

John McCain

John McCain, Republican Candidate for President, 2008

Goal: Students will become familiar with the position of major political candidates in the 2008 Presidential election process.

California Standards addressed:

- 11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.
- 12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

Project choices:

1. Students can examine and discuss one or more of the position statements below, summarize them, discuss them, agree/disagree and give examples supporting their opinion, compare/contrast with position statements of other major candidates. Students can collect other samples of candidate speeches/media to help them understand the position(s) of their choice .
2. An oral presentation of a candidate position or positions can be completed accompanied with a bibliography of sources used. TV can be used as a source with the name of the program, speaker(s), and date cited.
3. Care should be exercised to provide students with only the amount of information they can manage without being overwhelmed. Multiple samples have been provided to facilitate student choice. It is not necessary for students to use the Internet to do this project.
4. A sample of bibliographic entries is included below: This is the format used by John McCain's website.

[1] Robert Carroll, "Fiscal Stimulus: Missing The Big Picture?" The Tax Foundation, January 11, 2008

[2] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Approaches to Reform the U.S. Business Tax System for the 21st Century," December 20, 2007

[3] Kevin Hassett and Aparna Mathur, "Taxes and Wages," American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Working Paper Number 128, June 2006.; The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform (2005)

[4] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Approaches to Reform the U.S. Business Tax System for the 21st Century," December 20, 2007

[5] The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform (2005)

[6] Alan J. Auerbach, Kevin A. Hassett, et al., "Toward Fundamental Tax Reform," *AEI Press*, May 2005

Source of McCain information:

<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/>

John McCain

Strengthen the Iraqi Armed Forces and Police

Building a capable Iraqi army is a central requirement for ensuring Iraq's ability to govern and protect itself long after American forces have withdrawn. The U.S. must accelerate the training and equipping of Iraqi armed forces and police to enable them to play a key role in securing Iraq. Only in a secure environment will the development of Iraq's political and economic institutions have a chance to succeed. Ultimately, Iraq's future lies in the hands of its people, government, and armed forces, and strengthening them is an essential requirement for bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq. Until Iraqi forces are ready, however, a precipitous U.S. withdrawal would condemn Iraq to civil war and intervention by its neighbors and energize al Qaeda and other jihadists across the globe. This would gravely jeopardize American security.

Create the security necessary for political progress and stability

John McCain believes that only by controlling the violence in Iraq can we pave the way for a political settlement. But once the Iraqi government wields greater authority, it will be incumbent upon Iraqi leaders to take significant steps on their own. These include a commitment to go after the militias, a reconciliation process for insurgents and Baathists, more equitable distribution of government resources, provincial elections that will bring Sunnis into the government, and a large increase in employment-generating economic projects.

Accelerate political and economic reconstruction in a secure environment

While it is crucial to focus military efforts on insurgents, particularly against Sunni fighters using violence to strengthen their political position, John McCain believes there must be a greater emphasis on non-military components promoting economic development and representative, accountable governance.

In territories newly secured by the "clear, hold, and build" counterinsurgency strategy, many of the critical steps to succeeding in Iraq can begin to be implemented. Massive reconstruction can go forward without overwhelming fear of attack and sabotage. A substantial employment program can begin to give hope and opportunity to Iraqi citizens. Political meetings and campaigning can take place more freely. Average Iraqis will be more secure as militias and terrorists are reigned in and violence reduced. All of this will help civil society to emerge and deepen.

Iraqis need to see tangible improvements in their daily lives or support for the new government will falter. Sunnis need to know that if they abandon violence they will have a role in the political process, and the Shia need to know that security will be provided by coalition and government forces - not by private militias. Kurds need assurance that their gains will not be jeopardized by sectarian violence. All Iraqis must be able to look forward to a future of growing security and prosperity overseen by a competent, representative government free of corruption and sectarian conflict.

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Keep Senior Officers in Place

The Pentagon has adopted a policy of rotating our generals in and out of Iraq almost as frequently as the rotating of troops. John McCain believes this to be a deeply flawed practice. If these are, in fact, the best leaders for the task, they should remain on the job as long as possible. These generals and other senior officers with experience possess critical situational awareness and expertise necessary to prevail.

Call for International Pressure on Syria and Iran

John McCain believes Syria and Iran have aided and abetted the violence in Iraq for too long. Syria has refused to crack down on Iraqi insurgents and foreign terrorists operating from within its territory. Iran has aided the most extreme and violent Shia militias, providing them with training, weapons, and technology that they have used to kill American troops.

The answer is not to enter into unconditional dialogues with these two dictatorships from a position of weakness. The answer is for the international community to apply real pressure to Syria and Iran to change their behavior. The United States must also bolster its regional military posture to make clear to Iran our determination to protect our forces in Iraq and to deter Iranian intervention in that country.

Win the Homefront

If efforts in Iraq do not retain the support of the American people, the war will be lost as soundly as if our forces were defeated in battle. A renewed effort at home starts with explaining precisely what is at stake in this war to ensure that Americans fully understand the high cost of a military defeat. The war in Iraq is at a crossroads and the future of the entire region is at stake - a region that produced the terrorists who attacked America on 9/11 and where much of the world's energy supplies are located. Success is essential to creating peace in the region, and failure would expose the United States to national security threats for generations. Defeat in the war would lead to much more violence in Iraq, greatly embolden Iran, undermine U.S. allies such as Israel, likely lead to wider conflict, result in a terrorist safe haven in the heart of the Middle East, and gravely damage U.S. credibility throughout the world.

The American people also deserve to know that the path ahead will be long and difficult. They have heard many times that the violence in Iraq will subside soon - when a transitional government is in place, when Saddam is captured, when elections are held, when a constitution is in place. John McCain believes it is far better to describe the situation just as it is - difficult right now, but not without hope. The stakes for America could not be higher.

John McCain on Leadership

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"Increasing U.S. troop levels will expose more brave Americans to danger and increase the number of American casualties. When Congress authorized this war, we committed America to a mission that entails the greatest sacrifice a country can make, one that falls disproportionately on those Americans who love their country so much that they volunteer to risk their lives to accomplish that mission. And when we authorized this war, we accepted the responsibility to make sure those men and women could prevail. Extending combat tours and accelerating the deployment of additional troops is a terrible sacrifice to impose on the best patriots among us, and they will understandably be disappointed when they are given that order. Then they will shoulder their weapons and do everything they can to protect our country's vital interests in Iraq."

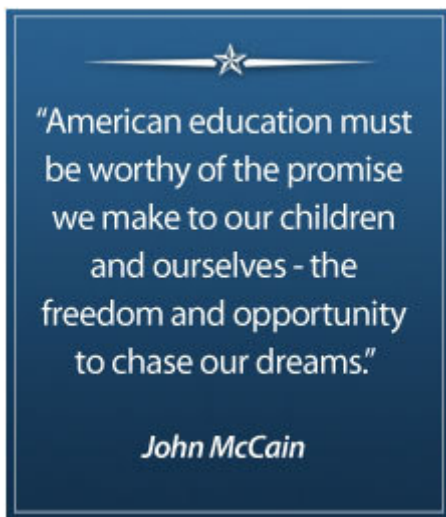
- Senator John McCain



"In Iraq our national security interests and our national values converge. Iraq is truly the test of a generation, for America and for our role in the world. Faced with similar challenges, previous generations of Americans have passed such tests with honor. It is now our turn to demonstrate that our power, ennobled by our principles, is the greatest force for good on earth today. Iraq's transformation into a secure democracy and a force for freedom in the greater Middle East is the calling of our age. We can succeed."

-Senator John McCain

Education Excellence, Choice, and Competition in American Education



"American education must be worthy of the promise we make to our children and ourselves - the freedom and opportunity to chase our dreams."

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John McCain believes American education must be worthy of the promise we make to our children and ourselves. He understands that we are a nation committed to equal opportunity, and there is no equal opportunity without equal access to excellent education.

Public education should be defined as one in which our public support for a child's education follows that child into the school the parent chooses. The school is charged with the responsibility of educating the child, and must have the resources and management authority to deliver on that responsibility. They must also report to the parents and the public on their progress.

The deplorable status of preparation for our children, particularly in comparison with the rest of the industrialized world, does not allow us the luxury of eliminating options in our

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educational repertoire. John McCain will fight for the ability of all students to have access to all schools of demonstrated excellence, including their own homes.

No Child Left Behind has focused our attention on the realities of how students perform against a common standard. John McCain believes that we can no longer accept low standards for some students and high standards for others. In this age of honest reporting, we finally see what is happening to students who were previously invisible. While that is progress all its own, it compels us to seek and find solutions to the dismal facts before us.

John McCain believes our schools can and should compete to be the most innovative, flexible and student-centered – not safe havens for the uninspired and unaccountable. He believes we should let them compete for the most effective, character-building teachers, hire them, and reward them.

If a school will not change, the students should be able to change schools. John McCain believes parents should be empowered with school choice to send their children to the school that can best educate them just as many members of Congress do with their own children. He finds it beyond hypocritical that many of those who would refuse to allow public school parents to choose their child's school would never agree to force their own children into a school that did not work or was unsafe. They can make another choice. John McCain believes that is a fundamental and essential right we should honor for all parents.

As president, John McCain will pursue reforms that address the underlying cultural problems in our education system - a system that still seeks to avoid genuine accountability and responsibility for producing well-educated children.

John McCain will place parents and children at the center of the education process, empowering parents by greatly expanding the ability of parents to choose among schools for their children. He believes all federal financial support must be predicated on providing parents the ability to move their children, and the dollars associated with them, from failing schools.

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McCain Economic Stimulus Plan

- **Cut The Corporate Tax Rate From 35 To 25 Percent.**
 - **A lower corporate tax rate is essential to U.S. competitiveness.** America was once a low-tax business environment, but as our trade partners lowered their rates, America failed to keep pace, leaving us with the second-highest rate among the world's advanced economies.[\[1\]](#)
 - **Cutting the corporate tax will expand the U.S. economy, creating jobs and opportunities for prosperity.** A recent analysis of tax policy options

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estimated that a cut less than half this size could increase long-term growth by 0.5 percent, or \$100 billion in a single year.[\[2\]](#)

- **Lower corporate taxes leads to higher wages.** Recent studies have shown that corporate taxes are in large part passed on to labor through lower wages. One study noted that a one percent hike in the corporate tax results in a 0.8 percent decrease in manufacturing wages.[\[3\]](#) Accordingly, cutting corporate taxes can increase wages for American workers.
- **Allow First-Year Deduction, Or “Expensing”, Of Equipment And Technology Investments.**
 - **Expensing of equipment and technology will provide an immediate boost to capital expenditures and reward investments in cutting-edge technologies.**
 - **The additional investment stimulated by a change to expensing of equipment and technology will drive to economic growth.** A recent estimate of a modest expensing provision predicted a gain of 1.5 percent in long term economic growth.[\[4\]](#)
 - **The complexity of our tax code needlessly burdens American businesses and families with \$140 billion in compliance costs.**[\[5\]](#) Allowing expensing will eliminate the need for complicated accounting for depreciation.
- **Establish Permanent Tax Credit Equal To 10 Percent Of Wages Spent On R&D.**
 - **The R&D tax credit will simplify the tax code, reward activity in the United States, and make us more competitive with other countries.**
 - **A permanent credit will provide an incentive to innovate and remove uncertainty.** At a time when our companies need to be more competitive, we need to provide a permanent incentive to innovate, and remove the uncertainty now hanging over businesses as they make R&D investment decisions.
- **These Are Essential First Steps On The Path To Fundamental Tax Reform, Which Could Increase U.S. GDP By As Much As 10 Percent Over The Long Term.**[\[6\]](#)

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Issues Focus



[Economic Stimulus Plan](#)

John McCain has bold solutions to stimulate the American economy.

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[McCain Tax Cut Plan](#)

John McCain believes taxes should be low, simple, and fair and has a track record of commitment to these principles.

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[Government Spending, Lower Taxes and Economic Prosperity](#)

America's economic progress requires that the federal government abide by the same standards of common sense and fiscal restraint as hardworking families.

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[Straight Talk on Health System Reform](#)

John McCain is willing to address the fundamental problem: the rapidly rising cost of U.S. health care. Bringing costs under control is the only way to stop the erosion of affordable health insurance, save Medicare and Medicaid, protect private health benefits for retirees, and allow our companies to effectively compete around the world.

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[Strict Constructionist Philosophy](#)

John McCain believes that one of the greatest threats to our liberty and the Constitutional framework that safeguards our freedoms are willful judges who usurp the role of the people and their representatives and legislate from the bench. As President, John McCain will nominate judges who understand that their role is to faithfully apply the law as written, not impose their opinions through judicial fiat.

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[Human Dignity & the Sanctity of Life](#)

During more than five years as a POW in Vietnam, John McCain experienced the worst assaults on human dignity imaginable. Yet each day he also saw in his fellow prisoners the power of human compassion and the will to prevail against unimaginable evil. It is this experience, and a life dedicated to public service, that has imbued in John McCain a fundamental commitment to the protection of human dignity that will shape his presidency.

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[Lobbying & Ethics Reform](#)

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John McCain believes that a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" must remain ever faithful to that noble charge. America needs leadership devoted to the public interest, not the special interest, and a government that fulfills its duties with unfailing integrity, accountability, and common sense. Those who serve in positions of public trust have a patriotic duty to serve the national interest with integrity and accountability, to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the people we are privileged to serve, and to devote ourselves to America's agenda, not that of narrow special interests.

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[Strategy for Victory in Iraq](#)

John McCain believes that we must not fail in Iraq. Succeeding in the cause of helping the Iraqi people build a stable, secure, representative state is essential to achieving an enduring peace in a region of the world central to American prosperity and national security. Failure in Iraq will endanger America for generations to come. America has a vital interest in a secure, democratic Iraq, at peace with its neighbors, to help stabilize a dangerous and critical region.

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[Border Security & Immigration Reform](#)

I have always believed that our border must be secure and that the federal government has utterly failed in its responsibility to ensure that it is secure. If we have learned anything from the recent immigration debate, it is that Americans have little trust that their government will honor a pledge to do the things necessary to make the border secure.

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[Commitment To America's Service Members: Past And Present](#)

America owes its liberty, its prosperity, and its future to our veterans who have dedicated their lives to protecting our great country. John McCain has fought to honor our national commitment to our veterans who have given their careers and livelihoods to ensuring our freedom. He believes we must provide for service members and their families while they serve, we must help those who return from combat to adjust to civilian life, and we must honor and never forget the service of those who do not return.

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[Education](#)

Excellence, Choice, and Competition in American Education

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[National Security](#)

The most sacred responsibility vested in a president - the commander in chief - is to "preserve and protect" American citizens. John McCain has the necessary

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vision and unrivaled experience to command the United States armed forces and adapt our nation's defenses to the demands of a changing and dangerous world.

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[Stewards of Our Nation's Rich Natural Heritage](#)

John McCain has a proud record of common sense stewardship. Along with his commitment to clean air and water, and to conserving open space, he has been a leader on the issue of global warming with the courage to call the nation to action on an issue we can no longer afford to ignore.

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[Protecting Second Amendment Rights](#)

John McCain believes that the right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms is a fundamental, individual Constitutional right that we have a sacred duty to protect. We have a responsibility to ensure that criminals who violate the law are prosecuted to the fullest, rather than restricting the rights of law abiding citizens. Gun control is a proven failure in fighting crime. Law abiding citizens should not be asked to give up their rights because of criminals - criminals who ignore gun control laws anyway.

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[America's Space Program](#)

"Let us now embark upon this great journey into the stars to find whatever may await us."

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