



ELECTION FOCUS 2008



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No. 2

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Latest News

[Energy Policy Critical Presidential Campaign Issue](#) (04-09-2008)

Of all the issues being debated in the 2008 U.S. presidential election, energy policy is perhaps the most important. Modern economies worldwide, including the American economy, depend on a steady flow of energy. Making sure that gasoline, electricity and

other fuels are available for businesses and households is a top priority. In recent years, energy policy has come under pressure for several reasons. Those reasons have to do with the environment, security and the global economy. The use of fossil fuels such as coal and oil are leading to climate change. America is a large importer of oil from foreign lands -- supplies that may be put at risk of a terrorist attack. Environmental and security concerns are compounded by soaring demand for energy from developing nations, pushing up prices.

[The Path to the 2008 Presidential Nomination](#) (04-03-2008)

Democrats continue to collect delegates toward their party's nomination Arizona Senator John McCain has earned the 1,191 pledged delegates he needs to be the Republican Party's presumed presidential nominee, but the race to amass a majority of delegates in the Democratic contest continues. McCain will not become the official Republican Party nominee until his party's delegates cast their votes at the Republican National Convention in September.

["527" Committees Spend Millions on Political Discourse](#) (04-03-2008)

Issues-advocacy approach exempts them from limits on campaign funding

No, "527" refers to a section of the U.S. Tax Code that governs a controversial method of financing political campaigns. It covers a category of tax-exempt political committees that avoid the limits on campaign financing imposed by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001 by steering clear of directly supporting or opposing candidates for office. These committees can have essentially the same impact by supporting or opposing the policy positions those candidates hold. They disseminate those views through a massive array of television and radio ads, mailings and phone calls to voters.



Houston homebuilder Bob Perry, who helped fund the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, is a top contributor to 527 committees. (© AP Images)

Campaign Trail Talk is your best source of information on the 2008 U.S. elections. More at: http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/online_discussions/elections.html

Daily updated information is available at a special **U.S. Elections page** on [America.gov](http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/): <http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/>

Publications:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/elections-in-brief/>



CAMPAIGN FINANCE

"How the 2008 U.S. Elections Will Be Financed"

- article from the *eJournal* "[The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008](#)," Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State, October 2007

Election law expert Jan Witold Baran explains the legal restrictions on campaign contributions from individuals and organizations, describes how campaigns determine expenditures, and discusses private and public funding of presidential elections.

Federal Election Commission

Presidential Campaign Finance

Campaign finance information for the 2008 Presidential Election via an easy to use map of the USA

Receipts of 2008 Presidential Campaigns (pdf)

Table of receipt totals for all candidates for easier comparisons across campaigns

Presidential Campaign Finance Summaries: Current and Historical

Collection of historical information from previous Presidential elections that provides context for the 2008 campaign

Federal Campaign Finance Laws

The FEC administers and enforces provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act, Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act and Presidential Primary Matching Payment Account Act. This page provides access not only to those statutes, but also to other documents relevant to federal campaign finance legislation.

Congressional Research Service Reports

Campaign Finance: Developments in the 110th Congress (pdf), CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service/Library of Congress, September 28, 2007

Public Financing of Congressional Elections: Background and Analysis (pdf), CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service/Library of Congress, updated July 2, 2007

Campaign Finance: An Overview (pdf), CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service/Library of Congress, updated April 20, 2007

Coordinated Party Expenditures in Federal Elections: An Overview (pdf), CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service/Library of Congress, April 13, 2007

POLLS

Clinton's Turn in Bad News is Big News - In the seemingly stalemated race for the Democratic nomination, there seems to be a clear relationship recently between the level of coverage for a presidential candidate and the tone. And the recent campaign media narratives strongly suggest that, at the moment, bad news is big news.

2-to-1 Majority of Democrats Believes Change is More Important Than Experience - As the battle for the Democratic nomination continues, a 64 percent to 30 percent majority of Democrats thinks it more important to elect a president who is a strong agent of change than one who has experience...

[Both Clinton and Obama Ahead of McCain among Registered Voters](#) - Whether the final nominee is Senator Hillary Clinton or Senator Barack Obama, if the election were held today, the Democrats are ahead in the race for the White House...

[Global Views of USA Improve](#) - After years of becoming progressively more negative, public views of the United States have begun to improve, according to a BBC World Service Poll across 34 countries...

[Age, Vote More Strongly Related in Obama-McCain Matchup](#) - Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama appeal to opposite ends of the age spectrum, with McCain faring better among older voters and Obama among younger voters. Hillary Clinton fares less well versus McCain than Obama does among younger voters, but she does better than Obama among older voters.

[Presidential Race State-by-State Snapshot](#) - The table contains results of the most recent general election poll conducted in each state. The see the related article for each poll click on the state name.

BEST of the WEB

Meet the 2008 Presidential Candidates



Hilary Clinton
Democratic Candidate

[Biography](#)

[Hillary Clinton's Official Web Site](#)

John McCain

Presumed Republican Nominee

[Biography](#)

[John McCain's Official Web Site](#)



Barack Obama
Democratic Candidate

[Biography](#)

[Barack Obama's Official Web Site](#)

Electoral Vote Predictor - www.electoral-vote.com - tracks political polls for U.S. federal elections - [Obama-McCain general election map](#) - [Clinton-McCain general election map](#)



Election Calendar

[2008 Presidential Primaries, Caucuses, and Conventions Chronologically](#)

[2008 Republican Primary Schedule](#) [2008 Democratic Primary Schedule](#)

The Christian Science Monitor announced the launch of Patchwork Nation www.csmonitor.com/patchworknation, a new election 2008 site that says it offers a fresh approach to covering politics. The new website replaces the conventional red-state/blue-state maps with one that examines the election through the lens of 11 different types of communities around the country. Bloggers from the 11 designated locales are writing about key issues in their communities, how the issues affect residents' votes, and how the candidates tailor their messages to a particular audience.

The University of Michigan Document Center's Election 2008 website favors a 1990s web aesthetic, replete with stars and stripes wallpaper, but it sure does have - and organize - a lot of useful information. And, a concise table of contents that will lead you to just about anything you need to know about the election - <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/elec2008.html>

[Glossary of Political Terms](#) – from the Center for Responsive Politics. Quick reference list of those terms you may forget from time to time.



Presidential Campaign Tracker (Washington Post)

Track the candidates as they campaign across the country, uses information from campaigns, media reports and other sources to compile a listing of events involving presidential candidates.

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/tracker/>

Political news and commentary:

[Hillary's Kamikaze Campaign](#) (Jonathan Chait, **The New Republic**)

[If System Made Sense, Clinton Would Be Far Ahead](#) (Sean Wilentz, **Salon**)

[Exit the Clinton Strategist](#) (Mark Halperin, **Time**)

[The Shape of the Race to Come](#) (William Kristol, **New York Times**)

[Falling Out of Love With Bill](#) (Kurt Andersen, **New York Magazine**)

[Candidates May Draw New Map](#) (Gerald Seib, **Wall Street Journal**)

ARTICLE ALERT

A PARTY TRANSFORMED. **Ronald Brownstein.** *National Journal*, March 1, 2008, pp. 16-21. The race between Barack Obama and Hilary Rodham Clinton isn't only turning out large numbers of voters, it's also reshaping the makeup of the Democratic Party. The share of the vote cast by young people, the affluent and liberals has increased, sometimes substantially. [READ MORE](#)

McCAIN SHOULD NAME SOLID RUNNING MATE NOW. **Anonymous.** *Human Events*, March 10, 2008, pp. 1-2. Now, McCain must work to unite a divided Republican Party, just as Senators Hillary Clinton (N.Y.) and Barack Obama are poised to go the distance in what is sure to be a drawn-out and increasingly vicious battle for the Democratic nomination, a battle that will increase the possibility of a Republican victory. *Human Events* believes that the best way for McCain to energize the apathetic GOP grass-roots conservatives that he desperately needs for November is to flame a solidly conservative running mate and to do so soon. [READ MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Webchats with U.S. Experts

April 23 at 10 a.m. EDT with **Thomas Schaller**, University of Maryland political science professor. Schaller also is a weekly political columnist for the Baltimore Sun newspaper and has published political commentaries in a variety of publications, including the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Boston Globe. He is author of *Whistling Past Dixie: How Democrats Can Win Without the South*.

You can view the webcasts at www.cpcwebcast.com/state.

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