



## PRESIDENTIAL REPORT CARD

August 21, 2008

Campaign for Children and Families

[www.saveamerica.com](http://www.saveamerica.com)

Campaign for Children and Families does not support or oppose candidates for public office, and provides the following information solely for educational purposes. The Presidential Report Card reflects the unrepudiated positions of the presumed Democratic and Republican nominees for President of the United States. Their respective positions were gathered from published votes, policies, and public statements and relevant documents. Candidates' positions were gleaned from actual votes, actions and policies, rather than from contemporary statements that differ from past policies or statements, unless repudiated. No coordination was done with any candidate or with any campaign supporting or opposing either candidate.

### Summary

#### PRESIDENTIAL REPORT CARD

YES = Position in support of a particular statement

NO = Position against a particular statement

#### **Support Partial-Birth Abortions**

Obama: YES

McCain: NO

#### **Support Parental Notification of Abortion**

Obama: NO

McCain: YES

#### **Protect Man-Woman Marriage on the Ballot**

Obama: NO

McCain: YES

#### **Require Schoolchildren to Think Favorably About Homosexuality**

Obama: YES

McCain: NO

#### **Support Adoption of Children by Homosexuals**

Obama: YES

McCain: NO

#### **Allow Local Governments to Ban Gun Ownership**

Obama: YES

McCain: NO

#### **Nominate Strict Constructionist Judges**

Obama: NO

McCain: YES

#### **Raise Taxes**

Obama: YES

McCain: NO

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## Source Documentation (9 pages)

### 1. SUPPORT PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS

**Obama: YES**

**McCain: NO**

#### **Barack Obama wants partial-birth abortions to be legal and voted similarly in the Illinois State Senate**

NBC's Brian Williams: "Senator Obama, on this same topic, what about your view on the decision on partial-birth abortion, and your reaction to most of the public agreeing with the court's holding?"

Obama: "I trust women to make these decisions in conjunction with their doctors and their families and their clergy."

-- Source: South Carolina Democratic Presidential Debate, April 26, 2007

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bp04eK0YMWc>

"To appreciate that, all you need to do is review the recent decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States. For the first time, in Gonzales versus Carhart, the Supreme Court upheld a federal ban on abortions with criminal penalties for doctors. For the first time, the Court endorsed an abortion restriction without an exception for women's health. The decision presumed that the health of women is best protected by the court, not by doctors and not by the woman herself. That presumption is wrong."

-- Source: Barack Obama speech to Planned Parenthood Action Fund, July 17, 2007

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUI99id2SvM> and

<http://lauraetch.googlepages.com/barackobamabeforeplannedparenthoodaction>

"In 2001, when Obama was an Illinois state senator, he and his colleagues considered a bill called the 'Born Alive Infant Protection Act' which provided that 'a live child born as a result of abortion shall be fully recognized as a human person and accorded immediate protection under the law.' ....It came up for a vote twice in the state legislature. The first time Obama voted present; the second time he voted no."

-- Source: CNN, Report on Obama's votes against Born Alive Infant Protection Act, June 2, 2008

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8ACR0cjdI> and <http://www.nysun.com/national/obama-facing-attacks-from-all-sides-over-abortion/84059/>

#### **John McCain has co-sponsored and voted for the ban partial-birth abortions; he calls the procedure "one of the most odious things that I have ever heard of"**

McCain (R-AZ), Yea

-- Source: United States Senate vote on the second bill to prohibit partial-birth abortion, March 13, 2003 <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d108:SN00003:@@@R>

McCain (R-AZ), Yea

-- Source: **United States Senate vote on the first bill to prohibit partial-birth abortion, Oct. 21, 1999**  
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/vote.xpd?vote=s1999-340>

"I also think that we should do everything that we can, and one of those, in my view, is respect for human life, both born and the unborn. It's one of the big differences between myself and Senator Obama, who voted against -- as a member of the Illinois state legislature in the judiciary committee -- voted against a ban on partial-birth abortions, one of the most odious things that I have ever heard of."

-- Source: **John McCain, July 9, 2008 town hall meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lap-MZej564>

## **2. SUPPORT PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF ABORTION**

**Obama: NO**

**McCain: YES**

**Barack Obama opposes notifying parents before an abortion can be performed on their minor daughters, and has voted against protecting states' parental notification laws**

In 2001 when he was an Illinois state senator, Obama declined to take a position on two pieces of legislation that would have required parental notification for minors who have an abortion, voting "present" instead of "yes" or "no." But five years earlier, he had filled out an issues questionnaire for the influential Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization opposing such notifications. "Do you support parent consent/notification for minors seeking abortion?" the survey asked. "No," he wrote. Obama also answered that he supported Medicaid funding and state worker insurance coverage for abortion and that he didn't support "any other" restrictions on the procedure.

-- Source: **Washington Post, "What you might not know about Obama," December 14, 2007**  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/13/AR2007121301783.html>

Obama (D-IL), Nay

-- Source: **United States Senate vote on the bill to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions, July 25, 2006**  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00403:@@R>

**John McCain co-sponsored and voted for legislation to prohibit taking minors across state lines to circumvent parental notification for abortion laws**

McCain (R-AZ), Yea

-- Source: **United States Senate vote on the bill to prohibit taking minors across state lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions, July 25, 2006**  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00403:@@R>

"The American people have come together, to say that partial-birth abortion offends our national conscience, that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for elective abortions, and that states should be allowed to enact parental notification laws."

-- Source: **John McCain message by video to the National Right to Life convention, July 2008**  
<http://www.lifenews.com/nat4066.html> and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ihfb8VF\\_1bw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ihfb8VF_1bw)

### **3. PROTECT MAN-WOMAN MARRIAGE ON THE BALLOT**

**Obama: NO**

**McCain: YES**

**Barack Obama opposes November ballot measures in California, Arizona and Florida that will reserve marriage licenses for a man and a woman**

“...I support repealing the Defense of Marriage Act.... I oppose the divisive and discriminatory efforts to amend the California Constitution, and similar efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution or those of other states.”

-- Source: **Barack Obama's letter to the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Democratic Club of San Francisco, publicly released June 29, 2008** <http://www.alicebtoklas.org>

Gay rights moved to the forefront of the presidential campaign Tuesday after Democratic Sen. Barack Obama's announcement that he opposes a November ballot measure that would ban same-sex marriage in California. In a letter to San Francisco's Alice B. Toklas Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Democratic Club, the presumptive presidential nominee said he opposed “the divisive and discriminatory efforts to amend the California Constitution” and similar efforts in other states.

-- Source: **San Francisco Chronicle, July 2, 2008**

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/02/MN8J11I731.DTL>

and CNN's report <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bItQ7R1DAVA>

and Sacramento Bee <http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/1045969.html>

ABC News: “Does it bother you what California has done? [The California Supreme Court's legalization of homosexual “marriages”]

Barack Obama: “No”

-- Source: **ABC News interview, June 16, 2008**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpnr5duZ23Y>

“Barack has made crystal clear his commitment to ensuring full equality for LGBT couples...that's why he opposes all divisive and discriminatory constitutional amendments, whether it's a proposed amendment to the California and Florida constitutions or the U.S. Constitution.”

-- Source: **Michelle Obama to the Democratic National Committee's Gay & Lesbian Leadership Council, June 27, 2008**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6Kxi8eeo3U>

**John McCain has endorsed the California Marriage Amendment, Proposition 8; he previously endorsed the marriage protection ballot measure in his home state of Arizona**

United States Senator John McCain today announced his support for the California Protection of Marriage initiative on the state's November ballot, leaders of the ProtectMarriage.com campaign announced. In an email received by the ProtectMarriage.com campaign, Senator McCain issued the following statement:

“I support the efforts of the people of California to recognize marriage as a unique institution between a man and a woman, just as we did in my home state of Arizona. I do not believe judges should be making these decisions.”

-- Source: **ProtectMarriage.com news release, June 26, 2008**

<http://www.earnedmedia.org/ptm0626.htm>

U.S. Sen. John McCain met with supporters of the Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment earlier today, Thursday August 25th, 2005 and gave both his endorsement of the initiative as well as signing the circulating petition to place this amendment on the ballot in November 2006. "I believe that the institution of marriage should be reserved for the union of one man and one woman," said Sen. McCain.

-- Source: **Protect Marriage Arizona news release, Aug. 25, 2005**

#### **4. REQUIRE SCHOOLCHILDREN TO THINK FAVORABLY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY**

**Obama: YES**

**McCain: NO**

#### **Barack Obama supports teaching schoolchildren as young as second grade to think favorably about homosexuality and homosexual "marriage"**

MODERATOR: "Gay rights have been hotly debated here in New England. For example, last year some parents of second graders in Lexington, Massachusetts were outraged to learn their children's teacher had read a story about same-sex marriage, about a 'prince' who marries another 'prince'....Would you be comfortable having this story being read to your children as part to their school curriculum? I'm going to start with Senator Edwards."

JOHN EDWARDS: Yes, absolutely....I want them to be exposed to all the information even in – you say second grade? Second grade might be a little tough – but even in second grade (MODERATOR: Well, that's the point. It is second grade)...to be exposed to all, to all those possibilities."

MODERATOR: Senator Obama, you have young children at home. How do you feel about this?

BARACK OBAMA: You know, I feel very similar to John. That...you know, the fact is my nine year old and my six year olds, I think, are already aware that there are same-sex couples. And my wife and I have already talked about it.

MODERATOR: Quickly, have you sat down with your daughters to talk about same-sex marriage?

OBAMA: My wife has.

-- Source: **Democratic Presidential Debate held at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire on Sept. 26, 2007, sponsored by MSNBC**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVnAfJoHfXw>

#### **John McCain voted to prohibit federal funding for schools that promote homosexuality to schoolchildren**

In 1994, Senator John McCain voted in support of an amendment to prohibit federal funds for instructional materials, instruction, counseling, or other services on school grounds, from being used for the promotion of homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative.

-- Source: **U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 103rd Congress - 2nd Session, amendment no. 2433 to S. 1513, Aug. 2, 1994**

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B00E2DE1531F931A3575BC0A962958260>

and <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/amendment.xpd?session=103&amdt=s2433>

#### **5. SUPPORT ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY HOMOSEXUALS**

**Obama: YES**

**McCain: NO**

## **Barack Obama supports homosexual couples adopting children**

Obama “opposes bans on adoption based solely on sexual orientation”

-- **Barack Obama’s answer in support of homosexual adoption on a questionnaire from the Human Rights Campaign, 2008** <http://www.hrc.org/10571.htm>

...equality in relationship, family, and adoption rights is not some abstract principle; it’s about whether millions of LGBT Americans can finally live lives marked by dignity and freedom. That’s why we have to repeal laws like the Defense of Marriage Act. That’s why we have to eliminate discrimination against LGBT families. And that’s why we have to extend equal treatment in our family and adoption laws.”

-- **Source: Barack Obama letter to Family Equality Council, August 1, 2008**

<http://www.familyequality.org/blog/wp-content/family-equality-council-chrisler-08-01-08.pdf>

## **John McCain says he doesn’t believe in ‘gay adoption’**

Mr. McCain, who with his wife, Cindy, has an adopted daughter, said flatly that he opposed allowing gay couples to adopt. “I think that we’ve proven that both parents are important in the success of a family so, no, I don’t believe in gay adoption,” he said.

-- **Source: New York Times, “McCain’s conservative role model? Roosevelt (Theodore, that is),” July 13, 2008**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/us/politics/13mccain.html?\\_r=1&scp=5&sq=McCain%20adoption&st#](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/us/politics/13mccain.html?_r=1&scp=5&sq=McCain%20adoption&st#)

STEPHANOPOULOS: What is your position on gay adoption? You told the "New York Times" you were against it, even in cases where the children couldn't find another home. But then your staff backtracked a bit. What is your position?

MCCAIN: My position is, it's not the reason why I'm running for president of the United States. And I think that two parent families are best for America.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, what do you mean by that, it's not the reason you're running for president of the United States?

MCCAIN: Because I think -- well, I think that it's -- it is important for us to emphasize family values. But I think it's very important that we understand that we have other challenges, too. I'm running for president of the United States, because I want to help with family values. And I think that family values are important, when we have two parent -- families that are of parents that are the traditional family.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But there are several hundred thousand children in the country who don't have a home. And if a gay couple wants to adopt them, what's wrong with that?

MCCAIN: I am for the values that two parent families, the traditional family represents.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, you're against gay adoption.

MCCAIN: I am for the values and principles that two parent families represent. And I also do point out that many of these decisions are made by the states, as we all know. And I will do everything I can to encourage adoption, to encourage all of the things that keeps families together, including educational opportunities, including a better economy, job creation. And I'm running for president, because I want to help families in America. And one of my positions is that I believe that family values and family traditions are preserved.

-- **Source: ABC News, “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” July 27, 2008**

<http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/Story?id=5457720&page=4>

## **6. ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BAN GUN OWNERSHIP**

**Obama: YES**

**McCain: NO**

### **Until this year's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, Barack Obama supported allowing local governments to ban gun ownership**

Major Garrett: But before the high court's decision, Obama's campaign tried to suggest the presumptive Democratic nominee didn't really support the D.C. handgun ban. But this February interview showed otherwise.

Local TV host: But you support the D.C. handgun ban [Obama: "Right"]

and you said that it's constitutional [Obama: "Right"], how can you reconcile those two different positions?

Major Garrett: In answering a 1996 questionnaire, Obama said he supported an all-out ban on the manufacture and sale of handguns, an answer that the campaign now attributes to a misinformed aide. In 2004, Obama voted in the Illinois legislature against shielding anyone who used a handgun in self defense from being prosecuted under local ordinances banning possession of a handgun.

-- Source: Fox News Channel, June 26, 2008 <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7242195314646511470&ei=MxGhSL3FC6ayqAPtnomLBw&q=Obama+gun+Supreme+court&vt=lf&hl=en>

### **John McCain has a consistent record of supporting the right of Americans to own a gun**

"Senator Obama had declined to do that. We had filed an amicus brief along with 54 other senators. So I was pleased with that ruling."

-- Source: John McCain applauding the Supreme Court ruling for gun-owner rights, a case in which he had officially supported the gun-owner's position, Fox News Channel, June 26, 2008 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XgnPPUYX4I>

"When I first ran for Congress in 1982, I was proud, was most proud to have the support of gun owners. For more than two decades, I've opposed efforts to ban guns: ban ammunition, ban magazines, and dismiss gun owners as some kind of fringe group unwelcome in modern America. The 2nd Amendment isn't some archaic custom that matters only to rural Americas who find solace in firearms out of frustration with their economic circumstances. The 2nd Amendment is unique in the world; it guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms. And to argue anything else is to reject the clear meaning of our founding fathers."

-- Source: C-SPAN coverage of John McCain's National Rifle Association convention speech, May 16, 2008 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1\\_Xti2ieKo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1_Xti2ieKo)

## **7. NOMINATE STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST JUDGES**

**Obama: NO**

**McCain: YES**

### **Barack Obama does not have a strict constructionist standard for judges**

"But it's those five percent of the cases that really count. And in those five percent of the cases, what you've got to look at is—what is in the justice's heart. What's their broader vision of what America

should be. Justice Roberts said he saw himself just as an umpire but the issues that come before the Court are not sport, they're life and death. And we need somebody who's got the heart—the empathy—to recognize what it's like to be a young teenage mom. The empathy to understand what it's like to be poor or African-American or gay or disabled or old—and that's the criteria by which I'll be selecting my judges. Alright?"

-- Source: Barack Obama answering a question at the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, July 17, 2007 <http://lauraetch.googlepages.com/barackobamabeforeplannedparenthoodaction>

## **John McCain has pledged to appoint judges who have a “proven commitment to judicial restraint”**

“Always hanging in the air over these tense confirmation battles is the suspicion that maybe, just maybe, a nominee for the court will dare to remain faithful to the clear intentions of the framers, and do the actual meaning of the Constitution. I will look for accomplished men and women, with a proven record of excellence in the law and a proven commitment to judicial restraint. I will look for people in the cast of John Roberts, Samuel Alito, and my friend the late William Rehnquist – jurists of the highest caliber, who know their own minds, know the law, and know the difference.”

-- Source: John McCain speech at Wake Forest University, May 6, 2008  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7bQdEiZLK4>

“When any interest goes to court, it's in the hands of the judiciary. But the judiciary – and this is why judicial appointments are so important – in my view should strictly interpret laws made by the Congress, and along with, strictly interpreting, based on a strict interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.”

-- Source: John McCain answering a question, carried by MSNBC  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIdmMebYAY>

## **8. RAISE TAXES**

**Obama: YES**

**McCain: NO**

## **Barack Obama has pledged to increase taxes and to eliminate existing tax cuts**

Q: McCain is going to say you're going to raise taxes.

A: I will raise CEO taxes. There is no doubt about it.

Q: What about the average American?

A: If you are a CEO in this country, you will probably pay more taxes. They won't be prohibitively high. You're going to be paying roughly what you paid in the '90s, when CEOs were doing just fine.

Q: So, you want to just eliminate the Bush tax cuts?

A: I want to eliminate the Bush tax cuts. And what I have said is, I will institute a middle-class tax cut. So, if you're making \$75,000, if you're making \$50,000 a year, you will see an extra \$1,000 a year offsetting on your payroll tax.

-- Source: Barack Obama interview on CNN, “Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer,” May 11, 2008  
[http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008\\_Late\\_Edition\\_Barack\\_Obama.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008_Late_Edition_Barack_Obama.htm)

Reverse Bush Tax Cuts for the Wealthy.... End Tax Haven Abuse.... Close Special Interest Corporate Loopholes

-- Source: ObamaforAmerica.com, Issues, "Barack Obama's Plan for Restoring Fiscal Discipline"  
[http://www.barackobama.com/issues/fiscal/ObamaPolicy\\_Fiscal.pdf](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/fiscal/ObamaPolicy_Fiscal.pdf)

Both John McCain and Barack Obama have proposed tax plans that would substantially increase the national debt over the next ten years, according to a newly updated analysis by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center. Compared to current law, TPC estimates the Obama plan would cut taxes by \$2.9 trillion from 2009-2018. McCain would reduce taxes by nearly \$4.2 trillion. Obama would give larger tax cuts to low- and moderate-income households and pay some of the cost by raising taxes on high-income taxpayers. In contrast, McCain would cut taxes across the board and give the biggest cuts to the highest-income households.

-- Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, "Updated Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Candidates' Tax Plans," August 18, 2008

<http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/url.cfm?ID=411750>

Under Obama's plan, the highest corporate tax tier would hold at 35% -- a nod to Wall Street but higher than McCain's slashed rate. Obama would raise the highest rate on dividends and capital gains from 15% to 20%. And he would keep the estate tax in the same form approved by Congress for 2009, with an exemption for the first \$3.5 million and a top tax rate of 45%. That would mean a higher tax rate on the wealthy than McCain would allow.

-- Source: Los Angeles Times, "McCain and Obama tax plans diverge on wealth," August 21, 2008

<http://www.latimes.com/news/print/edition/front/la-na-taxplans21-2008aug21,0,5324692.story>

## **John McCain has pledged to veto any tax increase and says he supports making existing tax cuts permanent**

WALLACE: ... on these hot-button issues involving quick questions, quick answers. As president, will you veto any tax increase passed by a Democratic Congress?

MCCAIN: Yes.

WALLACE: That's quick, but — and in fact, I think...

MCCAIN: Well, I think the worst thing we can do right now, Chris, is — we've got some shaky economic times — is to increase people's taxes. And I think that what we need is more tax cuts. We need to make Bush tax cuts permanent. We need to get rid of the ATM. Corporate taxes in America are the second highest in the world. We need to cut corporate taxes. We need to give people reasons to write off and depreciate their business investments and equipment investments. We need to stop the pork barrel spending. Look, the president signed into law two major spending bills that had \$35 billion worth of earmark projects. And if we had taken that money, we could have given a \$1,000 tax credit for every child in America. This is big money. Everybody says, "Oh, it really isn't that much." It's a lot. And even more importantly than that, it has totally eroded the confidence of the American people about what we do with their tax dollars.

-- Source: John McCain on Fox News Sunday, "Choosing the President" interviews, Feb. 3, 2008

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,327948,00.html>

"We're also going to keep the low rate on capital gains, so that businesses like yours can expand and create jobs instead of just sending more of your earnings to the government. And so parents can spend and save more for their own children, I will propose to double the size of the child tax exemption. I will also propose as well a middle-class tax cut -- a phase-out of the Alternative Minimum Tax to save more than 25 million middle-class families as much as 2,000 dollars in a single year....As president, I will propose an alternative tax system. When this reform is enacted, all who wish to file under the current system could still do so. And everyone else could choose a vastly less complicated system with two tax rates and a

generous standard deduction....And I will lead broad reforms that remove the many corporate tax loopholes that are costly, unfair to smaller business competitors, and inconsistent with a free-market economy.”

-- Source: **John McCain speech to National Small Business Summit, June 10, 2008**

<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/Read.aspx?guid=641cbd73-6945-4103-ad70-306862fdecf3>

Keep Tax Rates Low...Cut The Corporate Tax Rate From 35 To 25 Percent...Allow First-Year Deduction, Or "Expensing", Of Equipment And Technology Investments...Establish Permanent Tax Credit Equal To 10 Percent Of Wages Spent On R&D...Ban Internet Taxes...Ban New Cell Phone Taxes

-- Source: **JohnMcCain.com, Issues, “Simpler and Fairer Taxes”**

<http://www.johnmccain.com/Issues/JobsforAmerica/taxes.htm>

“My record is very clear. I have never voted for a tax increase in 24 years. That should be sufficient time to convince average Americans of my commitment not to raise taxes.”... McCain now says that his votes against the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 arose from a disagreement about what kind of tax cuts were needed. McCain later supported a 2006 extension of some of the Bush cuts, and says he now thinks all the cuts should be extended when most of them expire in 2010. This has not been enough to mollify some conservative critics, including the Club for Growth, which called McCain's overall record on taxes “profoundly disturbing and anti-growth.” The club’s president, Pat Toomey, said he is particularly upset by a 1998 vote by McCain to increase cigarette taxes.

-- Source: **Salon.com, “Reading John McCain’s lips on taxes,” March 20, 2007**

[http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/03/20/mccain\\_norquist/](http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/03/20/mccain_norquist/)

Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist noted that the 1998 tobacco bill was made less objectionable by its limitations on fees for lawyers suing the industry. He said that consumers hit with the new taxes would also ultimately have benefited from the lower payments being made to the attorneys. Norquist said he was “comfortable” with McCain’s repeated assertions that he will not raise taxes. A spokeswoman for the Club for Growth said its president, former Rep. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), views the tobacco bill as a “drop in the bucket.” He too has accepted McCain’s promise not to raise taxes.

-- Source: **Roll Call, “McCain drops smoke tax,” August 11, 2008**

<http://www.greenchange.org/article.php?id=3131>