

Candidate Positions on 75 Issues: A Side by Side Comparison

[Printable format for use on election day.]

Positions are categorized as Pro (Yes), Con (No), Not Clearly Pro or Con (NC), or None Found (?). Candidates who have changed positions are listed as Now their most recent position.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by party; candidates are added when they meet our criteria, and they are removed when they withdraw from the presidential race or no longer meet our criteria.

ProCon.org will update this chart with questions and candidate responses up until the Nov. 4, 2008 election.

Obama, B. (Dem.)	McCain, J. (Rep.)	Baldwin, C. (Cst.)	Barr, B. (Lib.)	McKinney, C. (Grn.)	Nader, R. (Ind.)
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A. Total % of Pro and Con answers (out of our 75 posted questions)	68%	68%	73%	47%	87%	73%
B. Total % of NC and ? answers (out of our 75 posted questions)	32%	32%	27%	53%	13%	27%
C. Total # of position changes	5	6	0	5	0	0

#	Topic	ProCon.org's Questions	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Abortion	Should abortion remain a legal option in America?	Pro	Now Con	Con	Now NC	Pro	Pro
2	Abortion	Should parental consent be required for pregnant minors to have abortions?	NC	Pro	Pro	NC	Con	?
3	Character	Is competence more important than honesty in a President?	NC	NC	NC	?	NC	NC
4	China	Is China a threat to the US?	NC	NC	Pro	Pro	NC	Con
5	China	Should the US impose economic sanctions on China as an incentive to improve its human rights policies?	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
6	Criminal Justice	Should felons, who have completed their jail time and probation and paid all their fines, be allowed to vote in elections?	Pro	NC	NC	?	Pro	Pro
7	Criminal Justice	Should the US develop programs that focus more on rehabilitation than punishment in order to reduce its rate of incarceration?	Pro	?	NC	?	Pro	Pro
8	Cuba	Should the US continue to support an embargo against Cuba?	Pro	Pro	Pro	NC	Con	Con
9	Darfur	Should the US send any American forces, with or without the UN, to the Darfur region of Sudan to stop the genocide?	Con	NC	Con	Con	Con	NC
10	Death Penalty	Should the death penalty remain a legal option in America?	Pro	Pro	Pro	Pro	Con	Con
11	Defense	Should the US build its missile defense shield in former Soviet states despite objections from Russia?	Pro	NC	Con	NC	Con	Con
12	District of Columbia	Should the District of Columbia become the 51st US state?	NC	NC	Con	?	Pro	Pro
13	Economy	Is outsourcing jobs to other countries good for America?	NC	Pro	Con	?	Con	Con
14	Economy	Should the US include mandatory regulations for labor rights in free trade agreements?	Pro	NC	Con	NC	Pro	Pro
15	Economy	Has the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) had an overall benefit for the US?	Con	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Con
16	Economy	Should the federal government bail out failing US private corporations like it did with Bear Stearns or Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac at taxpayers expense?	Pro	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Con
17	Economy	Do labor unions provide an overall benefit to workers in the US?	Pro	Pro	?	NC	Pro	NC
18	Education	Has the No Child Left Behind Act been effective at improving public education?	Con	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Con
19	Education	Is the increasing cost of college and university tuition pricing America's middle class out of higher education?	Pro	Pro	NC	NC	Pro	Pro
20	Education	Should the federal government fund school voucher programs?	Now NC	Pro	Con	Pro	Con	Con
21	Education	Should sex education in our schools be based on abstinence only?	Con	Pro	Con	NC	Con	Con
22	Election Reform	Should voter verified paper audit trails (VVPAT) be mandatory in elections?	Pro	?	Pro	NC	Pro	Pro
23	Election Reform	Should there be restrictions on campaign contributions?	Pro	Pro	Con	NC	Pro	Pro
24	Election Reform	Should the election campaigns of candidates for public office be publicly financed?	Pro	Pro	Con	Con	Pro	Pro
25	Eminent Domain	Should federal or state government be allowed to use eminent domain laws to take private property for non-public use?	?	Con	Con	Con	NC	Con
26	Energy	Should drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) be allowed?	Con	Con	Pro	Pro	Con	Con
27	Energy	Should the US tap into its emergency oil reserves to help bring down the price of gasoline?	NC	Pro	NC	NC	Con	Con

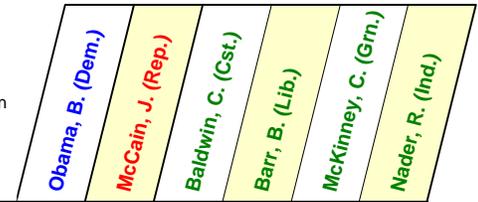
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28	Energy	Should the US permit more offshore drilling to increase domestic energy supplies?	Now NC	Now Pro	Pro	Pro	Con	Con
29	Energy	Should the US build additional nuclear plants?	NC	Pro	Pro	Pro	Con	Con
30	Energy	Should the private ethanol industry be subsidized by the federal government?	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Con	Con
31	Environment	Should the US ratify an international environmental agreement (such as the Kyoto Protocol) that mandates reductions in carbon emissions?	Pro	NC	Con	NC	Pro	Pro
32	Environment	Should the federal government mandate an increase in fuel efficiency standards for automobiles?	Pro	Pro	Con	Now Con	Pro	Pro
33	Environment	Are humans substantially responsible for global climate change today?	Pro	NC	Con	Con	Pro	Pro
34	Gun Control	Are more federal regulations on guns and ammunition needed?	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Con	Pro
35	Health Care	Should all Americans have a right to government or employer subsidized basic health care?	Pro	Con	Con	Con	Pro	Pro
36	Health Care	Should Americans be allowed to purchase their prescription drugs from other countries?	Pro	Pro	Pro	?	Pro	?
37	Health Care	Are fast food companies responsible in any way for America's obesity problems?	NC	NC	Con	NC	Pro	Pro
38	Immigration	Are illegal immigrants a net gain to the US economy?	NC	NC	Con	NC	Pro	NC
39	Immigration	Should illegal aliens receive any of the rights or benefits that lawful permanent residents enjoy?	Pro	Pro	Con	Con	Pro	Pro
40	Immigration	Should the US build a physical barrier, such as a fence, along the US-Mexico border?	Pro	Now Con	Pro	Con	Con	Con
41	Iran	Should the US use military force against Iran if Iran does not dismantle its nuclear program?	Now Con	NC	NC	Con	Con	NC
42	Iran	Should the US be involved in direct negotiations with Iran?	Pro	Now Pro	?	Pro	Pro	NC
43	Iraq	Was it a mistake to attack Iraq in 2003?	Pro	Con	Pro	Now Pro	Pro	Pro
44	Iraq	Has the war in Iraq made America safer?	Con	NC	Con	NC	Con	Con
45	Iraq	Should the US set a timetable for troop withdrawal in Iraq?	Pro	Con	Pro	Con	Pro	Pro
46	Israel	Should Israel continue to receive the current level of military and economic aid from the US?	Pro	Pro	Con	NC	Con	Con
47	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Should the US allow Hamas to join future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?	NC	NC	NC	?	NC	NC
48	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Should there be an independent Palestinian state?	Pro	NC	NC	?	Pro	Pro
49	Kosovo	Should the US have supported Kosovo's independence?	NC	Pro	NC	?	NC	?
50	Marriage	Should there be a Constitutional amendment or federal law defining marriage as only between a man and a woman?	Con	Con	Con	Con	Con	Con
51	Marriage	Should an affair outside of marriage disqualify a candidate for public office?	NC	NC	?	?	NC	Con
52	Media	Should journalists be shielded from prosecution for protecting their sources?	NC	Pro	Con	?	Pro	?
53	Medical Marijuana	Should marijuana be a medical option?	Now Pro	Con	Pro	Now Pro	Pro	Pro
54	Medical Marijuana	Should the federal government stop raids against people for using medical marijuana in states where medical marijuana use is legal?	Pro	Pro	Pro	?	Pro	Pro
55	National ID	Should there be a national identification card?	?	NC	Con	Con	Con	Con
56	National Service	Should the US institute a military draft?	Con	Con	Con	Pro	Con	Con

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57	National Service	Should openly gay people be allowed to serve in the US military?	Pro	Con	Con	Pro	Pro	Pro
59	Presidential Power	Should the US President's powers be expanded to include a line item veto?	?	Pro	Con	?	Con	?
60	Presidential Power	Should the unitary executive theory apply to the US President?	NC	NC	NC	NC	Con	Con
61	Presidential Power	Should the Vice-President of the US be considered part of the Executive Branch and thus be subject to the laws and rules governing that branch?	Pro	?	?	?	Pro	?
62	Religion	Should federal funds be given to faith-based (religious) organizations and initiatives?	Pro	Pro	NC	Now NC	Con	?
63	Religion	Should a candidate's religion matter to voters?	NC	Pro	Pro	NC	NC	Con
64	Science	Should the government continue to fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)?	Pro	Pro	?	NC	Con	NC
65	Science	Should Intelligent Design be taught as science in schools?	NC	Now Con	NC	?	Con	?
66	Social Security	Should Social Security be privatized?	Con	Pro	Pro	Pro	Con	Con
67	Stem Cells	Should the federal government fund embryonic stem cell research?	Pro	Now Pro	Con	Con	Pro	NC
68	Taxes	Should the Bush tax cuts be made permanent?	Con	Now Pro	Pro	NC	Con	Con
69	Taxes	Should any federal taxes be increased?	Pro	Con	Con	Con	NC	Pro
70	Turkey	Should Turkey be able to enter Iraq or other countries unilaterally in search of its enemies?	Con	Con	NC	?	NC	?
71	US Constitution	Should the US Constitution and Bill of Rights be altered or updated in any way?	Pro	Pro	Con	Pro	Pro	Pro
72	War on Terror	Should interrogation techniques that some consider torture, such as waterboarding, be a legal option?	Con	Con	NC	Con	Con	Con
73	War on Terror	Should the military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba be closed?	Pro	Pro	Con	?	Pro	Pro
74	War on Terror	Has the USA PATRIOT Act had an overall benefit for the US?	Now NC	NC	Con	NC	Con	Con
75	War on Terror	Should telecommunication companies receive immunity for allowing the government to conduct past warrantless wiretaps?	Con	NC	Con	Con	Con	Con
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