

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

Online

sciencemag.org

S For previous coverage of the presidential campaign, go to: www.sciencemag.org/hottopics/election08/.

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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