

# State Democratic leaders join to support Obama policies

BY DEVIN ROONEY  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — N.C. Democratic leaders, old and new, gathered Monday morning at the state fairgrounds to reiterate the platform of their party's presidential candidate. That show of support comes as the candidate, Barack Obama, is making repeat visits in an attempt to turn the traditionally Republican state Democratic.

The leaders addressed various aspects of Obama's platform, but

their theme was clear — they all said they think Obama's platform will bring more prosperity for middle-class families, which they said would help everyone in turn.

U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, D-N.C., who is also a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, talked about the economic crisis.

"Now I want to give some credit where credit is due. John McCain has gotten one thing gloriously right in his campaign," Miller said.

"He said early on that economics was not his strong suit."

Miller said McCain's reactionary leadership contrasts with Obama's attitude and record on the financial crisis.

"(Obama) has shown that he is solid and responsible and has good judgment," Miller said.

Former four-term N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt spoke about farming issues — which he said are paramount for the state, where agriculture is one of the biggest industries.

"His bills have helped my neighbors and my friends and agriculture in North Carolina," Hunt said.

The farm bill that passed this year is essential for the industry to be successful, Hunt said.

"John McCain said, 'If I were president I would veto it in a New York minute,'" Hunt said. "Isn't that amazing? Isn't that amazing? And farmers don't know it."

He said McCain's opposition to legislation that benefits farmers demonstrates that the Republican

candidate is out of touch with the needs of North Carolinians.

When highlighting Obama's education platform, U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., cited his experiences as a former teacher and said needs he has observed are addressed in Obama's plans.

Price said Obama's plan includes efforts to fully fund No Child Left Behind and alleviate a nationwide teaching shortage that is severe in North Carolina.

N.C. Secretary of State Elaine

Marshall said she's also concerned McCain is out of touch, particularly in the area of health care.

"He would run the health care system in a Republican McCain administration just like Wall Street was running the financial services industry," Marshall said.

"He doesn't get it on the financial dilemmas we're in, and he doesn't get it on health care."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stn@unc.edu](mailto:stn@unc.edu).

## Foreign Policy: How the presidential candidates plan to address the problems beyond American borders

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.



Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004; former Illinois state senator, 1996-2004

**The war in Iraq:** Implement a phased withdrawal that will remove all troops by summer 2010; leave a force behind for counterterrorism efforts; prepare Iraqi representatives to gradually assume governing responsibilities; work with Iraq's neighbors to ensure cooperation in stabilization efforts; create an international group to help the Iraqi refugee population.

**Iran:** Support diplomatic talks with Iran without preconditions and plans to offer incentives for cooperation; put economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran if it is uncooperative; using force remains an option.

**Russia:** Support sovereignty of U.S. democratic partners; strengthen transatlantic alliances to present one front against Russian aggression; decrease allies' dependence

on Russian energy; work with the Russian government to advance common interests.

**Diplomatic efforts:** Increase the number of American consulates and reopen some that are closed; increase the size of the foreign service and train civilian aid workers to work alongside military forces; strengthen NATO by encouraging member nations to contribute more troops and

invest more in stabilization efforts; strengthen diplomatic ties in Asia.

**Weapons security:** Secure all loose nuclear materials worldwide within four years; secure a ban on the production of new nuclear material; strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by implementing strong sanctions for any violations; work with Russia to take American and Russian missiles off alert, decrease the size of

both countries' nuclear stockpiles and expand the ban on both countries' intermediate-range missiles.

**Preparing forces:** Increase the number of troops, especially in areas in high demand, such as special operations and information operations; invest in foreign language, cultural awareness and human intelligence training; provide more support for training of allies' local forces.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.



Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986; former U.S. representative, 1982-86

**The war in Iraq:** Maintain the troop surge started in 2007 without a timeline for withdrawal; encourage greater United Nations involvement to cement gains from upcoming provincial and national elections while continuing to provide U.S. support; promote microfinance programs to support local entrepreneurship efforts and stabilize the economy.

**Iran:** Work with other countries to put economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran; encourage the United Nations Security Council to get involved in sanctions; won't engage in any diplomatic talks without conditions; using force remains an option; strengthen the U.S. regional presence to deter Iran's intervention in other countries.

**Russia:** Build up the U.S. nuclear arsenal to guard against threats from Russia (as well as other strategic competitors).

**Diplomacy:** Oppose diplomatic talks with rogue states without any preconditions; wants to obtain international consensus for strict sanctions on Iran.

**Weapons security:** Increase counter weapon proliferation efforts while working toward decreasing the number of nuclear weapons available; strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation treaty; deploy regional and national missile defenses as a deterrent to rogue states such as North Korea and Iran; forge a new nuclear arms agreement with Russia to reduce the number of weapons in

both countries; begin a nuclear dialogue with China.

**Preparing forces:** Increase the size of the American military forces; modernize weapons and protection used by U.S. troops; change the training for forces so that they are adequately prepared to handle counter insurgency, counterterrorism, counter proliferation and information warfare efforts

SOURCES: WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM AND WWW.JOHNMCMAIN.COM

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