



Facts You Need to Know

Obama vs. McCain: Facts you need to know (Flyer #2); Health Care and Retirement Security.

Barack Obama

- Earned a 98% lifetime rating from the National AFL-CIO and a 100% lifetime rating from UTU-Illinois. [*AFL-CIO and UTU-Illinois Voting Records*]
- Obama's health care plan begins by covering every American. If you already have health insurance, the only thing that will change for you is that the amount of money you spend will be less. [*Newsday, 5/29/07*]
- Proposes to make a health plan available nationwide for the uninsured, self-employed and small businesses, by giving them access to benefits similar to those available to members of Congress. Key features would be guaranteed eligibility; affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles; and quality care standards. [*Obama for America*]
- Voted against giving insurance companies authority to determine health care coverage and costs, including the power to eliminate consumer protections that are now required under existing state laws, such as cancer screenings and well-child visits. The bill would have resulted in higher premiums for people who need health care most, like older workers. [*S. 1955, Vote 119, 5/11/06*]
- Voted against a \$14 billion, five-year funding cut for Medicaid. The cuts would have resulted in more uninsured and uncompensated care, shifting the burden to employer-sponsored health plans. [*S. Amdt. 204 to S. Con. Res. 18, Vote 58, 3/17/05*]
- Voted to allow senior citizens to import less expensive prescription drugs from other countries, specifically Canada. Voted to allow Medicare to negotiate with drug makers for lower prices for senior citizens, while Senate Republicans filibustered the bill. [*S. Amdt. 990 to S. 1082, Vote 150, 5/3/07; S. 3, Vote 132, 4/18/07*]
- Opposes privatization of Social Security and will preserve the sanctity of Railroad Retirement. [*7/5/08 letter to Pres. Futey; AFL-CIO records*]

John McCain

- The right to unionize is “class warfare.” – *John McCain, 1996*
- McCain's health care plan would create a new tax on working families by making employer-provided health benefits part of taxable income. [*Health08.org, Forum, 10/31/07*]
- Would reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent delivering a \$1.9 billion a year tax cut to the top 10 health insurance and managed care companies. [*Center for American Progress, 4/9/08*]
- His proposed “tax credit” equals less than half the average premium and would leave workers to pick up the difference. His plan would drive up insurance costs by promoting high-deductible health care savings account plans. [*Health08.org, Forum 10/31/08; Kaiser/HRET Employer Health Benefits Annual Survey; Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 9/20/06, 4/5/06*]
- Missed a critical vote to allow Medicare to bargain for lower prices on prescription drugs for Seniors, like the Department of Veterans Affairs does, saving approximately 50 percent. [*S. 3, Vote 132, 4/18/07; New York Times 4/19/07; Families USA, 1/07*]
- Plan undermines employer-based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. Insurance companies would be able to weed out workers with health needs, charge excessive premiums and limit benefits. [*Health08.org, Forum 10/31/08; Kaiser/HRET Employer Health Benefits Annual Survey; Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 9/20/06, 4/5/06*]
- Voted for Bush's 2006 Social Security Privatization Plan, which could also put Railroad Retirement at risk. [*SCR 83, Vote #68, 3/16/06*]
- “Among the (McCain) options are extending the retirement age to 68 and reducing cost-of-living adjustments, but the campaign hasn't made any final decisions. ‘You can't keep promises made to retirees,’ said Mr. Holtz-Eakin, McCain's chief economic aide.” [*Wall Street Journal, 3/3/08*]