



OBAMA VS. MCCAIN ON SENIOR ISSUES

ISSUE	OBAMA	MCCAIN
<p>PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY'S FUTURE</p>	<p>Obama Opposed George Bush's Proposal For Private Accounts. Obama is committed to ensuring Social Security is solvent and viable for the American people, now and in the future. Obama will be honest with the American people about the long-term solvency of Social Security and the ways we can address the shortfall. Obama will protect Social Security benefits for current and future beneficiaries alike. And he does not believe it is necessary or fair to hardworking seniors to raise the retirement age. Obama is strongly opposed to privatizing Social Security.</p> <p>Obama Opposes Raising The Retirement Age On Social Security. Obama opposes cutting benefits or raising the retirement age to keep social security solvent.</p> <p>Obama Will Work With Congress To Strengthen Social Security. Barack Obama will work with members of Congress from both parties to strengthen Social Security and prevent privatization while protecting middle class families from tax increases or benefit cuts. He will ask those making over \$250,000 to contribute a bit more to Social Security to keep it sound.</p>	<p>McCain Said The Way Social Security Was Funded Was "An Absolute Disgrace." McCain said that the way that Social Security was funded was "an absolute disgrace, and it's got to be fixed."</p> <p>McCain Supports Social Security Privatization "Along The Lines" Of The Bush Plan And Campaigned With Bush To Help Sell His Privatization Plan. McCain said that as part of Social Security reform, he wants private accounts "along the lines" of the Bush plan to privatize Social Security. McCain even campaigned with President Bush to help increase support for Bush's plan to privatize Social Security in 2005.</p> <p>McCain Is Considering COLA Cuts & Increasing the Retirement Age For Social Security. Earlier this year, the McCain campaign said they were considering cost-of-living adjustment cuts and raising the retirement age as part of their Social Security plan.</p> <p>McCain Voted To Raise The Retirement Age. McCain voted to raise the Social Security retirement age from 65 to 67.</p>
<p>STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING MEDICARE</p>	<p>Obama Opposes Means Testing For Medicare. Obama said he is opposed to the "means testing" of Medicare Part B. Obama said that this undermines the basic premise of Medicare as an insurance program for all Americans and could cause wealthier and healthier people to leave the Medicare program.</p> <p>Obama Opposed A 10.6 Percent Cut In Medicare Payments To Physicians. Obama supported legislation to stop a 10.6 percent cut in Medicare fees to physicians that was planned by the Bush administration.</p>	<p>McCain Supported Raising The Eligibility Age For Medicare. McCain voted in favor of raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67.</p> <p>McCain Has Voted To Cut Medicare Funding And Opposed Legislation To Block Bush's 10.6 Percent Cut In Medicare Payments To Physicians. McCain has repeatedly voted to cut Medicare funding, including in 1995, when he supported the radical GOP budget proposal that attempted to cut the program by \$270 billion. Earlier this year, he opposed legislation that stopped a 10.6 percent cut in Medicare fees to physicians that was planned by the Bush administration.</p>

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<p>HELPING SENIORS PAY FOR LONG TERM CARE</p>	<p>Obama Will Strengthen Long-Term Care Options. Obama will work to give seniors choices about their care, consistent with their needs, and not biased towards institutional care. He will work to reform the financing of long term care to protect seniors and families. He will work to improve the quality of elder care, including by training more nurses and health care workers.</p>	<p>McCain Opposed Tax Credits To Help Seniors And Their Caregivers Pay For Long-Term Care. McCain voted against providing a \$3,000 tax credit for seniors or their caregivers for long term care needs. He also voted against a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for family caregivers who provide long-term care needs.</p>
<p>LIHEAP</p>	<p>Obama Has Repeatedly Voted for Increases In LIHEAP. Obama has repeatedly voted for increases in the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program which helps millions of families and seniors pay their heating bills.</p>	<p>McCain Has Repeatedly Voted Against Increases In LIHEAP. McCain has repeatedly voted against increases in the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program which helps millions of families and seniors pay their heating bills</p>
<p>TAX RELIEF THAT HELPS SENIORS</p>	<p>Obama Will Eliminate Income Taxes for Seniors Making Less Than \$50,000. Obama will eliminate all income taxation of seniors making less than \$50,000 per year. This will provide an immediate tax cut averaging \$1,400 to 7 million seniors and relieve millions from the burden of filing tax returns.</p>	<p>McCain Offers Tax Relief That Ignores 37 Million Seniors. McCain’s economic platform rests on the premise that the nation’s economic challenges are minor and primarily psychological. McCain has not even proposed a short-term stimulus. His tax cuts ignore middle-class workers — about 100 million households, including 37 million seniors, would get no relief.</p>
<p>CARING FOR OUR VETERANS</p>	<p>Obama Repeatedly Voted For Increases In VA Funding. Obama has voted for billions of dollars in funding increases for the Veterans Administration.</p> <p>Obama Repeatedly Voted For Increased Funding for Veterans Health Care. Obama has consistently supported providing billions of dollars for veterans health care programs</p>	<p>McCain Has Repeatedly Voted Against Increases For Veterans Programs. McCain has voted against billions of dollars in funding increases for the Veterans Administration.</p> <p>McCain Wants To Focus Veterans Health Care On Vets With Combat Injuries. McCain talks about the need to “concentrate” veterans’ health care on people with injuries that “are a direct result of combat.” “Right now, there are people who drive a long way and they stand in line to stand in line to get an appointment to get an appointment,” McCain said.</p>

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