



CATHOLICS *for* OBAMA

STANDING UP FOR FAITH, FAMILY, AND VALUES

“For decades we’ve had politicians in Washington who talk about family values. But we haven’t had policies that value families.” —Barack Obama, June 23, 2008

Barack Obama is a committed Christian who began his career by working with Catholic parishes and other faith communities in struggling neighborhoods. Obama believes that some values are universal, calling us to action.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

“Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important.” —Barack Obama, Father’s Day, June 15, 2008 at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago

OBAMA

MCCAIN

Mothers and Fathers

- Obama supports paid maternity leave, leave for parents with sick children, affordable daycare, and home visits from nurses for low-income first-time mothers.
- Obama’s refundable Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit will help 277,000 PA working moms and give low-income families a 50 percent credit on up to \$3,000 of child care expenses.

- McCain voted against bills to support pregnant women and provide child health care.
- McCain has no stated position on affordable child care but has repeatedly voted against increased funding for child care.
- McCain voted against a proposal to expand tax credits for businesses that provide quality child care centers.

Health Care for Kids

- Obama supports expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) program to provide health care for children of low-income and working families.

- McCain voted against the SCHIP Reauthorization of 2007, which put at risk the health coverage of more than 6 million children enrolled in SCHIP and which would have provided health care to an additional 3.2 million children.

Tax Relief for Middle Class Families

- Obama will cut taxes for 95 percent of all workers and their families and will cut middle class taxes three times as much as McCain. Under the Obama plan, the typical family will pay tax rates that are 20 percent lower than under President Reagan.
- Obama will provide 6.5 million Pennsylvania workers a “Making Work Pay” tax cut of \$500 per worker and \$1000 per family to help them afford health care, mortgages, college, and save for retirement.

- McCain’s tax plan would provide NO relief to 101 million middle class households, including 4.7 million households in PA and 97 percent of all PA seniors. For the first time in American history, McCain would require families to pay income taxes on their health benefits. This amounts to a \$3.6 trillion tax increase on middle class families.
- McCain’s plan would widen the gap between the rich and others. Those making more than \$2.8 million per year would get a tax cut of nearly \$600,000. McCain would also give nearly \$2 trillion over a decade in tax breaks for corporations, including \$4 billion a year to big oil.

Work with Dignity

- Obama will ensure that workers can earn a living wage allowing them to raise their families. Obama has long supported worker’s rights, including equal pay for women, overtime pay, collective bargaining, prevailing wages, raising the minimum wage, and other issues critical to working families.

- McCain has consistently voted against worker’s rights. He has voted against minimum wage increases at least 19 times and voted to completely repeal the minimum wage in 45 states. He also voted against overtime rights, workplace safety standards, collective bargaining rights, and prevailing wage laws.

LIFE WITH DIGNITY

“As children of God, we believe in the worth and dignity of every human being.” –Barack Obama

OBAMA

MCCAIN

Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obama will sign legislation by the end of his first term providing quality, affordable, and portable health care to every single American, including the 1.2 million uninsured in PA. ▪ In Illinois, Obama supported the Bernardin Amendment, named after the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, to declare health care as a fundamental right for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McCain’s plan would give companies a financial incentive to reduce benefits or cancel coverage for workers. For the first time in American history, McCain’s plan imposes a \$3.6 trillion tax increase on families by treating health benefits as taxable income. ▪ In contrast to Obama, McCain would not mandate coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, leaving high-risk individuals at the mercy of insurance companies.
Abortion and Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obama believes that by reducing unintended pregnancies and supporting women and families, we can reduce the need for abortions. Obama supports providing women with pre- and post-natal health care and parenting skills and promotes alternatives like adoption. ▪ Obama believes that this difficult moral decision should be left up to women and their families, not the government. In the end, Obama is the only candidate in the race with a plan to reduce the need for abortions, other than criminalization. ▪ Obama opposes late term abortions, with an exception for the mother’s health. ▪ Obama supports paid maternity leave, leave for parents with sick children, affordable daycare, and home visits from nurses for low-income first-time mothers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McCain voted against extending Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and infants under one with incomes below the Federal poverty line. McCain has repeatedly voted against increased funding for child care and voted against a proposal to expand tax credits for businesses that provide quality child care centers. ▪ “A Catholic can either continue on the failed and uncertain path of seeking to overturn <i>Roe</i>, which would result in the individual states doing their own thing, not necessarily, or in most states even likely, protective of the unborn. Or Senator Obama’s approach could be followed, whereby prenatal and income support, paid maternity leave and greater access to adoption would be relied upon to reduce the incidence of abortion.” —Douglas Kmiec, a Catholic scholar and Obama supporter who headed the Office of Legal Counsel under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, served as former Dean of the Catholic University Law School, and was on the faculty at Notre Dame Law School for nearly two decades. [NEW YORK TIMES, 8/29/08]
Retirement Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obama will eliminate federal income taxes for seniors earning below \$50,000, including 436,000 seniors in PA. Obama strongly opposes privatizing Social Security, cutting benefits, and raising the retirement age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McCain’s tax plan would give <u>NO</u> tax relief to 97 percent of Pennsylvania seniors. McCain supports Social Security privatization, and his campaign said they were considering cutting cost-of-living adjustments and raising the retirement age as part of their Social Security plan.

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS AND FIGHTING POVERTY

“We need to heed the biblical call to care for ‘the least of these’ and lift the poor out of despair.” –Barack Obama

OBAMA

MCCAIN

Domestic Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obama supports Catholic Charities USA’s stated goal to cut domestic poverty in half in ten years. He consistently voted to support and assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. ▪ Obama has repeatedly voted for increases in the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McCain has no stated goals to cut domestic poverty and voted against three Democratic-sponsored amendments to provide emergency relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina. ▪ McCain has repeatedly voted against increases in LIHEAP, which helps millions of families and seniors pay their heating bills.
Global Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obama is the lead sponsor of the Global Poverty Act, designed to cut global poverty in half by 2015. ▪ Obama is a cosponsor of the Jubilee Act, introduced by Senator Bob Casey to provide international debt relief to the world’s poorest nations in order to alleviate poverty and promote development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ McCain has no position on the UN Millennium Development Goals, which strive to cut global poverty in half by 2015.