

ELECTION 2008

16
THINGS
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

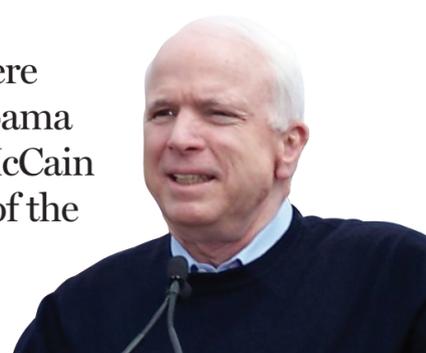
Barack Obama

1. Was not born in continental U.S.: His birthplace is Honolulu.
2. His astrological sign is Leo (Aug. 4, 1961).
3. President when Obama was born: John F. Kennedy.
4. Is married to Michelle (since 1992) and has two daughters.
5. Obama is left-handed.
6. His favorite books are "Song of Solomon," by Toni Morrison; "Moby Dick," by Herman Melville; Shakespeare's tragedies; Taylor Branch's biography of Martin Luther King Jr.; "Parting the Waters, Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson; "Self-Reliance," by Ralph Waldo Emerson; The Bible; Lincoln's Collected Writings.
7. His favorite movies are "Casablanca," "Godfather" (I and II), "Lawrence of Arabia" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."
8. His favorite musicians are Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Johann Sebastian Bach (cello suites) and The Fugees.
9. His favorite TV shows are "M.A.S.H." and "The Wire."
10. His favorite superhero is Spider-Man.
11. His favorite movie/TV president is Jeff Bridges in "The Contender."
12. His favorite food is chili.
13. Lists his hobbies/special talents as basketball, writing and loafing with his kids.
14. His personal heroes are Martin Luther King Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, Pablo Picasso and John Coltrane.
15. Obama doesn't have any pets at this time.
16. Obama's books include "Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance" (1995); "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" (2006); and "It Takes a Nation: How Strangers Became Family in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina" (2006).

ON THE ISSUES



A look at where Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain stand on some of the key issues.



ECONOMY

OBAMA ON HOUSING Wants to create a program wherein people could easily convert subprime loans into fixed-rate 30-year loans. Would give "struggling homeowners" a tax credit to use toward their mortgage payment.

TAXES According to the Tax Policy Center (an independent, non-partisan organization), Obama's plan would raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans, but those making less than \$225,000 would see a break. Would raise corporate taxes and eliminate capital-gains taxes for small businesses and start-ups. Opposed to extending President Bush's tax cuts beyond 2010.

MCCAIN ON HOUSING Wants government to help qualified homeowners convert subprime loans into fixed-rate 30-year loans. Would help "legitimate borrowers" (not speculators) facing foreclosure.

TAXES According to the Tax Policy Center, McCain's plan would lower taxes for all Americans, but the wealthiest Americans would see the biggest decrease. Would cut corporate tax rate. Would keep current tax rates on capital gains. Would double the child deduction. In favor of making President Bush's tax cuts permanent.

EDUCATION

Is against vouchers; says funding for such a program would hurt public schools. Supports charter schools and says he'll double funding for them. Appears to be against teaching intelligent design alongside evolution. "I believe in parents being able to provide children with religious instruction without interference from the state. But I also believe our schools are there to teach worldly knowledge and science," he says.

Supports vouchers that would allow students to attend any school (public or private), saying it would level the field so that not just wealthy families can send their children to the best schools. Appears to be for teaching intelligent design alongside evolution. Says evolution is "valid" but that "every young American should be exposed to every point of view."

ENERGY

Would consider some offshore drilling. Says he would put \$150 billion over 10 years toward clean energy.

Wants to increase offshore drilling and wants to build 45 nuclear power reactors by 2030.

HEALTH CARE

Wants to establish a universal health care system by 2012. Under the plan, individuals and businesses could purchase health insurance. Would require that coverage be mandatory for children but not for adults.

Would establish a tax-credit system in which individuals (\$2,500) and families (\$5,000) could use the credit to purchase health insurance. Workers could not deduct the credit from their workplace plan.

IRAQ WAR

Voted against the war. Wants a 16-month withdrawal plan. Says focus should be on Afghanistan.

Voted for the war. Opposes a withdrawal plan, saying it "means al Qaeda wins."

IRAN NUKES

Would tighten sanctions and is for direct diplomacy. Military option is on the table.

Would tighten sanctions and is against direct diplomacy. Military option is on the table.

GUNS

Is for the Second Amendment but says there should be some restrictions. Voted against the law banning lawsuits against gun manufacturers when their product is used in a crime. Wants to reinstate assault-weapons ban and voted for restrictions on armor-piercing ammunition. Voted for the child safety lock amendment.

Is for the Second Amendment and says there should be "no gun control." Voted for the law banning lawsuits against gun manufacturers when their product is used in a crime. Against restrictions on assault weapons and armor-piercing ammunition. Voted for the child safety lock amendment.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Is against privatizing Social Security. Wants to strengthen the payroll tax system.

Wants to supplement Social Security with individual investment accounts.

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John McCain

1. Was not born in continental U.S.: His birthplace is the Panama Canal Zone, Panama.
2. His astrological sign is Virgo (Aug. 29, 1936).
3. President when McCain was born: Franklin D. Roosevelt.
4. Is married to Cindy Lou Hensley (since 1980) (previously married to Carol Shepp, divorced in 1980) and has seven children.
5. McCain is left-handed.
6. His favorite book is "For Whom the Bell Tolls," by Ernest Hemingway.
7. His favorite movies are "Viva Zapata," "Letters From Iwo Jima" and "Some Like It Hot."
8. His favorite musicians are Chuck Berry and Roy Orbison.
9. His favorite TV shows are "24" and "Seinfeld."
10. His favorite superhero is Batman.
11. His favorite movie/TV president is Dennis Haysbert in "24."
12. His favorite foods are chocolate ice cream, pizza with pepperoni and onions, and baby-back ribs.
13. Lists his hobbies/special talents as hiking, fishing, boxing, basketball, football, baseball, history, barbecue grill chef.
14. His personal heroes are Theodore Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and Barry Goldwater.
15. McCain's pets include two dogs, two turtles, a cat, a ferret, three parakeets and 13 saltwater fish.
16. McCain's books include "Faith of My Fathers" (1999); "Worth the Fighting For: A Memoir" (2002); "Why Courage Matters" (2004); and "Character Is Destiny" (2005).

Sources for candidates' stance on issues: www.votesmart.org; www.pewforum.org; www.cnn.com; www.nytimes.com; www.msnbc.com; www.taxpolicycenter.org; www.freerepublic.com; www.heard-world.com; www.johnmccain.com; www.barackobama.com; www.ew.com

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