

# Campaign Chronicles

Newsletter written by Parker Bugg

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OR



John McCain's vice presidential pick Sarah Palin shocked the world. Should Barack Obama be worried that that Sarah Palin may get the 18, 000 supporters or confident that Hillary's words were enough at the DNC? Will her and John McCain be able to capture all of the old Hillary supporters?



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## Are You Qualified to be the Next President?

No matter what party the presidential candidates are from, they have to pass certain qualifications. A president must be at least 35 years old. They must have been living in the United States for 14 years and also have to be born in the Unites States. So if you were born in Kenya or Iran, you



wouldn't be allowed to become president. Once the candidate has met these qualifications, it can be chosen by the people to become president of the United States.

There are many qualities both parties look for that are the same but where the two parties differ comes to their platforms. Both parties like to see a candidate with a pleasant appearance and a nice family. They also like to see a candidate with a strong speaking voice that will provide confidence for that party. Also, the parties like electing governors or senators because they know



they are capable of getting votes and they know they will be able to run something such as a state from past political experience. Normally, a candidate with no leadership

experience will not be chosen for president. A presidential candidate will also not be picked if he has a bad public record. For example, everyone wants to see a president that didn't handle illegal drugs or hasn't been in jail before running for president. People pick a candidate that is the most electable and has the broadest appeal within the party.

Many candidates are chosen because of what state they are from or what religion they believe. Candidates from larger states such as New York, California, Ohio, and Texas usually have better chances of winning the presidency because there are more people that are going to vote for him than a state with a smaller population,



such as Maine or Kansas. Ronald Reagan was from California and he won the presidency. George W. Bush (current president) and George H. W. Bush (former president) were both from Texas and they won the presidency. All of these candidates have been from largely populated states. Some people also pick candidates by their religion. They may pick them or not pick them depending if they are Christian, Catholic, Protestant, or Mormon.

Some presidential candidates will pick a certain vice president if they think it will help their chances. They may pick a women vice president such as John McCain did in the 2008 campaign to try to receive more women votes. The candidates will pick their vice president by race, gender, or if they think it will improve their chances to win. While there are many other reasons such as each candidate's platforms that people choose, these are some of the qualities that the political parties look for when choosing their candidate.



## Electoral College vs. Popular Vote System

Why is the Electoral College system so complicated? Why don't they have one vote per person? There are reasons for and against the Electoral College system. For instance, the popular vote is easier, but some people think it is unconstitutional. Many opinions differ, but should we change to a popular vote?

The popular vote would make it much easier to decide who is president of the United States. Every vote counts as one vote for each candidate and the candidate with the most votes wins the election. In the electoral system, popular vote has failed to win four previous times in 1824, 1876, 1888, and in 2000. In fear of having this happen again in future elections, the candidates would have to campaign in every state to get a better shot at getting those votes. It would be very time consuming and expensive for the constitutional amendment process. But, the candidate with the most votes would always win the election and there would be no mishaps over total votes.



them. None of the smaller states would ever give up their advantage. Also, states would lose their roles in choosing presidents because they would be using the votes of the general voters nationally. Voter fraud is also a concern.

These are reasons why the government hasn't chosen the popular vote system instead of the Electoral College system.

As you can see, it is very unlikely that Congress will change to the popular vote system. It is going to take some great debating to have it changed. Although the Electoral College system may be confusing, it is a system that everybody trusts and likes. We will remain using the Electoral College system for a very long time.

The Electoral System is a very difficult system. Each state gets a number of electors equal to its number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives plus one for each of its two senators. For example, California has 55 representatives. Each representative stands for a certain number of people in that state. The candidate with the most votes wins all the electoral votes. In order to become president, you must win 270 votes out of 538. On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, the electors meet in their state capitols and cast their votes. This is the point where we officially have a new president elected. This is the Electoral College system.

Some smaller states with a smaller population do not like the popular vote system. The smaller states are overrepresented in the Electoral College and fear the popular vote system would take the advantage away from

## What are the candidates going to do once in the office?

What are the reasons for a person to run for the presidency? What is their goal? What are they trying to change? The candidates that run for president both have different platforms and reasons for becoming



president. They believe in different causes and issues and they often debate over those issues. All of the candidates have different priorities they want to change. But what exactly are they trying to change?

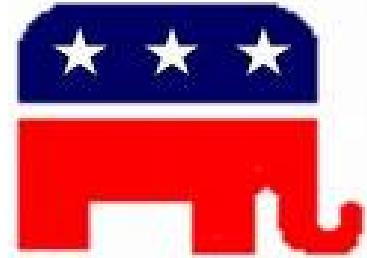
Both Barack Obama and John McCain may be campaigning for the president of the United States, but are their arguments the same? While they are both discussing the same topics to try to win the presidency, their views on those subjects differ from each other. Each candidate is trying to win the people's vote but only one candidate will become president, John McCain or Barack Obama?



John McCain's high priorities are the war in Iraq, the immigration reform, and pro-life, no abortion. He believes there should be more troops in Iraq so Iraq can rebuild institutions and disarm militias. He wants the Iraqi army trained so they can help settle political and economic reconstruction. Senator McCain also believes America should hold a strong border but give legal citizenship to the illegal aliens already living here. He wants to make sure all people that cross into this country speak English. McCain also wants to work with leaders of Mexico to strengthen their democracy and give them economic opportunities for their citizens. John McCain also wants to make sure all unborn babies will get the chance to be born (no abortion). If the parent of the child cannot keep the baby, she should give it to an orphanage. Senator McCain believes in these concepts very strongly.

John McCain also has other issues that are important to him. He believes health care should be provided to all citizens. He also thinks it should be easy for families to receive healthcare and healthcare should be portable from job to job. Senator McCain also wants children healthier and exercise to stop obesity.

Education is another issue frequently talked about by McCain. He believes states should be responsible for developing academic standards. John McCain also thinks the best teachers should be paid the best. He supports No Child Left Behind and thinks it is a "good beginning" but should be fixed so no child is left behind.



John McCain wants to help the global problem. He pledges to end U.S. reliance on foreign oil and wants to provide a safe storage of spent nuclear fuel. He supports the development of flexible-fuel vehicles and plans to limit carbon and greenhouse gas by bringing nuclear energy to the market faster. McCain also believes the climate is a global problem that requires World Wide help and a World Wide solution.

These are John McCain's issues that he believes in and backs up 100%.



Barack Obama on the other hand, has different high priorities such as healthcare, the War in Iraq, and social security. He

would like to have a new health plan that covers the nation's uninsured even if they move from job to job. Also, he would require that all children have healthcare and businesses that did not provide healthcare would be fined. Obama's goal is for every person to be insured with healthcare because you never know when something bad is going to happen. Senator Obama is against the war and wants to bring the soldiers back immediately. However, this topic he has switched back and forth on and can't make up his mind. He would also like to bring Iraq into the United Nations so we wouldn't have to fight them in the future. Obama also wants to keep bankruptcy laws from companies so they can't file bankruptcy if people have a private pension in them. He also wants to attempt to eliminate income tax for seniors earning less than \$50,000 a year as well. These are Obama's main interests and priorities if he becomes the next U.S. President.

education. He would like an improved school structure and a "new generation" of teachers with better pay. He believes the better teachers should get paid but not based on their student test scores. Obama also opposes school vouchers but wants a step up summer learning program for disadvantaged kids. He does not like "No Child Left Behind" and thinks it has many errors that need to be fixed.

Obama does have some thoughts about the environment. He "pledges" to reduce green house gas by 2050. After that, he wants to lead a new international global warming partnership along with a cap-and-trade program. Barack also guarantees to invest \$150 billion dollars to develop climate friendly products which would increase the amount the jobs for Americans. He hopes to reduce dependence on foreign oil and wants to reduce oil consumption by 35% by 2030. He also wants 25% of electricity to come from renewable resources. These are Barack Obama's goals if he becomes president.

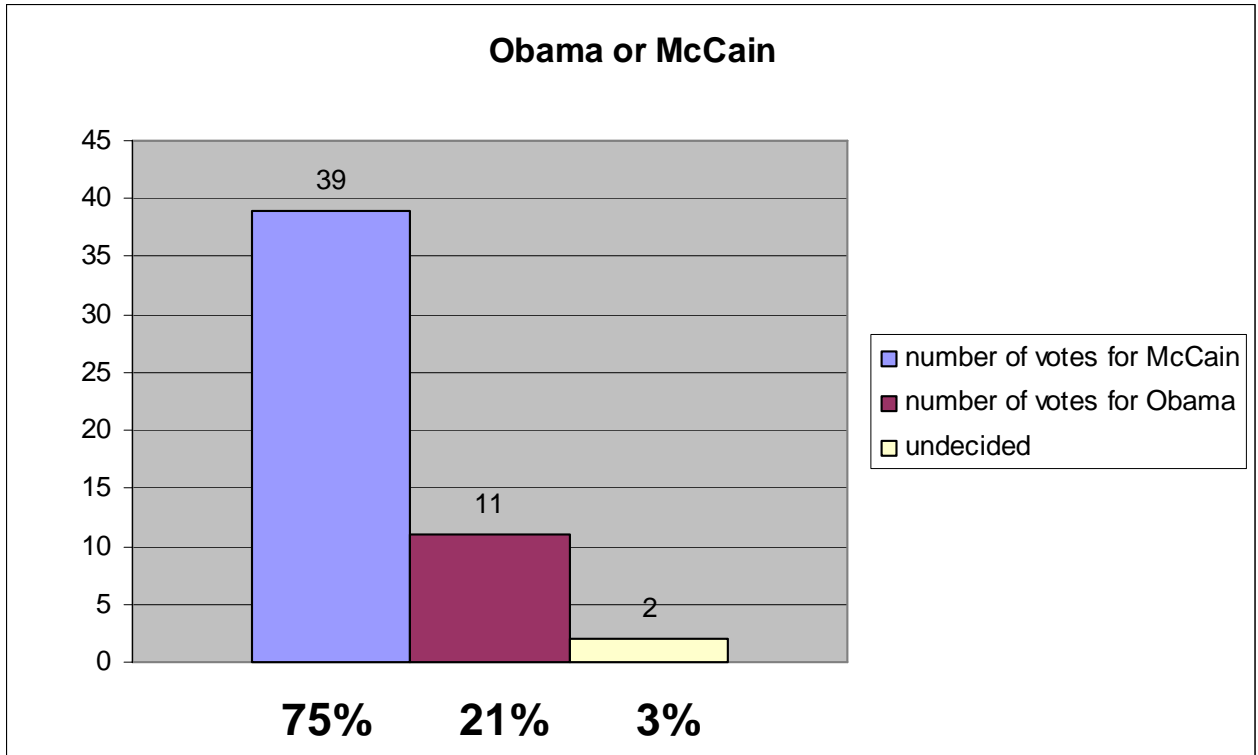


Senator Obama also supports



As you can see, these candidates argue the same topics but their opinions on these topics are different. Now, it's up to the people to choose the next president of the United States. Will it be

the Senator of Chicago, or John McCain who was a shot down navy pilot and current Senator of Arizona? You decide.



Barack Obama, a former attorney and



**"Mr. Vice President, Mr. Vice President!!!; O... never mind. I see you are busy, I'll come back later."**

picture from <http://www.cartoonstock.com/lowres/jmo11471.jpg>

## Political Timeline

### January 2008 - January 2009

- 1-3-08 Iowa Caucus
- 1-8-08 New Hampshire Primary
- 1-15-08 Michigan Primary
- 1-19-08 Nevada Caucus
- 1-19-08 South Carolina Primary
- 1-29-08 Florida Primary
- (Super Tuesday) 2-5-08 Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Utah Primaries
- (Super Tuesday) 2-5-08 Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota Caucuses
- 2-9-08 Louisiana, Wisconsin Primaries
- 2-9-08 Nebraska Caucus
- 2-12-08 D.C., Maryland, Virginia Primaries
- 2-19-08 Hawaii Caucus
- 2-19-08 Washington Primary
- 3-4-08 Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont Primaries
- 3-11-08 Mississippi Primary
- 4-22-08 Pennsylvania Primary
- 4-28-08 Washington Caucus
- 5-6-08 Indiana, North Carolina Primaries
- Nebraska, West Virginia Primaries
- Kentucky, Oregon Primaries
- 5-27-08 Idaho Primary
- 6-3-08 Montana Primary
- June 2008 Hillary Clinton withdraws from running
- 8-23-08 Barack Obama picks Joe Biden for vice presidential candidate
- 8-25-08 through 8-28-08 Democratic National Convention (DNC) held in Denver, Colorado
- 8-27-08 Hillary Clinton supports Barack Obama at DNC
- 8-28-08 Barack Obama accepts Democratic Presidential Candidate
- 8-29-08 John McCain selects Sarah Palin for vice presidential candidate
- 9-1-08 through 9-4-08 Republican National Convention (RNC) held in Minneapolis
- 9-3-08 Sarah Palin gives speech at RNC
- 9-4-08 John McCain gives acceptance speech as Republican Presidential Candidate
- 9-26-08 John McCain and Barack Obama have 1<sup>st</sup> presidential debate in Oxford, Mississippi
- 10-2-08 VP debate between Dem. Joe Biden and Rep. Sarah Palin at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
- 10-7-08 McCain and Obama have town hall debate at Belmont University in Nashville Tennessee
- 10-15-08 Presidential debate on domestic policy at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York
- November 4, 2008 Presidential Election
- January 20, 2009 Inauguration of the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

