

Candidate <i>Topic</i>	Clinton	Obama	McCain
<i>Taxes/ Public Finances</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Return to fiscal responsibility; wants America to regain control of its destiny through a balanced budget and surpluses. - Believes that the US should develop a set of budget rules similar to those of the 90s which required funding for new expenditures to be covered by new revenues or cuts in other areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has spoken out against making recent estate tax cuts permanent - Proposed his own tax plan, including \$80 billion in tax cuts for the poor and middle class. - Advocates responding to current budget deficit by eliminating certain tax credits, closing corporate tax loopholes, and restoring the PAYGO policy that prohibits increases in federal spending without a way to compensate for the lost revenue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposes permanent reductions in the corporate income tax rate, for first-year business expensing of all equipment investment. - Wants the Bush tax cuts to be made permanent, but accompany them by controls on spending.
<i>Health Care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American Health Choices Plan, an "individual mandate" universal health care plan that would require health care coverage for all individuals. - Individuals can keep their current employer-based coverage, or choose an expanded version of Medicare or federal employee health plans. - The projected cost of the plan is \$110 billion annually and will require all employers to cover their employees' health insurance or contribute to the costs of their employees' health insurance coverage; tax credits will be provided to companies with fewer than 25 employees to help cover costs. In order to pay for the program's estimated \$110 billion per year cost, Clinton favors repealing portions of the Bush tax cuts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to make available a new national health plan to all Americans, including the self-employed and small businesses, to buy affordable health coverage. - Individuals and families who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP but still need financial assistance will receive an income-related federal subsidy to buy into the new public plan or purchase a private health care plan. - Create a National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals who wish to purchase a private insurance plan. - Wants to require employers to contribute a percentage of payroll toward the costs of the national plan. Small employers that meet certain revenue thresholds will be exempt. - Mandatory Coverage of Children - Flexibility for State Plans: States can continue to experiment, provided they meet the minimum standards of the national plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is against publicly-funded health care, universal health care, or health coverage mandates, instead favoring tax credits of up to \$5,000 for families that get health insurance. His plan focuses on enhancing competition in the health care industry as a way to lower costs. To that end, he would allow citizens to purchase health insurance nationwide instead of limiting them to in-state companies, and to buy insurance through any organization or association they choose as well as through their employers or buying direct from an insurance company. - In an October 2007 statement, McCain said: "In health care, we believe in enhancing the freedom of individuals to receive necessary and desired care. We do not believe in coercion and the use of state power to mandate care, coverage or costs."
<i>Trade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported NAFTA in 1998; opposed CAFTA since 2005. - Supports smart, pro-American trade: NAFTA has hurt workers. - End tax breaks for outsourcing jobs. - Opposes the pending trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama; - Supports trade policies that raise US standard of living and that have strong protections for workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports genuine open markets, but is against loopholes, special protections, etc. - Believes that trade with foreign nations should strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs. - Fight for Fair Trade; use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world and stand firm against agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement that fail to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally pro free trade; every time US went protectionist, it paid a heavy price; considers subsidies a mistake, and opposes them. - Lowering Barriers to Trade: John McCain believes that globalization is an opportunity for American workers today and in the future; the U.S. should engage in multilateral, regional and bilateral efforts to reduce barriers to trade,

	<p>and the environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to review every trade agreement to ensure that it is delivering benefits to American workers. - Has called for a time-out to review existing trade agreements and whether they are benefiting US workers and the economy. 	<p>live up to those important benchmarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will also pressure the World Trade Organization to enforce trade agreements and stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and nontariff barriers on U.S. exports. - Believes that NAFTA and its potential were oversold to the American people; will work with the leaders of Canada and Mexico to fix NAFTA so that it works for American workers. 	<p>level the global playing field and build effective enforcement of global trading rules.</p>
<i>Financial markets/ Stimulus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed a rebate that would go to all Americans, a \$30 billion emergency housing fund as part of a stimulus. - Called for a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures, so that lenders and mortgage servicers have sufficient time to get through paperwork complications and an expected high volume of troubled borrowers, and a five-year freeze on the interest rates of adjustable rate mortgages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports insurance policy to try to prevent troubles in the housing and financial services spreading to the rest of the economy, involving some kind of stimulus. Obama has outlined a stimulus whose centerpiece is getting the money out the door right away and into the hands of the people who will use it. wants to come together on a bipartisan basis and pass a stimulus asap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First supported the passing of an economic stimulus package, claiming it to be at the very top of his agenda. At the “last minute,” McCain decided to skip the vote, even though his plane landed in DC in time.
<i>Employment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposes the Rebuild America Plan, which would invest \$10 billion over 10 years in infrastructure repairs, aimed at creating up to half a million jobs. - Wants to create jobs through an all out commitment to a clean, efficient, independent energy future. - Overhaul the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, or TAA, to ensure that workers who have lost their jobs because of global competition get the income support, health care, job training and job placement assistance they need to get back on their feet. - Provide tax credits to help small businesses create new jobs with good health care benefits. - Ensure that unions are strong and that trade policies work for average Americans. - Would accept a federally mandated minimum wage as president. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve Transition Assistance, to help all workers adapt to a rapidly changing economy, creating flexible education accounts to help workers retrain, and providing retraining assistance for workers - Fight attacks on workers' right to organize & strike. - Give public safety officers collective bargaining rights. - Chief co-sponsor of IL ENDA, against gay job discrimination. - Increase the the minimum wage to make it a living wage. - Make sure that African-American men have access to jobs. - Will strengthen unions and workers' rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wants to prepare the next generation of workers; will fight for the ability of all students to have access to any school of demonstrated excellence. - Will overhaul unemployment insurance and make it a program for retraining, relocating and assisting workers who have lost a job. The unemployment insurance system needs to be modernized to meet the goals of helping displaced workers make ends meet between jobs and moving people quickly on to the next opportunity. - Will reform the half-dozen training programs to approaches that can be used to meet the bills, pay for training, and get back to work.

Middle Class

- Lower taxes for middle class families by:
extending the middle class tax cuts including child tax credit and marriage penalty relief, offering new tax cuts for healthcare, college and retirement, and expanding the EITC and the child care tax credit.
- Bolstering retirement security by promoting savings and investment.
Creating a \$50 billion Strategic Energy Fund to jumpstart research and development of alternative energies.

Obama will cut income taxes by \$1,000 for working families to offset the payroll tax they pay.
Will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they need.
Will create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family, thus completely eliminating income taxes for 10 million Americans.
Wants to dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans will be able to do their taxes in less than five minutes.

Cut taxes for middle class families: McCain plans to permanently repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) - a tax that will be paid nearly exclusively by 25 million middle class families - thus saving middle class families nearly \$60 billion in a single year. Under McCain's plan, a middle class family with children set to pay the AMT will save an average of over \$2,700 -- a real tax cut for working families.