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## OBAMA AND MCCAIN ON LGBT ISSUES

ISSUE	OBAMA	MCCAIN
<p><b>FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Supports Legislation to Outlaw Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.</b></p> <p><b>Obama Sponsored Fully Inclusive Non-Discrimination Bill In Illinois.</b> He was a champion of the bill for seven years, which later passed after Obama had been elected to the US Senate.</p>	<p><b>McCain Voted Against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.</b> McCain said “I don't believe that [homosexuals] belong in a special category. [...] That's why I voted the way that I did.”</p>
<p><b>ADOPTION</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Supports Full Adoption Rights for Same Sex Couples.</b> Obama believes that LGBT people should have the same adoption rights as heterosexuals.</p>	<p><b>McCain Opposed Gay Adoption.</b> McCain said “I don't believe in gay adoption.”</p>
<p><b>DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Supports Complete Repeal of DOMA.</b> Obama believes we need to fully repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally-recognized relationships.</p>	<p><b>McCain Continues to Defend DOMA.</b> McCain voted for passage of the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, which denies federal legal rights and benefits to same-sex couples, and he continues to defend that discriminatory law to this day.</p>
<p><b>MARRIAGE AMENDMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Voted Against a Federal Amendment to Ban Same-Sex Marriage.</b> Obama sided with the vast majority of Democrats opposing attempts by the Republican leadership to bring up a vote on a constitutional amendment to ban same sex-marriage</p> <p><b>Obama Opposes Discriminatory Constitutional Amendments.</b> Obama “opposes all divisive and discriminatory Constitutional amendments, state or federal.” This includes the proposed amendments In California, Arizona and Florida.</p>	<p><b>McCain “Proud” to Have Led an Effort to Ban Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions In Arizona.</b> McCain said “I'm proud to have led an effort in my home state to change our state Constitution to protect the sanctity of marriage between man and woman.”</p> <p><b>McCain Supports the California Gay Marriage Ban.</b> In an e-mail to protectmarriage.com, McCain said “I support the efforts of the people of California to recognize marriage as a unique institution between a man and a woman, just as we did in my home state.”</p> <p><b>McCain Says He Would Sign the Federal Marriage Amendment into Law.</b> When asked if he would sign the federal marriage amendment if elected President, McCain replied, “of course,” although he voted against the amendment in the Senate.</p>

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<b>RELATIONSHIP RECOGNITION</b>	<p><b>Obama Supports Civil Unions that Confer “the Equivalent Legal Rights as a Marriage License.”</b> Obama said, “I am a strong supporter of civil unions...But I also believe that civil unions have to have the equivalent legal rights as a marriage license...Right now, there are about 1,200 legal rights that are available to married couples that aren't available to same-sex couples, even if the state recognizes civil unions...And that's not fair - that's discriminatory, and it's going to need to change.”</p>	<p><b>McCain Opposes Civil Unions</b></p>
<b>HIV/AIDS PREVENTION</b>	<p><b>Obama Voted for Increased Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance.</b></p> <p><b>Obama Worked to Reauthorize the Ryan White Act.</b> Obama worked to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act, one of the largest sources of federal funds for primary health care and support services for HIV/AIDS patients.</p>	<p><b>McCain Voted Against Increased Funding for AIDS Prevention and Treatment.</b> McCain voted against increased funding for AIDS drug assistance and increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act.</p>
<b>GAYS IN THE MILITARY</b>	<p><b>Obama Supports Repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell.</b> Obama believes we need to repeal the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy and allow all servicemembers to serve openly. Obama will work with military leaders to repeal the current policy and ensure we accomplish our national defense goals.</p>	<p><b>McCain Believes that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is Working.</b> McCain said “I believe that the don't ask, don't tell policy is working in the military.”</p> <p><b>McCain said LGBT People Present an “Intolerable Risk.”</b> In a 2007 letter, McCain said that the law, “unambiguously maintains that open homosexuality within the military services presents an intolerable risk to morale, cohesion and discipline.”</p>
<b>HATE CRIMES</b>	<p><b>Obama Passed Law in Illinois to Identify Hate Crimes, add “Conspiracy Against Civil Rights” to Hate Crimes Statute</b></p> <p><b>Obama Said He Will Enact Federal Hate Crimes Legislation.</b> In an open letter to LGBT voters Obama said, “I will place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes and pass a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.”</p>	<p><b>McCain Repeatedly Voted Against Strengthening Federal Hate Crimes Legislation to Include Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation.</b> McCain voted against adding sexual orientation to federal hate crimes legislation in 2000, 2002 and 2004.</p>

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