

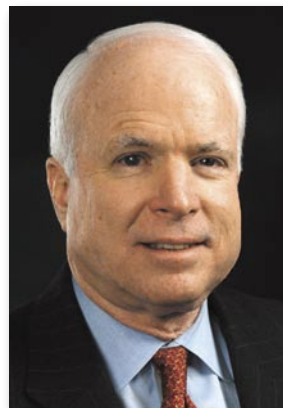
Where the would-be presidents stand

NAEDA compares candidates' positions on energy, taxes, health care and trade

As we move into the final days leading up to the November election of a new president, NAEDA Equipment Dealer offers a review of the nominees' positions on energy, taxes, health care and trade – all of which are NAEDA legislative priorities and policy areas.

The candidates periodically update or change their positions. As noted in the first presidential debate, much of the spending

proposed by the candidates was drafted prior to discussions about federal bailouts of financial institutions and mortgage companies. When pressed whether a bailout would influence their proposals, neither candidate was forthright when responding. Therefore, at publication time, the positions contained herein are as they were known on Sept. 30, 2008. Additional information about both candidates is available at their campaign Web sites.



Sen. John McCain
(R-AZ)
www.johnmccain.com/informing/issues

ENERGY

- Construct 45 new nuclear power plants by 2030 with the ultimate goal of constructing 100 new plants.
- Commit \$2 billion annually to advancing clean coal technologies.
- Encourage a market for alternative, low carbon fuels, such as wind, hydro and solar power.
- Expand domestic production of oil and gas by expanding exploration and lifting the ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf.
- Proposes a \$300 million prize to improve battery technology for full commercial development of plug-in hybrid and fully electric automobiles.
- Call on automakers to make a more rapid and complete switch to flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs).
- Supports alternative fuels and alcohol-based fuels as a means of expanding consumers' choices.
- Supports increased CAFE standards – the mileage requirements that automobile manufacturers' cars must meet.

TAXES

- Promote keeping the top individual tax rate at 35 percent, maintain the 15 percent rates on dividends and capital gains, and phase-out the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Promote cutting the corporate tax rate to 25 percent from 35 percent to make the second highest corporate tax rate in the world more competitive around the globe.

HEALTH CARE

- Supports greater affordability and competition to our drug markets through safe reimportation of drugs and faster introduction of generic drugs.
- Emphasize prevention, early intervention, healthy habits, new treatment models, new public health infrastructure and the use of information technology to significantly reduce costs.
- Dedicate more federal research to treating and curing chronic disease.
- Promote greater access through walk-in clinics in retail outlets.
- Promote the rapid deployment of 21st century information systems and technology to improve patient safety, enhance quality and lower costs.
- Supports medical liability reform that eliminates lawsuits directed at doctors who follow clinical guidelines and adhere to proven safety protocols.
- Reform health care and make it easier for individuals and families to obtain insurance and use competition to improve the quality of health insurance with greater variety to match people's needs, lower prices, promote portability and the ability to purchase health insurance nationwide, across state lines.
- Make the tax subsidy fair by making the tax code more equitable and transparent by giving every family a refundable tax credit of \$5,000 (individuals receive \$2,500).
- Make insurance more portable so insurance follows from job to job.

TRADE

- Believes globalization is an opportunity for America and there is a need to be at the table when the rules for access to those markets are written.
- The U.S. should engage in multilateral, regional and bilateral efforts to reduce barriers to trade, level the global playing field and build effective enforcement of global trading rules.
- Believes globalization will not automatically benefit every American, but is committed to training the next generation of workers to be competitive in the global marketplace.
- Supports overhaul of unemployment insurance and make it a program for retraining, relocating and assisting workers who have lost a job.
- Supports reforming the federal training programs to approaches that can be used to meet the bills, pay for training, and get back to work. This includes strengthening community colleges and technical training and giving displaced workers more choices.



Sen. Barack Obama
(D-IL)
www.barackobama.com/issues

ENERGY

- Create five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next 10 years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future.
- Put 1 million plug-in hybrid cars (cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon) on the road by 2015.
- Ensure 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.
- Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.
- Develop and deploy clean coal technology.
- Extend the Production Tax Credit to increase renewable energy production.
- Make the U.S. a leader on climate change.
- Crack down on excessive energy speculation.

TAXES

- Enact a windfall profits tax on excessive oil company profits to give American families an immediate \$1,000 emergency energy rebate.
- Cut income taxes by \$1,000 for working families to offset the payroll tax paid.
- Create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person or \$1,000 per working family.
- Eliminate income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000.

HEALTH CARE

- Require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions regardless of health status or history.
- Create a new Small Business Health Tax Credit to help small businesses provide affordable health insurance to their employees.
- Lower costs for businesses by covering a portion of the catastrophic health costs they pay in return for lower premiums for employees.
- Require large employers that do not offer coverage or make a meaningful contribution to the cost of quality health coverage for their employees to contribute a percentage of payroll toward the costs of their employees health care.
- Establish a National Health Insurance Exchange with a range of private insurance options as well as a new public plan based on benefits available to members of Congress that will allow individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health coverage.
- Lower drug costs by allowing the importation of safe medicines from other developed countries, increasing the use of generic drugs in public programs and taking on drug companies that block cheaper generic medicines from the market.
- Reform the insurance market to increase competition by taking on anticompetitive activity that drives up prices.
- Require coverage of preventive services, including cancer screenings.
- Pay for this \$50-\$65 billion health care reform effort by rolling back tax cuts for Americans earning more than \$250,000 per year and retaining the estate tax at its 2009 level.

TRADE

- Supports trade with foreign nations that strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs.
- Supports a trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support good American jobs, spread good labor and environmental standards around the world and pressure the World Trade Organization to enforce trade agreements.
- Supports amending the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the leaders of Canada and Mexico so it works for American workers.
- Supports transition assistance to help workers adapt to a rapidly changing economy by updating the existing system of Trade Adjustment Assistance and extending it to service industries, creating flexible education accounts to help workers retrain and providing retraining assistance for workers in sectors of the economy vulnerable to dislocation before they lose their jobs.
- Supports ending tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas.
- Supports the Patriot Employer Act of 2007 to reward companies with tax credits that create good jobs with good benefits for American workers.



NAEDA Policy

ENERGY: NAEDA supports the development of a national energy policy that defines the energy needs of the nation, what measures should be undertaken for new energy sources and exploration, and how the nation's energy needs can be met in a manner that is consistent with the use of natural resources, protection of the environment, sound land use and the welfare of the people.

TAXES: NAEDA supports the permanent repeal of the estate tax, known as the "death tax." NAEDA further supports the continuation of a step-up in basis at the time of death and increasing the gift tax exemption amount.

HEALTH CARE: NAEDA supports passage of Small Business Health Care Plans legislation and the use of Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to permit individuals and small companies to receive the same price advantages that large corporations receive.

TRADE: NAEDA supports the renewal of the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the administration and the removal of government policies and rules that inhibit trade.

Information for this article was compiled from campaign resources of each candidate.