF) Also opposed Samuel Alito
- Favors justices with “empathy” and expansive, progressive views of Constitution
- Says the death penalty “does little to deter crime,” but supports it for cases in which “the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its outrage.”
- Would force faith-based groups to hire from outside their beliefs

Military | Defense | Foreign Policy | Israel and Middle East

- Navy pilot; spent over five years as a prisoner of war in Viet Nam
- Voted for original Patriot Act and extension of wiretap provisions
- Backs a national missile defense program and deployment in Europe
- Describes himself as “proudly pro-Israel;” argues that there can be no peace process “until the Palestinians recognize Israel, forswear forever the use of violence, recognize their previous agreements, and reform their institutions.” (CFR)
- Supports Senate resolutions affirming Jerusalem as Israel’s undivided capital
- In favor of conditional, appropriate talks with foreign leaders, but not with “im-placable foes;” says U.S. president should not negotiate directly with Ahmadinejad
- Would consult Congress and use military force if Iran attains nuclear weapons
- Has not served in the U.S. Military
- Voted against original Patriot Act, but for recent wiretap compromise
- Suggests that the U.S./Poland missile defense system might not work (FSM)
- Foreign policy team includes Zbigniew Brzezinski, who calls Israel an “apartheid state” and supports unconditional dialog with the terrorist group Hamas. Voted against naming the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization. (HE)
- Stated to AIPAC that Jerusalem is Israel’s undivided capital, then backtracked
- Strong advocate of unconditional talks with all foreign leaders; has pledged to meet without preconditions with Ahmadinejad of Iran and other tyrants
- Would be willing to consider a military option if Iran attains nuclear weapons

Taxes | Social Security | Health Care | Education | Energy

- Make the 2001–03 tax cuts permanent; repeal estate tax; maintain capital gains
- Supports workers being able to invest in private SS accounts
- Opposes a federally administered health care system. For a free-market, job-to-job, consumer based system; control costs; has pledged affordable care for every American without a mandate; federal grants to states for poor; universal health care is possible without tax increase; supports the re-importation of drugs. (NYT)
- Supports equal school choice for all with vouchers and charter schools
- Supports offshore drilling, expanding nuclear and all possible energy alternatives
- Eliminate the 2001–03 tax cuts; keep estate tax; increase capital gains tax
- Opposes workers being able to invest in private SS accounts
- Proposes a federally administered health care system. Would require that all children have health insurance; pay by rolling back Bush’s tax cuts for households earning over \$250,000, require employer payments; aims for universal coverage with federal low income subsidies; supports the re-importation of drugs. (NYT)
- “Has always been a critic of vouchers,” but supports charter schools
- Opposes offshore drilling, supports alternatives; since Denver, “safe” nuclear

Compiled from more than 35 sources; those cited above: CFR=Council on Foreign Relations; www.cfr.org FSM=Family Security Matters; familysecuritymatters.org HE=Human Events; www.humanevents.com NYT=New York Times; www.nyt.com PEW=Pew Forum Religion & Politics; www.pewforum.org/religion08 SF=Saddleback Civil Forum; www.ifapray.org (click on scrolling news bar)

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