

# The 2008 Presidential Candidates on Women's Health

Disclaimer: All political statements and/or quotes are taken directly from the candidates' official websites, unless otherwise noted.

## On HIV/AIDS

| Barack Obama:<br>( <a href="http://www.barackobama.com/index.php">http://www.barackobama.com/index.php</a> )  | John McCain:<br>( <a href="http://www.johnmccain.com">http://www.johnmccain.com</a> )  |
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| <p>Barack Obama has pledged that, in the first year of his presidency, he will develop and begin to implement a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy that includes all federal agencies. The strategy will be designed to reduce HIV infections, increase access to care and reduce HIV-related health disparities. His strategy will include measurable goals, timelines and accountability mechanisms. Obama passed legislation in Illinois to require public service announcements promoting HIV/AIDS screening and introduced the Microbicide Development Act, which will accelerate the development of products that empower women in the battle against AIDS. As president, Obama will continue to increase awareness of the disease.</p> | <p>"More than a million Americans live with this devastating disease. As President, I will work closely with non-profit, government, and private sector stakeholders to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS. By focusing efforts on reducing drug costs through greater market competition, promoting prevention efforts, encouraging testing, targeting communities with high infection rates, strengthening research and reducing disparities through effective public outreach, we as a nation can make great progress in fighting HIV/AIDS." - John McCain</p> |

## On Abortion

| Barack Obama:<br>( <a href="http://www.barackobama.com/index.php">http://www.barackobama.com/index.php</a> )   | John McCain:<br>( <a href="http://www.johnmccain.com">http://www.johnmccain.com</a> )   |
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| <p>Barack Obama understands that abortion is a divisive issue, and respects those who disagree with him. However, he has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority as President. He opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in that case.</p> | <p>John McCain believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as president he will nominate judges who understand that courts should not be in the business of legislating from the bench. However, the reversal of Roe v. Wade represents only one step in the long path toward ending abortion.</p> <p>As president, motivated by his personal experience, John McCain will seek ways to promote adoption as a first option for women struggling with a crisis pregnancy.</p> |

## On Sex Education and Unintended Pregnancy

| Barack Obama:<br>( <a href="http://www.barackobama.com/index.php">http://www.barackobama.com/index.php</a> )   | John McCain:<br>( <a href="http://www.johnmccain.com">http://www.johnmccain.com</a> )   |
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| <p>Barack Obama is an original co-sponsor of legislation to expand access to contraception, health information and preventive services to help reduce unintended pregnancies. Introduced in January 2007, the Prevention First Act will increase funding for</p> | <p>McCain has voted against legislation that would eliminate funding for abstinence only education and Sarah Palin supports abstinence only sex education.</p> <p>As president, motivated by his personal experience, John McCain will seek ways to promote adoption as a</p> |

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| <p>family planning and comprehensive sex education that teaches both abstinence and safe sex methods. The Act will also end insurance discrimination against contraception, improve awareness about emergency contraception, and provide compassionate assistance to rape victims.</p> | <p>first option for women struggling with a crisis pregnancy.</p> |
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### On Stem Cell Research

| <b>Barack Obama:</b><br><a href="http://www.barackobama.com/index.php" style="color: white;">(http://www.barackobama.com/index.php)</a>  | <b>John McCain:</b><br><a href="http://www.johnmccain.com" style="color: white;">(http://www.johnmccain.com)</a>   |
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| <p>Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe that we owe it to the American public to explore the potential of stem cells to treat the millions of people suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases. Obama is a co-sponsor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, which would allow research of human embryonic stem cells derived from embryos donated (with consent) from in vitro fertilization clinics. These embryos must be deemed in excess and created based solely for the purpose of fertility treatment.</p> | <p>As president, John McCain will strongly support funding for promising research programs, including amniotic fluid and adult stem cell research and other types of scientific study that do not involve the use of human embryos. He has voted to ban attempts to use or obtain human cells gestated in animals.</p> |

### On Research into Women's Health

| <b>Barack Obama:</b><br><a href="http://www.barackobama.com/index.php" style="color: white;">(http://www.barackobama.com/index.php)</a>  | <b>John McCain:</b><br><a href="http://www.johnmccain.com" style="color: white;">(http://www.johnmccain.com)</a>  |
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| <p>Barack Obama recognizes there are issues unique to women's health that health care disparities among minority and poor women are especially pervasive, and has fought to maintain funding for the Centers of Excellence in Women's Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. He also supports legislation to encourage research that will examine gender and health disparities. The same legislation would establish community outreach programs in underserved areas to help women access health care and maintain healthy lifestyles.</p> | <p>John McCain and Sarah Palin's public health policy initiatives and science and technology initiatives, as laid out on their official website, do not address a need for research in the field of women's health.</p> |

