



Barack Obama vs. John McCain: The Health Care Debate

In 2008, we have the opportunity to elect a President who shares our values and has pledged that the issues we most care about will be among his highest priorities.

The two candidates provide a stark choice on health care. Sen. Obama's plan is grounded in the notion that "we're in this together." That's why he is committed to ensuring quality, affordable health care for all.

Sen. McCain's approach to the health care crisis boils down to "you're on your own." He will have you pay income tax on your current tax-free health benefits and discourage employers from providing coverage — which means good luck dealing with insurance companies. See how their plans stack up against USW's health care reform principles.

| USW Health Care Reform Principle | Obama | McCain |
|---|-------|--------|
| Cover all Americans Guarantee quality affordable health care for all with comprehensive benefits. | Yes | No |
| Control costs Regulate insurance companies, reduce bureaucracy, promote cost-effective care, allow government to negotiate drug and other prices. | Yes | No |
| Strong government role To set and enforce the rules for insurance companies and providers, and offer a choice of a public insurance plan and private insurance options in addition to employer-based health benefits. | Yes | No |
| Improve health quality Focus on preventive care, health outcomes and safe staffing. | Yes | Yes |
| Broad-based tax financing To spread financing throughout the system so that all employers compete on a level playing field. | Yes | No |

For a more detailed description of USW's health care reform principles and of the health care plans proposed by Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain go to <http://healthcarevoices.org/>