In Brief: Where They Stand on Science Policy

At the risk of oversimplifying these complex topics, the news staff of *Science* has boiled down what Senators John McCain and Barack Obama have said during the long campaign about some three dozen important issues.

### National Security

**RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY**
- McCain: No
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**WAYS TO FOSTER BIODEFENSE RESEARCH**
- McCain: Research on production and detectors
- Obama: "More agile" drug development and production
- Bush: Implemented Bioshield program

### Education

**REAUTHORIZE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT**
- McCain: Improve it
- Obama: Fix it
- Bush: Yes

**KEY STEPS TO IMPROVE STEM EDUCATION**
- McCain: Teacher bonuses, online courses
- Obama: Recruit and retain teachers, improve assessment
- Bush: Math Now, AP courses

**SUPPORT TEACHING INTELLIGENT DESIGN IN SCHOOL**
- McCain: Students should get "all points of view" but "probably not" in science class
- Obama: No
- Bush: Yes

### Health

**ADDRESS RISE IN AUTISM**
- McCain: Expand research and screening
- Obama: Expand research and screening
- Bush: No specific plan

**SUPPORT ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX EDUCATION**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: No, only comprehensive education
- Bush: Yes

**DEVELOP NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Never issued

**SUPPORTS EMERGENCY AIDS FUND (PEPFAR)**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Yes

### Environment

**MODIFY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**
- McCain: Needs to be more cost-effective and efficient
- Obama: No
- Bush: Backed unsuccessful 2005 attempt

**ALTER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)**
- McCain: Yes, restrict "abuses" that lead to delays
- Obama: No
- Bush: Has tried to limit review of major projects

**TIGHTEN AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS TO WHAT EXPERTS RECOMMEND**
- McCain: Not necessarily; base standards on sound economics and science
- Obama: Yes, let scientists, not politicians, set standards
- Bush: Not necessarily

**RETAIN CLINTON BAN ON ROADS IN SENSITIVE PARTS OF NATIONAL FORESTS**
- McCain: Opposes "one-size-fits-all" approach
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Has tried unsuccessfully to undo the ban
**Space**

**EXTEND SPACE STATION OPERATIONS BEYOND 2016**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**RETURN HUMANS TO THE MOON**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Yes

**REESTABLISH NATIONAL SPACE AND AERONAUTICS COUNCIL**
- McCain: No position
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**FLY THE AMS ON THE SHUTTLE**
- McCain: No position
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**BUILD NEW GENERATION OF ROBOTIC SPACECRAFT**
- McCain: No position
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No plans

**Basic Research**

**FULLY FUND AMERICA COMPETES ACT**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Yes

**INCREASE NIH BUDGET SIGNIFICANTLY**
- McCain: No firm number
- Obama: Double over 10 years
- Bush: No

**EXPAND NUMBER OF FEDERALLY APPROVED STEM CELL LINES**
- McCain: Supports stem cell research
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**Allow research cloning**
- McCain: No
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**Immigration**

**Make it easier for foreign Ph.D.s to stay**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No

**Increase number of H-1B visas**
- McCain: Adjustments tied to market conditions
- Obama: Supports temporary boost
- Bush: No

**Energy**

**Carbon sequestration R&D for coal plants**
- McCain: Spend $2 billion a year
- Obama: Tap a $150 billion "green technologies fund"
- Bush: $139 million for demonstration projects

**Expand demonstrations for reprocessing nuclear fuel**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: No
- Bush: Yes

**Store nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain, Nevada**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: No
- Bush: Yes

**Reductions in carbon emissions via cap-and-trade system**
- McCain: 60% of 1990 levels by 2050
- Obama: 80% of 1990 levels by 2050
- Bush: No mandatory targets

**Pay for greenhouse pollution credits under cap and trade**
- McCain: Companies receive credits, free initially
- Obama: Companies pay through auction
- Bush: Opposes mandatory cap and trade

**Government Reform**

**E-GOVERNMENT POLICIES**
- McCain: Create electronic government office
- Obama: Appoint chief technology officer
- Bush: Improve efficiency

**Eliminate congressional earmarks**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: No
- Bush: No

**Restore integrity to science-based policies**
- McCain: Yes
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Defends record

**Innovation**

**Make R&D tax credit permanent**
- McCain: Yes, tied to wages
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: Yes

**FEDERAL INCENTIVES TO SPUR INNOVATION**
- McCain: $300 million battery prize
- Obama: $10 billion/yr. clean-tech venture capital fund
- Bush: American Competitiveness Initiative

**Create a two-tier patent system**
- McCain: No
- Obama: Yes
- Bush: No