


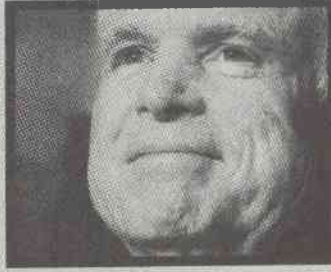



THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Their work, their wishes, their words

From the debates to the TV ads, information about this year's presidential candidates is coming from all sides. Wading through it all can be overwhelming. Here we give you a quick snapshot of who the candidates — Democrat and Republican — are and what they're about.

Compiled by Scott Canon | The Kansas City Star

	 Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton New York	 Sen. Barack Obama Illinois	 Mike Huckabee Former Ark. governor	 Sen. John McCain Arizona	 Rep. Ron Paul Texas
BIO	Yale-educated lawyer, advised Children's Defense Fund, former first lady, U.S. senator from New York.	Lawyer, community organizer, former Illinois state senator, keynote speaker 2004 Democratic National Convention, U.S. senator from Illinois.	Baptist pastor, president of Arkansas Baptist Convention, 10 years as Arkansas governor.	Former Navy pilot and Vietnam-era prisoner of war, U.S. senator from Arizona.	Obstetrician-gynecologist, longtime U.S. representative from Texas, one-time Libertarian Party presidential nominee.
BOOKS THEY'VE WRITTEN	"Living History," "It Takes A Village," "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy"	"The Audacity of Hope," "Dreams From My Father"	"Character Is the Issue," "Kids Who Kill," "Living Beyond Your Lifetime," "Quit Digging Your Grave With a Knife and Fork"	"Character Is Destiny," "Faith of My Fathers," "Why Courage Matters"	"The Case for Gold: A Minority Report of the U.S. Gold Commission"
IRAQ WAR	Phased withdrawal within 60 days of inauguration, aiming to remove most U.S. troops by 2014. Would leave small force to support Iraqi government, deter aggression from neighbors and protect Kurds.	Pull out one to two brigades per month in 16 months, leaving forces to protect U.S. Embassy, redeploy some troops to Afghanistan, aid Iraqi troops only after internal reconciliation.	Opposes timetable for pull-out or withdrawing without endorsement of top U.S. military command. Says he is "focused on winning."	Was early advocate of the war and of the 2006 of troop surge, although often criticized administration's handling of the war. Wants troops to stay until Iraq is stable, secure.	Opposed invasion. Would immediately withdraw all troops from Iraq.
HEALTH CARE	Require all to get health insurance. Demand that large employers provide coverage or contribute to the cost. Offer tax credit to small firms and subsidies for low-income people.	Require that all children have health insurance and that employers offer coverage or contribute to the cost. Exempt small businesses. Create purchasing pool with choice of competing private plans. Expand Medicaid eligibility.	Looks to states as laboratories for solutions, opposing mandated coverage for all. Invest in prevention to cut costs and rely on free-market, consumer-based incentives.	Suggests \$2,500-\$5,000 tax credit to make health insurance affordable. Opposes mandated insurance. Would expand health savings accounts.	Opposes mandated coverage. Would make all medical expenses deductible and create \$500-per-child tax credit for prescription drugs and costs not covered by insurance.
IMMIGRATION	Supports path to legalization that includes learning English and paying fines. Increased penalties for employers of illegal immigrants. Opposes guest worker programs.	Supports path to legalization that includes learning English and paying fines. Increased penalties for employers of illegal immigrants. Would create system to verify worker eligibility. Supports guest worker programs. Voted for Mexican border fence.	Give illegal immigrants 120 days to register and leave before applying to return. Increase skilled worker visas. Tougher penalties for employers of illegal immigrants. As governor, supported in-state tuition for children of illegal immigrants.	Supports path to legalization that includes learning English and paying fines. Co-sponsored 2006 bill calling for guest-worker program and setting up path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Supports Mexican border fence.	No path to legalization. Supports Mexican border fence. Opposes government services, including hospitals and schools, for illegal immigrants. End birthright citizenship.
TAXES	Allow Bush tax cuts to expire for those earning \$250,000 or more, use revenues to pay for health care. Reform Alternative Minimum Tax, freeze estate tax at 2009 levels to pay for universal 401(k) plan.	Replace Bush tax cuts with new breaks worth \$500 to \$1,500 yearly for people making less than \$50,000. Create \$4,000 annual college tuition tax credit. Raise taxes on dividends and capital gains.	End all federal income and payroll taxes, to be replaced by "fair tax" — national sales tax.	Extend Bush tax cuts. Simplify tax code. Reform Alternative Minimum Tax.	Eliminate income taxes and all taxes not "expressly authorized by the Constitution," including payroll and estate taxes.
CLIMATE	Cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions. Reduce electricity use 20 percent from projected levels by 2020. Increase auto mileage standards to 55 mpg by 2030.	Cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Make energy companies pay for emissions.	Cites spiritual obligation as steward of the Earth. Supports some environmental cap-and-trade policies.	Supports cap-and-trade policy for carbon emissions.	Enforce private property rights to prohibit anyone from polluting.
LIKES TO SAY ...	"The energy bill that passed in 2005 was larded with all kinds of special interest breaks ... I knew that it was going to be an absolute nightmare."	"I do provide universal health care. ... (W)e've put forward a plan that makes sure that it is affordable to get health care that is as good as the health care that I have as a member of Congress."	"I did something that had not been done in my state in 160 years. I cut taxes, with the legislature working with me, and we continued to do that 94 times."	"The fact is the tax cuts have dramatically increased revenues."	"Both the WTO and CAFTA could force Americans to get a doctor's prescription to take herbs and vitamins. Alternative treatments could be banned."
... BUT ON CLOSER EXAMINATION	The \$2.6 billion in tax breaks for oil companies was offset by \$2.9 billion in tax increases. The net was a \$300 million tax increase over 11 years.	His proposals only require that children have coverage and be covered under their parents' insurance up to age 25. Of about 46.5 million uninsured, most are adults. Details of his plan are not specific enough to tell how many might be left uninsured.	Actually, Bill Clinton also cut Arkansas taxes, just not as broadly as Huckabee. Still, although Huckabee cut taxes 94 times as governor, his term finished with a \$500 million net increase in taxes.	The Congressional Budget Office, Treasury and White House's Council of Economic Advisers agree that the tax cuts lead to revenues that are lower than they otherwise would have been — even if they spurred some economic growth.	Few legal scholars agree that the World Trade Organization or the Central American Free Trade Agreement would give international groups any power to impose such restrictions on Americans.
ENDORSEMENTS INCLUDE	New York Times, Jack Nicholson, Pa. Gov. Ed Rendell, former Rep. Richard Gephardt, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland	Baltimore Sun, Oprah Winfrey, Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.), Sen. Patrick Leahy (Vt.), Wis. Gov. Jim Doyle	Dallas Morning News, Jerry Falwell Jr., Chuck Norris, U.S. Rep. John Linder (Ga.), S.D. Gov. Mike Rounds	The Kansas City Star, former Sen. Phil Gramm (Texas), Steve Forbes, Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.), Utah Gov. John Huntsman	American Conservative Magazine, Arlo Guthrie, investment advisor/financial commentator Don Luskin, former N.M. Gov. Gary Johnson

SOURCES: NEW YORK TIMES, MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE, FACTCHECK.ORG, CAMPAIGN WEB SITES