

CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND AMERICA

2008 Presidential Campaign

**John McCain
2008**

Initial Submission: 11/13/07

Updated: 2/22/08

NOTE: This document is constantly being updated based on continuing research, news and developing themes. An updated version of this document is available every Friday. What follows should be considered a draft and a constant work in progress.

Biography

Short Bio: John Sidney McCain III was born August 29, 1936 while his father was serving as an active duty naval officer in the Panama Canal Zone. His Grandfather was also a Naval officer.

Religion: Episcopalian.

Education: U.S. Naval Academy, B.S., 1958; National War College, 1974

Family: Senator McCain has seven children and four grandchildren, and currently lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Cindy. McCain has married twice. Married Cindy Hensley (May 17, 1980 - present); Carol Shepp (1965-1980, divorced); Children: Bridget, 1991 (adopted from Bangladesh, 1992); Jimmy, 1988; Jack, 1986; Meghan, 1984; Sidney, 1966; Adopted sons from Carol's previous marriage: Andy, 1962, and Doug, 1959. Cindy's (his second wife) formal education includes an undergraduate degree in Education and a Master's in Special Education from the University of Southern California. As a student, Cindy participated in pilot programs testing Movement Therapy, which is now a widely accepted standard for working with severely disabled children. After receiving her degrees from USC, she began her teaching career at Agua Fria High School in Arizona where she continued her work with disabled children. Cindy McCain continues to be an advocate for kids.

Early Career: John attended college at the United States Naval Academy, and launched a 22-year career as a naval aviator upon his graduation. In 1958 McCain graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned as a naval officer. In 1965 McCain married Carol Shepp, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and adopted her two sons, Doug and Andy. Their third child, Sidney was born a year later in 1966. In 1967 McCain was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy. He continued the McCain tradition of service to country passed down to him from his father and grandfather when he asked to serve in the Vietnam War.

In Vietnam, McCain had numerous near-death experiences. On July 29 1967, a missile accidentally fired from a nearby plane struck the fuel tanks on John's plane and created a deadly inferno aboard the ship. John barely escaped the fiery disaster that killed 134 men, injured hundreds more and destroyed 20 planes. Instead of taking the option to return home after the Forrestal disaster, Senator McCain volunteered for more combat duty - a fateful decision that stopped the clock on his life and separated him from his family, and country, for five and a half years. During his 23rd bombing mission on October 26, 1967, a missile struck John's plane and forced him to eject, knocking him unconscious and breaking both his arms and his leg. John was then taken as a prisoner of war into the now infamous "Hanoi Hilton," where he was denied necessary medical treatment and often beaten by the North Vietnamese. John spent much of his time as a prisoner of war in solitary confinement, aided by his faith and the friendships of his fellow POWs. After the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, John McCain and nearly 600 fellow POWs were released from the Hanoi Hilton, ending the longest wartime incarceration in U.S. history. In 1979, McCain was promoted to Captain in the US Navy. In 1980, John McCain marries his wife, Cindy Hensley of Phoenix, Arizona. Senator McCain's last Navy duty assignment was to serve as the naval liaison to the United States Senate. John retired from the Navy in 1981. His naval honors include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Congressman and Senator: McCain was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1986, after serving two terms in the U.S. House. He has fought to reduce spending and the influence of 'special interests' on lawmaking. John McCain was presented with the "Taxpayer's Hero Award" in 1997, 1998, and 1999 by The Council for Citizens against Government Waste (amongst other taxpayer awards). John McCain was awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 1999. Also in 1999, McCain published a best-selling book *Faith of My Fathers* is published. In 2000 McCain ran for President. In 2002, together with Russ Feingold, McCain helped pass landmark legislation for campaign finance reform, which reformed the influence of money in political campaigns. Also in 2002 McCain published another book and hosted SNL. In 2004 McCain published another book, *Why Courage Matters: The Way to a Braver Life*. In 2004, McCain was re-elected to his fourth term in the United States Senate with over 77 per cent of the vote. In 2005 McCain received numerous taxpayer awards and another "Eisenhower institute award."

The following is a biographical article on John McCain by the *Financial Times*:

Early years: John McCain, 71, was born on a US military base in Panama. Both his father and grandfather were celebrated navy admirals -- the latter commanded the US aircraft carrier fleet in the Pacific during world war two -- and there was never much doubt that he would follow in their footsteps. McCain spent his childhood bouncing from one naval base to another with his family before enrolling at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. He was a lacklustre student with a rebellious streak that often landed him in trouble. He also led a colourful social life, including a period dating a Brazilian exotic dancer.

After graduating fifth from bottom of his class, McCain opted to become a naval airman. He survived a crash into the Gulf of Mexico while training in Texas -- the first of several near-death experiences over the course of his flying career.

Career: McCain's first brush with momentous international events came when he took part in the US naval blockade of Cuba during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Five years later he was sent to Vietnam and nearly died when a stray rocket struck his aircraft as it prepared for takeoff from an aircraft carrier. McCain escaped the wreckage but 132 sailors died in the ensuing fire. He cheated death again when he was shot down on a bombing mission over Hanoi. He parachuted into a lake with a broken arm and leg and nearly drowned before locals saved him. The next five years were spent as a prisoner of war -- including two years in solitary confinement and periods of torture. As the son of a senior US commander, his capture was front-page news in the US. The North Vietnamese offered to release him but McCain refused to leave before prisoners who had been there longer. He was freed after the Paris Peace Accords in 1973 and was greeted in the US as a hero.

After a period of recuperation he became a navy squadron commander and later the chief navy liaison officer to the Senate. This latter position gave him a taste for politics and, after settling in Arizona with his second wife, Cindy, he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and the Senate five years later.

His Senate career got off to a rocky start when he became embroiled in an ethics scandal surrounding a bankrupt financial company he had lobbied for. McCain admitted an error of judgment and has since earned a reputation for campaigning against government corruption and waste.

He ran for president in 2000 but narrowly lost the Republican nomination to George W. Bush. Ill-feeling between McCain and Bush lingered for years and there was speculation that he would join the Democratic presidential ticket as John Kerry's running mate in 2004. The rumours proved unfounded and McCain later became a staunch supporter of two controversial Bush administration policies -- the troop "surge" in Iraq and reform of US immigration laws.

Policies: McCain's campaign rests on two main pillars: his support for the war on terror and his promise to tackle wasteful government spending. McCain has vowed to stay on the offensive against terrorists, describing Islamic extremism as an "existential" threat to US civilisation. His support for offering illegal immigrants a path to citizenship has alienated many conservatives -- prompting him to put greater emphasis on the need for tighter border security. On social issues, he has sought to shed his moderate image and woo Christian conservatives by stressing his longstanding opposition to abortion.

Campaign: Eight years ago, McCain was the plucky underdog who put up a valiant but ultimately futile fight against George W. Bush for the Republican nomination. In 2008, McCain was determined that he would be the bid-budget frontrunner with establishment backing. But the strategy backfired when his unpopular positions on immigration and Iraq caused a slump in fundraising. It was only after resuming the role of straight-talking underdog that McCain's fortunes improved. Declining violence in Iraq also helped revive his campaign by vindicating his support for the "surge".

Character: McCain is known as a political maverick who puts principle ahead of political calculation and party loyalty. He has a sharp sense of humour but off-colour jokes sometimes land him in trouble. His volatile temper is also legendary on Capitol Hill.

Approaching his 72nd birthday, he would be the oldest first-term president ever inaugurated. Supporters point to his 95 year-old mother as evidence of good genes.

He has seven children from two marriages, including an adopted daughter from a Bangladeshi orphanage.
[Financial Times, [1/28/08](#)]

Biographical Notes

McCain Accused Of Overdoing It With Botox. According to *The Huffington Post*, McCain's "frozen forehead" is fueling bloggers to talk about his use of Botox. Jane Hamsher wrote, "his entire forehead is frozen so badly his brows don't even move. His eyes are immobile (he probably had the crow's feet done, too). The whole top of his head looks cadaverous, like it's been coated in funeral parlor wax. It should start to wear off in a few weeks but lordy me, that's one of the worst jobs I've ever seen." [Huffington Post, [2/15/08](#)]

AZ G.O.P Chairman: McCain Is Tough To Deal With. According to CBS News, Chairman of the Arizona Republican party has said about McCain, "He's tough to deal with, there's no doubt about it...He believes what he believes in, and he wants other people to support him in those beliefs." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain's Battles Increase Animosity, Breed Resentment. According to CBS News, GOP strategist Greg Mueller commented about McCain, "Some of his battles are so intense and loud that it sort of increases the animosity...You've got these intense issues where a lot of rhetoric gets tossed around and it breeds resentment." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Was Close To Abandoning G.O.P. Said Democratic Leaders. According to the *Hill's* Bob Cusack, in 2001, several Democratic lawmakers said John McCain was "...close to leaving the Republican Party." In interviews with the *Hill*, "...former Senator Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and ex-Rep. Representative Tom Downey (D-N.Y.) said there were nearly two months of talks with the maverick lawmaker (McCain) following an approach by John Weaver, McCain's chief political strategist" about the possibility of McCain leaving the G.O.P. [The Hill, 3/28/07]

- **Daschle Said He Had Meetings And Conversations With McCain About Leaving G.O.P.** According to the *Hill*, while McCain considered leaving the Republican Party, he had meetings and conversations with then Minority Leader Tom Daschle about what the conditions would be if he switched party affiliation, his committees, seniority etc. Daschle said that during those conversations "...[A lot of issues] were on the table." [The Hill, 3/28/07]
- **McCain And His Fmr. Chief Of Staff Said McCain Never Considered Leaving The Republican Party.** According to the *Hill*, John McCain disputed several high profile, Democratic lawmakers' claims that he considered leaving the Republican Party. McCain's campaign released a statement in which McCain said, "As I said in 2001, I never considered leaving the Republican Party, period." Mark Salter, one of McCain's former Chiefs of Staff and campaign advisor, said McCain never thought about leaving the Republican Party, "Never at any time. Never" he stressed. [The Hill, 3/28/07]
- **Daschle Said McCain Considered Becoming Independent, Never Democrat.** According to the *Hill*, former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said that, at times, Democratic leaders thought McCain could be their "best opportunity." He "...stressed that McCain never considered becoming a Democrat, but was close to becoming an Independent." [The Hill, 3/28/07]

Vanity Fair: “McCain Is A Man Of Strong Opinions, Strongly Expressed. *Vanity Fair*'s Todd Purdum said that John McCain was "...a man of strong opinions, strongly expressed." Purdum went on, pointing out that McCain has said, "...current fiction bores the shit out of me" has called the leader of North Korea, a "pip-squeak in platform shoes," and even said that Pakistani capital "sucks", seconding the reporter's views that "Islamabad has limited charms." At a Nascar race in New Hampshire, McCain said about a reporter who was following him around, "This is Adam Nagourney, *New York Times*. They're a Communist paper, but he's O.K." McCain apparently introduced Senator John Sununu by stating, "You can be very proud of him, and thank God he inherited his mother's temperament." And also said to a gathering of businessmen, "I want to keep health-care costs down until I get sick, and then I don't give a goddamn!" [Vanity Fair, February 2007]

McCain’s Temperament May Be Most Discussed Element Of His Life And Career. According to *Vanity Fair*, "McCain's temperament may be the single most discussed element of his life and career." McCain's high school nicknames were apparently "Punk" and "McNasty" and McCain has been rated, by Capitol Hill staffers in the *Washingtonian*, as having one of the top "Hottest Tempers" several times. [Vanity Fair, 2007]

- **McCain Last One To Recognize He Has Hot Tempered Reputation.** According to *Vanity Fair* "McCain's aides [said] that McCain himself was the last to recognize that he had a reputation as a hothead, and used to rail at them in private every time a public commentator suggested he had a problem, shouting, 'I do *not* have a temper. I just care passionately.'" [Vanity Fair, 2007]
- **McCain’s Willingness To Think Candidly Out Loud May Be Risky.** *Vanity Fair* columnist Todd Purdum commented, "What's so different about—and potentially risky for—McCain is his perpetual willingness to think out loud, unplugged and unfiltered." [Vanity Fair, 2007]

McCain Was Offered Early Release From Vietnam POW Camp, Turned It Down Repeatedly. According to the *New Yorker*, because John McCain's father had been commander-in-chief of the Pacific, "...the Vietnamese saw him as a valuable propaganda asset (referring to him as 'the crown prince') and offered him early release [from a Vietnam POW camp]-something that he turned down repeatedly." [New Yorker, 5/30/05]

McCain Was Frequently Rated One Of Congress’ “Worst Followers” By Washingtonian Magazine. John McCain was rated in the *Washingtonian* as one of Congress' "worst followers" in 2006, 2004, 2000, and 1998. McCain was the second "worst follower" in Congress in 2006, and placed first in 2004, 2000, and 1998. [*Washingtonian*, September 2006; *Washingtonian*, September 2004; *Washingtonian*, September, 2000; *Washingtonian*, July 1998]

McCain Was Frequently Rated As Having One Of Congress’ “Hottest Tempers” By Washingtonian Magazine. John McCain was rated in the *Washingtonian* as having one of Congress' "hottest tempers" in 2006, 2004, 2000, and 1998. McCain had the second "hottest temper" in Congress in 2006, placed first in 2004, 2000, and placed second in 1998. [*Washingtonian*, September 2006; *Washingtonian*, September 2004; *Washingtonian*, September, 2000; *Washingtonian*, July 1998]

- **McCain Apparently Once Told Chuck Grassley He Was A “Fucking Jerk.”** According to *Salon.com* reporter Jake Tapper, McCain had a large temper. Tapper wrote about a story told to him, by another Senator, wherein McCain once said to Chuck Grassley, "I thought your problem was that you don't listen. But that's not it at all. Your problem is that you're a fucking jerk." McCain and Grassley had been embroiled in a debate over how to deal with former U.S. Marine Bobby Garwood, a former POW who had been an accused defector, during a meeting of the Senate Special Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. McCain believed Garwood had been a "traitor" while Grassley believed Garwood had been wrongly accused. [Salon.com, 5/14/99]

Family

McCain Has Seven Children From Two Marriages. According to the *New York Times*, “There are the children from his first marriage — Doug and Andy, from his first wife’s former marriage — whom he adopted when they were small, as well as a daughter, Sidney. Then there is the second family: Meghan, Jimmy, Jack and the McCain’s adopted daughter, Bridget, 16, who became a target of dirty campaigning in the 2000 presidential race, when she was portrayed as the child of an illicit union. … Mr. McCain has frequently said he never pushed his children toward a military career. Yet three of his four sons have been in the service; the fourth, Andy, was turned down by the Naval Academy. Doug was a Navy pilot, Jack is in the academy and Jimmy, whom Mrs. McCain described as ‘the sensitive one,’ stunned many of his siblings by enlisting in the Marines.” [[New York Times](#), 12/27/07]

Cindy McCain Worked As Special Ed. Teacher & Children’s Health Activist. According to *Good Housekeeping*, McCain’s wife Cindy has been a special education teacher and children’s health activist. [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

Cindy McCain Has Led As Many As 55 Medical Missions To Third World Countries. According to *Good Housekeeping*, McCain’s wife Cindy had led 55 medical missions to Third World Countries as of February 2000 (the publication date of the article). [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

Cindy McCain Never Moved Family To D.C., Opted To See McCain When He Could Make It Back To Phoenix. According to *Good Housekeeping*, McCain’s wife Cindy “…never move the family to Washington, D.C., opting to see her husband when he could make it to Phoenix, where their children [were attending] school.” Cindy told *Good Housekeeping* that the decision “…can be lonely…and there are days when I get frustrated.” Cindy also “…confess[ed] that she balked at McCain’s plan to seek the [2000 Presidential] nomination, because she knew it would mean hitting the road and leaving the kids behind.” [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

Cindy McCain Admitted She Had Been Addicted To Painkillers. According to *Good Housekeeping*, in 1994, Cindy McCain admitted that she had been addicted to Painkillers. Cindy had suffered from “crippling pain” and two surgeries on her spine apparently brought her no relief. Cindy started taking Percoset and Vicodin, two painkillers to which she became addicted. Cindy told *Good Housekeeping* that publicly acknowledging her addiction was “very important.” As of February 2000, [the article’s publication date] Cindy was a member of Narcotics Anonymous. [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

Cindy McCain Said Her Addiction Battle Made Her A Better Parent And Person. According to *Good Housekeeping*, Cindy McCain said about her battle with addiction to painkillers, “I never want to repeat what happened to me, but I think I’m a better person for having had to deal with it…And I Know I’m a better person.” [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

Cindy McCain Stole Painkiller Drugs From Medical Relief Agency She Founded. According to *Good Housekeeping*, in 1994 Cindy McCain admitted that she had both been addicted to painkillers and had stolen pills from a medical-relief agency she had founded. Although no charges were filed, *Good Housekeeping* reported that “Cindy paid restitution to the agency and did penance by working in a soup kitchen.” *Good Housekeeping* mentioned that Cindy worried about the fact that media scrutiny surrounding the scandal would be hard on her children and husband. [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

McCains Adopted A Bangladeshi Orphan That Cindy Brought Back To U.S. For Medical Help. According to *Good Housekeeping*, John McCain said that his wife, Cindy’s “finest hour” came when in 1991, when Cindy went on a trip to Bangladesh, with the American Voluntary Medical Team, an organization she had launched in 1988 with part of her family’s fortune. Also according to *Good Housekeeping*, Mrs. McCain “…visited an orphanage where 150 malnourished infants were living in squalor. Toward the end of her stay, nuns brought her a 10-week-old named Bridget. The baby was severely disfigured by a cleft palate; her caretakers begged Cindy to take her to the United States for treatment, and she quickly agreed.” Once back in the U.S., both Cindy and John decided to adopt Bridget. [[Good Housekeeping](#), 2/1/00]

McCain’s Wife Stole Painkillers From A Charity She Founded. According to *Salon.com*, McCain’s wife was once involved in a “scandal” wherein she stole painkillers from a charity she founded. [[Salon.com](#), 5/14/99]

Lifestyle

McCain Was Seventh Wealthiest Senator In 2005 Based On His 2005 PFD. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, John McCain was the seventh wealthiest Senator in 2005, based on his 2005 personal financial disclosure. McCain's minimum net worth was listed at \$20,571,136 and his maximum net worth was listed at \$32,043,011. [Center For Responsive Politics via Opensecrets.org, accessed [1/8/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Decided It No Longer Could Afford Eschewing Corporate Jet Travel. According to the *New York Times*, "And Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, began by eschewing corporate jet travel, but with his campaign in straitened financial circumstances has decided it can no longer afford such scruples -- even though Mr. McCain sponsored legislation in the Senate that would have required lawmakers to pay the full value of their trips on private planes. 'Senator McCain had hoped that other candidates in the race would follow suit and pay the true cost of chartered planes,' said Jill Hazelbaker, a campaign spokeswoman. 'It's regrettable, but moving forward we cannot continue at such an incredible financial disadvantage.' The McCain campaign spent more than \$1.5 million on air travel during the first half of the year, mostly on chartered planes. Direct comparisons to what other candidates spent are difficult, because candidates have different travel schedules and records filed with the Federal Election Commission do not always make it clear exactly how many flights each campaign took. But it appears that Mr. McCain's air travel bill was hundreds of thousands of dollars higher than some rivals who took corporate flights." [[New York Times](#), 7/26/07]

- **McCain Spend \$850,000 On Private Jets As Of June 2007.** According to the *Arizona Republic*, "To cut travel costs, McCain now flies almost exclusively on commercial airliners. As of June 30, he had spent more than \$850,000 on private jets and nearly \$1.1 million total on travel." [[Arizona Republic](#), 7/28/07]
- **McCain Agreed to Begin Accepting Discounted Corporate Flights.** According to the *New York Times*, "Mr. McCain, who had been chartering his own jets because of ethical scruples about accepting discounted corporate flights, as his opponents did, agreed to begin accepting them after all." [[New York Times](#), 10/23/07]

McCain's Mother Is Daughter Of "Wealthy Oil Wildcatter"; Was Too Old To Rent Car In Europe, So She Bought A New Mercedes. According to *Vanity Fair*, at the age of 94, John McCain's mother was "unstoppable." Apparently, she is "the daughter of a wealthy oil wildcatter" and when she went to Europe, and was too old to rent a car, "...she simply bought herself a new Mercedes and hit the road." [[Vanity Fair](#), February 2007]

McCain Is An Avid Gambler. According to a profile article in the *New Yorker*, John McCain "is an avid gambler." Apparently, when McCain was in New Orleans visiting the set of a movie based on one of his books, he soon after went to Harrah's and "...headed for the fifteen-dollar-minimum-bet tables." McCain even remarked, "Gambling is addictive." [[The New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

McCain Married Only Daughter Of Wealthy Beer Distributor. According to the *New Yorker*, "In 1980, McCain married Cindy Hensley, eighteen years his junior, and the only daughter of a wealthy beer distributor." [[The New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

McCain's Wife Redesigned Her "Sprawling" Arizona Home In Southwestern Style. According to a *New Yorker* profile article on John McCain from 2005, Columnist Connie Bruck interviewed John McCain's wife "...in the lovely, sprawling house in Phoenix where she grew up, and which she [had] recently redesigned in a more distinctly Southwestern, adobe style." [[The New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

McCain Relaxes At His Home In Hidden Valley, With Large Guest House, Dozens of Fruit Trees. According to a *New Yorker* profile article on John McCain from 2005, columnist Connie Bruck pointed out that, "Hidden Valley is the one place where McCain does, in a manner of speaking, relax. He bounded out of the car and led me on the mandatory tour. The McCains' house is built near the banks of the creek, which was roaring past, swollen

from recent heavy rains, and gleaming in the sunlight. He showed off dozens of fruit trees, about to blossom.” [The New Yorker, 5/30/05]

McCain Was Born Into “Navy Royalty” – His Grandfather And Father Were Admirals. According to *Salon*'s Jake Tapper, John McCain was “...born into Navy royalty -- both his father and grandfather achieved the rank of admiral...” [Column, *Salon.com*, 4/14/99]

McCain’s Mother Owns Upscale, “Redone” Apartment In Kalorama Neighborhood Of Washington D.C.

According to a *New Yorker* profile article on John McCain from 2005, columnist Connie Bruck described John McCain’s mother, Roberta McCain’s apartment in the Kalorama neighborhood of Washington D.C. When Bruck met his mother, “...she threw open the door: a beautiful white-haired woman, in a Chanel-style jacket, pleated skirt, and high-heeled shoes.” Apparently, “She [McCain’s mother] was standing in a foyer with red silk billowing slightly from the ceiling, the walls painted with a gorgeous mural. She told me with a laugh that she had just redone the apartment, even though she is ninety-three.” [*The New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

McCain’s Mother Traveled On A Three Month Trip Through Europe And India At Age 93. According to a *New Yorker* profile article on John McCain from 2005, columnist Connie Bruck met John McCain’s mother, Roberta McCain and explained, “She was leaving shortly for a three-month trip through Europe, traveling some of the time with her identical twin sister, to France and England, then going on to India; she rents a car on these excursions, and enjoys driving everywhere she goes. (She did not mention that not long ago she was stopped for speeding, going over 100 m.p.h., near Flagstaff, Arizona.) Paris would be her first stop; she planned to go to Maxim’s for Christmas dinner, and the Lido on New Year’s Eve.” [*The New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

Property

Property Information

Ownership information current to sales recorded on/about 12/26/2007.

RPC:	34024242	Neighborhood:	<u>260039</u>
Address:	1300 CRYSTAL DR 1702S	Zoning:	C-O Lot Size: 0
Condo Project:	CRYSTAL GATEWAY CONDO	Condo Unit Number:	1702S
Condo Model:	3br 2.5bth 2089 Federal	Style:	High rise
Owner Name and Address:		Legal Description:	
MCCAIN CINDY HENSLEY TRUSTEE 4201 N 45TH AVE PHOENIX,AZ 85020		UNIT 1702S & P-G2-30 CRYSTAL GATEWAY CONDO PHASE I	

Property Class: 611-Condo High-rise

Map Book Page: 075-08

Polygon ID:

34024PCA

Tax Rate: The 2007 tax rate is \$0.818/\$100 of assessed value.

[**VIEW IMPROVEMENT DETAILS**](#)

ASSESSMENT HISTORY

EFFECTIVE DATE		LAND VALUE	IMPROVEMENT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
2007	01- Annual	\$83,600	\$764,200	\$847,800
2006	01- Annual	\$83,600	\$799,000	\$882,600
2005	01- Annual	\$35,500	\$729,800	\$765,300
2004	01- Annual	\$33,500	\$594,200	\$627,700
2003	01- Annual	\$33,500	\$524,000	\$557,500
2002	01- Annual	\$23,900	\$408,600	\$432,500
2001	01- Annual	\$21,500	\$372,600	\$394,100
2000	01- Annual	\$16,900	\$348,400	\$365,300
1999		\$16,900	\$342,400	\$359,300
1998		\$16,900	\$331,200	\$348,100
1997		\$16,900	\$298,500	\$315,400

SALES HISTORY

SALES DATE	SALES PRICE	SALES CODE	GRANTEE	DEED BOOK	DEED PAGE
11/22/1996	\$0	5	MCCAIN CINDY HENSLEY	2813	1890
2/19/1993	\$375,000		MCCAIN JOHN S &	2575	1018

***** THIS DATA IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY *****

PROPERTY RECORD FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA

ESTIMATED ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE JANUARY 1, 2007

Owner: MCCAIN CINDY HENSLEY (TRUSTEE) (Trustee/Conservator)

Mailing Address: 4201 N 45TH AVE, PHOENIX, AZ 85020

Property Address: 1300 CRYSTAL DR #1702S, ARLINGTON, VA 22202

******* SALES INFORMATION *******

Recorded Date: 11/22/1996

Book/Page: 2813/1890

Prior Sales Date: 02/19/1993

Prior Sales Price: \$ 375,000 (Full Amount)

******* ASSESSMENT INFORMATION *******

Assessor's Parcel Number: 34-024-242

Legal Description: SUBDIVISION: CRYSTAL GATEWAY CONDO; ASSESSOR'S MAP
REFERENCE: 075-08

Brief Description: UNIT 1702S & P-G2-30 CRYSTAL GATEWAY CONDO PHASE I

Market Value Year: 2007

Market Land Value: \$ 83,600

Market Improvement Value: \$ 764,200

Total Market Value: \$ 847,800

Land Use: SALES APPR CONDO/HIGH RISE; Zoning: C-O

Assessment Year: 2007

***** PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS *****

Year Built:	1981	No. of Buildings:
Stories:	1	Style:
Units:		Air Conditioning:
Bedrooms:	3	Heating:
Baths:	2.00	Construction:
Partial Baths:	1	Basement:
Total Rooms:		Exterior Walls:
Fireplace:		Foundation:
Garage Type:	Garage	Roof:
Garage Size:	1 Car(s)	Elevator:
Pool/Spa:		Lot Size:
		Building Area: 2089

Political Notes

McCain Said Gender And Race Would Not Affect His Choice For Vice President. When asked if facing either the first black man or first woman presidential nominee would affect his choice for a running mate, McCain said he was, “not capable of that kind of Machiavellian approach to things.” According to the *Washington Post*, “He said he would look first to whether that person could quickly replace him as president and whether that person “shares your philosophy and values and priorities.” [Washington Post, [2/20/08](#)]

McCain Campaign’s Single-Issue Focus Brought Into Question. McCain’s claim that “the transcendent challenge of the 21st century is radical Islamic extremists” has been brought into question by the *Washington Post*. It wrote, “Presumably, he’s saying that Islamic extremism is more important than everything else -- the rise of China and India as global powers, growing resistance to American influence in Europe, the weakening of America’s global economic position, the disorder and poverty in large parts of Africa, the alienation of significant parts of Latin America from the United States. Is it in our national interest for all these issues to take a back seat to terrorism?” [Washington Post, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Expected To “Return to Teddy Roosevelt Outlook.” According to *USA Today* McCain said, “I return to kind of the Teddy Roosevelt outlook toward things.” It added, “McCain has long identified Roosevelt, president from 1901 to 1909, as a political idol. Roosevelt made national parks and nature preserves a priority, and McCain has drawn fire from conservative Republicans for opposing oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and for sponsoring legislation to address climate change.” [*USA Today*, [2/19/08](#)]

“John McCain Intends To Run On Positions That Most Voters Reject.” Eugene Robinson wrote in a *Washington Post* opinion article, that on issues such as the war in Iraq, healthcare, and the economy, John McCain’s candidacy is based on positions that most American’s oppose. [Washington Post, [2/19/08](#)]

Conservative Magazine Accused McCain Of Being A Maverick For Political Gain. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, “But what seems to account for his evolution from realism to hopped-up interventionism is nothing more than sheer ambition. This was the case in 1983, when he defied the Reagan administration over sending U.S. soldiers to die at the hands of a Beirut suicide bomber, and in 1999, when the cry went up to take on Slobodan Milosevic. He was positioning himself against his own party, while staking out a distinctive stance independent of the Democrats. It was, in short, an instance of a presidential candidate maneuvering himself to increase his appeal to the electorate—and, most importantly, the media.” [*American Conservative*, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Said To Be Struggling With Newfound Status. McCain’s usual campaign style is about to be thrown out and replaced by “the discipline expected of a probable Republican standard-bearer.” The *New York Times* wrote, “The position is unnatural to Mr. McCain, who has typically floundered when not playing the insurgent role. But now he is in the midst of an at-times awkward transition — from being one of the most disruptive figures in his party to someone playing it safer, not to mention trying to make nice with Republicans he clearly despises and who feel similarly about him.” [*New York Times*, [2/17/08](#)]

McCain’s Campaign Struggled To Earn Romney’s Support. Romney’s endorsement of McCain was a result of many meetings and endless prodding. McCain’s campaign relied on John Weaver to broker the endorsement. Weaver was also responsible for McCain’s endorsement of Bush in 2000. [*Dallas Morning News*, [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Has Lacked Online Support. In an election cycle where internet chatter is a gauge of popularity and excitement, John McCain’s campaign has a lot of work to do. McCain boasts only 61,000 supporters on Facebook, 1.9 million video views on YouTube, and raised only \$3 million dollars online. In comparison with the leading Democratic candidates, McCain is clearly struggling. [Washington Post, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Swept “Potomac Primary.” McCain beat Mike Huckabee in the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. primaries. The wins put McCain ahead of Huckabee in the delegate race, 789 to 241. [Hotline Wake Up Call, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Snubbed By GOP House Leadership. While House Republicans have allowed McCain to address the House Republican Conference, only the Chief Deputy Whip, Eric Cantor, has endorsed McCain. Minority Leader John Boehner, Minority Whip Roy Blunt, and Republican Conference Chairman Adam Putnam have all refused to endorse McCain. [[Washington Post, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Hinted That He May Resign From Senate. When asked if he would resign his senate seat, McCain said, “If I get the nomination, we’ll figure it out.” He added, “It’s very hard. I’ve missed a lot of votes, there’s no doubt about it.” [[Wall Street Journal, 2/12/08](#)]

Huckabee Accused McCain Surrogates Of Stealing Washington State’s Caucuses. According to the *Boston Globe*, “Huckabee said yesterday that he would consider legal options against a Washington Republican Party he suggested had engaged in un-American practices by declaring McCain winner of its caucuses Saturday before all the results had been tabulated.” [[Boston Globe, 2/12/08](#)]

McCain Has ‘Tarnished His Image’ by Lying About Romney. *The Washington Post* wrote, “He has already tarnished his image a bit by misstating Mitt Romney’s position on Iraq, and now he would appear as just another political opportunist if he became more conservative than thou.” [[Washington Post, 2/12/08](#)]

Conservatives Have Started To Rally Around McCain. Many conservatives have began to accept the nomination of John McCain and they think he can win in November. “The public who wants change is comfortable with John McCain, whom they view as someone who is not a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bush administration,” said former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating. [[CBS News, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain Viewed By Many As An Agent Of Change. Even with generic ballots tilting heavily to the Democratic Party, McCain has showed that his crossover appeal convinces independents that he is an agent of change. “The public who wants change is comfortable with John McCain, whom they view as someone who is not a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bush administration,” said former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating. [[Politico, 2/10/08](#)]

McCain Said He Plans To Meet With Romney. McCain said that he is “looking to meet with Mitt Romney in the next week to discuss ways to help unite the party, noting that his former rival received more than 4 million votes in the early primary states. The Arizona senator also said he understood that it will take weeks, if not months before the party can regroup—based on his memories from his failed 2000 bid for the nomination.” [[FOX News, 2/9/08](#)]

McCain’s Nomination Predicted To Help GOP With Hispanic Voters. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain’s stance on immigration has “provided a possible opportunity for the Republican Party to win back Hispanic voters.” [[Wall Street Journal, 2/9/08](#)]

McCain: No Need for Regional Balance for VP. McCain claimed that a regional balance is no longer needed on a presidential ticket. McCain said, “Former President [Bill] Clinton and former Vice President [Al] Gore showed that you don’t have to be regionally different. I think America is such now that quote regional differences don’t play the role that maybe they did in earlier times.” [[Wall Street Journal, 2/8/08](#)]

McCain Praised By Club For Growth. The Club For Growth released a statement in support of John McCain, it read, “Senator McCain deserves some credit for making a conscious effort to reach out to conservatives at CPAC today.” [[TIME, 2/7/08](#)]

Karl Rove Donated \$2,300 to McCain. Karl Rove donated \$2,300 to McCain’s presidential campaign. [[TIME, 2/8/08](#)]

- **McCain Praised Karl Rove.** Aboard his campaign plane, McCain praised Karl Rove. He said, “I’ve always respected Karl Rove as one of the smart great political minds I think in American politics. I’ve always respected him.” He added, “I certainly would be glad to get his advice.” [CNN, 2/10/08; Huffington Post, [2/10/08](#)]

McCain Scheduled To Attend Fundraiser in Seattle. McCain’s campaign announced that McCain “will address a closed [\$2,300 a plate] fundraising event at the Westin Seattle Hotel.” [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain Attended National Prayer Breakfast With Joe Lieberman. John McCain attended the annual National Prayer Breakfast with Joe Lieberman. “The biggest stir came when Republican presidential front-runner, Sen. John McCain, made a conspicuous entrance with Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the Democrat-turned-independent senator from Connecticut” reported the *Wall Street Journal*. [[Wall Street Journal, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain Skipped Over Half of Senate Votes. According to the *Associated Press*, McCain “has skipped more than half the Senate’s votes in the past year and he expects to miss more.” McCain skipped 255 of the 450 votes since January 2007. [*Associated Press*, [2/7/08](#)]

- **McCain Missed 26 Out of 30 Votes In December.** While on the campaign trail, McCain missed 26 of the 30 votes held in the month of December 2007. [*Reuters*, [2/12/08](#)]
- **Clinton Criticized McCain For Missing Stimulus Vote.** Hillary Clinton told *ABC News* that “McCain was wrong to miss the vote and wrong to oppose the substitute. ‘Senator McCain has said, he doesn’t really know much about the economy,’ she said. ‘It’s not been an issue of his concern in the past.’” [*ABC News*, [2/7/08](#)]

McCain Aide Arrested For Domestic Violence. McCain’s Press Secretary during the New Hampshire primary, Barry J. Flynn, was arrested on a domestic violence charge. The *Boston Globe* reported, “Flynn is accused of punching his girlfriend and breaking one of her ribs in a confrontation two days after the New Hampshire primary in January. Jill Hazelbaker, communications director for the McCain campaign, said the campaign learned of Flynn’s arrest yesterday afternoon. She said he had been fired.” [[Boston Globe, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain’s Reform Institute Linked to George Soros. McCain’s think-tank, The Reform Institute, has reportedly received grants from George Soros’s Open Society Institute. Many conservatives believe, “the OSI funding implicates the Arizona senator in all the progressive and libertarian causes that the Soros foundation has supported -- including reproductive rights, drug law and sentencing reform, public financing of elections and abolition of the death penalty, to give a short list.” [*Salon.com*, [2/7/08](#)]

McCain Intellectually Uncurious on Domestic Issues. In a *Washington Post* Op-ed, people close to McCain report a “lack of interest in domestic policy. ‘But those who know McCain report a general lack of interest in domestic policy compared with his engagement in foreign affairs. ‘It’s sometimes unfairly argued that Bush is intellectually uncurious,’ says one former member of Congress, ‘but on domestic issues that is really true of McCain.’ McCain’s foresight on Iraq has carried him far. But eventually he will need to engage Democrats on issues from health care to education to poverty. And being right on the war will not be enough.” [[Washington Post, 2/6/08](#)]

McCain Won Among Economic & National Security Voters. Nationwide exit polls have determined that McCain won among voters concerned with the economy and national security. [*CBS News*, [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Lost 12 Super Tuesday States. While McCain emerged from Super Tuesday as a clear frontrunner, he lost 12 states. McCain also lost every state in the south, which Republicans need if they plan to win in November. [*Politico*, [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Earned The Support of Veterans. McCain earned a large share of the votes cast by veterans, especially in California. Veterans said that McCain appreciated and understood the sacrifices made by veterans and their families. [San Jose Mercury News, [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Emerged as Frontrunner on Super Tuesday. After winning Arizona, California, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Oklahoma, John McCain has “emerged as the unquestioned favorite” to win the GOP nomination. McCain won almost double the delegates (613) as Huckabee and Romney combined. [Hotline Wake-Up Call, [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Visited Boston to be a Thorn in Romney’s Side. According to *Salon.com*, even though Mitt Romney will almost surely win Massachusetts, McCain spent the Monday before Super Tuesday in Boston to “tell Romney where to stick his ‘contrast ads.’” [Salon.com, 2/5/08]

McCain Employed Robo-Calls to Head-Off Romney in Georgia. The McCain campaign introduced a host of robo-calls throughout Georgia while Romney campaigned at Georgia Tech. The calls reportedly featured Republican Senator Saxby Chambliss and McCain’s wife, Cindy. [*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 2/4/08]

McCain Visited Massachusetts to Watch The Super Bowl. McCain visited Romney’s home state during the Super Bowl. McCain spoke about the economy and attempted to console the state after the Patriots’ loss. [*Boston Herald*, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Campaigned in Connecticut with Joe Lieberman and Chris Shays. McCain campaigned in Fairfield, Connecticut with Senator Joe Lieberman and Congressman Chris Shays. The trio focused on the importance of winning in Iraq. [*The Wall Street Journal*, [2/4/08](#)]

Anti-Immigration Groups Attempted Anti-McCain GOTV Efforts. Anti-Immigration groups, such as NumbersUSA sent out massive e-mails in a last minute effort to rally voters before Super Tuesday. Roy Beck, president of NumbersUSA warned of “political illiteracy” among Republican primary voters could lead to “disastrous consequences.” [*New York Times*, [2/4/08](#)]

Giuliani Compared McCain to New York Giants. Rudy Giuliani compared McCain’s political comeback to that of the New York Giants. He said, “He has put on an unbelievable campaign, much like the Giants. If you think where he was in the summer and in the fall.” [*Telegraph*, 2/4/08]

McCain Campaign Decided to Challenge Romney in Massachusetts. According to the *Associated Press*, McCain had decided “not just to beat the former Massachusetts governor, but to bury him in his own backyard.” [*Associated Press*, [2/2/08](#)]

Northeastern Moderates Said to Secure Nomination for McCain. Five states along the I-95 corridor amount to nearly one quarter of the delegates awarded on Super Tuesday. McCain’s maverick image is likely to win over many moderate Republicans in the Northeastern U.S. [*Boston Globe*, [2/2/08](#)]

McCain Placed Second in Maine Caucuses. McCain lost the Maine Republican caucuses to Mitt Romney. Romney garnered approximately 52% of the vote to McCain’s 22%. [*Los Angeles Times*, [2/2/08](#)]

McCain Visited Alabama to Woo Conservatives. John McCain visited Alabama, his third southern state in a day, to convince voters of his conservative views. He touted conservative endorsements by Jack Kemp and Phil Gramm. [*CBS News*, [2/2/08](#)]

- **McCain Thanked Evangelical Leaders for Their Support.** During a visit to Nashville, Tennessee, McCain said, “I was very pleased to see comments made by people like Tony Perkins and Dr. Richard Land.” Perkins is the head of the Family Research Council while Land is a leader in the Southern Baptist Convention. The two leaders have recently complimented McCain in the press. [*Bloomberg News*, [2/2/08](#)]

McCain Predicted to Win Big on Super Tuesday. Polls indicated that McCain expected to beat rivals Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee in every state except Massachusetts and Utah, both Romney strongholds. [Newsday, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Lost Arizona Straw Poll. McCain recently lost a Republican Presidential Straw Poll in Maricopa County, the state's most populous county. According to Republican state representative, Russell Pearce, "We feel betrayed and let down by our senior senator. I will not support a candidate I don't care how many medals he has on his chest, when he won't do the right thing for America." [[Los Angeles Times, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain Likely Lied in New Campaign Ad. In McCain's campaign ad "True Conservative," the announcer states, "As a prisoner of war, John McCain was inspired by Ronald Reagan." McCain was shot down over Vietnam in October of 1967, and by that time, Reagan's only newsworthy act had been to sign a law legalizing abortion. [Huffington Post, [2/3/08](#)]

McCain and Giuliani Appeared on The Tonight Show Together. Rudy Giuliani appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* with John McCain. The two men deflected questions about being running mates, joked about politics, and discussed the upcoming Super Bowl. [[New York Times, 2/1/08](#)]

- **McCain and Giuliani Cross Writers Guild Picket Line to Appear on The Tonight Show.** John McCain and Rudy Giuliani crossed the picket line of the Writers Guild of America in order to appear on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. [Think Progress, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Charged With Becoming Leader of the GOP. In a *New York Times* Op-ed, David Brooks wrote, "By the end of next week, McCain could be the de facto leader of the Republican Party. The McCain staff is acutely aware of the responsibility this entails, and what it will take to operate at the next level." Given the recent obsession with McCain's liberal stances on high profile issues, this may be an impossible task. [[New York Times, 2/1/08](#)]

Primary Voters Concerned with Electability Trend Toward McCain. Republican primary voters believed John McCain has the best chance of winning against Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama. Republicans have not been able to agree on which candidate is best able to carry the conservative mantle in 2008, but that concern has taken a backseat to electability in November. [[Reuters, 2/1/08](#)]

McCain Gained Financial Momentum After New Hampshire, Florida Wins. McCain's campaign said money has been 'pouring in' since his New Hampshire win. The campaign expected continued fundraising success in the wake of the Florida primary and recent endorsements. [[The Arizona Republic, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain's Florida Win Potentially Provided Him with Conservative Credibility. *Forbes* outlined how McCain's win in Florida could potentially slingshot McCain to the nomination: He won in a "closed primary," has garnered substantial support from the GOP establishment, enhanced fundraising capacity, knocked Giuliani out of the race, and his delegate count. [[Forbes, 1/31/08](#)]

More Than Half of Republicans Have Voted Against McCain. McCain has won three early primary states, but never winning more than 50% of the vote. More Republican voters have voted against McCain than have voted for him. [[Sydney Morning Herald, 2/1/08](#)]

Giuliani Backers Remained Undecided on McCain. Many high-profile supporters of Rudy Giuliani have decided to wait before climbing aboard the "McCain Train." Their lack of urgency may potentially hurt McCain's cash on hand for Super Tuesday. [[Wall Street Journal, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain Declined 1-on-1 Debate With Romney. McCain turned down an invitation to debate Mitt Romney on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Romney accepted the invitation. [[Politico, 1/30/08](#); DNC Daily Flipper]

“Anybody But McCain” Blog Coalition Emerged. Conservative bloggers have created an “Anybody but McCain” coalition in an attempt to derail McCain’s presidential bid. [College Conservative Movement, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Praised By Arnold Schwarzenegger. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger “...said that both Republican presidential candidate John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama [were] on the right track in ‘talking about bringing people together’ across partisan lines.” The *Chronicle* reported that although Schwarzenegger did not formally endorse a G.O.P. candidate, he “...came closest when he said that McCain should be congratulated for working across party lines to get things done, despite being hammered by conservative pundits around the country as being too friendly with Democrats.” [*San Francisco Chronicle*, [1/28/08](#)]

WSJ: “Age May Help McCain In Florida.” According to the *Wall Street Journal*, “In Florida, [McCain’s] seniority could be a boon among older voters, many of whom have already cast ballots in early voting.” Also according to the *Journal*, in Florida’s Republican primary, “...the candidate who carries the older set will likely come out the victor today.” The *Journal* pointed out that “Senior citizens account for 16.8% of Florida’s population...and are the most avid voters.” Furthermore, in South Carolina, according to exit polls, McCain won 42% of voters over age 60, and older voters made up more than a third of ballot casters. A McCain adviser, Buzz Jacobs, was quoted stating that the senior demographic is “equal if not more important in Florida.” [*Wall Street Journal*, [1/29/08](#)]

McCain Said He Will Skip Bush’s Last State of The Union Address To Campaign In Florida. According to the Associated Press, McCain has said he will stay not attend President Bush’s last the State of the Union address. McCain will instead, stay in Florida to campaign. [Associated Press via Foxnews.com, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Told Latin Voters He Would Focus On Iraq And Ousting Fidel Castro. According to the *Washington Post*, at a campaign rally with the Latin Builders Association, McCain told latin voters “...that he will focus on pursuing the war in Iraq as well as pushing to oust Cuba’s leader, Fidel Castro.” Also according to the *Post*, “He recalled how decades ago he stood on the deck of the U.S.S. Enterprise during the Cuban missile crisis, knowing that he and others might have to risk their lives ‘for other people’s freedom.’” McCain told the crowd, “‘My friends, many years ago I was committed to the freedom of the people of Cuba. I am just as committed today. I will pursue the cause of freedom in Cuba.’”, adding that he is hoping to prosecute a Cuban who tortured and killed some of his fellow prisoners in Vietnam. ‘We’ll get him and bring him to justice as well.’” [*Washington Post*, The Trail, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Has Become Favored Primary G.O.P. Candidate Of Antiwar Voters. According to the *Boston Globe*, “In New Hampshire, McCain overwhelmingly won the votes of the one-third of Republican-primary voters who told exit pollsters they “strongly” or “somewhat” oppose the war, and trailed Mitt Romney by over 20 points among those who strongly support it. In Michigan, where McCain lost to Romney, the Arizona senator also carried antiwar voters while losing among those backing the conflict...The unlikely base of support for McCain, who once summarized his unyielding resistance to the antiwar cause with the slogan ‘No Surrender,’ has been central to his campaign’s resurgence.” [*Boston Globe*, [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Draws Support From War Skeptics And Boosters By Supporting War But Criticizing Bush War Management And Dems For Withdrawal.** According to the *Boston Globe*, while campaigning throughout the 2008 Republican primaries, McCain has drawn both Iraq war supporters and skeptics by “...criticizing both the Bush administration’s wartime management and Democratic opponents he said wanted to ‘set a date for surrender.’” In this way the *Globe* points out that “McCain [has been] able to present himself as a candidate who both supported the war and best understood the costs of what he calls ‘our failure in Iraq.’” [*Boston Globe*, [1/25/08](#)]

Rush Limbaugh: I Want To Hear Straight Talk From McCain On His Record. On his radio show, Rush Limbaugh said about John McCain, “I want to hear from Senator McCain as a Republican primary voter his manmade global warming thoughts, his record, and what he intends to do to fix manmade global warming. I want to hear from Senator McCain on his opposition to tax cuts. I want to hear the domestic side, and I would hope that

he would speak loudly and openly and honestly about his domestic record, not spin it, certainly not deny it, but give Republican voters in Florida some straight talk on the record. He can surround himself with the Schwarzkopf and the generals and so forth and the POW stuff, which we all admire and respect. But, you know, you owe it to the electorate to start talking honestly and openly about your complete public record rather than cherry-picking what you want to say to different audiences in different places. Talk about how proud you are of your service in the Senate, leading the Gang of 14, campaign finance reform, voting against two major tax cuts. Those tax cuts would help millions of businesses and employees, spur economic growth. I would like to hear of your proud alliance with Ted Kennedy, John Edwards, Senator Lieberman on global warming, and others. I'm a Republican primary voter. I would like to hear some straight talk on those issues. Will I? 'Don't count on it, Limbaugh.' As a voter, I can only ask. Well, I can only mention what it is that I would like to hear." [Rush Limbaugh Transcript, [1/23/08](#)]

- **Rush Limbaugh Likened McCain To Hillary Clinton.** According to *Time*, Rush Limbaugh commented on McCain and Mike Huckabee on his radio show. He said, "If either of these two guys gets the nomination, it's going to destroy the Republican Party." Several days after making that remark, Limbaugh said, "If you Republicans don't mind McCain's positions, then what is it about Hillary's positions you dislike? They're the same!" [*Time*, [1/23/08](#)]
- **McCain Said He Respected Rush Limbaugh.** According to the *Politico*, after a town hall meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida, McCain told reporters, "I respect Rush Limbaugh...He is a voice that is respected by a lot of people who are in our party." The *Politico* pointed out that McCain's words were "by way of wanting to say something more but also not wanting to." [*Politico*, [1/24/08](#)]

L. Ian MacDonald: McCain Will Probably Win Because It's His Turn And He Can Attract Independent Voters. According to *National Post* columnist, L. Ian MacDonald, McCain "...is probably going to be the Republican nominee for president of the United States" because "...it is his turn..." and "...he can make the Republicans competitive against either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, by vying with them for independent voters." [Op-Ed, *National Post*, [1/23/08](#)]

L. Ian MacDonald: McCain Went From Maverick Candidate In '00 To "Consensus Establishment Moderate Right Of Center" Candidate In '08. According to *National Post* columnist, L. Ian MacDonald, "McCain, very much the maverick in 2000, has now emerged as the consensus establishment and moderate right-of-centre candidate in 2008." [Op-Ed, *National Post*, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Declined To Participate In FL Forum With Romney And Huckabee On ABC. According to Politico.com, "A debate between John McCain, Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee that was to be held on ABC's 'This Week' ...from Florida, fell through after McCain declined to come to Miami for the proposed forum, a network source confirm[ed]." An ABC source said, "We tried to put something together from Miami, but Senator McCain's campaign said he had to be in Tampa...We couldn't do it from Tampa." According to Politico, Romney's campaign said McCain's decision not to be in the forum was a sign of weakness, but McCain said that it was merely a matter of logistics. [*Politico*, [1/22/08](#)]

McCain Is Most Electable, Viable Conservative In G.O.P. Field Said Senator Lindsay Graham. According to a *Washington Post* political blog, while campaigning for McCain in South Carolina, Senator Lindsay Graham said about McCain, "John is really trying to build a party this time around, not a movement...He's the most electable, viable conservative in the field. Every demographic in South Carolina saw in John the most electable Republican in the field." Also according to the *Post*'s blog, Graham "...argued that McCain's emphasis on fiscal conservatism, which helped him win over New Hampshire voters earlier this month, will make him competitive with any Democratic opponent in the fall. 'It's the kind of conservatism that will resonate in blue states,' Graham said." [*Washington Post*, [1/19/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Continue His Constant Discussions With Reporters Even If The Stakes Increased. According to the *Washington Post* when a reporter "...asked if he would continue to chat with reporters around the clock if he won the Republican nomination...McCain said he couldn't stop, because 'that destroys credibility.'

And besides, he said, ‘I enjoy it a lot. It keeps me intellectually stimulated, it keeps me thinking about issues, and it keeps me associated with a lower level of human being than I otherwise would be.’ “ [Washington Post, [1/21/08](#)]

McCain Courted Veterans Vote In Florida. According to CNN, while campaigning across the state of Florida, McCain continued to court veterans’ votes in the state, and he also talked about his pilot training at a naval air station in the Pensacola, FL area. As he campaigned, McCain told a crowd in Pensacola, “From here to Key West, Florida is one of the most patriotic states in America and that is why I am very proud to be here.” According to CNN, “Florida is home to an estimated 1.7 million veterans, second only to California. And veterans are a key element in McCain’s political strategy.” In South Carolina, “...25 percent of those who voted in the South Carolina GOP primary identified themselves as veterans, and among those voters, exit polls showed McCain had a double-digit edge over the man he narrowly beat: former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. In the end, McCain won the state by a few percentage points, 33 percent to Huckabee’s 30 percent.” [CNN, [1/23/08](#)]

- **McCain Is Only Leading Candidate In Either Party To Have Children Who Served In Military.** According to CNN, “McCain is the only leading candidate in either party to have children who have served in the military. In the senator’s case, one son is in Iraq, the other at the Naval Academy.” [CNN, [1/23/08](#)]
- **McCain Promised To Give Veterans A Healthcare Identification Card.** According to CNN, McCain promised that “...if elected to change veterans’ health care to give them an identification card they could take to virtually any doctor or health-care facility for routine care and treatment.” On the campaign trail in Florida, McCain said, “That’s what I’m going to do for [our] veterans and they deserve it.” [CNN, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain “Teetering” Into Front-Runner Position, With Establishment. According to *New York Times* blogger Katherine Seelye, after winning the G.O.P. primaries in South Carolina and New Hampshire, McCain was “...teetering into an unfamiliar place: on top, with the establishment, the front-runner” as opposed to his posturing as a “maverick” or the “underdog.” Seelye acknowledged that McCain’s victories were “...no guarantee that he will remain a front-runner.” But she did point out that McCain’s primary wins “...and his competitive position in the polls in Florida make [him] more of a front-runner than anyone else.” During a news conference after his new positioning, McCain said, “I certainly enjoy being the underdog,” and paused, “I much more enjoy doing very well.” [*New York Times* Political Blog, [1/20/08](#)]

McCain Did Best In S.C. Among Voters Concerned With Experience And Iraq War And Veterans.

According to the *New York Times*, among South Carolina voters, McCain “...did best among voters who said experience was the most important quality in a candidate, among those who said the Iraq war and terrorism were their top concerns and among the state’s veterans, who made up a quarter of the vote.” Also according to the *Times*, McCain drew strong support from independents. [*New York Times*, [1/20/08](#)]

- **McCain Won Vote Of More Than ¼ Of Evangelical Voters In S.C.** According to the *New York Times*, “Nearly 60 percent of the voters in South Carolina identified themselves in exit polls as evangelical Christians, a group that was heavily courted by Mr. Huckabee...While Mr. Huckabee captured 4 in 10 of their votes, Mr. McCain also made inroads with the group, capturing more than a quarter of their vote.” [*New York Times*, [1/20/08](#)]
- **S.C. Primary Has Accurately Predicted G.O.P. Nominee Since 1980.** According to the *New York Times*, the South Carolina Republican primary “...has accurately predicted the Republican presidential nominee since 1980, and since 1988 it has often played a decisive role.” [*New York Times*, [1/20/08](#)]

McCain Said He May Have To Send His 95 Year Old Mother To Clean Out Chuck Norris’ Mouth For Making Comments About His Age. According to CBS News, John McCain joked with reporters when they asked him about Chuck Norris’ recent comments about McCain’s older age. McCain said, “I’m afraid that I may have to send my 95-year-old mother over and wash Chuck’s mouth out with soap.” [CBS News, [1/21/08](#)]

- **McCain May Be Too Old To Handle Pressure Of Being President, Afraid V.P. Would Take Over.** Chuck Norris, a celebrity supporter of Mike Huckabee, commented on his doubts about McCain’s older age

and ability to be president. Norris claimed presidents aged three years to every one year while in the Oval Office. He said, "Now I'm thinking if John takes over the presidency at 72 and if he ages three-to-one, how old will he be in four years? He'll be 84 years old...Now can he handle that kind of pressure in that kind of job?" According to the *Herald Sun*, Norris "...said he was 'afraid' if Senator McCain became president the vice-president would wind up taking over." [[Herald Sun, 1/22/08](#)]

McCain Courted Cuban-American Vote In Florida. According to the Associated Press, while campaigning in Florida, McCain courted the Cuban American vote. McCain said, "I'm confident that we can win here in this very important state that represents so much of America and our base begins here in Miami with the Cuban-American community." McCain appeared at a news conference with three members of Miami's congressional delegation - Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen - as well as Roberto Martin Perez, a Cuban who spent 28 years in a Castro gulag. McCain said about the Cuban American community, "I'm proud to have sat on the flight deck of U.S. Navy Aircraft during the Cuban Missile Crisis." He was part of Attack Squadron 65 on the USS Enterprise as it circled the island in the 1960s. McCain also said that he has "fought for the freedom of the Cuban-American community" by calling for the U.S. embargo to continue until the country holds free and fair elections. And, he mentioned that his fellow prisoners of war, though not him, were tortured by Castro thugs in Vietnam. [Associated Press, [1/22/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Would Spend Anything To Win Cause Of Freedom, Answering Question About Funds For Uncensored Broadcast Aimed At Cuba.** According to the *Baltimore Sun*, when McCain was asked whether he would curtail funds for Radio Marti, the uncensored Spanish broadcast aimed at Cuba, McCain was adamant: "I'll spend anything necessary to win the cause of freedom." [[Baltimore Sun via The Swamp, 1/21/08](#)]

McCain Has Support From Many Senators. According to the *Hill*, "more than any other candidate, McCain has relied on a nucleus of Senate supporters to propel his White House run." The *Hill* pointed out that the following Senators, from several areas of the ideological spectrum, have asserted support for McCain in some form or fashion: Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), former Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), former Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.). [[The Hill, 1/22/08](#)]

McCain Campaign “Recognize That There Is Sympathy To Be Gained By Playing The Victim And They’re Milking It For All It’s Worth.” According to the *Politico*, "McCain's lagging rivals don't mention his name in stump speeches, they don't criticize him and they aren't even airing negative ads against him. You'd hardly know that from the McCain campaign, though. They recognize that there is sympathy to be gained by playing the victim and they're milking it for all it's worth. The campaign is savvy enough to understand the almost unslakable thirst among national reporters to write stories heavy with tales of the sort of down-and-dirty tactics that characterized the race between McCain and George W. Bush in 2000." [[Politico, 1/18/08](#)]

McCain Planned To File Complaint Against CO Based Group Using Automated Telephone Polling System In S.C. According to the *Greenville News*, in the days leading up the South Carolina G.O.P. primary, "the McCain campaign planned to file a complaint with the office of State Attorney General Henry McMaster -- one of McCain's co-chairs in South Carolina -- about a Colorado-based group that [was] using an automated telephone polling system." According to the *Greenville News*, the 501c4, that has conducted the polling is called Common Sense Issues, Inc., and focuses on conservative issues. The group apparently has endorsed Mike Huckabee for President. The group claimed that the system could not be described as a push poll because the system's response changes depending upon what the person called said, and that the operation is lawful. South Carolina's Attorney General disagreed, claiming that federal law allows states to regulate the calls and South Carolina doesn't permit political calls to a live voice. [[Greenville News, 1/14/08](#)]

- **Automated Calls Accused McCain Of Voting To Use Unborn Babies In Medical Research.** A group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to households in South Carolina telling voters, according to one of the calls, that Mr. McCain "has voted to use unborn babies in medical research." (The campaign of Mr. Huckabee, a former

governor of Arkansas, said it had no connection to the group and had asked it to stop the calls.) [New York Times, [1/17/08](#)]

- **Automated Calls Said McCain-Feingold Was Most Restrictive Assault On Free Speech In U.S.** A group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to house holds in South Carolina, not only attacking McCain on his abortion record but also telling voters that in writing the McCain-Feingold bill tightening rules on campaign donations, Mr. McCain had created “the most restrictive assault on free speech ever passed in America.” [New York Times, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Established Truth Squad To Preempt Any Misconstrued Information Or Accusations. According to the *National Review Online*, in the days preceding the South Carolina primary, McCain’s campaign established a “truth squad.” McCain created the group “...to preempt or blunt any new political dirty tricks, such as a...mailing sent to several dozen South Carolina newspapers accusing McCain of betraying fellow prisoners during the Vietnam War.” McCain’s “truth squad” is led by South Carolina Atty. Gen. Henry McMaster, state Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell and state Adjutant General Stan Spears. Even Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a state co-chairman for the McCain campaign, appeared at a McCain rally in Greenville, S.C., and told the crowd to watch for “some garbage in the mail out there and the phone.” He asked the veterans in the audience to “watch John’s back.” [National Review Online, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Courted Military Votes In South Carolina, Used Wartime And Military Experience. According to the *Wall Street Journal* McCain has been courting the military vote in South Carolina. McCain has been emphasizing to military crowds in the state that he is running during wartime and that he has the military experience to be President. Campaigning in South Carolina he said, “We were not in a war in 2000...I’m the only one who is really qualified to be commander-in-chief.” According to the *Wall Street Journal*, “Mr. McCain [was] hoping to nose ahead of the pack with a win [in the S.C. primary], much of it with the support of the state’s sizable military presence. The only one of the major candidates who has served in the military, [McCain] upped the ante yesterday by predicting a South Carolina victory, something he declined to do before the Michigan primary.” [Wall Street Journal, [1/17/08](#)]

- **Veterans Carry Heavy Weight In South Carolina Republican Politics.** According to the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain’s message with regard to military experience may be advantageous for him in South Carolina. Apparently, veterans were 14% of South Carolina’s adult population in 2000, according to the Census Bureau, but 27% of voters in the Republican primary, according to exit polls. In 2000, McCain won the veteran vote in South Carolina 48% to 47%, also according to exit polls. South Carolina is home to 400,000 veterans, and almost 29,000 active-duty soldiers claim the state as their legal residence, making up about 1% of its population -- only nine states have a higher percentage. There are 66,000 soldiers stationed in South Carolina, constituting about 2% of its adult population, greater than all but eight states. [Wall Street Journal, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Changed Message From Security And Spending Issues In N.H. To Moral Issues In S.C. According to the *Time Magazine*, while McCain campaigned on strong national security and limited government spending in New Hampshire, he campaigned on different issues in South Carolina. In South Carolina, McCain campaigned on issues such as Internet child pornography, his determination to nominate judges who “strictly interpret the constitutions and do not legislate from the bench, and his 24 year opposition to abortion. [*Time Magazine*, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Wanted Out Of S.C. By Confederate Flag Supporters’ Group. According to *Newsweek*, as John McCain campaigned in South Carolina before the state’s G.O.P. primary, leaders from a group called the Confederate States of America Historical Preservation Society protested outside of a McCain rally. A leader from the group yelled, “McCain is a Democrat and we want him booted out of the state” for a camera crew from PBS’s News Hour with Jim Lehrer. [*Newsweek*, [1/16/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Proud S.C. Voted To Take Confederate Flag Off Statehouse. While McCain campaigned in South Carolina, he answered a question about his call for the removal of the Confederate flag from

atop South Carolina's Statehouse eight years prior. McCain answered, "Sir, I cannot be more proud of the overwhelming majority of the people of this state who joined together taking that flag off the Capitol dome, putting it in the place where it belongs - of the many people of South Carolina who have made the decision to settle this issue against people like you, sir." The crowd where McCain fielded the question cheered loudly, drowning out the possibility for the questioner to rebut. [GoUpstate.com, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain And Huckabee Have Friendly, Amicable Campaigning Relationship. According to ABC News, McCain and Huckabee have a friendly, amicable campaigning relationship. As he was touring through Michigan, McCain apparently said, "Huckabee and I, for two hours, talked about where we agreed and where we disagreed... At the end of that everybody stood and applauded. People came up and said, 'Hey, this is great. You guys disagree but you respect one another.' And I'm confident that I can have that kind of campaign with Huckabee." *Newsweek* asked, as the campaign gets closer, "Will the mutual back-scratching end and the attack ads begin?" According to ABC News, McCain vowed that would not happen. [ABC News, [1/14/08](#)]

AP: McCain Has Automatic Advantage In Michigan Primary. The Associated Press reported that McCain has an automatic advantage in the Michigan G.O.P. primary. The AP attributed the advantage not only to his win there in 2000, but also to the fact that McCain "...draws his support from across the political spectrum and Michigan voters of all stripes can participate in the Republican primary." Additionally, the AP pointed out that in Michigan, "the Democratic race...is of little or no consequence, so [McCain] will not be competing full-bore with Democratic candidates for the backing of independents..." as he did in New Hampshire. [AP, [1/13/08](#)]

McCain's Futures Contracts Have Risen 355% Since End Of June 2007. John Bruner of *Forbes*, reported that John McCain's futures contracts, that will pay out if John McCain wins the Republican nomination, have risen an astonishing 355% since June 2007, according to Intrade Prediction Markets. Bruner also pointed out that, "in fact, John McCain futures have done better since the end of June than any stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange or Nasdaq." [Forbes, [1/12/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Used Image Of His Adopted Bangladeshi Daughter In S.C. Mailer. According to the Associated Press, McCain used an image of his adopted Bangladeshi daughter in a South Carolina campaign mailer. According to the AP, in the mailer, McCain's wife Cindy "...is pictured holding a baby in a blanket as she walks with a woman from Mother Teresa's orphanage." The mailer said, "Cindy cradles little Bridget, a baby she and John adopted in 1993 from Mother Teresa's orphanage in Bangladesh. Bridget has been a great blessing to the McCain family...Today, Cindy and John work together to promote adoption and to help women facing crisis pregnancies." Although the McCain campaign said the mailer was intended to show McCain's pro-life position, the AP pointed out that in 2000, McCain's opposition launched several attacks against McCain and alleged that he had an illegitimate black daughters. [AP, [1/11/08](#)]

McCain Launched Radio Ad In MI And SC Called "Mike Christian's Story" About POW Cellmate. McCain's campaign launched a radio ad campaign in Michigan and South Carolina called "Mike Christian's Story" in which McCain talks about his POW cellmate, Mike Christian, and how he "...watched Mike collect pieces of red and white cloth and with a bamboo needle sew an American flag on the inside of his blue prison shirt." McCain reminisced, in the ad, that "Every afternoon, my fellow POWs and I would recite the Pledge of Allegiance to Mike's flag" and "No other event of the day held as much meaning for us." McCain finished the ad, "As president I will never waver in our fight to defend America so that the sacrifices of great Americans like Mike Christian are not made in vain." [McCain Press Release, [1/11/08](#)]

Politico: "McCain Emerged Unscathed" After GOP S.C. Debate, Immigration Hardly Touched. Jonathan Martin of *Politico* said that John McCain left the Fox News Channel G.O.P. debate in South Carolina "...largely untouched...and with the same designation he had upon arrival: front-runner." Martin pointed out that the decision by Fox to "downplay" the immigration issue in the debate, immensely helped McCain, since immigration has been considered McCain's "...most significant vulnerability in the primary..." According to *Politico*, the immigration issue only came in the last ten minutes of the forum, around 10:30pm. [Politico.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Telegraph: “McCain Painted Himself As War President.” Alex Spillius of the *Telegraph* pointed out that McCain’s “triumph over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney in New Hampshire...was attributed in part to respect for his consistency on Iraq, his knowledge of international affairs as well as his war record as a naval pilot captured and tortured by the North Vietnamese.” Spillius reported that during a speech at South Carolina’s Citadel College, McCain said that the U.S. must keep its troops in Iraq until al-Qa’eda is defeated. [[Telegraph, 1/11/08](#)]

South Carolina “Littered With Political Land Mines For McCain.” According to the *Los Angeles Times*, after his win in New Hampshire, John McCain still faced challenges in the state of South Carolina. According to the times South Carolina was still “...littered with political landmines for McCain” considering that more evangelical conservatives lived there than in New Hampshire, many of whom, according to the *Times*, viewed McCain with suspicion. The *Times* expected McCain to have a battle in South Carolina, but said the fact that independents could vote in the primary, could help him. [[Los Angeles Times, 1/10/08](#)]

McCain Has Support Of Influential South Carolinian Leaders. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, McCain’s team in South Carolina is lead by U.S. Senator from South Carolina, Lindsay Graham, Atty. General McMaster, Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and more than half the members of the State House. [[Los Angeles Times, 1/10/08](#)]

McCain “Pressed” For Campaign Cash Before Michigan, S.C., and Super Tuesday. According to the *Arizona Republic*, in the days following his win in New Hampshire, John McCain “...press[ed] for much-needed campaign cash” before contending for votes in Michigan, South Carolina, and on Super Tuesday. McCain said his internet fundraising effort was “...coming in very strong.” [[Arizona Republic, 1/10/08](#)]

“2007 Flip-Flops Led To Serious Problems With Independent Voters in 2008.” According to the DNC, “2007 Flip-Flops Led To Serious Problems With Independent Voters in 2008. Republican partisans might buy the changes and even be happy with them. Mainstream pundits with a weak spot for his personal story or prickly personal style might overlook them. And for now, McCain has the tailwind of a fresh win and the approval of “his base” in the national press corps. But exit polls of actual voters show that McCain’s reinvention of 2007 has left him with deep lingering problems with independents. 32 percent of the Republican primary electorate were independents in 2000, and McCain’s victory that year was due in large part because he won 61 percent of them. This year, while substantially more independents voted in the Republican primary, McCain’s share of their votes fell to 38 percent. McCain’s reinvention as a right-wing partisan might convince the Republican base that they don’t have to worry about the Maverick McCain standing in the way of a radical right wing agenda. However, swing voters who are looking for the Maverick McCain might be puzzled when this version of John McCain shows up at their doorstep with his new baggage in tow.” [[DNC Research Memo, 1/09/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Running For One Term, But Would Not Rule Out A Second Term. In an interview with *Time Magazine*, McCain said he was “...not running for an eight-year term.” “Run for a four-year term,” he said “and then you evaluate, and then you move on.” McCain added, “I understand that my age would be a factor at any time. I think those are things that you contemplate at the time, at the appropriate time that you’re in office.” [[Time Magazine, 1/9/08](#)]

McCain Said “Principle And Persuasion Won Over Money” In Change Election. In an interview with *Time Magazine*, McCain was asked what the people who won in the first two contests had in common that was so appealing during a so-called “change” election. McCain answered, “I think, principle and persuasion won over money. And political messaging. I just think it’s clear in both cases. As we joke about it, I’ve had spirited exchanges at town hall meetings. And as you know, one of those guys that has had a spirited exchange [with McCain] showed up at the rally... and said “We’re still not voting for you. I’m not going to vote for you. But I came to say [I respect you].” [[Time Magazine, 1/9/08](#)]

WSJ: “McCain Victory Built On War Experience.” Monica Langley, columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain’s victory in the New Hampshire primary and his growing support seems to stem from his support for the war, his experience in national defense issues, and his experience as a prisoner of war. Mark Salter, McCain’s

senior advisor and confidant said, “Being a POW was a physically arduous and character-building experience which set the course of his life” while columnist Langley pointed out, “Should he secure the nomination, Sen. McCain’s foreign-policy experience could appeal to the electorate concerned about international turmoil.” [[Wall Street Journal, 1/9/08](#)]

McCain Said He Wanted To Return GOP To Principles That Have Never Failed Americans. In his New Hampshire victory speech, McCain said, “I seek the nomination of our party to restore that trust; to return our party to the principles that have never failed Americans: The party of fiscal discipline, low taxes; enduring values; a strong and capable defense; that encourages the enterprise and ingenuity of individuals, businesses and families, who know best how to advance America’s economy, and secure the dreams that have made us the greatest nation in history.” [[TIME, 1/8/07](#)]

McCain Only Participated in 44% Of Roll Call Votes In 2007, Lowest Of Any Republican Senators.

According Congressional Quarterly, McCain participated in only 44 percent of the roll call votes held in 2007, the lowest score of any Republican senator. [[Congressional Quarterly, 1/4/08](#)]

McCain Drew Large Crowds, Surged To Top Of GOP Race In New Hampshire. According to *Newsday*, Republican Presidential candidate John McCain has surged to the top of the G.O.P presidential race in New Hampshire, and drew the largest crowds at gatherings in the state except aside from Barak Obama. [[Newsday, 1/7/08](#)]

- **State GOP Chairman Said People In N.H. Trust McCain Even If They Disagree With Him.**

According to Newsday, state GOP Chairman Fergus Cullen said people in New Hampshire “trust McCain” even if they disagree with his policy positions. He also said, “You hear again and again from people that they respect John McCain, and that’s not a word that you often hear associated with politicians.” [[Newsday, 1/7/08](#)]

Richard Baehr: McCain’s Trump Cards Include Pledged To Serve One Term To Fix Iraq. Richard Baehr, columnist for Real Clear Politics, said that McCain “...may have a trump card or two” if he wins the Republican nomination, and runs against Barak Obama. Baehr said, “One of them might be to pledge to serve only one term - - to get the job done right in Iraq. This would be consistent with a career of calling for sacrifice by Americans to contribute to a greater cause. And most Americans are at heart, patriotic. Unlike defeatists like Harry Reid, they would rather a good outcome than a defeat in Iraq, and that may now seem possible.” [Column, Real Clear Politics, [1/7/08](#)]

McCain’s Not Running A Positive Campaign, Despite His Claim Said MSNBC Blogger. An MSNBC “blogger” said that refuted McCain’s claims that his is running a “strictly positive campaign.” MSNBC blogger, Domenico Montanaro, pointed out that McCain was running a web ad that showed “...graphic images of terrorism, then hits Romney on having mammal foreign policy experience.” Montanaro said that “Romney has certainly run negative ads, and even has a couple of negative Web videos, also. But McCain isn’t totally above the fray here.” [MSNBC First Read, [1/6/08](#)]

McCain May Get Boost In N.H. With Romney Taking Second Place In Iowa. According to James Carney of *Time*, despite McCain taking fourth place in the Iowa caucuses, Mitt Romney’s second place loss to Mike Huckabee might help McCain, since New Hampshire’s Republicans have been “...historically cool towards Christian conservatives...”, making McCain “...poised to win big on Jan. 8 – and perhaps beyond.” [Column, *Time*, [1/3/08](#)]

Hundreds Of Iowans, Reporters Rallied For McCain In Iowa, Are Hopeful Of McCain Regain. A day prior to the 2008 Iowa caucuses, hundreds of supporters and big name reporters gathered to rally for John McCain, despite the prediction that he will not come out on top in the January 3rd caucuses. According to Politico.com, many caucus-goers are giving McCain a “second look” due to his success in New Hampshire and national gains in the polls. [Politico.com, [1/2/08](#)]

- **McCain's High Profile Supporters Were Deployed Throughout Iowa For Caucuses.** According to the *Politico*, high profile McCain supporters such as Sam Brownback, Lindsay Graham, John Thune and others will “fan out” across Iowa to campaign for McCain during the Iowa Caucuses. According to *Politico*, such a widespread effort, along with McCain’s final trip to Iowa, “...suggests that he is placing more of an effort into the state than expected.” [*Politico*, [1/2/08](#)]

Viet Nam Veterans Against John McCain Established. According to Rightwingnuthouse.com, The same fellow who mounted the Viet Nam Veterans Against John Kerry now has a group called Viet Nam Veterans Against John McCain. Gerard “Jerry” Kiley is claiming that McCain betrayed the United States as a POW and hints that he is being blackmailed even today by the Vietnamese. [Right Wing Nuthouse, 1/2/08]

Maverick McCain Is A Much Better Candidate Than Establishment McCain. According to *Real Clear Politics*, “After starting out as an unknown commodity in 1999, McCain built his reputation and his momentum, peaking at just the right moment to catapult to the front of the field. This year, the campaign started down a path toward projecting inevitability. That failed miserably, bottoming out in July when McCain was forced to dramatically cut staff as others left. Many pundits left him for dead, and he had to virtually start anew and rebuild his support from the ground up. That, as it turns out, could have been a fortuitous turn of events: Maverick McCain is a much better candidate than Establishment McCain.” [*Real Clear Politics*, 1/02/08]

McCain Launched Presidential Exploratory Committee; Delayed Final Decision Until after Christmas.

McCain “took the first formal steps toward a 2008 presidential campaign” on Thursday, November 16, “when he filed papers to set up a 2008 presidential exploratory committee[.]” By forming the committee, it “will allow him to raise money and travel the country while weighing a bid” for the White House. Asked when he would announce his intention to run for the presidency, McCain said, “I always said I would decide early next year, and I’ll sit down over the holidays with my family and make that decision.” [*Washington Post*, 11/16/06; AP, 11/16/06; NBC News, 11/12/06]

McCain, “Unbidden,” Said Changing Positions Could Damage His Greatest Attraction. The New York Times wrote, “Unbidden, [McCain] acknowledged the danger of the perception that he had become politically expedient. Mr. McCain said there was ‘much increased sensitivity for me not to display traces of hypocrisy’ because of the way he had defined himself. ‘I would argue that I have not changed any of my positions, and if I did really change my positions on issues, that I would lose what is probably one of the greatest attractions that people have for me, and that is as a person who stands up for what he believes in,’ Mr. McCain said” [*New York Times*, 4/9/06]

McCain Admits Having A Poor Handle On Domestic Policy. McCain said that while he has a good handle on foreign policy, he intends to learn more on domestic issues, including economics, tax policy and health care, saying, “I’m going to have to be smarter on some issues than I am now.” [*New York Sun*, 3/7/06]

McCain Has “Tough Row To Hoe” In Iowa Facing Opposition From Iowa GOP County Chairs. *Roll Call* reported that, “Despite his status as the national frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, [McCain] appears to have an uphill climb in the make-or-break caucus state of Iowa, where a majority of county Republican chairmen say he is far from the first choice of likely caucus voters.” After interviewing Iowa GOP County chairs, the report found that “the prevailing sentiment” focused on “disdain for his politics — particularly his handling of President Bush’s judicial nominees and his association with the issue of campaign finance reform.” Overall, “most” of the county chairs believed McCain “is not conservative enough — he is too much of a ‘maverick,’ several county chairman said — to win.” 42 out of the 63 chairs interviewed also indicated that “likely caucus-goers in their area are not inclined to support McCain.” Andrea Roys, chairwoman of the Fayette County GOP in northeastern Iowa, said of McCain, “I have no use for him ... he tries to appeal to the media and make himself liked — and is a RINO Republican as far as I am concerned.” Loras Schulte, Benton County GOP co-Chairman, said, “As we say around here, he has a tough row to hoe.” [*Roll Call*, 1/10/07]

McCain Has An Uphill Battle in South Carolina, Despite His Serious Efforts There, Including Locking Up the Support of the State House Speaker. Lee Bandy wrote in Columbia’s The State that McCain is far from a

lock to win the South Carolina primary. Bandy wrote, “From press releases and the rhetoric of his campaign, one would think John McCain has a lock on the 2008 S.C. Republican presidential primary. Wrong. The McCainites aren’t even close to victory. The primary tentatively is set for the first Saturday of February 2008. No one, including McCain, should be considered a shoo-in.” The AP reported that “obstacles stand in McCain’s way,” to avoiding the mistakes of his 2000 election, including his potential opponents and “lingering questions about his conservative credentials among some rank-and-file Republicans[.]” Lisa Manini Sox, the executive director of the South Carolina Senate Republican Caucus said, “We’re programmed to hate McCain.” Katrina Shealy, treasure of the Lexington County GOP said of McCain, “He’s explosive. He’s the Howard Dean of the Republican Party.” In January, McCain announced that South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell is backing his race for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination. [[The State](#), Op-Ed, 1/14/07; AP, 12/20/06; [washingtonpost.com](#), The Fix, 1/16/07]

Endorsements

McCain Endorsed By Rhode Island Governor Don Carcieri. While at a rally in Warwick, Rhode Island, McCain was endorsed by Governor Don Carcieri. [[Boston Globe](#), [2/14/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Mitt Romney. Mitt Romney said he was “honored” to offer his endorsement of John McCain. Romney said, “Even when the contest was close and our disagreements were debated, the caliber of the man was apparent.” [Press Association, [2/14/08](#)]

- **McCain Accepted Endorsement of Romney, The ‘Flip-Flopping Pig.’** According to the *Boston Globe*, “McCain had likened Romney to a pig and called him a flip-flopper; Romney dubbed McCain a dishonest liberal as recently as 10 days ago.” [[Boston Globe](#), [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Was Endorsed By John Boehner, Roy Blunt, and Adam Putnam. After meeting with the House Republican Conference, McCain was endorsed by Minority Leader John Boehner, Minority Whip Roy Blunt, and Republican Conference Chair Adam Putnam. All three have delayed endorsing McCain for weeks. [Hotline, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Has Been Endorsed By Less Than Half of Congressional Republicans. Even though he has emerged as the clear frontrunner, McCain has only been endorsed by “about 40 of the 198 House Republicans; in the Senate, he is endorsed by about 20 of 49 Republicans.” [Associated Press, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Kay Bailey Hutchinson. Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson endorsed John McCain saying, “Senator McCain called me over the weekend and asked if I would campaign with him in Texas, and I am very pleased to do so. I think we can strengthen our Party and our ability to reach out to voters if we all come together as soon as possible to talk about what unites us and what we will do for America.” [Hotline, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Oliver North. Oliver North, who was “convicted in 1989 of shredding documents, accepting an illegal gratuity and aiding and abetting in the obstruction of Congress,” endorsed John McCain. [[Washington Post](#), [2/12/08](#)]

Ron Paul Declined To Endorse McCain. “I cannot support anybody with the foreign policy he advocates, you know, perpetual war. That is just so disturbing to me,” Paul said in a Monday telephone interview. “I think it’s un-American, unconstitutional, immoral and not Republican.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Gary Bauer. Gary Bauer, anti-abortion activist, has endorsed John McCain. Bauer said McCain, “has dedicated his life to defending human rights around the world, including the rights of the unborn.” McCain was grateful, “Gary has always been a forceful, unapologetic advocate for the sanctity of life and traditional marriage, judicial restraint and a strong American foreign policy based on our values” he said. [Politico, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By John Bolton. According to the *Associated Press*, “McCain’s campaign announced the endorsement of yet another prominent Republican, former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton, who praised McCain’s courage “to fight the liberals in the Senate” in the controversy over Bolton’s nomination to his former post.” [Associated Press, [2/10/08](#)]

McCain Claimed To Have The Support of Fred Thompson. At a campaign stop in Kansas, McCain said, “I also spoke again yesterday to my friend Fred Thompson who assured me he is ready to do whatever it takes to help me win the election in November.” McCain’s campaign would not confirm the assertion, and Thompson did not return phone calls. [Hotline On Call, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Jeb Bush. The *Orlando Sentinel* reported that McCain has earned the endorsement of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. [*Orlando Sentinel*, [2/8/08](#)]

Ken Mehlman Endorsed McCain. Former Bush Campaign Manager and RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman endorsed John McCain. Mehlman released a statement that said, “Our party has had many outstanding candidates this year, but it is now time for Republicans across the country to unite. Together, led by Sen. McCain, we will work for a better, safer, stronger America.” [Hotline On Call, 2/7/08]

Former Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. Endorsed McCain. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., former Governor of Maryland, endorsed John McCain. [Hotline On Call, 2/7/08]

George Allen Endorsed John McCain. George Allen, former Virginia Senator and Governor, endorsed John McCain before introducing him at the Conservative Political Action Conference. [Hotline On Call, 2/7/08]

Thad Cochran Endorsed McCain. Thad Cochran acknowledged that he would support John McCain’s campaign for president. [*Washington Post*, [2/8/08](#)]

- **Sen. Thad Cochran: McCain Is Erratic, Hotheaded, Loses His Temper, And It Worries Me.** Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, who has endorsed Mitt Romney, criticized McCain’s temper. Cochran said, “The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine...He is erratic. He is hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me.” [*Boston Globe*, [1/27/08](#)]

Mitch McConnell Endorsed McCain. Mitch McConnell acknowledged that McCain would likely be the Republican nominee before endorsing McCain’s campaign for president. [*Roll Call*, [2/7/08](#)]

Bush Offered Implicit Endorsement of McCain. President Bush gave a speech implying his steadfast support for John McCain, the likely Republican nominee. According to the *Washington Post*, “In a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, Bush offered an implicit endorsement of McCain’s bona fides as a true conservative in the face of deep skepticism on the right.” [*Washington Post*, [2/8/08](#)]

- **McCain Is a “Bush Foot Soldier.”** After Bush implied his support for McCain, the *Washington Post* wrote, “whether [McCain] likes it or not, he is now also a foot soldier following Bush, and the two will have to figure out how to fight the next battle together.” [*Washington Post*, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by George Pataki. While visiting New York, John McCain was endorsed by former New York Governor George Pataki. Pataki said, “No one can bring the American people together in these challenging times better than John McCain.” [*Washington Post*, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by The Kansas City Star. The *Kansas City Star* endorsed John McCain the day before Super Tuesday. The *Star* cited McCain’s “experience, integrity, and independent streak.” [*Kansas City Star*, [2/4/08](#)]

Chicago Sun-Times Endorsed John McCain. The *Chicago Sun-Times* endorsed John McCain due to his “character, political courage, and grasp of the crucial issues facing our country.” [*Chicago Sun-Times*, [2/3/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by the Seattle Times. The *Seattle Times* endorsed John McCain for the Republican nomination for president. The *Times* cited that McCain is the GOP's "best hope for victory." [[The Seattle Times, 2/3/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by New Haven Register. The *New Haven Register* has endorsed John McCain for the Republican nomination for president. They cited McCain's ability to work with Democrats and speak "unpleasant truths even though they may cost him votes." [[Newsday, 2/3/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss. Georgia senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss endorsed John McCain. [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 2/3/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by Largest Spanish Newspaper. John McCain has been endorsed by *La Opinión*, the largest Spanish language newspaper in the United States, citing his bipartisan work on immigration. [[USA Today, 2/2/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by The Los Angeles Times. The *Los Angeles Times* endorsed John McCain for the Republican nomination for president. However, the *Times* cited disagreements with McCain over Iraq, gay rights, and abortion. [[Los Angeles Times, 2/2/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by Steve Forbes. Former presidential candidate Steve Forbes has endorsed John McCain. Forbes stated, "John McCain's pro-growth plan to cut taxes stop wasteful spending and reform out healthcare system will secure our nation's prosperity for generations to come." [[Chicago Tribune, 2/2/08](#)]

Former Solicitor General Endorsed McCain. Conservative former Solicitor General, Ted Olsen, endorsed John McCain. Olsen cited McCain's "courage, character, and integrity." [[FOX News, 2/1/08](#)]

McCain Described as "Only Candidate Prepared to be Commander in Chief." The *Wall Street Journal* writes that, "John McCain has a record of courageous service and broad experience of years of involvement in every military and national security issues that has face this nation. He is the only candidate prepared to be commander in chief from the first day in office." [[Wall Street Journal, 2/1/08](#)]

- **Wall Street Journal Defended McCain's Conservative Credentials.** In an effort to defend John McCain, *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial page praised his experience handling tough national security, views on tax code reform, and fiscal responsibility. It added, "Mr. McCain will return the Republican Party to its principle that government should do its job, and can do it with less of America's money." [[Wall Street Journal, 2/1/08](#)]

High Profile New Jersey Republicans Endorsed McCain. Nearly two dozen high profile New Jersey Republicans have endorse John McCain in the wake of Giuliani dropping his bid for president. Among ther endorsers were Donald T. DiFrancesco, Tom Kean Jr., and George Gilmore. [[The New York Times, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed by Texas Governor Rick Perry. After originally backing Rudy Giuliani, Rick Perry endorsed John McCain's campaign for president. Perry said he believed McCain would be best to handle the war on terror. [[Houston Chronicle, 1/31/08](#)]

Arnold Schwarzenegger Pledged to Endorse John McCain. California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, pledged to endorse John McCain's for president. [[Telegraph, 1/31/08](#)]

Giuliani's Endorsement May be the "Kiss of Death" for McCain. *Hotline* reports that of the 36 candidates Rudy Giuliani endorsed in the 2006 election cycle, only 8 won their election. Giuliani's endorsement record is a sad 21.6%. [[Hotline, 11/8/06](#)]

Giuliani will Endorse McCain. A senior Giuliani campaign official told NBC News that Mayor Giuliani will endorse John McCain Wednesday in California. [[MSNBC, 1/29/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Republican Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell. Republican Governor of Connecticut, M. Jodi Rell has endorsed McCain in the Republican primary. In a statement, Rell said, “I can think of no one I would rather see leading our nation.” [Boston Globe, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Pushed His Hatred of Steroids Aside as He Befriends Sylvester Stallone. McCain, who once held hearings investigating the evil of steroids, has recently touted the endorsement of Sylvester Stallone. In 2004, a time when Americans were at war in Iraq, John McCain decided to hold hearings investigating steroid use in Major League Baseball. He called on MLB to “tighten its testing program” because the sport was “about to become a fraud.” Stallone has adamantly defended Human Growth Hormones and insisted that everyone over 40 should use the substance. [Washington Post, 12/04/04; Associated Press, 1/24/08; Herald Sun, 1/25/08]

McCain Endorsed By Harvard Crimson. According to *Editor and Publisher*, the *Harvard Crimson* has endorsed McCain in the Republican primary. According to *Editor and Publisher*, the *Crimson* was the fifth college newspaper to endorse McCain, and said about him, “Having held public office for more than 25 years, McCain still appears vigorous, energetic and ready to lead the nation at the age of seventy-one...Although we cannot support all of his policy positions, we believe that, all things considered, McCain is the clear choice for the Republican nomination...He is a public servant that has worked for the welfare of the entire country for more than a quarter of a century...A man like that is hard to find or pass up.” [Editor and Publisher, [1/18/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Chicago Tribune. The *Chicago Tribune*’s editorial board endorsed McCain in the Republican Presidential primary. The *Tribune* said that McCain “...dedicated himself to American honor, American duty, long before Sept. 11, 2001. The world of 2008 is the dangerous world John McCain unknowingly spent a military and political career preparing to confront.” The *Tribune* continued, “To hear McCain speak of honor, of duty, is to wake up the echoes of John F. Kennedy urging Americans to ask not what their country can do for them. A President McCain would engage challenges domestic and foreign with the candid conviction that doing what’s right may cost us. Maybe plenty. His unwavering commitment to victory in Iraq is the likely template. He has never brooked defeatism because the consequences of defeat are so severe. McCain instead urged a troop surge to calm Iraq and, now that it’s working, he deflects the credit to the general who executed it.”[Editorial, *Chicago Tribune*, [1/27/08](#)]

- **Chicago Tribune: McCain Has Clear, Grounded Principles That He Doesn’t Change For Popular Opinion.** In their endorsement of McCain, the *Chicago Tribune* said, “McCain isn’t a repetitive robot. But his constancy is that of a man grounded in crisp and clear principles that he doesn’t exchange for the popular opinion du jour...That constancy, those principles, convince us that John McCain is the best Republican candidate for president in the Feb. 5 Illinois primary. We endorse him confident that as chief executive and commander in chief, he would meet the honorable standards he has set for himself and our country.” [Editorial, *Chicago Tribune*, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By The Philadelphia Inquirer. According to the Associated Press, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* had endorsed McCain in the Republican Presidential primary. According to the AP, “the Inquirer said in an editorial posted on its Web site that McCain, an Arizona senator, has ‘personal bravery, political courage and a confident sense of how he would lead this country...He’s the authentic candidate in a field of wannabes and flip-flopplers.’” [Associated Press, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Florida Governor Charlie Crist. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, McCain has been endorsed by Florida’s Governor Charlie Crist. The *Sun* reported that Crist called McCain “a true American hero” and also said “I think the world of him...We have to think about, when it comes to Tuesday, who you’re going to vote for and who you’re going to support...I don’t think anybody would do better than the man who stands next to me.” [*Baltimore Sun* via The Swamp, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By San Jose Mercury News. McCain has received the Republican Primary endorsement of the *San Jose Mercury News*. The newspaper’s editorial board wrote, “Eight years ago, we said that Arizona Sen. John McCain was our choice in the Republican presidential primary. The nation and the Republican Party would be far better off now had he beaten George W. Bush for the nomination. Today, we recommend McCain again. Unlike

Bush, McCain believes in the law and has a moral compass. He has crossed party lines to craft bipartisan solutions on key issues. A candidate with convictions, he can attract independent voters the Republican Party need to stay in the White House." Although the *Mercury News*' editorial board disagreed with McCain's views on Iraq, the board ended its endorsement stating, "He is far from an ideal candidate. But he is the best of the Republican lot." [San Jose Mercury News, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Florida Senator Mel Martinez. According to the *Washington Post*, Senator Mel Martinez of Florida, has endorsed McCain for President. At a McCain campaign rally with the Latin Builders Association, Martinez said of McCain, "The man that we should trust with the leadership of our nation as commander in chief ought to be John McCain...This is a man que habla claro. He talks straight." Martinez also said, "He's going to be Castro's worst nightmare." [Washington Post, The Trail, [1/25/08](#)]

NY Times: McCain Is Only Republican Who Promises To End Bush Style Of Government. The *New York Times* editorial board endorsed John McCain in the Republican primary. The Times said, "Senator John McCain of Arizona is the only Republican who promises to end the George Bush style of governing from and on behalf of a small, angry fringe. With a record of working across the aisle to develop sound bipartisan legislation, he would offer a choice to a broader range of Americans than the rest of the Republican field." [Editorial, *New York Times*, [1/25/08](#)] '

- **NY Times: "We Have Shuddered At McCain's Occasional Tactical Pander To The Right" Because He Has Character To Stand On Principle.** The *New York Times* editorial board endorsed McCain in the Republican primary and commented, "We have shuddered at Mr. McCain's occasional, tactical pander to the right because he has demonstrated that he has the character to stand on principle. He was an early advocate for battling global warming and risked his presidential bid to uphold fundamental American values in the immigration debate. A genuine war hero among Republicans who proclaim their zeal to be commander in chief, Mr. McCain argues passionately that a country's treatment of prisoners in the worst of times says a great deal about its character." [Editorial, *New York Times*, [1/25/08](#)]
- **NY Times: McCain Commended For Taking A Stand On Iraq, Torture, Immigration, Global Warming, Campaign Finance Reform.** The *New York Times* endorsed McCain in the Republican presidential primary. The editorial board pointed out that McCain "...was one of the first prominent Republicans to point out how badly the war in Iraq was being managed." The board continued, "We wish he could now see as clearly past the temporary victories produced by Mr. Bush's unsustainable escalation, which have not led to any change in Iraq's murderous political calculus. At the least, he owes Americans a real idea of how he would win this war, which he says he can do... Mr. McCain stood up for the humane treatment of prisoners and for a ban on torture. We said then that he was being conned by Mr. Bush, who had no intention of following the rules. But Mr. McCain took a stand, just as he did in recognizing the threat of global warming early. He has been a staunch advocate of campaign finance reform, working with Senator Russ Feingold, among the most liberal of Democrats, on groundbreaking legislation, just as he worked with Senator Edward Kennedy on immigration reform." [Editorial, *New York Times*, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Sylvester Stallone. On the "Fox and Friends" television program, Sylvester Stallone endorsed John McCain. He said, "I like McCain a lot. A lot. And you know, things may change along the way, but there's something about matching the character with the script. And right now, the script that's being written and reality is pretty brutal and pretty hard-edged like a rough action film, and you need somebody who's been in that to deal with it." In response to obtaining Stallone's endorsement, McCain apparently said, "I'm going to Philadelphia and running up the steps." [Fox News, [1/24/08](#)]

McCain Supported In N.Y. By Nixon's Son-In-Law, Edward Cox. According to *Buffalo Business First*, Edward Cox, the son-in-law of President Richard Nixon and partner in the New York law firm, Patterson Belknap Webb and Tyler LLP, "...is heading up McCain's Empire State Collection effort." Cox said about McCain, "The president has to suit the times," Cox said. "The American people want a president who is authentic." He also said, "Here is a man who did not dishonor his country...The American people want a Washington that can work and they want someone who can walk across the aisle and make things work with the other party...He'll want to get things

done right.” Cox also said, “The McCain administration will have its own ethos of ‘let’s make it work and not worry about the political hits.’” [Buffalo Business First, [1/24/08](#)]

McCain Backed By British Conservative Leader David Cameron. According to the *Telegraph*, “David Cameron...risked political isolation in Washington as he broke diplomatic convention by backing a candidate in the US presidential race.” Cameron said about McCain, “Every generation has to fight and win the argument for free trade and open markets. Just look at the presidential election in the US...On both sides of the political divide, there are candidates advocating protectionist policies. There is one clear exception - and I admire him a great deal for his stance. Senator John McCain did my party the great honour of addressing our annual conference two years ago, and we saw then the courage and conviction that saw him go to Michigan and tell the voters directly that the old jobs weren’t coming back and that protectionism was no answer to today’s economic problems. He didn’t win the primary, but he certainly won a lot of respect.” [*Telegraph*, [1/24/08](#)]

McCain Was Endorsed By General Norman Schwarzkopf. According to the *Boston Globe*’s Political Intelligence blog, McCain has been endorsed by Retired Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf who was the top commander in the first Persian Gulf War. General Schwarzkopf said in a statement, “Senator John McCain has served our country with honor in war and in peace. He has demonstrated the type of courageous leadership our country sorely needs at this time. For that reason, he has my complete support.” [*Boston Globe*, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Former Senator Alfonse D’ Amato. After previously endorsing Fred Thompson, former Senator Aslfonse D’ Amato has endorsed John McCain for President. According to the New York Times, the former Senator attended a New York City fundraiser for McCain where he said, “He will be, in my opinion, the strongest Republican candidate...And for those of you who say, ‘Well, I disagree with him on one issue or another,’ if you want to win in November, John McCain, he’s the man.” [*New York Times*, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By FL State Senator Durell Paeden. According to the *Pensacola News Journal*, Florida State Senator Durell Peaden has endorsed John McCain in the G.O.P. presidential primary. Senator Paeden said in a release, “As a member of the Florida Senate Committee on Military Affairs and Domestic Security I cannot think of anyone else better suited to protect and lead America in this age of terrorism...There is no one who has the same level of experience, tenacity or dedication to our troops and our Country as John McCain.” Paeden also commented on McCain military record saying, “John McCain has been a leader in Congress fighting for our military families...He has worked to increase pay scales for servicemen and women during both wars in Iraq and expand eligibility for health care benefits for reservists and their families. Additionally, I am proud to say John McCain has supported legislation to expand retirement benefits for reservists, and sponsored legislation to grant survivor benefit payments to the spouses of reservists who die during or as the result of training.” [*Pensacola News Journal*, [1/22/08](#)]

McCain Has Been Endorsed By Celebrities Like Bruckheimer, Lorne Michaels, Rip Torn Etc. According to Politico.com, the following Hollywood celebrities and/or entertainment media moguls have supported John McCain financially and/or publically: Harry Sloan, MGM Chairman and CEO; Jerry Bruckheimer, Barry Diller, Kirk Kerkorian, Richard Parsons, Lorne Michaels, Brad Grey, Rip Torn, Dick Van Patten. Politico.com reported that, “As of late October, [McCain]had received \$390,925 from PACs and individuals in the television, movie and music industries, compared with Giuliani’s \$379,126, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.” [*Politico*, [1/22/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Charleston Post Courier. The *Charleston Post Courier*’s editorial board endorsed John McCain, and urged voters to give him the South Carolina victory he deserves. The *Post Courier* said, “Eight years ago we urged voters in South Carolina’s Republican presidential primary to support John McCain. His record since then has left us even more convinced that the Arizona senator should be the 2008 Republican presidential nominee.” The *Post Courier* said that John McCain “has provided the country with positive leadership” and that despite being known for an independent streak, McCain “mainly reflects mainstream conservative values.” The paper recognized McCain’s long military career and his record as a steadfast supporter of the Iraq war and the “surge” strategy. The paper also recognized McCain for having “...taken the lead on a reasonable solution to the illegal immigration dilemma.” The editorial ended, “For the good of the country, give tried and trustworthy Sen.

John McCain the chance to be president with a much-deserved S.C. Republican primary victory.” [Editorial, Charleston Post Courier, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain To Be Endorsed By Senator Coburn (R-OK). According to the *Atlantic*, the McCain campaign has been “touting” the fact that Republican Senator Tom Coburn from Oklahoma was scheduled to endorse McCain. [Atlantic.com, [1/16/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Representative Tom Davis Of Virginia. According to MSNBC, Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) endorsed McCain. Davis said in a statement released by the campaign, “John McCain alone has the experience, character and integrity we need in our next president...As president, John McCain will lead the fight for fiscal responsibility, a strong defense and the highest ethical standards to restore Americans’ trust in their leadership. I am proud to support him for president.” [MSNBC, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM). According to the *Examiner*, John McCain was endorsed by U.S. Senator Pete Domenici in the Republican primary. In his endorsement, Domenici apparently praised McCain for his leadership in the 1990s to fight for a balanced budget, and for his work on issues that were critical to the American West, like water. According to the *Examiner*, Domenici also praised McCain for his “consistent and courageous” stance on the Iraq War and in the fight against terrorism. [*Examiner*, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By South Carolina’s Greenville News. South Carolina’s *Greenville News* has endorsed John McCain in the Republican primary. The newspaper’s editorial board said, “No issue is more important than this nation’s security, and no Republican on Saturday’s ballot is better qualified to offer steady, tested, reassuring leadership than Arizona Sen. John McCain...The next president of the United States must be able to handle threats that cannot be imagined today. John McCain offers a wealth of foreign policy knowledge. He understands military strategy and has personal characteristics that would earn him automatic respect from the men and women who wear this country’s uniform. He is a genuine war hero -- a man who endured torture when he was a Vietnam War prisoner of war, and he does not have to prove his courage or resolve to anyone...[McCain] is an independent thinker, a coalition builder and an intuitive leader...[He] is the strongest candidate on the GOP ballot, and the *Greenville News* endorses him in Saturday’s primary.” [*Greenville News*, [1/13/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Former MI Governor And Atty. General Under George Romney, William Milliken. McCain has been endorsed by William Milliken, former Governor of Michigan and attorney general under former Governor George Romney, Mitt Romney’s father. Milliken said that while he and McCain differ on some issues, McCain was “one of those rare individuals who says what he believes and sticks to it. He doesn’t dissemble, as so many candidates do.” [MLive.com, [1/12/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By South Carolina’s Largest Newspaper The State. The *State*, South Carolina’s largest newspaper, endorsed John McCain in the G.O.P. primary. The newspaper’s editorial board said, “Clearly, the best Republican candidate to lead our nation at this time is U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona. He has the necessary experience, not just in time served, but in the quality of understanding he exhibits across the board.” The editorial board pointed out McCain was “...a slave to no ideology or faction”, he was “deeply respected by his colleagues in both parties” and that he was “usually the driving force [at] the head of coalitions to get the job done...” [Editorial, *The State*, [1/12/08](#); Associated Press, 1/13/08]

McCain Endorsed By Michigan’s Jackson Citizen Patriot Newspaper. Michigan’s *Jackson Citizen Patriot* has endorsed John McCain in the G.O.P primary. The *Patriot*’s editorial board said, “McCain, a prisoner of war in Vietnam, has impeccable foreign-policy credentials. Results on the ground validated his support for last year’s troop surge in Iraq...McCain carries liabilities. He is a weak public speaker, but his substance outweighs his rhetorical shortcomings. Fundamentally, he is a straight shooter who has stood by our involvement in Iraq and the need for immigration reform even if it has cost him votes...McCain candidly acknowledged that some jobs have left Michigan and South Carolina, another upcoming primary state, for good. While Romney has shifted positions on substantive issues, there’s no doubt where McCain stands...[Michigan’s] Republican voters should be thrilled. This primary won’t be the defining vote in the GOP campaign, but it is being watched and treated seriously. McCain or Romney would do the job well, but our vote is for McCain.” [*Jackson Citizen Patriot*, [1/13/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Jack Kemp. According to the *Political Intelligence*, John McCain announced that Jack Kemp endorsed him, in the wake of criticisms about his votes against Bush's tax cuts. "I am proud to support John McCain for president," Kemp said in a statement issued by the McCain campaign. "John McCain is the only candidate who can be trusted to cut taxes, eliminate wasteful spending, and enact conservative pro-growth policies to expand the economy. John McCain is the best choice to lead America to a more prosperous and secure future." [Political Intelligence, [1/7/08](#)]

McCain Is Only GOP Candidate With Comprehensive Global Warming Plan, Endorsed By Republicans For Environmental Protection. According to the *Hartford Courant*, John McCain is the only Republican candidate with a comprehensive global warming plan. Also according to the *Courant*, McCain was endorsed by the Republicans for Environmental Protection and the League of Conservation Voters called him a "leader" on climate issues. Among a fairly extensive environmental record, McCain apparently also opposes drilling in ANWR. [Hartford Courant, [1/6/08](#)]

McCain To Be Endorsed By Vermont Governor Jim Douglas. The *Boston Globe* reported that Vermont Republican Governor Jim Douglas planned to Endorse John McCain. Douglas' spokesman confirmed that the Governor planned to endorse McCain. [[Boston Globe, 1/6/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Detroit Free Press. As they did in 2000, the *Detroit Free Press* endorsed John McCain stating that McCain was "...again, the best candidate to carry the GOP banner into the fall." Furthermore, the *Free Press* stated in their endorsement, "While the Free Press differs with McCain on a number of issues, the Arizona senator is a smarter, more tested and pragmatic leader who has shown since 2000 that he knows how to build bipartisan alliances around issues. He's a straight shooter, sometimes to his detriment in the political world, where McCain also loses points for persistently championing needed campaign reforms and criticizing pork-barrel spending that benefits special interests." [Detroit Free Press, [1/5/08](#)]

Former N.H. Congressman Bass Endorsed McCain. According to the *Boston Globe*, Former six term New Hampshire Congressman Charlie Bass endorsed John McCain several days before the New Hampshire primary. According to the *Globe*, the former Congressman endorsed McCain in 2000, is the son of a former Governor, and while "he is not beloved by the Republican base...his moderate politics allowed him to survive re-election in his Democratic-leaning district." [[Boston Globe, 1/4/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By N.H. Senate Leader. According to the *Washington Post*, on January 3, 2008, "New Hampshire Senate GOP leader Ted Gatsas endorsed Arizona Sen. John McCain for president...saying he was best prepared to protect the U.S. from terrorist attacks." McCain welcomed the endorsement and complimented the Senate leader for his work and being a "tremendous asset" to his campaign." [[Washington Post, 1/3/08](#)]

McCain Endorsed By Henry Kissinger. According to MSNBC, "At Faneuil Hall in Boston, Henry Kissinger told a crowd of McCain supporters that he 'doesn't usually get involved in things like this,' but given today's conflicts in the world, he couldn't stay away from the political scene. (Kissinger endorsed McCain earlier in the year.) Kissinger said he first met McCain in 1972 at the White House after he was released as a POW and has been a fan ever since. Kissinger described the current international struggle: 'There's never been a period in history where so many things were in movement at the same time.'" [MSNBC, 12/19/07]

GOP Base

McCain Received The Support Of Only 25% Of Conservatives In Virginia Primary. Exit polls after the Virginia primary showed that McCain lost among self-identified conservatives to Mike Huckabee, 25% to 51%. [[TIME, 2/13/08](#)]

59% of Maricopa County Republicans Named McCain "Unacceptable." During a straw poll in Maricopa County, Arizona, 59% of attendees named John McCain as an unacceptable candidate." [[Salon.com, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain Faced Backlash From Arizona Republicans. Rob Haney, a passionate Arizona conservative, said “It’s an unending litany of items that we find unacceptable in a Republican candidate who would represent Republican values.” [Salon.com, [2/4/08](#)]

Conservative Backlash Predicted to Affect McCain’s Chances in November. According to Salon.com, “William Dixon, the head of the University of Arizona political science department, thinks there is a distinct possibility that conservative anger toward McCain could cause him problems in the general election. Dixon says conservatives disdainful of McCain aren’t likely to vote for a Democrat in November but might choose to sit out the election altogether.” [Salon.com, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Described as More Conservative Than Often Portrayed in the Press. According to Salon.com, “William Dixon, the head of the University of Arizona political science department, says that, “angry conservatives actually have the real McCain backward: Rather than a closet liberal, he is substantially more conservative than typically portrayed in the press. “If anyone is misinterpreting McCain,” says Dixon, “it’s Democrat-leaning independents who think he’s a Republican maverick.” [Salon.com, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Lost Among Arizona Conservatives. Mitt Romney beat John McCain 47-36 among self-described conservatives in McCain’s home state of Arizona. [[TIME](#), [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Scheduled to Mend Fences at CPAC. McCain announced he would speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference. According to David Keene, president of the ACU, “He’s pretty much blown his credibility with these people.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), [2/6/08](#)]

James Dobson Announced He Would Never Vote For McCain. James C. Dobson released a statement that “he would under no circumstances vote for Mr. McCain in November.” [[New York Times](#), [2/6/08](#)]

Conservative Lawyers Attracted to McCain’s Electability. Many conservative lawyers have decided to back McCain because of his perceived electability. While they disagree with many of McCain’s stances, they envision that he is most likely to win in November. They desperately want to put more reliable conservatives on the Supreme Court. [[Boston Globe](#), [2/4/08](#)]

McCain’s Rebellion Followed in Bush’s Footsteps. McCain’s deviations from the Republican Party nearly always landed him beside President Bush. Conservatives have complained about McCain’s lack of conservatism, but on issues from campaign finance to immigration, McCain has agreed with President Bush. [[New York Times](#), [2/4/08](#)]

Bob Dole Sent Rush Limbaugh a Letter Defending McCain. Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole sent Rush Limbaugh a letter defending John McCain’s conservative credentials. While admitting disagreements with McCain over campaign finance and the Bush tax cuts, Dole defended McCain’s pro-life record, his support for strict constructionist judges, and his desire to keep America safe. [CNN, [2/4/08](#)]

Wall Street Journal Defended McCain’s Conservative Credentials. In an effort to defend John McCain, *The Wall Street Journal*’s editorial page praised his experience handling tough national security, views on tax code reform, and fiscal responsibility. It added, “Mr. McCain will return the Republican Party to its principle that government should do its job, and can do it with less of America’s money.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), [2/1/08](#)]

McCain’s Relationship With Conservatives Viewed as “Rocky” and “Fractious.” Conservatives have waged a war with McCain before primaries on Super Tuesday. GOP strategist Greg Mueller said “My view is that there obviously continues to be a rocky relationship between Senator McCain and conservatives.” [[New York Times](#), [1/31/08](#)]

Conservatives in Florida Favored Romney Over McCain. According to exit polls, McCain garnered only 29% of self-described conservatives in the Florida Republican Presidential primary. Romney, McCain's chief rival, earned 37% among conservatives. [[CNN.com](#), January 29, 2008; [DNC Daily Flipper](#), 1/30/08]

Talk Radio Attacks John McCain. Conservative talk radio hosts are targeting John McCain for his liberal stances on many issues. Hosts Rush Limbaugh, Laura Ingraham, Sean Hannity, Michael Medved, Mark Levin, and Hugh Hewitt will be touting Romney in the days leading up to the February 5th primaries. [[Washington Times](#), 1/30/08; [DNC Daily Flipper](#), 1/30/08]

After Winning in Florida, McCain Can Expect Attacks from GOP Establishment. *Slate Magazine* reports that, "Now McCain can expect an influx of money from supporters and a hail of attacks from that portion of the GOP establishment that despises him. The race has shaken out, and it's now down to just Romney and McCain. While McCain has the momentum and will inherit most of Giuliani's supporters when he drops out, Romney, who can spend his own money, will now benefit from all of those Republicans who McCain has pissed off over the years. Already David Bossie, longtime GOP operative denounced by members of both parties in the past, is behind an ad campaign airing on Fox that compares McCain to Hillary Clinton. Rush Limbaugh is already on Romney's side, and Tom DeLay will no doubt come out of retirement with a broken beer bottle." [[Slate.com](#), 1/30/08]

McCain Claims He Can Unite the Republican Party. After the Florida primary, McCain told the *Associated Press*, "It shows one thing, I'm the conservative leader who can unite the party." [[Associated Press](#), 1/29/08]

- **McCain Clings to Reagan in an Effort to Win Over Conservatives.** In his Florida victory speech, McCain stated, "I stand for the principles and policies that first attracted me to the Republican Party when I heard, in whispered conversations and tap codes, about the then governor of California, who stood by me and my comrades....And I am as proud to be a Reagan conservative today, as I was then." [[Wall Street Journal](#), 1/30/08]
- **McCain Has a Plan to Rally Conservatives.** Strategists said that McCain will attempt to rally conservative voters by using a upbeat message, stressing a return to Reaganite economic principles, and pledging to defeat Islamic extremism. [[Reuters](#), 1/30/08]

Rick Santorum: McCain Was Not Only Against Conservatives But Leading Charge On The Other Side. ON MSNBC's *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain about criticism that he was not conservative enough or not a good Republican. He referred to past quote by former Senator Rick Santorum: "The bottom line is that I served 12 years with [McCain], six years in the United States Senate as one of the leaders of the Senate who had responsibility of trying to put together the conservative agenda, and almost at every turn on domestic policy, John McCain was not only against us, but leading the charge on the other side." [[Meet The Press](#), [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Proud Of His Conservative Record And Rankings Despite Criticism To The Contrary. On MSNBC's *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain whether he had changed his mind on Bush's tax cuts because of criticism that he has not been a "good Republican" or conservative enough. McCain answered, "Well, I don't know what to say except examine my record. Look at my ratings by the objective organizations that judge these things: Citizens Against Government Waste, National Taxpayers Union, Citizens for a Sound Economy. I am proud of my conservative record and the rankings--those people who observe--the National Federation of Independent Businessmen who named me the taxpayers' hero. I have a clear, consistent record." [[Meet The Press](#), [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Is Worst Possible G.O.P. Presidential Nominee Because Of McCain-Feingold. Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* said, "For conservatives with long memories, John McCain is about the worst possible Republican presidential nominee... And the reason why can perhaps best be summed up in two words: McCain-Feingold." Muth continued, "Sen. McCain's campaign finance reform bill - which he pushed relentlessly, almost to the exclusion of everything else - was a frontal attack on the right of free speech. Not commercial or pornographic free speech, mind you. Political free speech. The kind of speech the Founders clearly had in mind when they emphatically declared that Congress shall make no law abridging." [Op-Ed, [Nevada Appeal](#), [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Criticized For Leading “Gang Of 14” To Undercut GOP Attempt To Break Filibusters Of Conservative Judges.** Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* wrote an op-ed column criticizing McCain. He said, “...it was Sen. McCain who led the ‘Gang of 14,’ which undercut the GOP attempt to break Harry Reid’s filibusters of conservative judges. Many conservative judicial nominees have never received so much as the courtesy of an up-or-down vote, thanks to Sen. McCain and his band of moderate Republicans.” [Op-Ed, [Nevada Appeal, 1/25/08](#)]

David Keene: “McCain Would Like To Remake Party Without Conservatives.” In a CBS News article on McCain having to face conservative skeptics, American Conservative Union chairman David Keene commented on McCain, “There’s this personal animosity he has towards people over issues...Most conservatives see that he would like to remake the party without them.” According to CBS News, Keene also said “those who’ve worked with [McCain] get the sense that he doesn’t like conservatives.” Keene also remarked, “In [McCain’s] world, it’s very difficult to have a simply policy disagreement...Everything becomes personal. His position is right, and everyone else’s is basically evil.” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain Could Have Trouble Winning Over Conservatives On Supreme Court Judge Issue. According to CBS News, “McCain and his surrogates have made some overtures to skeptical conservatives by stressing that McCain will pick strict constructionist judges as president.” GOP Strategist Greg Mueller commented on the issue, “It’s a huge issue for Republicans, a party crossing issue...The next president could appoint two, three, even four Supreme Court judges. If McCain goes out and talks about that, it’s going to be a reminder to the conservative base of the party – ‘who do you want picking your judges?’” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Won S.C. Republican Primary, Win Could Boost Conservative Vote. On Saturday October 20, 2008, McCain won the South Carolina Republican primary with 33% of the vote, trailed by Mike Huckabee with 30% of the vote. McCain and Romney were followed by Thompson and Romney, both of whom won 16% and 15% of the vote respectively. Clemson University Professor J. David Woodard pointed out that McCain’s “Red State” victory “shows that he can win the base of the Republican party...I think he already had the respect of mainline GOP voters, but tonight he won their allegiance.” [[Los Angeles Times, 1/20/08](#)]

McCain “Brushed Aside” Exit Polls That Suggested He Is Still Failing To Garner Support From G.O.P. Base. According to CNN, after winning the South Carolina Republican primary, McCain “...brushed aside suggestions exit polls from the South Carolina Republican primary suggest he still is failing to garner widespread support from his party’s base.” McCain told CNN’s Dana Bash, “I got more votes than anybody else, and it says that I got it from across the spectrum from all over the state...We expected this to be a very highly contested race, and for the 28 years the candidate who has won South Carolina has been the nominee of the party.” Also according to CNN, exit polling in South Carolina showed that “...McCain narrowly trailed Huckabee in support from the 80 percent of primary voters who identified themselves as Republicans. Huckabee won 32 percent of their support compared to McCain’s 31 percent. (McCain overwhelmingly won among the remaining 20 percent of primary voters who identified themselves as independents.)” [CNN, [1/20/08](#)]

National Review Op-Ed.: “McCain Isn’t Right For The Right.” According to Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, “there is plenty to admire about Senator John McCain...” such as his experience in Vietnam, his “forceful” backing of President Bush’s military surge, and “his eternal vigilance against absurd and costly government boondoggles...” On the other hand, said Murdoch, “...argues against his presidential bid.” Murdoch pointed out that, “McCain diligently has stymied conservative, free-market policies...is dangerously soft on captured terrorists...and...is anyone’s guess whether he will support the Right or sandbag its efforts.” [Op-ed, [National Review Online](#) via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Drilling In ANWR.** In his article “McCain Isn’t Right For the Right”, Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, reminded readers that “...McCain rejected drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at least four times.” Murdoch also wrote, “Had April 2002 legislation prevailed ‘to reduce dependence on foreign sources of crude oil and energy...and to promote national security,’ an area the size of Washington-Dulles Airport would augment Earth’s petroleum supply. Instead,

McCain joined Hillary Clinton and John Edwards to defeat this measure.” [Op-ed, [National Review Online](#) via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]

- **McCain-Lieberman Bill Would Have Caused A De Facto Energy Tax.** In his article “McCain Isn’t Right For the Right”, Deroy Murdoch of the National Review Online, reminded readers that McCain co-sponsored a bill with Joe Lieberman that would make power producers pay to exceed government-imposed limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Murdoch mentioned, “The John Locke Foundation’s Roy Cordato cited a July 2007 Environmental Protection Agency letter to McCain measuring McCain-Lieberman’s de facto energy tax: ‘The present value of the cumulative reduction in real GDP for the 2012-2030 period ranges from \$660 billion to \$2.1 trillion,’ [the EPA calculated]. For 2012 to 2050, that figure is \$1.6 trillion to \$5.2 trillion.” [Op-ed, [National Review Online](#) via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]

McCain Won S.C. Republican Primary, Win Could Boost Conservative Vote. On Saturday October 20, 2008, McCain won the South Carolina Republican primary with 33% of the vote, trailed by Mike Huckabee with 30% of the vote. McCain and Romney were followed by Thompson and Romney, both of whom won 16% and 15% of the vote respectively. Clemson University Professor J. David Woodard pointed out that McCain’s “Red State” victory “shows that he can win the base of the Republican party...I think he already had the respect of mainline GOP voters, but tonight he won their allegiance.” [[Los Angeles Times](#), [1/20/08](#)]

Real Clear Politics Op-Ed: Who Will Save Republicans From John McCain? According to Robert Tracinski, columnist for *Real Clear Politics*, John McCain must be stopped to “save Republicans.” Tracinski pointed out that while McCain may have widespread appeal as a winnable G.O.P. frontrunner, and a staunch advocate of the War on Terrorism, McCain would be “...a suicidal choice for Republicans, because on every issues other than the war, he stands for capitulation to the left.” Tracinski said, “There are three big domestic issues that will be decided by the 2008 election: socialized medicine, higher taxes, and global warming regulations. The Democrats are in favor of all three--and John McCain won’t stop them.” Tracinski asserted that “...the best hope to save Republicans from McCain is the one candidate who hasn’t yet fully entered the race--but who will finally have his chance against McCain in Florida: Rudy Giuliani.” [Column, [Real Clear Politics](#), [1/22/08](#)]

McCain Criticism From Limbaugh And Ingraham Could Sabotage The G.O.P.’s Chances In November. Debra Saunders, columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, pointed out that conservative personalities, Rush Limbaugh and Laura Ingraham, continued to “rant” against John McCain during the presidential primaries. Conservative Hugh Hewitt apparently blogged on Townhall.com that a vote for McCain “is a vote for an old warrior way past his prime and the prospect of three debates against Barack Obama in which the age and energy gap goes un-remarked upon while devastatingly obvious.” Saunders said that McCain deserved more respect from the far right for his military and service career, and she cautioned that while “...engaged Republicans have the right to criticize McCain on the issues...they go too far, and they are sabotaging their party’s chances in November.” [Op-Ed, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Changed Message From Security And Spending Issues In N.H. To Moral Issues In S.C. According to the *Time Magazine*, while McCain campaigned on strong national security and limited government spending in New Hampshire, he campaigned on different issues in South Carolina. In South Carolina, McCain campaigned on issues such as Internet child pornography, his determination to nominate judges who “strictly interpret the constitutions and do not legislate from the bench, and his 24 year opposition to abortion. [Time Magazine, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Has Solid Record On The Defining Principles Of Modern Conservative Movement. According to columnist Adrian Wooldridge, of the *New York Times*, John McCain’s “...willingness to squabble with fellow party member makes him look more like a moderate than he really is...” Wooldridge pointed out that despite McCain’s tendency to be a “maverick” and to often speak out against those in his own party, McCain “...has a solid record on the defining principles of the modern conservative movement — traditional values, the free market and national defense — a record that is far more solid on these core beliefs than Mr. Romney’s.” [Op-Ed, [New York Times](#), [1/17/08](#)]

- **McCain's Opposition To Torture Was In The Name Of Fundamental Conservative Principles.** According to columnist Adrian Wooldridge of the *New York Times*, McCain's opposition to torture was in the name of fundamental conservative principles. Wooldridge pointed out that, "He opposed torture because he thought it was a violation of the American tradition of respect for human life and human rights." [Op-Ed, New York Times, [1/17/08](#)]
- **McCain's Opposition Bush's Tax Cuts Was In The Name Of Fundamental Conservative Principles.** According to columnist Adrian Wooldridge of the *New York Times*, McCain "...opposed President Bush's tax cuts because he thought the goal of small government required Congress to cut spending also." Likewise, according to Wooldridge, McCain opposed pork-barrel spending and unlimited campaign donations because he thought those policies "institutionalize bad (and big) government." [Op-Ed, New York Times, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Wanted Out Of S.C. By Confederate Flag Supporters' Group. According to *Newsweek*, as John McCain campaigned in South Carolina before the state's G.O.P. primary, leaders from a group called the Confederate States of America Historical Preservation Society protested outside of a McCain rally. A leader from the group yelled, "McCain is a Democrat and we want him booted out of the state" for a camera crew from PBS's News Hour with Jim Lehrer. [Newsweek, [1/16/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Proud S.C. Voted To Take Confederate Flag Off Statehouse. While McCain campaigned in South Carolina, he answered a question about his call for the removal of the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina's Statehouse eight years prior. McCain answered, "Sir, I cannot be more proud of the overwhelming majority of the people of this state who joined together taking that flag off the Capitol dome, putting it in the place where it belongs - of the many people of South Carolina who have made the decision to settle this issue against people like you, sir." The crowd where McCain fielded the question cheered loudly, drowning out the possibility for the questioner to rebut. [GoUpstate.com, [1/17/08](#)]

John McCain Said For Democrats There's No Difference Between Me and Clinton, Clinton Is Polarizing. According to the *PoliGazette*, during an interview, McCain said that "if Republicans want to win, they ought to nominate a Democrat. President Bush is highly unpopular right now, we have to distance ourselves from him. What better way to do that than to run as a Democratic Republican?" Also during the interview, McCain called upon Michigan's Democrats to vote for him, and stated, "If you can vote for Hillary Clinton, and for me, what's the difference? We're both acceptable to Democrats." McCain also made reference to the fact that Clinton is "...a highly polarizing figure." Apparently McCain's last words of his interview were, "If Michigan Democrats want to make sure that a Democrat will occupy the White House in 09, they'd better vote for me." [*PoliGazette*, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Has Conservative Voting Record, Has 82% Rating From The American Conservative Union. According to Foxnews.com, McCain "...has had a very conservative voting record." Apparently, he has a lifetime rating of 82 percent from the American Conservative Union and "...he has generally been a solid and reliable vote for the anti-abortion side, rarely wavering from his pro-life stance." [Foxnews.com, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Aides Believed McCain Would Benefit In MI From Independent And Democratic Voters. According to the *Washington Post*, prior to the Michigan G.O.P. primary, "McCain aides believ[ed] the Arizona senator [would] benefit...from a potential surge of independent and Democratic voters who have a long history of voting for him at the polls." According to the *Post*, although McCain lost to Bush in the 2000 Michigan Republican primary, he won two-thirds of Michigan's independent voters that year, and even more among Democrats who chose to vote in the Republican primary that year (2000). Since there was no Democratic primary in Michigan, Democrats were free to participate in the Republican primary. [*Washington Post*, [1/14/08](#)]

Washington Post Poll: McCain And Huckabee Most Trusted By Republicans On Abortion. According to Lifenews.com, a Washington Post poll found that "...Republican voters trust Mike Huckabee and John McCain to best handle abortion issues as president." Apparently, 22 percent of Republican voters nationally said that Mike Huckabee was the best candidate on abortion issues, while 20 percent of Republicans said John McCain was the best candidate on abortion. Romney received 15%, Giuliani, a pro-choice candidate received 14%, and Thompson,

9%. 12% of those polled could not decide who would best handle abortion, 4% said none of the candidates would best handle abortion, and 1% voted for Duncan Hunter, and one percent of the candidates said all of the candidates would handle abortion equally well. [Lifenews.com, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Confident He Would Attract Core Establishment And Social Conservatives. A video clip of John McCain was featured on Fox's "Special Report with Brit Hume." In the video, McCain said, "I'm confident that I will attract the core establishment and the social conservatives, and I think I will win these races because I will have support throughout the political base of the Republican Party." [Fox News, [1/11/08](#)]

McCain Placed Fourth In Iowa Caucuses, Garnered 13% Of Republican Vote. Republican Presidential candidate John McCain placed fourth in Iowa, garnering 13 percent of the Republican vote. [[Time](#), [1/3/08](#)]

McCain's Efforts May Not Move Conservatives. "McCain's efforts to present himself as an establishment conservative Republican may not sway his target audience. Many conservatives dismiss his image overhaul as mere opportunism. They acknowledge McCain's conservative voting record, but they point out that on a lot of big issues - such as campaign-finance reform and guest-worker immigration reform - he hooks up with liberal Democratic senators like Russ Feingold and Edward Kennedy... Jim Pinkerton, a conservative commentator who worked in the senior George Bush's administration, said, 'Just because he's in trouble with the media now, that doesn't mean conservatives will think that he can suddenly be trusted. Because they feel he's been sucking up to the press for years and years. The suspicion is, 'OK, they'll fight with each other for the next two years [until he wins the nomination], and then he'll be their friend again.' ...Of course it's standard for politicians to tack this way and that way. But the distances that McCain needs to travel [have] to be setting some kind of record.'" [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 4/16/06]

McCain's Straw Poll Stunt Designed To Mask His Poor Support Because He's Gone "Wobbly" On Conservative Issues. The SLRC straw poll "was deliberately undercut by Sen. John McCain and his backers," who "threw a wrench in the polling Friday night by asking delegates to vote for Bush" to give McCain "some political cover if he fare[d] poorly in the contest." The move was met with skepticism by delegates to the SLRC where there was "much grumbling and a bit of laughter" about the write-in campaign, an act which one woman labeled "absurd." In the end, McCain "finished a distant fifth" overall with only 66 votes, because according to a GOP consultant, the voters know that "on the big social issues, he's gone wobbly." His finish highlighted the challenge for McCain's 2008 ambitions, which is "the elites adore him, or at least respect him, but the activists, who actually pick the nominee, don't seem to like him very much." [[The State](#), 3/12/06; [Associated Press](#), 3/12/06, 3/11/06; [Sacramento Bee](#), 3/12/06; [American Spectator](#), 3/13/06; [Newsday](#), 3/14/06]

Dobson On McCain: "I Pray We Don't Get Stuck With Him." James Dobson, "founder of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family as well as the Focus Action cultural action organization set up specifically to provide a platform for informing and rallying constituents," came out strongly against a McCain candidacy during a radio interview. Dobson said in response to a statement McCain made on gay marriage, "Speaking as a private individual, I would not vote for John McCain under any circumstances." Dobson reasoned his opposition both because of social issues and "legislation he'd just been discussing on the program, regarding an attempt by Democrat leaders in Congress to create obstacles for ministries such as Focus to reach constituents with action messages about pending legislation, is being supported by McCain, too." Dobson criticized the legislation as having originated from McCain, saying, "that came from McCain, and the McCain Feingold Bill kept us from telling the truth right before elections." Dobson added that "there are a lot of other things," pointing out that McCain's "not in favor of traditional marriage," and concluded saying, "I pray that we won't get stuck with him." Despite the attack, McCain was open to heal the fissure with Dobson, saying, "I'm obviously disappointed and I'd like to continue and have a dialogue with Dr. Dobson and other members of the community." Noting his past success reaching out to other conservative leaders, McCain said, "I'm happy to say that I've established a dialogue with a number of other leaders," such as Jerry Falwell, Rick Warren and Dr. Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention. [Worldnetdaily.com, 1/13/07; AP, 1/17/06]

Staff

McCain's Campaign Signed On Thompson's Former National Fundraising Chairman. According to Reuters, McCain announced that Fred Thompson's former national fundraising chairman, Scooter Clippard, had signed up to McCain's "Straight Talk Express" as a national finance co-chair. In a statement McCain said, "Fred made an invaluable contribution to this race and always enriched the discussion of ideas for America's future." [Reuters, [1/24/08](#)]

Lieberman Named Chairman Of McCain's Connecticut Leadership Team. According to an Associated Press report from the *Hartford Courant*, "Sen. Joe Lieberman has been named a chairman of Republican presidential hopeful John McCain's state leadership team." Lieberman will head the Connecticut campaign with Republican Representative Christopher Shays. [Associated Press via [Hartford Courant, 1/23/08](#)]

Mehlman And Other Top GOP Fundraisers Pledged To Help McCain. "Roughly a dozen top fundraisers attending a closed RNC meeting this week in Naples, Florida privately promised McCain, who delivered a speech to the group, that they would be with him if, and when, he ran. Mehlman, as party chair, can't go that far. But before the Naples session ended, he told McCain he'd help him raise money for his leadership PAC. Mehlman's offer was another sign of warming between the party establishment and its frontrunner. 'Obviously,' said a McCain ally, 'we're gonna take him up on the offer.'" [Time, 2/17/06]

McCain Established New Hampshire Straight Talk PAC With Former Bush 2000 Staffer As Treasurer.

"[P]apers establishing a state affiliate of [McCain's] national Straight Talk America political action committee will be filed in Concord today. This will allow McCain to financially back Republican candidates in the 2006 state elections while he goes through the formality of 'deciding' if he will run for President in 2008." McCain tapped Attorney Susan Duprey as the "the new treasurer of the New Hampshire Straight Talk PAC, Duprey was Bush's state campaign finance co-chair in 2000...The local Straight Talk chair is Executive Councilor Peter Spaulding, who chaired McCain's state campaign six years ago." [Union Leader, 2/16/06]

Hillary/Obama

McCain Pressured Obama To Accept Public Financing. In a series of speeches, McCain pressed Barack Obama to accept public financing for the general election. McCain said, "I think the American people would expect him to hold to that commitment, especially if we want to bring about change." In response to Obama's op-ed, McCain said, "That's Washington doublespeak, I committed to public financing. He committed to public financing. It's not any more complicated than that. I'll keep my word, and I want him to keep his." [Associated Press, [2/20/08](#)]

McCain Accused Obama Of Being Deceptive And Inexperienced. According to Fox News, "Sen. John McCain rebuked Barack Obama as an "inexperienced candidate" who is making empty promises to the American people of a "holiday from history." Appearing in Columbus, Ohio, McCain said, "Will we make the right changes...or will we heed the appeals for change that ignore the lessons of history and lack confidence in the intelligence and ideals of free people? I will fight every moment of every day in this campaign to make sure Americans are not deceived by an eloquent but empty call for change....that promises no more than a holiday from history and return to the false promises and failed policies of a tired philosophy that trusts in government more than the people." [Fox News, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Is Predicted To Slow The Southwest's Democratic Trend. Experts who once expected the immigration battle to deliver southwestern Hispanics into the Democratic column are backtracking now that McCain is the nominee. "It completely screws it up," said Charles Black, a senior McCain adviser. "We nominated the one person who will not suffer that backlash." [Washington Post, [2/20/08](#)]

McCain Said Cutting Earmarks Would Have a "Confidence Impact" To Help Economy. McCain said, "It also has a confidence impact, a confidence impact that the American people see their tax dollars being frittered away in wasteful and unnecessary spending. Which by the way, Senator Obama has engaged in heavily, and Senator Clinton has engaged in heavily." [This Week, [2/17/08](#)]

With Energized Blacks And Disenfranchised Conservatives, McCain Predicted To Have Trouble In The South. *The Wall Street Journal* speculated that if Obama wins the Democratic nomination, McCain would have trouble winning in southern states. “If Mr. Obama wins the nomination, it is far from certain that he could claim even a single Southern state. But even making the race there competitive would be a victory of sorts by forcing Mr. McCain to spend time and money defending states that other Republicans, including President Bush, were able to take for granted.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Adviser Said Obama is Grounded in a “Messianic Complex.” David Salter, McCain’s head speechwriter, said that Barack Obama’s candidacy “is grounded in a ‘messianic complex.’” He added that Obama’s message, “is ‘I am something extraordinary - gaze upon me and everyone will be great. By the mere fact of electing me, we will have transformed the stale politics of the United States.’” [Boston Globe, [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Criticized Obama’s Earmarks. Responding to a report by Taxpayers for Common Sense, McCain said, “And the senator from Illinois, who says that he wants transparency in government, will not reveal the number of earmarks that he received in 2006 and 2005. Is that transparency in government? I don’t think so. I don’t think so!” [FOX News, [2/14/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Attempted To Lure Obama Into Accepting Public Financing. John McCain’s presidential campaign attempted to lure Obama into restating his earlier pledge to accept public financing if the GOP candidate did. A McCain adviser said, “It’s not a game to McCain. Mr. Obama gave his word, and he either places value on that or he’s just fooling voters.” [New York Times, [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Stole Clinton’s Tag Line. According to the *Huffington Post*, “The phrase ‘Ready To Lead On Day One,’ a key line in Clinton’s stump speech since early January, now appears on the front page of JohnMcCain.com .” [Huffington Post, [2/14/08](#)]

Obama Praised McCain’s “Half-Century” of Public Service. Barack Obama has been praising John McCain’s “half-century of service to our country.” McCain’s campaign manager, Rick Davis, said, “I don’t think he can get that [“half-century” line] out enough.” [Huffington Post, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Adviser Vowed To Step Down If Obama Is The Democratic Nominee. Mark McKinnon, McCain’s media adviser, said, “I would simply be uncomfortable being in a campaign that would be inevitably attacking Barack Obama.” He added, “I think it would be uncomfortable for me, and I think it would be bad for the McCain campaign.” [ABC News, [2/13/08](#)]

Networks Refused To Air McCain’s Victory Speech Until After Obama’s. After the Potomac Primary, television networks forced McCain to delay his speech ten minutes in order to air Obama’s speech live. [TIME, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Criticized Obama’s Message of Hope. During his victory speech after primary victories in Virginia, Maryland, and DC, McCain criticized Obama’s message of hope. “To encourage a country with only rhetoric rather than sound and proven ideas that trust in the strength and courage of free people is not a promise of hope,” McCain said. “It is a platitude.” [TIME, [2/13/08](#)]

McCain’s Victory Speech Written to Focus on “Emptiness of Obama’s Inspirational Appeal.” According to TIME, “McCain’s victory speech [after the Potomac Primaries] had been written to focus on what he termed the emptiness of Obama’s inspirational appeal. ‘To encourage a country with only rhetoric rather than sound and proven ideas that trust in the strength and courage of free people is not a promise of hope,’ McCain said. ‘It is a platitude.’ … McCain closed his speech with one of Obama’s most famous lines. ‘I am fired up and ready to go,’ he told the cheering crowd. It was, for McCain, a statement of hope as much as fact.” [TIME, 2/13/08]

- **McCain: “...We Know Where Either Of Their Candidates Will Lead This Country, And We Dare Not Let Them.”** According to TIME, “Democrats hope they can make these nuances, or their absence, the subject of debate in the general election — and they will never miss an opportunity to remind voters of McCain’s now notorious comment that it could take the U.S. 100 years to bring lasting peace to Iraq. In his victory speech Tuesday, McCain said he was eager for the discussion. ‘We do not yet know for certain who will have the honor of being the Democratic Party’s nominee for President,’ he said. ‘But we know where either of their candidates will lead this country, and we dare not let them.’” [TIME, 2/13/08]

McCain: “They Will Promise A New Approach To Governing, But Offer Only The Policies Of A Political Orthodoxy That Insists The Solution To Government’s Failures Is To Simply Make It Bigger.” According to the *Wall Street Journal*, “McCain’s victory speech had some tart rejoinders aimed at Obama’s campaign themes. ‘They will promise a new approach to governing, but offer only the policies of a political orthodoxy that insists the solution to government’s failures is to simply make it bigger,’ McCain said.” [Wall Street Journal, Washington Wire, 2/12/08]

McCain: “I Have Seen Men’s Hopes Tested In Hard And Cruel Ways That Few Will Ever Experience.” According to the *Wall Street Journal*, “Then he took a long verbal tour of Obama’s signature theme. ‘Hope, my friends, is a powerful thing,’ McCain said, ‘I have seen men’s hopes tested in hard and cruel ways that few will ever experience.’ He went on: ‘To encourage a country with only rhetoric rather than sound and proven ideas that trust in the strength and courage of free people is not a promise of hope. It is a platitude.’” [Wall Street Journal, Washington Wire, 2/12/08]

McCain Said Democrats Had a “Lack of Experience and Judgment About National Security Issues.” While campaigning in Boston, McCain criticized Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama on their views on Iraq. McCain said that their criticism “shows a fundamental lack of experience and judgment about national security issues.” The then added, “They don’t understand warfare.” [New York Times, 2/5/08]

McCain Criticized Hillary Clinton for Earmarks. While in Connecticut, McCain criticized Clinton for her use of earmarks during her time in the senate. He said, “In her short time in the United States Senate, the senator from New York, Senator Clinton, has gotten \$500 million worth of pork-barrel projects.” [New York Times, 2/4/08]

McCain Accused Clinton and Obama of “Wanting to Surrender.” In a recent campaign stop in Atlanta, McCain said “Senator Obama and Senator Clinton want to surrender.” [Newsday, 2/3/08]

Johann Hari: McCain Is The Candidate We Should Most Fear, Most Likely To Dispense With Hillary Or Barack. Johann Hari, of the UK’s Independent, wrote an op-ed entitled “Don’t Be Fooled By the Myth Of John McCain.” Hari pointed out that “a lazy, hazy myth” has arisen about John McCain, that he is “the Republican liberals can live with.” Hari warned, “But the truth is that McCain is the candidate we should most fear. Not only is he to the right of Bush on a whole range of subjects, he is also the Republican candidate most likely to dispense with Hillary or Barack.” [Op-Ed, The Independent via Commondreams.org, 1/24/08]

Rush Limbaugh Likened McCain To Hillary Clinton. According to *Time*, Rush Limbaugh commented on McCain and Mike Huckabee on his radio show. He said, “If either of these two guys gets the nomination, it’s going to destroy the Republican Party.” Several days after making that remark, Limbaugh said, “If you Republicans don’t mind McCain’s positions, then what is it about Hillary’s positions you dislike? They’re the same!” [Time, 1/23/08]

McCain’s Leads In N.H. And S.C. Prompted Dem Candidates To Predict General Election About National Security. According to the Carpetbagger blog, at the Democratic debate in South Carolina, nominees Clinton, Obama, and Edwards began to address the possibility of John McCain as the Republican Presidential nominee. Edwards posited that McCain was “increasingly likely” to be the G.O.P. nominee, while Clinton asserted, “If John is right and Senator McCain is the Republican nominee, we know that once again we will have a general election about national security. That is what will happen.” [Carpetbagger, 1/22/08]

McCain's Campaign Aired T.V. Ad In S.C. Featuring His Humorous Criticism Of Clinton's Support For Woodstock Museum During A G.O.P. Debate. According to the *Boston Globe*, McCain aired a television ad in South Carolina that included footage of him at a Republican debate "...firing off one of the best one-liners of [his] campaign..." wherein he criticized Hillary Clinton's financial support in the Senate for a Woodstock museum. In the ad, McCain was featured stating, "A few days ago, Senator Clinton tried to spend one million dollars on the Woodstock concert museum...Now my friends, I wasn't there. I'm sure it was a cultural and pharmaceutical event." While footage of the Woodstock festival was shown in the ad, McCain continued "I was, I was tied up at the time," that statement said while footage was shown of a bedridden McCain recovering from injuries at the "Hanoi Hilton." "No one can be President of the United States that supports projects such as these," he also said, as the ad showed his rivals applauding him, and the audience rising to its feet. [*Boston Globe*, [1/16/08](#)]

David Brooks: McCain And Obama Both Attract Independents, Are Very Different Men. Columnist David Brooks, of the New York Times, recently wrote that "Both Barack Obama and John McCain attract independents. Both have a candor that appeals to voters and media-types alike. Both ask their audiences to serve a cause greater than self-interest. Both offer a politics that is grand and inspiring. But they are very different men." Brooks pointed out that Obama "...emphasizes the connections between people..." while McCain is "...moved by examples of heroism and individual excellence" and "...resists conformity..." [*Column, New York Times*, [1/8/08](#)]

McCain Said He Could Beat Obama And That He Made Significant "Change" In Iraq. According to *Washington Post*, "McCain asserted that he could win a generational-focused November election campaign against Senator Barack Obama on the strength of his record combating special interests and his support for President Bush's troop surge strategy in Iraq." McCain said, "I've made the most significant change that you could make -- or certainly played a key role in it -- and that is the new strategy in Iraq...We went from failure with the old strategy and we have the new strategy and we're saving American lives. I can't think of better change, frankly, or more important than saving American lives." [*Washington Post*, [1/7/08](#)]

Richard Baehr: "Only McCain Can Beat Obama." Richard Beahr, columnist for *Real Clear Politics*, suggested that McCain is the only GOP presidential candidate who can beat Obama. Beahr said, "Conservatives may decry his support of campaign finance reform (a mistake to be sure -- it simply moved the money around to new vehicles, but with less disclosure of contributors), his opposition to the size of the Bush tax cuts, his support for the Bush immigration plan, his embrace of global warming fears. But this is the reality ten months before the November election: if the Republicans nominate anyone other than John McCain, they are doomed to defeat against Barack Obama, maybe even a decisive defeat. McCain on the other hand, has a real shot at winning against Obama." [*Column, Real Clear Politics*, [1/7/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Not Convinced Ind. Would Break for Him, But His Advisor Said He Was Confident They Would Against Obama. According to *Bloomberg*, McCain said he was not convinced that a "critical mass of independents" would break for him. He said, "They make their minds up very late, both in which party they are going to vote and who they support." However, a McCain adviser, Mick Dennehy said, "People have to come to their own conclusions based on experience...That's why I feel confident about independents coming our way instead of Obama's." [*Bloomberg*, [1/7/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Mirror Obama And Cast Himself As An "Agent Of Change." According to Don Frederick of the *LA Times*, in the lead up to the New Hampshire primaries, John McCain "...stressed...that he would steal a page from [Obama] and cast himself as the real 'agent of change.'" Frederick pointed out that the change message was an aim to fight for New Hampshire's independent vote. According to Frederick, one of McCain's "key points" of change would be his steadfast support for increasing troops in Iraq. [*LA Times*, [1/4/08](#)]

McCain's Ultimate Flip-Flop: George W. Bush

While running for president, McCain was branded the “maverick,” straight talking candidate. This tactic differentiated him from the conservative and “party faithful” George W. Bush. McCain criticized Bush and his “sleazy Texas buddies.” Years later, McCain welcomed those “sleazy Texas buddies” efforts to host a fundraiser to help him raise money for his 2008 presidential election bid. Although McCain once called Bush the “unwitting pawn” of special interests and of wanting “to be president in the worst way,” McCain later said “President Bush deserves not only our support, but our admiration.” While McCain has shifted his positions, tarnished his “independent” title to pander to the conservative right, what becomes clear is that McCain’s ultimate flip-flop is his change of heart on George W. Bush.

McCain Received Bush Family Stamp of Approval

McCain Chose To Abandon Principles And Prop Up A Failed President. In regards to McCain’s flip-flop on torture, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote that, “John McCain last week had a choice between his principles and propping up a failed president. He chose the latter.” [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/19/08](#)]

McCain Accused Of Changing Views To Consolidate Support Among Conservatives. McCain has used recent senate votes on warrantless wiretapping and waterboarding to appeal to the base of the Republican Party. According to the *Boston Globe*, “David Golove, a New York University law professor who studies executive power, said McCain seems to be changing his views in order to “consolidate support among the most conservative parts of the Republican Party, who generally have been sympathetic to the kinds of activities undertaken by President Bush that had made Senator McCain extremely uncomfortable.” [[Boston Globe, 2/16/08](#)]

McCain Received Bush Family’s “Stamp of Approval.” According to the *Associated Press*, “Former President George H.W. Bush’s endorsement Monday will effectively give the future presidential nominee the stamp of approval of the Bush family — both blessing and baggage.” [[Associated Press, 2/16/08](#)]

McCain Compared His Campaign To Bush’s. McCain told reporters that it also took time for Bush to “solidify support” within the GOP in 2000. While talking about unity within the Republican Party, “McCain added that it took time for his supporters in 2000 to “solidly support President Bush’s candidacy, but they certainly did, and I urged them to do so.” [[Baltimore Sun, 2/12/08](#)]

- **McCain Showed That He Is About As Articulate As George Bush.** Regarding McCain’s speech after his sweep A *National Post* article wrote, “By contrast, John McCain showed once again that he is about as articulate as is George Bush. His speech was halting. On Tuesday night, he also won three primaries but choose to use his prime-time television exposure by reading a prepared speech in front of loyal followers. Interestingly, his “backdrop” was telling. Behind him on the podium were five white people: two women; two businessmen and one elderly ex-senator.” [[National Post, 2/14/08](#)]

Bush Pledged To Help McCain’s Campaign. During an interview at Camp David, Bush said, “I think that if John’s the nominee, he has got some convincing to do to convince people that he is a solid conservative. And I’ll be glad to help him if he is the nominee, because he is a conservative.” [[Los Angeles Times, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain’s Campaign Said Bush Was a “Political Asset.” McCain advisor Charlie Black called President Bush “a political asset.” An additional advisor claimed that Mr. Bush needed to “put his arms around John McCain,” by figuratively linking himself with the senator in public comments.” [[New York Times, 2/10/08](#)]

Bush Offered Implicit Endorsement of McCain. President Bush gave a speech implying his steadfast support for John McCain, the likely Republican nominee. According to the *Washington Post*, “In a speech to the Conservative

Political Action Conference in Washington, Bush offered an implicit endorsement of McCain's bona fides as a true conservative in the face of deep skepticism on the right." [Washington Post, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Is a "Bush Foot Soldier."" After Bush implied his support for McCain, the *Washington Post* wrote, "whether [McCain] likes it or not, he is now also a foot soldier following Bush, and the two will have to figure out how to fight the next battle together." [Washington Post, [2/8/08](#)]

Karl Rove Donated \$2,300 to McCain. Karl Rove donated \$2,300 to McCain's presidential campaign. [TIME, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Said He Will Skip Bush's Last State of The Union Address To Campaign In Florida. According to the Associated Press, McCain has said he will stay not attend President Bush's last the State of the Union address. McCain will instead, stay in Florida to campaign. [Associated Press, [1/27/08](#)]

2000 Bitter Primary Fight; Accused Bush Of "Savagery"

McCain Called Rev. Jerry Falwell an Agent of Intolerance, But Then Supported Him. "In 2000, the campaign of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was dealt a near-fatal blow in the state after he described the Revs. Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell as 'agents of intolerance.'" But then in 2006, "Senator John McCain earned widespread ridicule for publicly embracing Jerry Falwell, whom he had once described as 'evil.'" [Washington Post, 10/28/07; New York Times, 11/4/07]

- **McCain Called Falwell "Evil Influence" on Republican Party.** McCain's 2000 presidential bid tanked in Virginia and South Carolina when he called religious broadcasters Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson "agents of intolerance" who exerted an "evil influence" on the Republican Party. [Kansas City Star, 5/28/05]

2000 Primary Marred By "Tremendous Filth." In 2000, Sen. Fritz Hollings "said the costly, high-stakes race between McCain and Texas Gov. George W. Bush was marred by 'tremendous filth.'" [Post and Courier, 3/30/00]

McCain Supporters Accused Bush Of Showing Little Respect For McCain And His Political Reform Agenda. In 2000, "John McCain's supporters are accusing George W. Bush of showing little respect for the senator and his political reform agenda, saying 'macho talk' has killed hopes for an early endorsement that could be vital to Bush's prospects in November. The Texan and his advisers scrambled Thursday to explain the remarks he made in an interview with The New York Times, fearing the fallout could further alienate McCain and his independent-minded supporters. Reminded that the Arizona senator helped produce record turnouts in the Republican presidential primaries, Bush told the newspaper, 'Well, then, how come he didn't win?' Asked whether McCain had raised his consciousness about reform, the Texas governor replied, 'No, he didn't change my views.' He said he had no intentions of making concessions to McCain on campaign finance reform." [Post and Courier, 3/17/00]

Bush Campaign Demonized McCain Among Republicans And Specifically Social Conservatives. According to the Associated Press, "If South Carolina saved Bush, it was the beginning of the end for McCain, who left the state bullet-ridden and angry. Bush's campaign, 'through special interests, through attack ads, through phone calls, through rumor and e-mail - they were able to demonize John McCain among Republicans and specifically social conservatives,' said Trey Walker, McCain's national field director and former South Carolina Republican Party executive director. The sheer volume of attacks forced McCain off his message as an outsider and a reformer, and he never really was able to return to it, Walker said. McCain's angry concession speech the night he lost South Carolina also was fatal, [University of Virginia political scientist Larry] Sabato said. It made the Christian right a permanent enemy and he was painted as a poor sportsman. 'You add the two together and he looked very unpresidential in a very fundamental way,' Sabato said." [AP, 3/14/00]

McCain Predicted Backlash Against Bush And "His Sleazy Texas Buddies." According to *Post and Courier*, "McCain said he sensed a backlash developing against campaign commercials aired by Bush and 'his sleazy Texas

buddies' in New York and elsewhere. ... 'We're starting to see a backlash' against television commercials, he said. 'We ask Governor Bush to do what he refused to do all day yesterday on nationwide television and tell his sleazy Texas buddies to stop these negative attacks.' McCain was referring to commercials attacking his environmental record, paid for by two Texas brothers, Sam and Charles Wyly, who are supporters of the governor. In addition, McCain was angered by a Bush campaign commercial, running in New York, that attacked him as an opponent of increased breast cancer research." [Post and Courier, 3/07/00]

McCain: There's No Shame Associated With The [Bush] Campaign. According to *Post and Courier*, "In New York, ... a controversial ad that accused McCain of being opposed to breast cancer research. 'They know no depths,' McCain said of the latest Bush ad. 'There's no shame associated with the (Bush) campaign.'" [Post and Courier, 3/05/00]

McCain: "My Opponent [Bush] Wants To Be President In The Worst Way." According to *Post and Courier*, "Sounding tired but defiant, McCain told backers in Bakersfield, Calif., that Bush was guilty of deploying negative tactics. 'My opponent wants to be president in the worst way. I want to be president in the best way.' With the pink evening sun dipping beneath an American flag serving as his backdrop, McCain said, 'We're still the underdog. Don't forget it. But we're going to win Tuesday.'" [Post and Courier, 3/01/00]

McCain Attack Christian Right For Negative Political Tactics Used On Behalf Of Bush. According to the *Post and Courier*, "Taking his presidential campaign to a stronghold of Christian conservatism, Sen. John McCain of Arizona delivered a harsh attack Monday on the 'self-appointed leaders' of the religious right, depicting them as egotistical and intolerant empire builders who 'have turned good causes into businesses' while attempting to exclude all but 'card-carrying Republicans' from the party. McCain singled out for criticism two of the Christian right's best-known leaders, Pat Robertson, the founder of the Christian Coalition, and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority. He compared Robertson to 'union bosses who have subordinated the interests of working families to their own ambitions,' and he accused both men of attempting to distort his anti-abortion position and 'smear the reputations of my supporters.' 'Political intolerance by any political party is neither a Judeo-Christian nor an American value,' McCain said during a somber address to some 4,000 people who packed a high school gym only 30 miles from the headquarters of the Christian Coalition. 'The politics of division and slander are not our values. They are corrupting influences on religion and politics and those who practice them in the name of religion or in the name of the Republican Party or in the name of America shame our faith, our party and our country.' 'Neither party,' he added, 'should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell on the right.' During his address, and again in interviews with reporters, McCain repeatedly framed his speech not as an attack on the Christian right, but as an appeal to religious conservatives to join him in condemning political tactics pursued by Robertson and Falwell on behalf of his main rival, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas." [Post and Courier, 2/29/00]

McCain: "If Governor Bush Is A Reformer I'm An Astronaut." According to the Associated Press, "'Governor Bush is the governor of a state that has the most liberal campaign contribution laws,' McCain told a rally in suburban Livonia, Mich. 'If Governor Bush is a reformer I'm an astronaut.' ... McCain, also in Michigan, accused Bush of attacking with ads that are 'patently false.' But, he told NBC's 'Today' show, 'I think the people of Michigan, over time, will see through this kind of thing.' ... Appearing on NBC's 'Meet the Press,' the senator said Bush's record on spending compared unfavorably with President Clinton's. 'Spending in Texas has almost doubled, while spending under Clinton has been increased by 20 percent,' he said. ... At the Livonia rally, McCain said Bush had supported last year's omnibus spending bill in Congress, a measure the senator said contained the 'most outrageous pork-barreling spending.'" [AP, 2/21/00]

McCain Blistered Bush For His Negative Attacks And Attempts To Portray Him As A Liberal. According to *The State*, "Upbeat and feisty, McCain blistered Bush for his negative attacks and attempts to portray him as a liberal. 'I will not take the low road to the highest office in this land,' McCain said. 'I want the presidency in the best way, not the worst way. I will not dishonor the nation I love or myself by letting ambition overcome principle.'" [The State, 2/20/00]

McCain: “They’ve Unleashed The Dogs Of War.” According to the Associated Press, “On the stump, McCain was hammering Bush for running a relentlessly negative campaign. ‘There is a certain amount of desperation coming out of the Bush campaign,’ McCain said. ‘They’ve unleashed the dogs of war.’ There was graphic evidence of the air war at work. McCain was using his cellular phone to call radio talk shows and raised his eyebrows during one commercial break. ‘I’ve just heard two attack ads during the break,’ said McCain.” [AP, 2/18/00]

McCain Said Bush Owed Voters An Apology For “Running Such A Low Campaign.” According to Associated Press, “McCain continued to portray Bush as a negative campaigner, though the senator ran attack ads himself until last week and never has stopped upbraiding Bush on the stump. At a noisy college rally, McCain said Bush owes ‘an apology to the people of South Carolina for running such a low campaign.’” [AP, 2/18/00]

McCain To Bush: “You Should Be Ashamed.” According to the Associated Press, “McCain offered a stern lecture of his own and demanded that Bush apologize for an event at which McCain’s commitment to veterans was questioned by a Bush backer. ‘You should be ashamed,’ McCain said. … One of the debate’s harsher moments came when McCain, a former prisoner of war, lectured Bush about a supporter who questioned McCain’s commitment to veterans’ issues. ‘I don’t know if you can understand this George, but that really hurts,’ said McCain, a former Navy pilot. ‘That really hurts.’” [AP, 2/16/00]

McCain Said Bush “Really Went Over The Line”; Defended His Tax Plan As “The Grown-Up Mentality.” According to the Associated Press, “McCain said Bush ‘really went over the line’ by letting an ally accuse him of abandoning veterans. ‘You’re putting out stuff that’s unbelievable, George, and it’s got to stop,’ he said. ‘This is probably the nastiest campaign that people have seen in a long time,’ McCain said. ‘But look, I’m enjoying it, this is a great and exhilarating experience.’ … As in McCain’s double-edged retort after Bush called his tax plan a reflection of the Washington mentality. ‘It’s the grown-up mentality,’ McCain said, the mentality that recognizes obligations like the national debt have to be paid.” [AP, 2/16/00]

McCain Accused Bush Of “Savagery.” According to the Associated Press, “John McCain defended inconsistencies in his voting record on public campaign financing as honorable compromises Monday and accused George W. Bush of ‘savagery’ in his criticism. … McCain, who has been trying to brand Bush as a negative campaigner, said of his opponent’s criticism: ‘This kind of savagery is not necessary in an American political campaign.’” [AP, 2/14/00]

McCain Accused Bush Of Being Untrustworthy. According to the Associated Press, “McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner of war, said he was offended by a Bush ally who questioned his commitment to veterans - a comment McCain said was ‘beyond the pale’ - as well as by aggressive new Bush ads. He noted that he and Bush had shaken hands just weeks ago and agreed not to air negative ads against each other. ‘I believe it is not trustworthy when someone shakes your hand and says they’re not going to run a negative ad, and then runs a negative ad,’ he said aboard his bus. ‘We’ve already got somebody in the Oval Office who is not trustworthy,’ he said. He went even further in a new TV ad that says one of Bush’s ads ‘twists the truth like Clinton.’” [AP, 2/09/00]

McCain Said Bush “Unwitting Pawn” Of Special Interests. According to Associated Press, “Fighting to be known as the race’s true reformer, John McCain called presidential rival George W. Bush an ‘unwitting pawn’ of special interests … Aboard his ‘Straight Talk Express’ campaign bus, McCain urged Bush to denounce efforts by Republican leaders and his own fund-raisers to organize ‘soft money’ drives in preparation for the general election. ‘I see him as an unwitting pawn,’ McCain told reporters. ‘If he won’t support reform of the system then he becomes part of the problem.’ Later, McCain tried to back off the remark, saying he just hopes Bush realizes that the system being set up is ‘a very bad thing. If you get too much money into any campaign it will cause scandal.’ ‘I don’t want to say Governor Bush is - quote - an unwitting pawn. All I want to say is I really wish Governor Bush would realize this is a bad situation for American and he would stop it,’ McCain said.” [AP, 2/09/00]

McCain Was “Anti-Candidate” In 1999, “Maverick” But Still Respectful Of G.O.P. According to a *Christian Science Monitor* article from 1999, during his 1999 presidential campaign, John McCain was considered an “Anti-

Candidate”, a Republican who typically voted conservative, who favored campaign-finance reform to outlaw soft money, opposed big tobacco and supported the bombing of Yugoslavia. According to the *Monitor*, during his 1999 campaign for President, McCain was a favorite of national media, of Democrats, and enjoyed favor at a 1999 Reform Party convention. At the time, McCain asserted he would remain a Republican, and “...pledged to follow the 11th commandment of the GOP: Thou shalt not speak ill of another Republican.” [Christian Science Monitor, 8/10/99]

McCain Supported Bush After Losing In 2000 G.O.P. Primary. After he lost the 2000 Republican primary, and despite negative campaign tactics against McCain by the Bush campaign, McCain decided to support Bush in the 2000 presidential election. According to the *New Yorker*, some time after dropping out of the 2000 presidential primary, McCain met with Bush, alone, in a Pittsburgh hotel room for ninety minutes, and they “...emerged with a show of considerable civility.” [New Yorker, 5/30/05]

- **McCain’s Support And Civil Relationship With Bush Was “Mainly Show” In 2000.** According to the *New Yorker*, McCain’s reconciliation with George W. Bush and public support for his presidential campaign in 2000, was “mainly show.” [New Yorker, 5/30/05]
- **McCain Didn’t Want To Be Alone With The Bushes In AZ.** Close friends and Arizona neighbors of the McCains, Sharon and Oliver Harper, told the *New Yorker* that once, while they were vacationing on Arizona’s Lake Powell, “...they received an urgent call.” Apparently, George and Laura Bush were about to visit the McCains in Arizona to improve their relations. McCain and his wife asked the Harpers if they could come back from vacation because they didn’t “...want to be left alone with [the Bushes]...and said it would be “really difficult” to be alone with them. The Harpers did go back early and the *New Yorker* reported that the Harpers displayed, in their home, “...a photograph of the three couples smiling gamely at the camera.” [New Yorker, 5/30/05]

McCain’s Staff Was Not Wanted By Bush Campaign After McCain’s Loss In 2000. According to the *New Yorker*, “After the 2000 campaign...the Bush Administration punished those who had worked for McCain.” McCain’s former campaign manger, Rick Davis, said, “Rove put it out strongly that they [the Bush Campaign] didn’t want McCain people doing any campaign work...People couldn’t make a living. I don’t know any McCain operative who could get a job in the party structure.” (Although, the *New Yorker* reported that Karl Rove said this was “absolutely not true.”) [New Yorker, 5/30/05]

McCain Fell In Line Behind Bush In 2000

McCain Quick To Make Appointment With Bush After 2000 Election. “McCain, who has an appointment to meet on Wednesday at the White House with President Bush, insisted he did not want to slow down the new president’s legislative agenda. But the senator and one-time presidential candidate said that Congress needed to act before the next wave of \$100,000 to \$500,000-per-ticket fund-raisers.” [Cox News Services, 1/21/01]

McCain And Bush Scheduled To Campaign Across California. “Bush is scheduled to arrive in California Monday afternoon for a rally in Burbank, followed by an appearance on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” Bush, accompanied by his vanquished primary foe Sen. John McCain of Arizona, is scheduled to fly to a Fresno rally Monday night, then travel Tuesday morning to San Jose for a campaign event. He has not scheduled any fund-raisers.” [Chattanooga Times Free Press, 10/28/00]

Senator McCain Campaigned For Bush; Said Bush Was “Fully Prepared.” The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported, “Arizona Sen. John McCain campaigned side by side with George W. Bush yesterday in Maine, saying the man who bested him for the GOP nomination was “fully prepared” to serve as commander in chief.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/21/00]

Bush Scheduled to Join McCain On Visits. In 2000, Bush was scheduled to join Arizona Sen. John McCain on visits to Manchester, N.H., and Bangor, Maine, before flying home to Austin for the weekend. [[San Francisco Chronicle](#), 10/20/00]

McCain Said Bush Had “A Very In-Depth Knowledge Of The Issues.” The *Star Tribune* reported Senator McCain said, “I believe that he can, and has, come across as a person who is a very agreeable, a very pleasant, a very likable individual, who at the same time has a very in-depth knowledge of the issues.” [[Star Tribune](#), 10/3/00]

McCain Scheduled To “Rally The Troops” Around Bush. The Augusta Chronicle reported, “McCain plans to attend a Republican election-season kickoff next week in Columbia County. The fund-raiser Sept. 22 begins at 6:30 p.m. at Savannah Rapids Pavilion.” County GOP Chairman Alvin Starks “said the event is to rally the troops around Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush and to encourage voter participation.” [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 9/14/00]

McCain Said, “Vote For Bush.” According to the *Houston Chronicle*, “John McCain says, ‘Vote for Bush.’” [[Houston Chronicle](#), 9/3/00]

Bush Planned To Visit McCain’s Arizona Ranch. In 2000, Bush planned to visit McCain’s Arizona ranch, “part of an ongoing reconciliation that has at times seemed more symbolic than genuine. But as the two men stood together yesterday, they seemed somewhat more at ease. Although Bush dominated the discussion, McCain was clearly eager to back the Texas governor up whenever he could.” [[Boston Globe](#), 8/12/00]

Bush/McCain Attended Private Fundraiser. In 2000, Bush’s “Change the Tone” tour of California and the Northwest included his second campaign outing with Sen. John McCain. Bush and McCain ended the day in Washington state, where they were to attend a private fundraiser. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/12/00]

Attended Fundraisers With Bush In 2000. In 2000, McCain agreed to attend fund-raisers with Bush in Sacramento and Medina. They were expected to raise more than \$500,000, none of it the soft money that McCain objects to but Bush doesn’t. [[Seattle Times](#), 8/12/00]

- **McCain Attended Fundraiser At Home Of Alex Spanos.** McCain attended a fundraiser with Bush. One fundraiser was held behind closed doors at the Stockton, Calif., home of Alex Spanos, owner of the San Diego Chargers and one of Bush’s biggest contributors. Spanos also was one of the elite Republican Regents, 137 individuals and corporations who have provided at least \$250,000 for the Republican National Committee. [[Chicago Tribune](#), 8/11/00]
- **McCain Attended Bush Private Fundraiser In Medina.** According to the *Seattle Times*, “With Arizona Sen. John McCain in tow, Bush plans to attend a \$1,000-per-person, private fund-raiser at the Medina home of Linda Nordstrom and Christian Seifert. A private reception with W. beforehand will cost \$10,000 per couple.” [[Seattle Times](#), 8/11/00]

McCain Said Bush Would “Restore Dignity and Honor To The Oval Office.” The *New York Post* reported, “Campaigning in California, McCain looked comfortable with Bush - in contrast to the pained look he showed when he formally endorsed Bush in May - and said he’s ‘proud to be part of this crusade’ and praised Bush as ‘a man who will restore dignity and honor to the Oval Office.’” [[New York Post](#), 8/11/00]

Bush: “We’re a Better Country Because of John McCain.” At a rally in 2000, Bush said, “I’m a better candidate because of John McCain, we’re a better party because of John McCain, and we’re a better country because of John McCain.” [[St. Louis Dispatch](#), 8/11/00]

McCain On Bush: “I Support Him. I Am Grateful To Him. And I Am Proud Of Him.” At the Republican National Convention, McCain said, “I support him. I am grateful to him. And I am proud of him. He is a good man from a good family that has, in good times and bad, dedicated themselves to America.” [[CNN](#), 8/1/00]

McCain Endorsed Bush After Losing GOP Nomination. The *Dallas Morning News* reported, “Although he endorsed Mr. Bush on May 9 after losing the GOP nomination fight, he promised to continue his efforts to do away with unlimited party contributions. “He has stated all along that he will do everything he can for the Republican Party and for Governor Bush, but he will not help to raise soft money,” said McCain spokesman Todd Harris.” [Dallas Morning News, 6/1/00]

McCain Supported Bush Re-Election In 2004

Aides Said Relationship Thawed When McCain Campaigned With Bush In 2004. According to the *New York Times*, “Aides said a thaw that began when Mr. McCain campaigned alongside Mr. Bush in the 2004 election has continued through the tougher days of Mr. Bush’s second term. The appearances began after top aides for the two men met to hash out some of their differences. During private moments in joint appearances—at the White House, at campaign-like events pressing for immigration reform and on Air Force One—the two even chat about baseball and golf.” [New York Times, 7/03/06]

McCain Praised Bush and Cheney and Called for Their Re-Election in 2004. At the 2004 Republican National Convention, McCain said, “I commend to my country the re-election of President Bush” and “the steady, experienced, public-spirited man who serves as our vice president, Dick Cheney.” [New York Times, 9/28/07]

McCain Warned of Weapons of Mass Destruction While Actively Promoting Bush’s Re-Election. According to the *New York Times*, “...[McCain] helped George Bush get re-elected. Introducing the president to a crowd of soldiers in Fort Lewis, Wash., in 2004, McCain reminded the audience that we were in a fight between good and evil. He warned them that if the terrorists got hold of weapons of mass destruction we would all be toast. As far as how things were going, he said: “Like all wars, this one has had its ups and downs.” [New York Times, 9/20/07]

McCain Traveled With Bush On Air Force One During Campaign Stops. In 2004, McCain traveled with Bush on Air Force One during campaign stops. [Remarks of the President to the Travel Pool, 10/14/04]

Bush’s Touted McCain’s Support in 2004. During his 2004 campaign, Bush said, “The debate phase of the campaign is over and now it’s a sprint to the finish. And the good news is I’m not going to be sprinting alone, I’ll have a lot of support from people like Senator McCain and Governor Lingle.” [White House Transcript, 10/14/04]

Bush Said, “McCain Is For Me For President.” Following a debate against his opponent, Senator Kerry, Bush said, “My opponent keeps mentioning John McCain, and I’m glad he did. John McCain is for me for President because he understands I have the right view in winning the war on terror, and that my plan will succeed in Iraq, and my opponent has got a plan of retreat and defeat in Iraq.” [White House Transcript, 10/14/04]

Senator McCain Said Bush Deserved Country’s Support And Admiration. During the 2004 Republican National Convention, Senator McCain said, “President Bush deserves not only our support, but our admiration.” [CNN, 8/31/04]

Bush Spoke With McCain At Fort Lewis. In June 2004, in the heat of his re-election campaign, Bush spoke at Fort Lewis with Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona. [Seattle Times, 8/11/07]

McCain Scheduled To Campaign For Bush In Washington And Nevada. In 2004, Sen. John McCain was “scheduled to campaign today with President Bush in Washington state and Nevada appearances likely to finally squelch speculation that he might run as the vice-presidential candidate on a Democratic ticket headed by Sen. John Kerry. McCain, an Arizona Republican, is to appear with Bush at Fort Lewis, then fly with him aboard Air Force One to Reno, Nev., for a campaign rally” [Seattle Times, 6/18/04]

McCain: Bush “Led This Country With Moral Leadership And Clarity.” The *Kansas City Star* reported Senator McCain said, “No. 1, I want President Bush re-elected. I believe that he’s led this country with moral leadership and clarity since September 11.” [Kansas City Star, 4/11/04]

McCain Co-Chaired Bush's Re-Election In Arizona. The *Baltimore Sun* reported that Senator McCain, "is co-chairing Bush's re-election campaign in Arizona[.]" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 3/19/04]

McCain "Applauded" Bush's Leadership. In presenting the views of the Arizona delegation on immigration, the *Arizona Republic* reported Senator McCain said, "I applaud President Bush for his leadership on this critical issue and urge Congress to take action now on immigration reform." [[Arizona Republic](#), 1/9/04]

McCain Introduced Bush At Bush-Cheney 2004 Reception In Arizona. The President remarked, "Thank you for coming. I'm honored that so many people showed up tonight. Jon said, if you come to Arizona, we may be able to get a couple of folks to come. This is a fantastic event. You know what we're doing? We're laying the foundation for what is going to be a great national victory in 2004." [Remarks of the President, 10/25/03]

McCain And Bush Continued To Appear At Events Together

Bush Celebrated McCain's Birthday In Arizona. According to the White House, President George W. Bush joined "Arizona Senator John McCain in a small celebration of McCain's 69th birthday Monday, Aug. 29, 2005, after the President's arrival at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix. The President later spoke about Medicare to 400 guests at the Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort and Country Club in nearby El Mirage. White House photo by Paul Morse" [White House Archives, 8/29/05]

Bush Thanked McCain For Efforts On Immigration. During a meeting at the White House with Members of the Senate to discuss immigration, the President said, "I particularly want to thank Senator Kennedy and Senator McCain for taking the lead on this important bill on the floor of the United States Senate." [Remarks of the President, 8/25/06]

McCain Appeared With Bush At Manhattan Institute To Discuss Line Item Veto. Speaking at the Manhattan Institute, the President said, "I'm proud to be here with John McCain -- speaking about debates -- we had a few. But one thing we agree upon is that this country needs to have a line-item veto. And I'm proud the Senator is here and I appreciate you coming. I might add, one of the many things we agree upon." [Remarks of the President, 6/27/06]

McCain Met With Bush At White House To Discuss Interrogation. During a meeting with Senators McCain and Warner to discuss interrogation, the President remarked, "Senator McCain has been a leader to make sure that the United States of America upholds the values of America as we fight and win this war on terror. And we've been happy to work with him to achieve a common objective, and that is to make it clear to the world that this government does not torture and that we adhere to the international convention of torture, whether it be here at home or abroad. And so we have worked very closely with the Senator and others to achieve that objective, as well as to provide protections for those who are on the front line of fighting the terrorists." [Remarks of the President, 12/15/05]

McCain Joined Bush To Discuss Border Security And Immigration Reform In Arizona. At the event at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, the President said, "I appreciate Senator John McCain joining us today." [Remarks of the President, 11/28/05]

McCain Introduced Bush To International Republican Institute. Before the International Republican Institute, the President said, "Thank you for that warm welcome. I thank John for that introduction. John McCain is a man of honor and integrity, and great personal courage -- he's an outstanding chairman for the International Republican Institute. He campaigned with me, for which I was grateful, and one time he said, do you believe in free speech? I said, I do. He said, why don't you get over to the IRI and give one, then?" [Remarks of the President, 5/18/05]

McCain Attended Bush "Social Security Conversation" In Arizona. The President remarked, "I'm here today to talk with some distinguished citizens from your state about Social Security. Before I do so, I'd say I've got some

other things I want to talk about. First, I want to talk about how much I enjoy working with Senator John McCain. I appreciate the job he's doing for the people of Arizona." [Remarks of the President, 3/21/05]

McCain Attended Bush "Social Security Conversation" In Colorado. The President remarked, "Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for greeting me and Senator McCain. He's up here to claim some water, he said." [Remarks of the President, 3/21/05]

McCain Traveled With Bush To Promote Healthy Forests In Arizona. In Summerhaven, Arizona, the President remarked, "Senator McCain and I drove up the hill and he was saying, you know, this part of Arizona is a lot prettier than anywhere in Texas. I didn't believe it at first. But it is beautiful. And all of us are sorry that fire has devastated life in the countryside here." [Remarks of the President, 8/11/03]

McCain And Bush Cozied Up To Each Other For 2008

John McCain And George Bush Have Cozied Up To Each Other For 2008. According to the *New York Times*, "After years of competitive and often contentious dealings, President Bush and Senator John McCain of Arizona are building a deepening if impersonal relationship that is serving the political needs of both men. Given their history of intense rivalry and sometimes personally bitter combat, their newfound partnership is seen by some Republicans as born more of political calculation than personal evolution. Either way, it could prove valuable to Mr. McCain in his efforts to win the Republican presidential nomination in 2008 by sending a signal to Mr. Bush's conservative base and fund-raising network that, at a minimum, the White House will not stand in the Arizonan's way." [[New York Times, 7/03/06](#)]

- **McCain Said He Was Proud of Bush.** According to *The New York Times*, McCain told President Bush, "Look, hang on, things are bad. I'm proud of the job you are doing and I wanted you to know that I will continue to do what I can to help." [[New York Times, 7/3/06](#)]
- **Bush Nicknamed McCain "Johnny Mac."** When speaking about President Bush, McCain stated, "He calls me Johnny Mac." [[New York Times, 7/3/06](#)]
- **McCain Said He And Bush Share Agenda.** The *New York Times* reported, "Even as he called Mr. Bush a friend, Mr. McCain described their relationship as a function of their positions and their shared views on such big issues as Iraq and immigration. "I believe if I were not in the Senate and not working on these issues, we might communicate once in a while, but not the way we do," he said. "We have a very good personal relationship, but it's primarily based on the agenda." [[New York Times, 7/3/06](#)]
- **McCain Defended Bush's Most Popular Moves.** The *New York Times* suggested, "Mr. McCain has become one of the biggest defenders of Mr. Bush, even on some of the president's most unpopular moves, including the administration's decision this year to approve a deal giving control of several American ports to a company owned by the Dubai government. "On a series of very tough issues, McCain's been there," said Tony Snow, the White House press secretary." [[New York Times, 7/3/06](#)]

McCain: "I Trust The President Of The United States." While attending a Town Hall meeting in Arizona, Senator McCain said, "I trust the president of the United States." [[Arizona Republic, 2/22/06](#)]

Bush Called Senator McCain A Leader Who "Upholds The Values Of America." During a meeting at the White House, Bush said, "It's my honor to welcome two good friends, the Chairman, John Warner, and, of course, John McCain -- Senator John McCain, here to the Oval Office. We share a common goal, and that is to protect the American people and to win the war on terror. Senator McCain has been a leader to make sure that the United States of America upholds the values of America as we fight and win this war on terror." [White House Transcript, 12/15/05]

Bush Called McCain “A Man Of Strong Character.” During a reception for Jon Kyl in Arizona, Bush said, “I want to thank Senator John McCain for his strong leadership in the United States Senate, as well. He’s a good man, a man of strong character[.]” [White House Transcript, 11/28/05]

Bush Appreciated Senator McCain’s Strong Support For The Freedom Agenda. During a visit to Arizona, Bush said, “First, I want to talk about how much I enjoy working with Senator John McCain. I appreciate the job he’s doing for the people of Arizona. I also want to say something about the freedom agenda. I appreciate the strong support of Senator McCain... And freedom is on the march. Just think about what has happened in Afghanistan, for example.” [White House Transcript, 3/21/05]

McCain Adopted Bush Staff & Courted His Financial Network

Former Bush Fundraiser Joined McCain’s Campaign. According to the *New York Times*, “Senator John McCain began tapping into President Bush’s prized political donor base on Tuesday as his campaign announced that Mercer Reynolds, who helped Mr. Bush raise a record \$273 million for the 2004 re-election campaign, would be the national finance co-chairman for Mr. McCain.” [[New York Times, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Named Bush I Crony Robert Mosbacher Sr. As His Campaign Chairman. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, in August 2007, McCain appointed Robert Mosbacher Sr. to be his campaign chairman. Mosbacher Sr. had been close to the first President Bush, and was his Commerce secretary, the finance chairman of his 1980 and 1988 presidential campaigns, and general chairman of the 1992 Bush campaign. According to the *Journal*, Mosbacher Sr. was also a major fund-raiser for both Bush and President Reagan. [[Wall Street Journal, 8/8/07](#)]

McCain’s FL Effort Being Helped But Bush Friends. McCain’s Florida effort was being led by Kathleen Shanahan, a former chief of staff for both Jeb Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. Fund-raiser and entrepreneur Phil Handy, a close Bush friend, also was helping McCain. [[Palm Beach Post, 1/15/07](#)]

McCain Raised More Than \$1.4M from Bush 2004 Donors. According to the *Arizona Republic*, “Sen. John McCain has tapped into President Bush’s vast network of campaign contributors in greater numbers ... But using an already-organized political action committee as a proxy for his undeclared presidential campaign, McCain over the past 16 months has attracted more than \$1.4 million from about 640 of Bush’s 2004 donors throughout 40 states. That is almost triple the \$505,999 collected from former Bush donors by a similar leadership PAC belonging to Giuliani, a former New York City mayor. ... An Arizona Republic analysis of Federal Election Commission records also shows that nearly seven out of 10, or 436, of the donors who gave to Bush in 2004 and have since given money to McCain’s Straight Talk America PAC, are new supporters of the Arizona senator. They were not among contributors to McCain’s presidential campaign in 2000, when he bucked the GOP establishment by running against then-Texas Gov. Bush for the party’s presidential nomination.” [[Arizona Republic, 12/19/06](#)]

- **Former Bush Rangers Joined McCain Exploratory Committee.** According to the *Arizona Republic*, “Former Bush Rangers who have already joined McCain’s exploratory committee are Tom Loeffler, a former Texas congressman who is founder and chairman of the Loeffler Group, a lobbying firm; Lewis Eisenberg, a former partner at Goldman Sachs and a co-founder of Granite Capital International Group; and Jerry Perenchio, chairman, chief executive and controlling shareholder of Univision Communications Inc.” [[Arizona Republic, 12/19/06](#)]

McCain Signed Up Bush Fundraiser And Bush-Cheney Iowa Chair. Former Bush fund-raiser James Nicholson, one of the president’s top moneymen, has agreed to lead fund raising in Michigan for McCain. McCain’s team in Iowa is being led by Dave Roederer, who served as state chairman of the Bush-Cheney reelection team in 2004. [[Wall Street Journal, 10/21/06](#)]

Steady Stream Of Bush Advisors Ended Up In McCain’s Orbit. According to the *New York Times*, “There has been a steady stream of Bush advisers who have ended up in Mr. McCain’s orbit. Most recently, Republicans close

to both candidates said that Nicolle Wallace -- who just stepped down as Mr. Bush's communications director and has long been close to the president -- was likely to serve in some formal or informal role in a McCain campaign. Her husband, Mark D. Wallace, Mr. Bush's deputy campaign manager in 2004 and now an ambassador-level representative to the United Nations, is already lending advice. In another high-profile move, Wayne L. Berman, a longtime supporter and fund-raiser for Mr. Bush, has signed on to help Mr. McCain. On the other side of the divide, some of Mr. McCain's supporters made it clear in interviews that the McCain camp viewed Mr. Bush's brother Jeb, the governor of Florida, as an ideal running mate for Mr. McCain. This news would presumably be pleasing to President Bush, who has made it clear in recent weeks that he would like his brother to move onto the national stage; Governor Bush has made it just as clear that he has no interest in running for national office in 2008. And Mr. Bush's senior political adviser, Karl Rove, was said by associates to have put aside his suspicion and dislike of Mr. McCain. The two spent time together during the 2004 campaign when, Mr. Rove told associates, they drew close. Mr. Rove gave Mr. McCain a pair of antique Theodore Roosevelt presidential cufflinks at the end of that race." [\[New York Times, 7/03/00\]](#)

McCain Courting Bush South Carolina Financial Network But Social Conservatives Remain Skeptical.

"McCain is offering himself up this time as the establishment candidate. To that end, he has begun an intense courtship of Bush's financial and political network. He has met privately with Barry Wynn of Spartanburg, John Rainey of Columbia and Eddie Floyd of Florence, who were state co-chairmen of the Bush finance team. McCain folks also have reached out to Warren Tompkins, a key state strategist who ran Bush's campaign here." At the same time McCain is reaching out to Bush financial supporters, social conservatives are not convinced, and are "seeking an alternative" to McCain. Drew McKissick, a South Carolina political consultant and Christian coalition member, said, "I'll never support John McCain. "He's not a reliable conservative...I'll be doing all I can to run this 'Straight Talk Express' off the road." Dan Richardson, a grassroots activist in the state, said of McCain, "I can't stomach him." [\[The State, 4/16/06\]](#)

McCain Guided By BC04 Deputy Campaign Manager And Recruiting BC04 Chairman. McCain's courting of the Bush political network continues; "McCain has been getting advice from Mark Wallace, who was deputy campaign manager for Mr. Bush's campaign in 2004," for the last year. He has also tried to pull in Bush 2004 campaign Chairman Marc Racicot, whom he and senior advisor John Weaver took to lunch "as part of an effort to recruit him." [\[New York Times, 4/9/06\]](#)

McCain Signed Up Prominent Bush Iowa Staffer Chuck Larson, Terry Nelson's College Roommate. On the heels of hiring Iowa native and former Bush operative Terry Nelson, McCain signed up Nelson's old college roommate, Chuck Larson. Larson, of Cedar Rapids, is a former state Senator and former chairman of the Iowa Republican Party. Larson has been described as "one of the state's bestknown Republicans" and also one of "Bush's most prominent supporters." [\[Chicago Tribune, 4/11/06\]](#)

Bush Ranger Signed On To Help McCain. "Texas lawyer Thomas G. Loeffler, a Bush Ranger in 2004, has already signed on to help Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in 2008." [\[Washington Post, 3/11/06\]](#)

Novak: McCain's PAC Obtained Bush's Major Donor Direct Mail List, Sent Fundraising Letters.

"Major political contributors to George W. Bush who have never given a dime to prospective 2008 Republican presidential candidate John McCain received letters, dated Feb. 8, asking for donations to the senator's Straight Talk America political action committee. Obviously using President Bush's direct mail list, the letter signed by McCain asks for \$1,000 or \$1,500 to support candidates agreeing with McCain on 'key issues.' It specifically lists 'limiting federal spending, immigration reform, military readiness, global climate change, Social Security reform, reining-in lobbyists, reducing the power of the special interests and putting an end to wasteful pork barrel spending by Congress.' Each recipient received a card to be filled in for McCain's files. "I'm asking you to update your file card," requests the letter, though the Bush contributors had no previous card in the senator's files." [\[Chicago Sun Times, 2/19/06\]](#)

McCain Established New Hampshire Straight Talk PAC With Former Bush 2000 Staffer As Treasurer.

"[P]apers establishing a state affiliate of [McCain's] national Straight Talk America political action committee will be filed in Concord today. This will allow McCain to financially back Republican candidates in the 2006 state

elections while he goes through the formality of ‘deciding’ if he will run for President in 2008.” McCain tapped Attorney Susan Duprey as the “the new treasurer of the New Hampshire Straight Talk PAC, Duprey was Bush’s state campaign finance co-chair in 2000...The local Straight Talk chair is Executive Councilor Peter Spaulding, who chaired McCain’s state campaign six years ago.” [Union Leader, 2/16/06]

McCain Accepted \$\$\$ From People He Once Criticized For Their Efforts On Bush’s Behalf

McCain Has Accepted \$61,650 From Swift Boat Donors And Associates, Though He Once Condemned Their Kerry Smears. According to the *Nation*, Senator John McCain’s presidential campaign has accepted as much as \$61,650 from Swift Boat donors and their associates. Also according to the *Nation*, when the Swift Boat ads that criticized John Kerry during the ‘04 election were first released, “...McCain was alone among his Republican colleagues to condemn them. A fellow Vietnam veteran, a good friend of Kerry’s and a former target of smears about his own service, McCain called the ads ‘dishonest and dishonorable,’ a ‘cheap stunt,’ and he urged Bush to condemn them.” [Nation, [1/2/08](#)]

- **McCain Called Swift Boat Attack Ads “Dishonest and Dishonorable”...** Speaking out against the attack ads run against John Kerry in 2004 by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, McCain said, and “I deplore this kind of politics” and added “I think the ad is dishonest and dishonorable.” McCain compared it to attacks against his campaign in 2000, saying, “it was the same kind of deal that was pulled on me.” [AP, 8/5/04; DNC Public Information, [3/27/07](#)]
- **...Yet McCain Took \$4,200 From Swift Boat Funder Bob Perry.** McCain accepted \$4,200 from Perry in 2005 despite the fact that Perry gained notoriety as the chief financial backer of Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, whose ads criticized the Vietnam War record of Senator John F. Kerry. [Washington Post, 8/9/05] Perry gave \$4.5 million to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth’s campaign in 2004 to distort John Kerry’s military record. [[Washington Post](#), 3/17/07; DNC Public Information, [3/27/07](#)]

McCain Called Wyly Brothers “Wyly Coyotes” in 2000; Brothers Hold Fundraiser For McCain in 2006. In 2000, “the Wyly brothers of Dallas were pumping millions into a shadowy TV blitz aimed at derailing Sen. John McCain’s presidential bid. McCain cried foul, demanding an FEC investigation and accusing the billionaire Texans of collusion with the Bush team. ‘They should be ashamed,’ he said at the time. ‘Tell ‘em to keep their dirty money in the state of Texas.’ ... But heck, that was a long time ago. Monday night, Charles and Sam Wyly will co-host a fund-raiser for a man who once derided them as the ‘Wyly coyotes’ and as George W. Bush’s ‘sleazy Texas buddies.’ Talk about bygones. ‘Senator McCain has made a career of always trying to look forward and do what’s best for the country,’ said his strategist, John Weaver. ‘That began with normalizing relations with Vietnam. Once you can do that, you can do anything.’” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 5/14/06]

McCain Courted Bush’s Christian Conservatives

2000: McCain Said He Did Not Ascribe Robertson And Falwell’s Philosophy That “Money Is Our Message.” According to the *New Yorker*, during his 2000 presidential campaign, McCain gave a speech in Virginia Beach, where he said, “I am a pro-life, pro-family fiscal conservative and advocate of a strong defense...And yet Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and a few Washington leaders of the pro-life movement call me an unacceptable Presidential candidate...Why? Because I don’t pander to them, because I don’t ascribe to their failed philosophy that money is our message.” McCain made the statement shortly after a smear campaign had led to his loss in the South Carolina, primary. [[New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

BUSH MOVED TO THE POLITICAL RIGHT AND WON IN 2000

Bush Forced To Move To The Political Right Of McCain; South Carolina Saved Bush. According to the Associated Press, “But South Carolina likely will haunt Bush for some time. He was forced to move to the right

politically of McCain to consolidate and energize his base in this conservative state. That included his appearance at Bob Jones University, a Greenville school that just recently lifted its interracial dating ban. ‘It cost him problems that will last all the way to November and will be cited the evening of November seventh if he loses,’ said University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato, a specialist in presidential campaigns. ‘Bob Jones, going too far to the right, not commenting on the Confederate flag (atop South Carolina’s Statehouse) - you can go right down the list.’ If South Carolina saved Bush, it was the beginning of the end for McCain, who left the state bullet-ridden and angry.” [AP, 3/14/00]

Bush Relied on Party Faithful; McCain Drew From Independents And Moderate Republicans. According to *Post and Courier*, “Forging familiar coalitions, Bush relied on party faithful while McCain drew from independents and moderate Republicans. McCain’s gamble of criticizing conservative Christian leaders may have backfired in key states, while Bush’s visit to a South Carolina university with a history of anti-Catholic views seemed to be a beneficial campaign issue for McCain in some states.” [*Post and Courier*, 3/08/00]

McCain’s Decision To Confront Religious Right, Designed To Woo Moderate Republicans, Didn’t Work. According to *The Herald*, “Sen. John McCain’s decision to confront the religious right wing of his party may not win him the Republican presidential nomination. But it is likely to have repercussions within the party and, perhaps, even the general election. Shortly before Tuesday’s round of three primaries, McCain derided Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and other right-wing evangelicals as ‘agents of intolerance,’ saying his opponent, George W. Bush, would be hurt by his association with them. ‘We are the party of Ronald Reagan, not Pat Robertson,’ McCain said. He added that Bush ‘is a Pat Robertson Republican who will lose to Al Gore.’ It was a calculated political tactic designed to woo moderate Republicans. But it didn’t work Tuesday, when McCain lost all three contests in Virginia, North Dakota and Washington.” [*The Herald*, 3/02/00]

Bush Swept Passed McCain, Buoyed By Religious Right And Party Faithful. According to *Post and Courier*, “George W. Bush swept past John McCain in three Republican presidential contests Tuesday, buoyed by the religious right and party faithful in Virginia’s battleground to fatten his delegate count in advance of next week’s 13-state ‘Super Tuesday’ showdown.” [*Post and Courier*, 3/01/00]

Christian Coalition “Hand Delivered” Bush’s Victory In South Carolina. According to *The State*, “Carroll Campbell and Co. delivered for Texas Gov. George W. Bush in South Carolina. But they couldn’t have done it without the help of the Christian Coalition. The religious right, which turned out in full force, made the difference. It constituted a third of the GOP primary electorate, according to exit polls. And its members voted overwhelmingly for Bush, 67 percent to 24 percent for Arizona Sen. John McCain. No one is denying the influence of the Christian right in the campaign, including the Bush folks. They know who put them over the top. Without the religious-right vote, Bush would have been history. Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson and former Christian Coalition political director Ralph Reed ‘hand-delivered’ Bush’s victory in South Carolina, said McCain spokesman Todd Harris.” [*The State*, 2/27/00]

McCain Said Christian Conservative Vote Cause His Defeat In South Carolina. According to *The State*, “In an MSNBC interview, McCain said the Christian conservative vote caused his defeat. ‘In South Carolina, we got all the Republicans except the religious right,’ he said.” [*The State*, 2/20/00]

MCCAIN PANDERED TO POLITICAL RIGHT FOR 2008

McCain Would Base Presidential Selection on Judeo Christian Tradition. During an interview on BeliefNet, McCain said, “I think the number one issue people should make [in the] selection of the President of the United States is, ‘Will this person carry on in the Judeo Christian principled tradition that has made this nation the greatest experiment in the history of mankind?’” [BeliefNet Interview, 9/28/07]

McCain Hired Liberty University’s Debate Coach, Who Boasted “I’m an Ideologue.” On November 16, the Lynchburg News & Advance reported that “Brett O’Donnell, who guided Liberty University’s debate team to a consensus No. 1 national ranking earlier this year, is taking a leave of absence to become an adviser to presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain.” O’Donnell will officially join McCain’s exploratory committee as “communications

strategist,” beginning on January 8, 2007. O’Donnell indicated that he would “advise McCain on media interviews, help shape policy statements and prepare the senator for candidate forums and debates.” O’Donnell described his decision making process for taking on a 2008 presidential client as needing someone who shared his values, especially on Iraq, saying, “I believe in a preemptive strategy, in fighting over there and not over here. I don’t want to be just a hired gun. I have an agenda. I’m an ideologue.” [[Lynchburg News & Advance](#), 11/16/06; [New York Times](#), 3/19/06]

Despite Liberty University Speech, Conservatives Were Not Convinced. McCain’s speech at Liberty “was shorn of religious references and avoided controversial social issues,” and was received “politely but hardly enthusiastically” by the conservative crowd. Conservative leaders said that McCain’s test includes more than giving a speech. Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Assn. of Michigan, pointed to the upcoming federal marriage amendment vote, saying, “if he is making an attempt to pander to religious conservatives [at Liberty University], he will have missed an opportunity to do so if he fails to vote for the marriage protection amendment.” Louis Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said, “John McCain has to get in line behind a number of other people that have already won our respect and admiration and, in some cases, already our support.” Gary Bauer, president of American Values, wasn’t yet ready to give McCain his support, as he did in 2000, saying “It’s one speech, and I think the jury is out as to whether it will lead to anything broader or more lasting.” [[Washington Post](#), 5/14/06; [Newsday](#), 5/14/06; [Los Angeles Times](#), 5/14/06; [Sacramento Bee](#), 5/13/06]

- **McCain Bothered By Criticism About Pandering.** “When I asked McCain, in between his speeches to the Brussels Forum here, if the criticism bothered him, he answered quietly, ‘Oh, yeah.’ He says liberals need to understand that he’s not a man of the left, or even the center. ‘I haven’t changed. My record is the same on all issues, which is that of a conservative Republican.’ But in the next breath, he lists all the positions he has taken that have made him the darling of centrist Republicans and Democrats, from torture to ethics reform to climate change.” [[Byron York, Washington Post](#), 5/3/06]

McCain And Falwell Joined The Stage In A Marriage Of Convenience. McCain went to Lynchburg as a “symbolic outreach to millions of religious conservatives” in a “public debut of the newfound, and potentially mutually beneficial, relationship between McCain and Falwell.” Prior to the speech, “Falwell rolled out the red carpet” for McCain, “assembling about 150 church leaders from around the country” for a reception and private dinner. Arranging the meeting with religious leaders was a goal of Falwell’s, who said “I don’t think there’s any question [that our relationship benefits McCain politically]. There are 80 million evangelicals in this country.” [[Washington Post](#), 5/7/06; [Arizona Republic](#), 5/13/06; [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#), 5/14/06; [Chicago Tribune](#), 5/14/06; [Washington Post](#), 5/14/06; [Newsday](#), 5/14/06; [Sacramento Bee](#), 5/13/06]

McCain Said The Christian Right Had A Major Role In The GOP. In 2006, McCain affirmed his support of the Christian right’s place in the GOP, saying, “I believe that the Christ--quote, ‘Christian right,’ has a major role to play in the Republican Party,” and reasoned that Falwell was no longer intolerant, answering a question if he still believed his 2000 statement to be true, saying, “No, I don’t.” [[NBC News](#), 4/2/06]

McCain Scheduled To Speak At Falwell’s Liberty University Graduation. In 2006, McCain “will be Liberty University’s graduation speaker on May 13. ‘I was in Washington with him about three months ago,’ Falwell said. ‘We dealt with every difference we have. There are no deal breakers now. But I told him, ‘You have a lot of fence mending to do.’” Falwell, LU’s chancellor, said McCain, an Arizona Republican, is among the presidential candidates he could support in 2008...Falwell said McCain could very well be the Republican Party’s best hope in 2008.” [[Lynchburg News & Advance](#), 3/28/06]

McCain Agreed To Speak At Falwell’s Liberty University And Discounted Previous Statement That Falwell Was An “Agent Of Intolerance.” McCain will be Liberty University’s graduation speaker on May 13. “I was in Washington with him about three months ago,” LU’s Chancellor Jerry Falwell said. “We dealt with every difference we have. There are no deal breakers now. But I told him, ‘You have a lot of fence mending to do.’” Falwell said McCain is among the presidential candidates he could support in 2008. Speaking on “Meet The Press” on April 2, McCain doubled back on his statement in 2000 that Falwell was an “agent of intolerance.” Asked if he still believed that to be the case, McCain replied, “No, I don’t.” McCain defended his decision to speak at LU,

saying of himself and Falwell, “we agreed to disagree on certain issues and we agreed to move forward.” [Lynchburg News & Advance, 3/28/06; NBC News, 4/2/06]

McCain Pledged To Purge “Poison” From American Culture. McCain is “confident his ‘25-year record on pro-life’ will satisfy social conservatives. About culture: ‘I’ve done some terrible things in my life, so I try not to be a judge, but it seems to me there is a poison in our culture that we have to address. Maybe it’s through the bully pulpit, but we can’t pass a bunch of laws to control it all.’” [New York Sun, 3/7/06]

Conservatives Whispers Continue That McCain May Not Be Conservative Enough. “Republican Party activists who dominate the nomination process are increasingly wondering if Sen. John McCain of Arizona, thought to be the early front-runner, is really conservative enough to satisfy them. There is already a whispering campaign underway to revive criticisms that McCain is short-tempered and a loose cannon. Many conservatives are still unhappy with McCain’s past criticisms of Christian conservative leaders and his maverick ways on campaign finance reform and other issues.” [U.S. News and World Report, 3/6/06]

McCain Met With Falwell To Lay Groundwork for 2008 Run. “Sen. John McCain is taking action to make it hard for conservatives to write him off in the 2008 presidential race. His office confirms that the maverick moderate recently met with the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a conservative icon who is influential with voters on the right.” [US News and World Report, 11/14/05]

McCain’s Relationship With Cheney

McCain Went On “Trail Ride” With Cheney. During the confirmation hearing of Dick Cheney for Secretary of Defense, McCain told Cheney, “Having personally accompanied you on a trail ride in Wyoming where you almost killed me -- (laughter) -- I am here to testify that you have an extremely vigorous lifestyle and perhaps some of the young men and women in the military will emulate the physical condition in which you maintain yourself.” [Federal News Service, [3/14/89](#)]

McCain Described Cheney as a Talented and Skilled Manager. During the confirmation hearing of Dick Cheney for Secretary of Defense, McCain told Cheney, “I also share the views of my colleagues in congratulating you on your selection and congratulating the President on selecting a man of your talents and proven managerial skills and service to this country.” [Federal News Service, [3/14/89](#)]

McCain Policies Offer A Third Bush Term

A vote for John McCain is a vote for a third Bush term. McCain admitted that his relationship with Bush is based on shared views in Iraq, immigration and a common agenda. McCain has offered no plan to end the war in Iraq. In fact, McCain says he is comfortable with being in Iraq for a hundred years. McCain offers a health care plan that is similar to Bush's proposal, which failed to expand coverage and cut health care costs. McCain endorsed Bush's plan to privatize Social Security—so much so he joined Bush on the campaign to sell the proposal. Although, McCain previously opposed Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy he has made a “breathtaking turnaround” and supports these budget-busting, tax cuts for the wealthy.

McCain Is Exactly Like Bush

USA Today: The Differences Between McCainism and Bushism Are Very Narrow. USA Today wrote, “...the differences between McCainism and Bushism are very narrow...” [USA Today, [2/12/08](#)]

USA Today: McCain Doesn't Represent Change But Continuity. USA Today wrote, “Everyone wants a change candidate this year. As the out-of-power party, Democrats have it much easier marketing themselves that way. But conservatives want change, too. And for many of them, McCain doesn't represent change but continuity. They just can't say so.” [USA Today, [2/12/08](#)]

Conservatives Hate McCain Because He Is Exactly Like Bush. Conservatives' discontent with McCain is widely known, but it originated from “buyer's remorse” after Bush. USA Today wrote, “There is, in fact, a much broader anti-Bush sentiment in the party. The right wing of the GOP is suffering from a deep buyer's remorse of its own.” McCain and Bush agree on nearly every issue that upsets conservatives, from immigration to campaign finance. [USA Today, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Called a “Born-Again Bushite.” Adrianna Huffington wrote, “The John McCain [independents] fell in love with in 2000 -- the straight-shooting, let-the-chips-fall-where-they-may maverick - is no more. He's been replaced by a born-again Bushite willing to say or do anything to win the affection of his newfound object of desire, the radical right.” [Huffington Post, [2/12/08](#)]

Bush Said McCain Was Best to “Carry Forth His Agenda.” Behind closed doors, Bush “has told people for months that he thought McCain would be the nominee. Even during some of those dark periods he still thought he could win. And also that McCain would be the best to carry forth his agenda.” [Fox News, “Fox and Friends, 2/8/08]

National Review Editor: If You Liked the Second Bush Term, You'll Love McCain. According the National Review, “If you liked the second Bush term, if you liked Clintonian foreign policy, you will find much to admire in a Commander-in-Chief McCain.” [National Review, Andrew McCarthy, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Cast 377 Votes in Support of President Bush's Position

METHODOLOGY: This section was developed from Congressional Quarterly's Floor Votes. Votes where Statements of Administration Policy were available were indicated by a note that states “A ‘yea’/‘nay’ was a vote in support of the president's position.” Those votes and the Administration position was compiled and compared with John McCain's voting record on those votes. Back-up is available.

McCain Voted with President Bush 377 Times. Since 2001, John McCain has voted in support of the President's position 377 times. The table below outlines the number of votes cast, where the President's position was indicated by a Statement of Administration Policy, and the number of time McCain voted with the President:

CONGRESS	AGREED	CAST
110th	36	38
109th	80	95
108th	153	168
107th	108	119
TOTAL:	377	420

[CQ Floor Vote, Vote Comparison, accessed 1/04/08]

McCain Supported Bush 92 Percent In 2004

McCain Supported Bush 92 Percent in 2004. According to Congressional Quarterly, McCain supported President Bush a majority of the time—supporting Bush as much as 92 percent in 2004. According to CQ, “CQ tries to determine what the president personally, as distinct from other administration officials, does and does not want in the way of legislative action. This is done by analyzing his messages to Congress, news conference remarks and other public statements and documents.”

Presidential Support		
Year	Support	Oppose
2006	89%	11%
2005	77%	23%
2004	92%	8%
2003	91%	9%
2002	90%	10%
2001	91%	9%

[CQ Voting Studies, Accessed 1/07/08]

McCain/Bush Friendship Based On Shared Views On Issues

McCain’s Rebellion Followed in Bush’s Footsteps. McCain’s deviations from the Republican Party nearly always landed him beside President Bush. Conservatives have complained about McCain’s lack of conservatism, but on issues from campaign finance to immigration, McCain has agreed with President Bush. [[New York Times, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain Said Relationship With Bush Based On The Agenda. According to *New York Times*, “McCain described their relationship as a function of their positions and their shared views on such big issues as Iraq and immigration. ‘I believe if I were not in the Senate and not working on these issues, we might communicate once in a while, but not the way we do,’ he said. ‘We have a very good personal relationship, but it’s primarily based on the agenda.’” [[New York Times, 7/03/06](#)]

McCain: “The President And I Share Exactly The Same Views On The Issue [Of Immigration]”

McCain Said He And Bush Shared Same Views On Immigration. During an interview with the *New Yorker*, McCain told reporter Connie Bruck, “The President and I share exactly the same views on the issue [of immigration]...He believes there are willing workers and willing employers and we ought to match them up. He recognizes that our borders are broken and we need to protect them, but we can only do it in a dual approach.” Bruck pointed out that despite McCain’s assertion that he agreed with Bush on immigration, McCain and Senator Kennedy had introduced comprehensive immigration legislation that many of McCain Republican colleagues “...deride[d] as ‘amnesty’” and for which Bush had not indicated his support. [[New Yorker, 5/30/05](#)]

McCain Voted Against The Majority Of Republicans On Immigration Reforms And In Favor Of A Plan Labeled “Amnesty” By The Media.

John McCain voted against the majority of Republican senators on 21 of the 33 votes he cast on the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act and its amendments, including the final passage of the bill. McCain’s vote was the deciding vote against majority Republicans on two of the amendments. The immigration reform supported by McCain “amounts to an amnesty for undocumented immigrants,” according to Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post, and Charles Gibson of ABC News said the bill “effectively does grant amnesty to millions of immigrants who are now here illegally.” [109th Congress, S. 2611, Vote #'s 121-157, 5/16/06 – 5/25/06; Washington Post, 3/28/06; ABC News, 3/28/06]

- **Bilbray Said McCain Was “Dead Wrong” On Immigration And Told Him Not To Come To A Scheduled Fundraiser At The Request Of The NRCC.** Prior to McCain’s scheduled fundraising appearance with Bilbray, Bilbray “told McCain’s staff that McCain is ‘dead wrong on the amnesty issue,’ and a number of the people who attended the Wednesday breakfast were prepared to tell the senator the same thing, Bilbray said. Had McCain come, Bilbray said, it would have put him in the position of ‘maybe having to protect the senator from reaction here in San Diego.’” McCain “had planned to fulfill his commitment” to appear at the fundraiser, and the idea to disinvite McCain came from the NRCC, which “suggested McCain’s presence would not be helpful” in winning the campaign. [North County Times, 5/31/06; Chicago Sun Times, 6/11/06]
- **McCain Failed Immigration Litmus Test Among Conservative Reagan Republicans.** Jerome Corsi, who co-authored a book attacking John Kerry’s war record during the 2004 election, wrote that McCain’s stance in the immigration debate failed a litmus-test for conservative Republicans. Corsi wrote, “[w]hen McCain put his name on the immigration bill sponsored by Sen. Teddy Kennedy, many conservatives felt he virtually embraced the concept of amnesty for the approximately 12 million illegal aliens the Bush Administration admits are now in the United States...[M]any on the right felt his alignment with the Democratic left on the immigration issue was the last straw ... Immigration for the Reagan conservative movement is quickly becoming a litmus test issue, every bit as much as the issue of abortion already is. McCain fails on both accounts.” [Jerome Corsi, www.humanevents.com, 5/9/06]

LA Times: McCain’s Push To The House Immigration Proposal Is Troubling.

The Los Angeles Times editorialized that because McCain seconded Arlen Specter’s motion “to stagger reform measures so that all enforcement issues were enacted first,” and because McCain “emphasized that the border was being strengthened,” “the chasm between the Senate’s recent comprehensive immigration bill and the House of Representatives’ punitive enforcement-only package from December” was narrowing, but according to the Times, “Trouble is, the overtures are all going in the House’s direction.” [Editorial, Los Angeles Times, 7/3/06]

- **Previously, McCain Dismissed The House Immigration Proposal As “Anti-Hispanic.”** McCain said the country couldn’t move forward with the “anti-Hispanic” immigration bill that was passed by the House of Representatives. McCain said, “I believe that it’s very important that however we approach this [immigration reform] issue, that it cannot, it should not be viewed as anti-Hispanic for a broad variety of reasons ... [the House bill] certainly is viewed that way that if you have felony penalties for someone who, the young woman who is in this country illegally and is raped and goes to a rape counseling center, the people that run the rape counseling center are guilty of a felony.” [Bloomberg.com, 6/23/06]

McCain Was Encouraged By Negotiations With The House On Immigration And Emphasized An Enforcement First Approach.

Speaking about the progress of immigration reform in Congress, McCain said, “I’m encouraged by the dialogue that’s been going on. We’ve had several meetings. I’m appreciative of Congressman Panses’ proposal. Look, as long as we agree it’s a comprehensive approach we need to take, I think it’s very negotiable and I’m optimistic.” McCain noted that reforms would take years to implement which would allow time to improve security. McCain said, “If tomorrow we adopted the comprehensive approach setting up a temporary guest worker program and a path to earned citizenship, it would take years before - or certainly a long period of time before we could get those in operation,” adding, “we all know that border enforcement is the first and foremost requirement because it’s a national security issue.” [ABC News, 7/2/06]

McCain “Steadfast” And “Outspoken” In His Support For War In Iraq

McCain “...Has Diligently Stood By President George W. Bush’s Troop Surge From The Onset.” According to the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, McCain “...has diligently stood by President George W. Bush’s troop surge from the onset. In fact, had McCain been the American commander, troop numbers would have tripled in the 2003 invasion.” [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Deviates Little From Bush On Iraq. According to Michael Shank of the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, McCain was at times Bush’s “most solid support in the Senate” on Iraq. [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Said Bush Led With “Clarity” and Did Not Exaggerate the Case for War. In 2003, McCain praised Bush’s leadership on the Iraq war saying, “I think the president has led with great clarity and I think he’s done a great job leading the country, don’t you all?” And asked if he thought the president exaggerated the case for war, McCain said, “I don’t think so.” [MSNBC, Hardball, 4/23/03; Fox News, 7/31/03; DNC Press Release, 10/31/07]

- **McCain: “I’m Grateful This President Has Stood Fast [On Iraq].”** At a meet and greet press conference, McCain said, “I’m grateful that we Republicans have stood fast. I’m grateful this president has stood fast [on Iraq].” [CDA Tracking, Lexington, SC, 11/26/07]
- **McCain Said Bush Deserves Credit Because We’ve Not Had Another Attack on US.** During an interview on Meet the Press, McCain said, “...we’ve not had another attack on the United States of America. I think he [Bush] deserves credit for that. He led this nation after 9/11 and united us. There’s a number--at least he’s had the good judgment, finally, to change the strategy in Iraq so that we now have a winning strategy.” [NBC, “Meet the Press,” 1/06/08]

Bush Had McCain To White House To Talk About How Bush Should Make Case For War In Iraq.

According to the *New York Times*, “The president had Mr. McCain to the White House three times in one week recently to talk about how Mr. Bush should make the case for the war in Iraq and how to break the wall of conservative opposition to the immigration measures proposed by both men. Mr. McCain was back in the Oval Office again on Tuesday to talk about ways to win approval of the line-item veto. Behind the scenes, during a month in which he repeatedly came to Mr. Bush’s public defense, Mr. McCain called the president to offer words of support, he recounted in an interview. ‘I said, ‘Look, hang on, things are bad,’’ Mr. McCain said. ‘I said, ‘I’m proud of the job you are doing, and I wanted you to know that I will continue to do what I can to help.’ ‘I’ve tried, when his numbers went down, to be more supportive and outspoken, because I’d love to pick him up,’ Mr. McCain said.” [*New York Times*, 7/03/06]

New York Times: McCain Is ‘Steadfast’ and ‘Outspoken’ in His Support For the Iraq War. In November 2007, the *New York Times* reported “More than any Republican candidate, Mr. McCain has been an outspoken supporter of the war.” In October 2007, the Times reported, “he is steadfast in his support for the present course in Iraq.” [*New York Times*, 11/10/07, 10/7/07]

McCain Said he Would Have Supported Iraq Invasion Even Knowing There Were No WMD’s etc.

According to *Vanity Fair* columnist Todd Purdum, McCain “...would have still supported [Iraq] invasion...[even] knowing all that is known now (no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, no effective Iraqi army. [Vanity Fair, 2007]

- **McCain’s Aides Said McCain Believed Status Quo Between U.S. And Iraq Was Unsustainable Long Before War.** According to *Vanity Fair*, John McCain’s “...aides [said] that “Long before the war...McCain believed that the status quo in Iraqi-American relations was unsustainable.” One aide said, “He stands by his support for doing something.” The aide also pointed out that McCain has been “...an aggressive advocate of sending more troops to keep the country from spiraling into insurgency or civil war”

and that he "...had also been, more generally, an outspoken critic of the administration's conduct of the war." [Vanity Fair, 2007]

McCain: "The War, The Invasion Was Not A Mistake." In 2008, Tim Russert quoted Bush who said that he would have gone into Iraq even if there were no weapons and asked McCain if he would have gone into Iraq. McCain said, "I--yes, but the point is that if we had done it right, it's been well chronicled in many, in many books, you and I wouldn't be even discussing that now. The mishandling after the war. ...The war, the invasion was not a mistake. The handling of the war was a terrible mistake." [NBC, Meet the Press, 1/06/08]

McCain "Painted Himself As War President"

Telegraph: "McCain Painted Himself As War President." Alex Spillius of the *Telegraph* pointed out that McCain's "triumph over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney in New Hampshire...was attributed in part to respect for his consistency on Iraq, his knowledge of international affairs as well as his war record as a naval pilot captured and tortured by the North Vietnamese." Spillius reported that during a speech at South Carolina's Citadel College, McCain said that the U.S. must keep its troops in Iraq until al-Qa'eda is defeated. [Telegraph, [1/11/08](#)]

WSJ: "McCain Victory Built On War Experience." Monica Langley, columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain's victory in the New Hampshire primary and his growing support seems to stem from his support for the war, his experience in national defense issues, and his experience as a prisoner of war. Mark Salter, McCain's senior advisor and confidant said, "Being a POW was a physically arduous and character-building experience which set the course of his life" while columnist Langley pointed out, "Should he secure the nomination, Sen. McCain's foreign-policy experience could appeal to the electorate concerned about international turmoil." [[Wall Street Journal, 1/9/08](#)]

McCain Said "Stay The Course," Downplayed Violence And Denied Civil War

McCain Said the End Was Near and We Should Stay the Course in Iraq. "Years earlier in 2003, Senator McCain said, 'it's clear that the end [in Iraq] is very much in sight, and today I think Americans should be very proud of their leadership'. In 2005, McCain said, 'I think the situation on the ground is going to improve,' he says. 'Overall, I think a year from now, we will have made a fair amount of progress if we stay the course.'" [ABC News, Good Morning America, 4/9/03; [The Hill](#), 12/8/05]

McCain: "I Said The Military Operation Would Be Easy. It Was Easy. We Were Greeting As Liberators." McCain: "It was. ... It was easy. I said the military operation would be easy. It was easy. We were greeted as liberators. Look at the films when we rolled into Baghdad. And then there was a period of time where we allowed looting, when the whole country literally evolved into chaos. I went over there. I saw what was happening. I came back and I made a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations. And it said exactly-- tragically -- what was going to happen, unless we got control of the situation. It was easy, by the way." [Federal News Service, MSNBC Interview By Tim Russert Transcript, 1/10/07; Hotline, 1/11/07]

McCain Denied That There Was A Civil War In Iraq Despite Increasing Sectarian Violence Leading Up To His Visit. After returning from Iraq on March 28, McCain was asked if he saw "evidence of civil war," to which he responded, "No." McCain's response was in contrast to reporting on the increasing sectarian violence by the New York Times, which wrote two days prior to his comment, "in the last month, hundreds of men have been kidnapped, tortured and executed in Baghdad. As Iraqi and American leaders struggle to avert a civil war, the bodies keep piling up." [White House Press Conference, 3/28/06; [New York Times](#), 3/26/06]

John McCain Said That Iraq Was "On The Right Track" As The Country Moved Closer To Civil War. Speaking on the "Imus In The Morning" radio show on March 1, 2006, McCain played down the increasing civil

violence in Iraq. When Imus remarked that Iraq “already looks like a civil war,” McCain responded, saying, “I keep trying to look at the bright side of this because we have to because the consequences of failure are catastrophic. But the gathering of the seven most respected religious leaders the day before yesterday, calling for calm and calling for some kind of reconciliation, I think, was important. I think, at least we’re on the right track here.” [MSNBC, Imus in the Morning, 3/1/06; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

- **McCain Claimed He Could Safely Walk Around Certain Baghdad Neighborhoods.** “McCain’s latest problem began before he left for the region, when he told Bill Bennett on the radio that ‘there are neighborhoods in Baghdad where you and I could walk today.’ After Michael Ware of CNN’s Baghdad bureau accused the senator of living in ‘Neverland,’ McCain charged that its reporters who are living in a ‘time warp of three months ago.’” [Newsweek, Alter, 4/16/07 edition; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

McCain Focuses On The “Bright Side” Of The Iraq War, Saying “We’re On The Right Track.” On March 1, 2006, McCain played down the increasing civil violence in Iraq. When host Don Imus remarked that Iraq “already looks like a civil war,” McCain responded, saying, “I keep trying to look at the bright side of this because we have to because the consequences of failure are catastrophic.” McCain added, “I think, at least we’re on the right track here.” [MSNBC, 3/1/06; ABC News, 2/26/06]

McCain: I Think The Initial Phases Of It Were So Spectacularly Successful. During an interview on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” McCain was asked about the strategy in Iraq and whether enough troops were sent. McCain responded, “Well, I think the initial phases of it were so spectacularly successful that it took us all by surprise. Obviously, some mistakes were made, to say the least, in allowing some of the looting. We have more troops there now. We probably should have had more troops. But the fundamental point is whether we’re going to move forward and have the elections and have a government that the Iraqi people can support, which I believe that we will. The problems that we encountered are serious, but I also believe that we can and will--and they have to fit into the overall vision of the future of the Middle East. And I believe that it will have also a positive impact on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.” [CBS, “Face the Nation,” 10/31/04]

McCain: I’m Confident We’re On The Right Course. During an interview on ABC News’ “This Week,” McCain was asked if we were on the right course in Iraq. McCain responded, “I’m confident we’re on the right course. I’m confident that this is a very difficult and imperfect process, bringing democracy to countries that have never known democracy, fraught with secular differences as well as ethnic differences. It’s very, very difficult. But I am confident that an imperfect democracy is what we’ll get out of Iraq will be vastly superior to what the people of Iraq had prior to this.” [ABC News, “This Week,” 3/07/04]

McCain Said Capture of Saddam Hussein Was A “Mission Accomplished.” During an interview on ABC News’ “This Week” McCain was asked about the capture of Saddam Hussein and the effect on US Forces. McCain said, “Their morale could not be higher. This is a mission accomplished. They know how much influence Saddam Hussein had on the Iraqi people, how much more difficult it made to get their cooperation. Every member of the military and civilian over there are rejoicing today. It was interesting to see Ambassador Bremer’s emotion. It was well- deserved.” [ABC, “This Week,” 12/14/03]

McCain: “It’s Clear That The End Is, Is, Is Very Much In Sight.” During an interview on Good Morning America, McCain was asked, “at what point will America be able to say the war was won?” McCain responded, “Tikrit, Saddam Hussein’s hometown, I would imagine there’ll be some die hards there that, but I think that we, it, it’s clear that the end is, is, is very much in sight. And, and today I think Americans should be very proud of their leadership, of their technology. But most of all, of the men and women in the military. We could pause just a moment and be very, very proud. There’s some great challenges ahead, setting up a new government, stopping the looting that’s going on right now, and the chaos that’s, that, that’s bound to ensue in a place where it’s been in the iron grip of an oppressive dictatorship. But they’re doing a marvelous job, but they’ve still got a ways to go.” [ABC, “Good Morning America,” 4/9/03]

HOWEVER...

McCain: War Was Badly Mismanaged. McCain said, “I think the American people have shown a, an amazing amount of patience. People talk about the impatience of Americans, for nearly four years, it was badly mismanaged. And we were saying things like ‘mission accomplished,’ and ‘a few dead-enders,’ and ‘last throes,’ and all that while the facts on the ground directly contradicted that. So I, I, I think the American people get it.” [House Party; Lebanon, NH 12/30/07]

McCain Said Mission Was Not Accomplished; Said Strategy Was Failing. McCain said, “Of course not because I said that the mission was not accomplished. I came back after an early visit there and said the strategy was failing. I’m the only one that’s running, only one, ask the other candidates, I said this strategy will fail, we gotta fix it, and I said the strategy that is, uh, that we needed to succeed is the one we’ve adopted. So I’m the only one that knew that. So I’m not only..., I’m saddened by the way we misled the American people, but I certainly wasn’t part of it. And there’s a clear record to prove that, both on television and in speeches I gave, and in positions I took. Uh, when other candidates who say they want to lead this country were looking at their shoes or criticizing me for being quote disloyal to Rumsfeld, I think that all of us are responsible for our record.” [Town Hall; Newport, NH 12/30/07]

McCain Said If He Were President He Would Tell Iraqi Sects To “Stop The Bullshit” And Criticized The Administration For Not Speaking To The Reality In Iraq. Speaking to a meeting of New York’s “wealthiest and most influential political donors,” McCain said about the situation in Iraq, “One of the things I would do if I were President would be to sit the Shiites and the Sunnis down and say, ‘Stop the bullshit.’” McCain also “criticized the Bush administration’s lack of candor about the current situation there.” [[New York Observer](#), 5/29/06]

McCain Supported Bush Escalation, Claimed Success Despite Previous Criticism

New York Times: McCain Is ‘Steadfast’ and ‘Outspoken’ in His Support For the Iraq War. In November 2007, the *New York Times* reported “More than any Republican candidate, Mr. McCain has been an outspoken supporter of the war.” In October 2007, the Times reported, “he is steadfast in his support for the present course in Iraq.” [[New York Times](#), 11/10/07, 10/7/07]

Brownback Called the Escalation in Iraq the “McCain Surge.” The *New York Times* reported, “When Senator Sam Brownback, the Kansas Republican who recently ended his own bid for the presidential nomination and who had initially opposed the troop increase, endorsed Mr. McCain in Iowa on Wednesday, he said he had been wrong and Mr. McCain right. He even referred to the stepped-up effort as the ‘McCain surge.’” [[New York Times](#), 11/10/07]

McCain Said the Troop Escalation in Iraq “Has Been Effective,” There Is “Significant Political Progress” and “Real Results” in Iraq. When asked in October 2007 by an undecided voter if he would “follow President Bush’s path and stay in the war, or reduce the number of U.S. troops” in Iraq, McCain answered by stating “that he believes the troop escalation over the past year has been effective.” In August 2007, Senator McCain said, “there is significant political progress at the local areas and on the ground” and that “the success will then breed political, economic, and social progress, in my view.” In October 2007 on the Senate floor, McCain said, “It is inconceivable that we...would end this strategy just as it is beginning to show real results.” [AP, 10/22/07; DNC Press Release, 10/31/07; ABC News, This Week, 9/9/07; [Washington Post](#), 9/22/07]

- **2006: McCain Said That Iraq Was “On The Right Track.”** Speaking on the “Imus In The Morning” radio show on March 1, 2006, McCain said, “I keep trying to look at the bright side of this...I think, at least we’re on the right track here.” [MSNBC, Imus in the Morning, 3/1/06]
- **McCain: I’m Most Proud Of The Change That I Brought About In Iraq That Saved American Lives.** According to a report by John King, “John McCain is feisty, in high spirits, banking on New Hampshire’s embrace. Change is the campaign catchphrase, all the more so after Iowa. But the 71-year-old senator

insists he alone has shown the guts and the skills to deliver it.” McCain said, “My friends, I’m most proud of the change that I brought about in Iraq that saved American lives.” [CNN, 1/04/08]

- **McCain: “I Was Right”** According to *USA Today*, “Arizona Sen. John McCain, whose support of the Iraq war was once a drag on his presidential ambitions, now cites military progress there as evidence he has the judgment and experience to serve as commander in chief over rivals who wavered or were silent about the conflict. ‘I was right,’ he said in an interview with USA TODAY, saying he had been vindicated by reduced violence in Iraq after U.S. troop levels were increased in 2007. ‘I said I would much rather lose a campaign than lose a war, and I was right when all these other Republicans were criticizing me for being loyal, or (were) saying nothing.’” [*USA Today*, 12/30/07]

HOWEVER...

McCain Endorsed Escalation Despite Suggesting 20,000 Additional Troops Were Too Few To Win The War. When asked prior to Bush’s announced escalation if 20,000 troops were enough to control the situation in Iraq, McCain suggested it was not enough. Matt Lauer of NBC News asked McCain, “You have long called for more troops … Will 20,000 do the job in your opinion?” to which McCain replied, “I’m not sure. … But to make it of a short duration and a small size would be the worst of all options to exercise in my view.” Despite that assessment, 6 days later, On January 10, McCain agreed that Bush’s plan to send just over 21,000 additional forces to Iraq was enough forces to provide an adequate surge. When asked if it was enough, McCain said, “I think so… I think it meets our criteria.” [NBC News, 1/4/07; CNN.com, 1/10/07; AP, 1/12/07]

- **McCain Said He Wouldn’t Support An Escalation In Iraq That Wasn’t Big Enough, Called For Up To 35,000 Troops; Later Claimed Couldn’t Cite Specific Numbers.** “McCain said Thursday he’s concerned Bush won’t send enough troops to reinforce Iraq. He said experts he has consulted have told him as many as 35,000 additional troops should be sent. ‘I need to know whether it’s enough,’ McCain said. ‘I cannot support an insufficient injection of troops.’” Despite that claim, after a speaking at an Iraq policy forum at the American Enterprise Institute, McCain wouldn’t cite specific troop numbers needed, saying, “We are not specific on numbers, we don’t have - we are talking about 3 or 4 combat brigades, in Baghdad, and one or two more in Anbar province. We are not that much detailed oriented,” and adding that the troop increase had to be “sustained until we win, until we’ve got it under control and the Iraqi government can assume those responsibilities.” [CNN.com, 1/5/07; McCain, AEI “Future of Iraq” Conference, 1/5/07]

McCain Called For Large Sustained Troop Increase In Iraq, Called Short Surge “Worst Of All Worlds.” Speaking before the American Enterprise Institute, John McCain emphasized the importance of a sustained troop increase in Iraq, as opposed to a short term surge in forces. McCain noted that “there are two keys” to a troops surge, saying, “to be a value the surge must be substantial and it must be sustained.” McCain called for a “large number of troops,” calling for an additional 3-5 brigades in Baghdad and one brigade in Anbar province as the “minimum” necessary. McCain added that the increase in troops can only be reduced with mission completion, not a timetable, criticizing a short surge, saying, “the presence of additional brigades should be tied to completion of their mission rather than to some arbitrary deadline. The worst of all worlds would be a small, short surge of U.S. Forces.” McCain believes a sustained force increase is necessary to reach an end in Iraq, noting that “by controlling the violence be we can pave the way for a political settlement.” [McCain, AEI Speech, 1/5/07]

McCain Said It Was “Immoral” To Keep Troops In Iraq “Fighting and Dying for a Failed Policy,” While, Contrary to Military Commanders’ Opinions, There Weren’t Enough Troops to Win the War. In twin speeches to the Federalist Society and to GOPAC, McCain declared, “what I cannot do is ask [a soldier] to return to Iraq, to risk life and limb, so that we might delay our defeat for a few months or a year.” When asked afterwards, “by your own standards, isn’t it currently immoral to keep marines and soldiers, other service people in Iraq.” McCain said, “Yes, it is, and we’ve got to ask some question, one, are we winning and I think the answer is no.” McCain added that American soldiers in Iraq are “fighting and dying for a failed policy.” “ [McCain Federalist Society speech, 11/16/06; McCain GOPAC speech, 11/16/06; ABC News, 11/19/06]

McCain's Calls For More Troops Are "Suicidal," Out Of The GOP Mainstream, And Driven By a "Weakness" That Could Cost Him The Presidency. While other Republicans began suggesting course corrections in Iraq including fewer troops, McCain has called for the opposite, and in doing so "has distanced him from the mainstream of his party." The New York Times reported that McCain "is virtually an army of one ... in calling for an increase in American forces in Iraq[.]" The Times went on to note that "his position on Iraq could be a major complication" to his White House aspirations. Alan Wolfe, a political scientist at Boston College called McCain's continued support of the war "suicidal," adding that McCain was "hurting himself with many independent voters, and many Republicans." A military analyst with the Brookings Institute, Michael E. O'Hanlon, said McCain's refusal to acknowledge the reality of the war in Iraq "may be exposing a weakness in his thinking that ultimately deprives him of the presidency." [Boston Globe, 10/24/06; New York Times, 11/14/06]

McCain Said Iraq Was Out Of Control And Troop Levels Weren't Enough To Stop The Violence. Speaking about troop levels in Iraq, McCain said, "The danger [of withdrawing troops] is one that we have faced all along. That is that we haven't been able to control the country. The latest, of course, is that we have to send troops into Ramadi. I was over there two or three months ago. It was clear to me that Ramadi was not under control and that we were going to have to send troops in there. And guess where the troops came from. They came from Kuwait, but they also had to divert some of the marines from Falluja. We are like the little Dutch boy with his thumb in the dike." [Financial Times, 6/19/06]

McCain Comfortable Staying In Iraq For A Hundred Years

McCain: Maybe A Hundred [Years in Iraq]. According to Salon.com, "McCain responded that U.S. casualties are continuing, but insisted 'they are much less and we will eventually eliminate them.' ... [McCain said] 'Maybe a hundred. We've been in South Korea, we've been in Japan for 60 years. We've been in South Korea for 50 years or so. That'd be fine with me as long as Americans are not being injured or harmed or wounded or killed. Then it's fine with me, I hope it would be fine with you if we maintain a presence in a very volatile part of the world where al-Qaida is training, recruiting, equipping and motivating people every single day.' When his questioner asked, 'What if American soldiers are being killed one per day four years from now?' McCain conceded his point. The senator admitted, 'I understand that American public opinion will not sustain a conflict where Americans continued to be sacrificed without showing them that we can succeed.'" [Salon.com, 1/15/08]

- **Even Bush Was Embarrassed By McCain's Pugnacity.** According to Salon.com, "Even Bush was embarrassed by McCain's pugnacity, which did not play well with the Arab public as the president continued his Middle East tour. Asked on NBC about the senator's remark, Bush replied, with uncharacteristic wryness, 'I don't know if a hundred years is the right number. That's a long time.'" [Salon.com, 1/15/08]

McCain: "I Don't Think Americans Are Concerned If We're There For 100 Years Or 1,000 Years Or 10,000 Years." In an interview on "Face the Nation," host Bob Scieffer asked McCain about staying in Iraq for 100 year. McCain responded, "We've got to get Americans off the front line, have the Iraqis as part of the strategy, take over more and more of the responsibilities. And then I don't think Americans are concerned if we're there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years. What they care about is a sacrifice of our most precious treasure, and that's American blood. So what I'm saying is look, if Americans are there in a support role, but they're not taking casualties, that's fine. We're in Kuwait now. As you well recall, we had a war, we stayed in Kuwait. We didn't stay in Saudi Arabia. So it's going to be up to the relationship between the Iraqi government and the United States of America." [CBS, "Face the Nation," 1/06/08]

- **McCain He Was Fine Keep Troops In Iraq For Decades.** According to the Associated Press, "McCain insisting that what matters most is ending American casualties, not their presence in Iraq. He said he would be fine with keeping troops in Iraq for decades as long as they weren't being harmed, similar to the arrangements that exist in South Korea, Japan and other countries. 'A thousand years. A million years. Ten million years,' McCain said. 'It depends on the arrangement we have with the Iraqi government.'" [AP, 1/04/08]

McCain Said US Could Stay In Iraq For “Maybe A Hundred Years” And He Was “Fine” With It.

According to Motherjones.com blog, John McCain told a few hundred people at a New Hampshire town hall meeting that the United States military could stay in Iraq for “...maybe a hundred years” and that “would be fine with me.” McCain’s comments came in response to a antiwar activist who asked questioned him as to why there was no mention of an Iraq timeline on his website. According to Motherjones.com blog, McCain also “...said he had no objection to U.S. Soldiers staying in Iraq for decades, ‘as long as Americans are not being injured, harmed or killed.’” [www.motherjones.com, [1/3/08](#)]

McCain’s Reputation Tied To Bush’s Handling Of Iraq

Richard Cohen: McCain’s Iraq Plan Will Lose Him Both Baghdad And Washington. Richard Cohen wrote in the *Washington Post* that on Iraq, “McCain leads a charge whose mission cannot be defined and whose sound is increasingly grating to the American people.” Noting that “if additional troops could succeed in tamping down the level of violence in Baghdad, we have learned enough about Iraq to suggest that it would be only a temporary reprieve,” Cohen concluded that “to secure Baghdad for a brief time, McCain risks losing Washington forever .” Cohen also wrote that McCain’s continued calls to escalate forces in Iraq showed a pattern from his thoughts on the Vietnam War, writing, “If this were McCain’s only example of looking to solve a problem by force or additional force, it might not loom so large ... But his position regarding Iraq is really no different from the one he once held, and still does, about Vietnam – ‘a noble cause,’ he has called that misbegotten war. There, too, he felt that a greater U.S. effort would have resulted in an American victory. Not likely.” [*Washington Post*, 12/19/06]

Peter Canellos: McCain’s Reputation Tied to Bush’s Handling Of Iraq. Peter Canellos, a columnist for the Boston Globe, wrote that McCain, “a frank neoconservative who envisions Iraq as part of a global war on terrorism that is at least as expansive as Bush’s,” may start to be “linked in the public mind with Bush’s failures” on the war. Canellos theorized that “once more troops head into the war zone, McCain’s credibility will be on the line. A year from now, barring an unexpected decision to forgo the presidential race, McCain will face Republican primary voters. If the situation on the ground hasn’t improved, his rivals are certain to hold him at least partially responsible for the flawed strategy.” [*Boston Globe*, 1/9/07]

Los Angeles Times: If Troop Surge Fails, McCain’s Prospects Dim. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that McCain’s credibility is on the line with his support for escalation in Iraq. “As a Vietnam POW and decorated Navy officer, Sen. John McCain has based much of his political persona on his support for the military and his credibility on national security. But as the Arizona Republican prepares to mount a White House campaign, he is putting those military bona fides on the line - aggressively backing an unpopular plan to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq at a time when other presidential hopefuls are steering clear of the war or calling for troop reductions. ... Beyond Bush, no politician has more to lose than McCain, the presumed GOP front-runner in 2008 and the plan’s biggest backer in Congress.” [*Los Angeles Times*, 1/8/07]

CFR Fellow: McCain’s Slide On Iraq Policy Could “Eclipse” Maverick Image. Peter Beinart, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote that Iraq was causing a sharp decline in McCain’s support. Beinart wrote, McCain’s “lead in a hypothetical face-off against Hillary Clinton, which once regularly topped ten points, has dwindled to nothing. That has a lot to do with his stance on Iraq, and, with the war about to escalate, his slide may well continue. By next year, McCain’s government-reforming, straight-talking image could be largely eclipsed by his role as cheerleader-in-chief for an Iraq policy Americans can’t stand. Give McCain his due: He’s acting from conviction. He’s doing exactly what pundits always demand of politicians--ignoring the consultants, ignoring the polls, and doing what he thinks is right. At this point, McCain’s position probably hurts him even in the Republican primary. It’s one of the more remarkable episodes in recent political memory.” [*The New Republic*, 1/22/07]

McCain Called Bush Sanctions Against Iran “Necessary”

McCain Called the Bush Sanctions Against Iran “Necessary.” The “Bush administration announced sanctions yesterday on a unit of the Iranian military...The measures proposed by President Bush today are necessary, Mr. McCain said.” [New York Times, 10/26/07]

“A Consistent Supporter Of Personal Social Security Accounts”; Helped Sell Bush Overhaul

McCain Willing to Privatize Social Security and Possibly Increase Payroll Taxes. According to the *Sioux City Journal*, “McCain... said raising the payroll tax that goes into Social Security is a last resort, and... agreed that voluntary private accounts within the program should be an option.” [Sioux City Journal, [10/26/07](#)]

McCain Evaded Social Security Question; Refused to Take Position on Social Security Without Negotiating. In 2007, McCain was asked if he would be willing to cut benefits or increase age of eligibility to keep Social Security from going bankrupt. McCain said, “Before we get into any of those specifics, you have to know that anyone who gets out front on this issue without sitting down and negotiating with everything on the table will get nowhere. ... If I take a position on any of those issues right now, one, it doesn’t work. And second of all, it’s got to be the product of bipartisan negotiations where people sit down across a table from one another.” [FOX News, 4/30/07]

- **McCain Said He Could Accept “Almost Anything” As Part Of A Compromise; Said 2005 Quote Taken Out of Context.** In 2007, McCain was asked about his 2005 support of increasing Social Security taxes and was pressed about it as a part of a compromise. McCain said, “Oh. Well, I mean, as part of a compromise, if you come up with a benefit, I can accept almost anything, but it’s got to be part of a compromise. Am I for raising anybody’s taxes? No, I am not. I am unalterably opposed to doing so. But we have to save it, and come together the way that Tip O’Neill and Ronald Reagan did. I will not support any specific remedy, no matter what I said in 2005, and I believe you’re taking that quote out of context, because I never said it before.” [FOX News, 4/30/07]
- **McCain Said Lifting Cap on Payroll and Social Security Tax “Should Be Something That’s On The Table.”** In 2005, when asked about the possibility of lifting the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher, McCain answered, “As part of a compromise I could, and other sacrifices, because we all know that it doesn’t add up until we make some very serious and fundamental changes. ... So my answer is, if everything’s on the table, certainly that should be something that’s on the table because, according to polls I’ve seen, that’s the one thing that most Americans agree is probably a viable option, but not by itself but with other changes that need to be made. And if we don’t, then we might as well say, ‘Look, it’s not going to change.’” [NBC, [2/20/05](#)]

Club for Growth: McCain “A Consistent Supporter Of Personal Social Security Accounts.” According to the Club for Growth, “He [McCain] has also been a consistent supporter of personal Social Security accounts, calling for ‘bold, genuine reform that allows workers to invest some of their Social Security savings, privately, in higher yielding accounts’ in a 1999 press release. During his 2000 presidential campaign, Senator McCain’s plan for Social Security reform included a pledge to incorporate personal retirement accounts within his first year in office, and correctly criticized the inherent unfairness of the current program which forces ‘workers to give a portion of their hard-earned money to finance a system with low or negative returns for themselves.’” [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

Club for Growth: Stance On Personal Accounts Though, Is Marred By His Willingness To Raise Social Security Taxes. According to the Club for Growth, “This positive stance on personal accounts though, is marred by his willingness to raise Social Security taxes as part of a package that would include personal accounts. On a February, 23, 2005 edition of Meet the Press, Tim Russert asked Senator McCain if he would support ‘as part of the solution to Social Security’s solvency problem, that you lift the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher?’ Senator McCain answered, ‘As

part of a compromise I could . . . I'm proud of the job that Senator Lindsey Graham has been doing in his leadership position on this issue and showing some courage.' Raising Social Security taxes in this manner is not a sign of courage. It could constitute a massive tax increase and prove devastating to economic growth in this country. Furthermore, Senator McCain's support for Lindsey Graham's proposal to raise Social Security taxes contradicts his own observation about the woefully poor return workers receive. Raising taxes would only make that return worse. As Senator McCain hinted in 2000, it is not Social Security taxes that are too low, but the below-market return on those taxes that should most concern policy makers and taxpayers alike." [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

John McCain Promises "Hard Choices;" Previously Chose Privatization. "If I'm President, I'll submit a plan to save Social Security and Medicare, and I'll ask Democrats in Congress to do the same. We'll listen to what people outside government suggest as well. I'll work on a bipartisan basis to make the hard choices... and if Congress is afraid to make those choices, then they can just let me do it. I'll take the heat. I'll ask Congress to let me submit a comprehensive proposal. I'll prepare it carefully, fairly and honestly" [McCain Economic Speech, 4/16/07; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

- **1998: McCain Voted To Create Personal Retirement Accounts.** In 1998, McCain voted for legislation expressing that the budget surplus can be used to establish a program of personal retirement accounts for working Americans to reduce unfunded liabilities of Social Security program. [Vote #56, SCR 86, 4/1/1998; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

McCain "Too Easily Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush's Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security." According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, "At least President Bush didn't kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn't faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush's misguided bid to privatize Social Security. By diverting a portion of payroll taxes from Social Security into the stock market, Bush would add risk to retirement income and burden the program with trillions of dollars of debt. Bush's real purpose is to cut traditional retirement benefits, which could be necessary to control costs, but he won't provide any details on that part of his plan. Instead, Bush launched one last effort to sell skeptical Americans on private accounts. By his side at several stops was McCain, resorting to the kind of questionable tactics that once had been used against him." [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, "Shame on John McCain," [3/25/05](#)]

- **St. Petersburg Times: "Shame On McCain For Being A Part Of This Effort ... He Even Resorted To Misinformation."** According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, "Shame on McCain for being a part of this effort to divide the generations. Usually noted for candid speech, he even resorted to misinformation when he said in 2002 'we stop paying people Social Security.' McCain knows that isn't true. That is the date (actually it was changed to 2041 the other day) when Social Security reserves are expected to be used up. Even then, with no change in the program, recipients would continue to get about 75 percent of what was promised them." [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, "Shame on John McCain," [3/25/05](#)]

McCain Accompanied Bush to Help Sell Bush Social Security Overhaul. According to the Associated Press, "There's another showing Tuesday of the good-cop, bad-cop routine featuring President Bush and Sen. John McCain, Bush's one-time presidential rival who has become a big booster of the president's Social Security plan. The Arizona Republican accompanied Bush on Monday to the senator's home state and Colorado to try to help sell the public and Congress on the president's proposal for a major Social Security overhaul." [AP, 3/22/05]

McCain: "AARP, If You Don't Like Our Solutions, Give Us One." According to the Associated Press, "He [McCain] also had what he called a 'little straight talk' for AARP, the powerful lobby for older citizens that opposes Bush's plan to allow younger workers to divert a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes into personal accounts that could be invested in the stock market in trade for reduced guaranteed benefits. The group is running television and radio ads during the two-week Easter break while members of Congress are back in their home districts. 'My dear friends at ... AARP, if you don't like our solutions, give us one,' McCain said. 'Sit down and join us in this debate. Don't block it.'" [AP, 3/22/05]

McCain Joined Bush at “Social Security Campaign” in Tuscan. In 2005, McCain appeared with Bush in Tuscan during the Administration’s “Social Security campaign.” According to the Associated Press, McCain “accused Democrats of not working toward a bipartisan solution. ‘We must do this together,’ he said, his voice growing louder with each word. ‘We know how much money is coming in. We know how much money is going out. Does anybody believe we should wait — we should wait until there’s no money that we have to cut off people’s Social Security checks?’” [AP, [3/21/05](#)]

McCain: “Personal Savings Accounts Are Workable And Have Worked In Other Countries.” In 2005, McCain defended Bush Social Security privatization plan. McCain said, “Well, I think the president wants to take a comprehensive approach to start with, but, second of all, these personal savings accounts are workable and have worked in other countries. They could pay a much greater return than the present 1.8 to 2 percent. We members of Congress and federal employees can invest our money into these five different -- and we’re doing fine, between seven and nine percent return. The president is willing to look at a comprehensive fix. [CNN, “Inside Politics,” [3/03/05](#)]

Flip-Flop On Bush Tax Cuts A “Breathtaking Turnabout”

FLIP: McCain “Vigorously” Opposed Bush Tax Cuts. According to Club for Growth, “When the most important pro-growth tax cuts in a generation were proposed by President Bush in 2001 and 2003, Senator McCain vigorously opposed them. The depth of this opposition goes a long way towards tarnishing the Senator’s fiscal credentials. First, it is notable that Senator McCain stood so astride the Republican anti-tax position that he was one of only two Republican senators to oppose the 2001 tax cuts and one of only three GOP senators to oppose the 2003 reductions. [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

- **McCain: “I Cannot In Good Conscience Support A Tax Cut In Which So Many Of The Benefits Go To The Most Fortunate Among Us...”** According to Club for Growth, “Second, Senator McCain’s stated reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts rhetorically allied him with the most radical anti-growth elements of national politics. Senator McCain argued, “I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who need tax relief.” [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

FLOP: McCain Voted For Bush Tax Cuts And Defended The Flip-Flop As A Legislative Gimmick. In 2006, McCain voted to extend tax cuts supported by the president that were set to expire between 2005 and 2010. “The Senate voted 53-47...in favor of extending the president’s investor tax cuts on dividends and capital gains. Joining in this breakthrough vote was John McCain, the senator who voted against these tax cuts when they were introduced in 2003. This is an important shift for the GOP presidential frontrunner[.]” McCain’s vote was described as “a sharp reversal of his anti-tax-cut posture,” though he defended the shift, saying, “it was a gimmick,” reasoning that “the tax cuts were temporary and then had to be made permanent.” [Senate vote #10, H.R. 4297, 2/2/06, passed 66-31; [New York Times](#), 2/21/06; [Washington Times](#), 3/6/06; NBC News, 4/2/06]

- **McCain Supported the Bush Tax Cuts After He Had Denounced Them in the Past.** The *New York Times* reported, “But an equally breathtaking turnaround occurred earlier in the year, when Mr. McCain embraced the Bush tax cuts he had once denounced as an unaffordable giveaway to the rich. In an interview with National Review, Mr. McCain justified his reversal by saying, ‘Tax cuts, starting with Kennedy, as we all know, increase revenues.’” [[New York Times](#), 10/9/07]
- **McCain, In “Sharp Reversal,” Voted For Bush Tax Cuts He Opposed In 2003.** “The Senate voted 53-47...in favor of extending the president’s investor tax cuts on dividends and capital gains. Joining in this breakthrough vote was John McCain, the senator who voted against these tax cuts when they were introduced in 2003. This is an important shift for the GOP presidential frontrunner[.]” McCain’s vote was described as “a sharp reversal of his anti-tax-cut posture,” for which Grover Norquist was “happy he’s flip-

flopped,” but warned that McCain has “two years to convince people this is not a political ploy.” [[New York Times](#), 2/21/06; [Washington Times](#), 3/6/06, 2/27/06]

- **McCain Voted For Bush’s Tax Cuts, Explained By Saying He Got Caught Up In A Legislative Gimmick.** McCain defended his flip-flop to support Bush’s tax cuts, which he had previously voted against, saying, “it was a gimmick that was--that the tax cuts were temporary and then had to be made permanent. The tax cuts are now there and voting to revoke them would have been to--not to extend them would have meant a tax increase. I’ve never voted for a tax increase in my life...the economy had adjusted, the tax cuts were there, and if it would have been--and that’s the way it was designed. It would’ve been tantamount to a tax increase. And that’s, and that’s a fact. And I’ve never voted for a tax increase in my life with the exception of [tobacco].” [[NBC News](#), 4/2/06]

Grover Norquist Called McCain A Flip Flopper Who Would Not Lead With Conservative Values. During an interview which on ABC News, Grover Norquist, the head of the conservative group Americans for Tax Reform, said McCain’s flip-flopping tendency would be damaging to conservative goals. Norquist said of McCain, “What McCain has done is flip-flopped on the gun issue, on the tax issue. He used to be a Reagan Republican on taxes. He’s voted against every one of President Bush’s tax cuts. He voted for the first one before he voted against it but he’s voted against all of them. He’s flip-flopped back and forth not because of where the American people are but because of where the cameras are.” Norquist added that McCain’s “phototropism” was “very damaging from a conservative perspective because that’s unlikely to lead to conservative governance.” [[ABC News](#), 6/11/06]

McCain Supported No Child Left Behind

McCain Said NCLB Was a “Good Beginning.” In a speech at Clemson, “No Child Left Behind is ‘a good beginning’ that should be improved, not scrapped, said McCain, a proponent of ‘choice and competition’ in schools.” [[The Greenville News](#) (South Carolina), 11/29/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

- **McCain Said NCLB “A Good Beginning.”** In New Hampshire, “McCain parried with a teacher in the audience about the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which the teacher argued takes away too much instructional time for assessment purposes. McCain disagreed, saying that while NCLB was not perfect, it allowed educational leaders to compare test scores from school to school and state to state, which he said is valuable. ‘I think that No Child Left Behind was a good beginning,’ he said. The senator expressed his support for vouchers and charter schools and emphasized the need for better training in math and science. While McCain failed to win the teacher over on NCLB, the two were able to find common ground on the importance of math and science.” [[Brattleboro Reformer](#), 7/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Wanted to Fix Problems, Build on Success of NCLB. McCain pledged support for the “No Child Left Behind” act. “I don’t think we ought to discard the whole thing,” McCain said. “I think we ought to fix those areas where there’s problems and build on the success of the ‘No Child Left Behind’ itself.” [[KSFY TV](#), 10/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

- **McCain Wanted To Revamp NCLB, But Not Scrap It.** On NCLB, it needs to be revamped, McCain said. The No Child Left Behind Act marked the first time schools and teachers have had their performance graded, he added, and changes need to be made, particularly where non-English speaking children are concerned. But McCain was quick to point out that the plan needed to be changed -- not scrapped altogether. “If we scrap it, we’ll just have to start over again,” McCain said. [[Fort Mill Times](#), 10/24/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]
- **McCain Said NCLB Good Start, But Law Has Problems.** McCain addressed President George W. Bush’s No Child Left Behind legislation. He said the act was a good start toward improving teacher performance and accountability but noted there was a lot more work to be done in this area. “It’s got lot of

problems. We've got to sit down and fix those problems, particularly with minorities," McCain said. [Orangeburg Times and Democrat, 10/10/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

- **McCain Said NCLB Should Be Fixed, But Not Repealed.** From an NEA release, "New Hampshire NEA member Grace Nelson was able to ask Senator John McCain (AZ) about No Child Left Behind at a town hall meeting in Guilford, NH, today. When asked what he would do about NCLB if elected President, the Senator responded that the law should be fixed -- especially in the areas of testing students with disabilities and non-English speaking students -- but that the law should not be repealed. NEA agrees that this aspect of NCLB has been particularly unworkable." [NEA Press Release, [6/05/07](#); NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Thinks NCLB Was Beginning to Work. In Iowa, "Another issue McCain feels needs addressed is education. He feels that No Child Left Behind is beginning to work, but much more needs addressing in the field of educating our children." [Marshalltown Times-Republican, 9/05/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

- **McCain Would Continue and Improve NCLB.** McCain said in an interview he would "Continue No Child Left Behind and improve it ... and build on the progress that's been made, but realize that the economic future of America rests on our ability to improve education. I support vouchers; I support charter schools; and I want to reward good teachers and help bad teachers find another line of work." [Spartanburg Herald-Journal, 7/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supported More Accountability, Performance-based Rewards for Teachers, Vouchers and Charter Schools. McCain said at a luncheon in Kalamazoo, MI, that he would make NCLB reauthorization a top priority as president. McCain "said students should have school options, such as charter schools and, in states where they are allowed, vouchers that let students attend schools other than the public schools to which they were assigned." He added, "I would do anything I could to hold teachers and schools more accountable. I would reward teachers on the basis of performance. I would do everything I could to provide choice and competition among schools." [Associated Press, 4/13/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB Will Help Change Failing Education System. During his 2004 reelection, McCain's challenger, Stuart Stockey, said that No Child Left Behind was not helping "teachers teach in the classroom" and was an attempt to shift tax dollars to charter and private schools. McCain--who voted for NCLB [2001 Senate Roll Call Vote 371 (12.18.01)] and supported national standards and public student testing [2004 National Political Awareness Test-Senator McCain http://www.vote-smart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8]-- disagreed and said the law would help schools "do things differently" because the education system was "failing." [Tucson Citizen, 10/16/04; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB is Major Milestone in Improving Education. On Larry King, McCain stated: "...Senator Kennedy and President Bush worked together on the No Child Left Behind Act. The No Child Left Behind Act may have some flaws associated with it, but I still view it as a major milestone in trying to improve education in this country. [CNN transcripts, [11/03/05](#); NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB Needs to be Reviewed to Measure Full Efficacy. At an Arizona town hall forum, McCain addressed education, saying that holding teachers accountable for educating students improves schools, but No Child Left Behind needs to be reviewed to measure its full efficacy. "It is the first attempt to place some standards on teachers," he said. "Is it an end-all? No. But it's a great start." McCain said he supports incentives for students interested in fields integral to the country's future -- engineering, the sciences and computer science. [The Arizona Republic (Phoenix), 4/20/06; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain's Health Plan Just Like Bush's Failed Health Plan

McCain Health Care Plan Just Like Bush Failed Plan. “President Bush proposed a similar idea” to the tax credits in McCain’s plan, which was dead-on-arrival in Congress in early 2007, because the plan only awarded those who purchased insurance in the private market. [[Wall Street Journal](#), 10/11/07; [Washington Post](#), 1/25/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]

- **McCain Wants to Move Away From Employer-Based System.** “The existing tax break for employer-sponsored insurance would be eliminated, taking a step away from the work-based model in place for the last half century and toward an individual market.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 10/11/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]
- **Bush’s Plan Panned for Eroding Employer-Sponsored Health Care.** Experts criticized Bush’s health care plan proposed early in 2007 because it would “erode the employer-sponsored system that still provides coverage to more than half of all Americans.” It prompted fear among many that the plan “would prompt more employers to drop health coverage and offer employees an immediate increase in wages to buy coverage on the individual market. But those plans tend to be more expensive, less comprehensive and harder to get for consumers who are already sick.” [[Washington Post](#), 1/25/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]

McCain Supported Bush Nominees

McCain Supported Bush On Hayden Nomination To CIA. McCain supported the nomination of Hayden to lead the CIA, calling him highly qualified and recognizing his background in intelligence and with the NSA. McCain said, “I hope [Hayden] can [be confirmed by the Senate]. And I’m aware of the calendar and that we’ve got an upcoming election, but I hope that my Democrat friends would recognize that this is a very important and key post, and I hope that they will recognize that General Hayden is a very highly qualified individual. He is the president’s selection, and so I hope we can move forward with it … General Hayden is really more of an intelligence person than he is an Air Force officer. As you know, his career has been spent in that area, and his background, of course, he comes from the NSA.” [[CBS News](#), 5/7/06]

McCain Supported Bush’s Nomination Of John Bolton To Be U.S. Ambassador To U.N. According to the *New Yorker*, John McCain supported President Bush’s nomination of John Bolton to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, despite the fact that the “...nomination engendered doubts even among some Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.” Giving a speech on the Senate Floor, McCain said, “If a temper and an unorthodox management style were disqualifiers from government service, I would bet a large number of people in Washington would be out of a job.” [[New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

Current Attacks On John McCain

“Anybody But McCain” Blog Coalition Emerged. Conservative bloggers have created an “Anybody but McCain” coalition in an attempt to derail McCain’s presidential bid. [College Conservative Movement, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Too Busy to Do His Job

McCain: “Too Busy” to Do His Job. Despite being in DC at the time, McCain failed to vote on the economic stimulus package. McCain said, “I haven’t had a chance to talk about it at all, have not had the opportunity to, even,” McCain said. “We’ve just been too busy, focused on other stuff. I don’t know if I’m doing that. We’ve got a couple of meetings scheduled.” [Think Progress, [2/6/08](#)]

- **McCain Promised to Vote For Compromise Stimulus Package.** At a Republican Presidential Debate in California, McCain vowed to support the compromise economic stimulus package. Brian Williams asked, “As the only member of the Senate on the stage, will you vote for this compromise?” McCain responded, “Yes, I will.” [Think Progress, [2/6/08](#)]

GOPers Suggest McCain Unfit for Presidency Because of Temper

GOP Rejected Idea of McCain Nomination and Warned His Tirades Suggest a Temperament Unfit for the Oval Office. According to the *Washington Post*, “...others have outright rejected the idea of a McCain nomination and presidency, warning that his tirades suggest a temperament unfit for the Oval Office. ‘The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine,’ Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), also a senior member of the Appropriations panel, told the Boston Globe recently. ‘He is erratic. He is hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me.’ A former colleague says McCain’s abrasive nature would, at minimum, make his relations with Republicans on Capitol Hill uneasy if he were to become president. McCain could find himself the victim of Republicans who will not go the extra mile for him on legislative issues because of past grievances. ‘John was very rough in the sandbox,’ said former senator Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), who is outspoken in his opposition to McCain’s candidacy. ‘Everybody has a McCain story. If you work in the Senate for a while, you have a McCain story. . . . He hasn’t built up a lot of goodwill.’” [*Washington Post*, 2/04/08]

Santorum Raised Questions About McCain’s Temperament. According to the *Boston Globe*, “Mitt Romney’s campaign is blasting out automated phone calls that feature a recording of former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania raising questions about John McCain’s ‘temperament’ -- a hot-button issue that Romney himself has assiduously avoided. Santorum said in an interview today that he wrote the script himself, and the campaign deferred to him and approved it. ‘John McCain has written about and talked about the issues that he has with respect to his temperament and his ability to work with other people and to do so in a way that’s productive,’ Santorum said in an interview after stumping for Romney at Dave & Buster’s restaurant. ‘This is not something he hasn’t spoken about and talked about and admitted to and I think that to me it is a relevant issue for people to consider...I think it’s one without question that factors into his ability to govern, to form coalitions and to get things done.’ ... Santorum said he had personally witnessed problems with McCain’s temperament, which he declined to detail. ‘I don’t know anybody in the Senate who hasn’t,’ Santorum said. ‘Everybody has their McCain story.’” [*Boston Globe*, Political Intelligence, 2/03/08]

McCain “Reminiscent of Nixon”

Romney Said McCain Was “Reminiscent of Nixon.” Romney criticized the McCain campaign by saying his tactics were “reminiscent of the Nixon era.” Romney added, “I think he’s a man of character.” But he added: “I think he took a sharp detour off the Straight Talk Express.” [*Associated Press*, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Criticized for Iraq Plan

Republican Heavyweight Criticized McCain's Iraq Plan. Tom Pauken, former chairman of the Texas Republican Party, said he is “troubled by Mr. McCain’s determination to keep a permanent military presence in the Middle East and possibly extending the war in that region by bombing Iran.” [Washington Times, [2/4/08](#)]

Giuliani Said McCain Was Less Qualified

Giuliani: I Would Be Better Than McCain. Speaking about McCain, Giuliani said, “I think I would be a better candidate for president and a better president.” [Hardball, MSNBC, 1/23/08]

Giuliani Implied McCain Was Less Qualified Than He Was; Said McCain Would Realize That Giuliani Was The Best Qualified To Be President. “Following his train of thought to cabinet picks, Giuliani left the door open in his administration for rivals like McCain, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee and others currently battling him for the Republican nomination. ‘You could do what Abe Lincoln did,’ Giuliani said as he referred to historian Doris Kearns Goodwin’s book on Lincoln, ‘Team of Rivals.’ ‘Abraham Lincoln basically selected all of his opponents to be in his cabinet -- all his Republican opponents,’ Giuliani said. ‘Each one of them began with the idea that they were better qualified to be president than he was, and they all left realizing that they weren’t, and that gives you a sense of a man of great confidence.’” [AP, 1/2/08]

Giuliani: I Am More Qualified In National Security Matters Than McCain. “King asked, “Do you think you’re more qualified in national security than John McCain?” Giuliani responded, “I do. I do, Larry, because of my executive experience. I think John is a great man and I have tremendous respect for him. But after all, as a senator, John one is one of a hundred. What he does is he gets to vote, he gets to get briefed, he gets to make speeches, give his advice. As a mayor and as an associate attorney general, I had to make decisions. I had to make decisions that, you know, determined life or death sometimes, of responsibility for the lives of millions of people.” [Larry King Live, CNN, 1/23/08]

McCain Accused of Not Embracing “Supply Side of Economics”

Giuliani: McCain Doesn’t Embrace Supply Side Economics Like I Do. Giuliani said, “I think John voted against the Bush tax cuts twice because John doesn’t embrace supply-side economics the way I do.” [Interview With Cavuto, Fox News, 1/22/08]

McCain Attacked for Position on Taxes

Giuliani Criticized McCain’s Record On Taxes On Multiple Occasions. Giuliani said, “I supported the Bush tax cuts. John McCain sided with the Democrats and voted against the Bush tax cuts.” He also said, “John voted against the Bush tax cuts, I think on both occasions, and sided with the Democrats.” On a third occasion, Giuliani said, “I supported the Bush tax cuts. John McCain voted with the Democrats against the Bush tax cuts -- twice.” [CNN.com, [1/22/08](#); Chicago Tribune, 1/21/08; From The Road, CBS, [1/19/08](#)]

McCain Accused of Turning Back on POW/MIA Community

McCain Has An Icy Relationship With The POW/MIA Community. According to *Salon.com*’s Mark Benjamin, “McCain has an icy relationship with the POW/MIA community.” Benjamin reported that most POW/MIAs had “real antipathy” towards McCain not because of the widespread belief that POWs are still being held in Vietnam, but partly because of McCain’s “...stance on relations with Vietnam after the war ended.” [*Salon.com*, [1/29/08](#)]

- **McCain Was Early Proponent Of Normalizing Relations With Vietnam.** According to *Salon.com*’s Mark Benjamin, the POW/MIA community has an “icy relationship” with McCain because his “...first sin

was being a very early proponent of normalizing relations with the government of Vietnam, or resuming official political and economic ties cut off after the conflict ended.” Apparently, “McCain’s efforts in this realm infuriated some veterans still stinging from the American experience there.” [Salon.com, [1/29/08](#)]

- **McCain Supported A Bill That Would Have Created A U.S. Interests Section In Vietnam, Upsetting Some Veterans.** According to *Salon.com*’s Mark Benjamin, while McCain served in the House in the 1980’s, he “...supported legislation that would have created a U.S. Interests Section in Vietnam, a low-grade version of an embassy and a signal of warming relations between the two nations ...[which]... touched a nerve for some veterans.” According to Benjamin, by supporting this legislation, “the concern was that people like McCain would give away the carrot” since the Regan administration’s strategy “was to take incremental steps toward normalization [with Vietnam relations] but only in return for serious cooperation from the Vietnamese on the disposition of unaccounted-for Americans.” [Salon.com, [1/29/08](#)]
- **McCain Accused Of Not Delving Enough Into Possible Existing Vietnam POWs.** According to *Salon.com*’s Mark Benjamin, some McCain criticism comes from some people who believe that McCain did not “dive deeply enough” into allegations that there were still American POWs in Vietnam well after the war ended. McCain served on a Senate committee which “aimed at figuring out whether any American POWs might still be alive in Southeast Asia.” [Salon.com, [1/29/08](#)]
- **McCain Known As Hostile To Families Of American Vietnam Vets Still Missing.** According to *Salon.com*’s Mark Benjamin, McCain has “...generated a reputation as being hostile to the families of those Americans still missing [in Vietnam]. And some of that is probably his fault.” Benjamin referred to a “well-known...barbed exchange” that McCain once had with a witness whose brother went missing in Vietnam. According Benjamin, Dolores Apodaca Alfond, who appeared before the Senate committee on Nov. 11, 1992, expressed concern that the committee might shut down without finding all the answers. The famously testy McCain bristled at the suggestion. “I do not denigrate your efforts,” he said. “And I am sick and tired of you denigrating mine and many other people who have views different from you.” [Salon.com, [1/29/08](#)]

McCain Accused of Saying Anything to Get Elected

Conservative Magazine Accused McCain Of Being A Maverick For Political Gain. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, “But what seems to account for his evolution from realism to hopped-up interventionism is nothing more than sheer ambition. This was the case in 1983, when he defied the Reagan administration over sending U.S. soldiers to die at the hands of a Beirut suicide bomber, and in 1999, when the cry went up to take on Slobodan Milosevic. He was positioning himself against his own party, while staking out a distinctive stance independent of the Democrats. It was, in short, an instance of a presidential candidate maneuvering himself to increase his appeal to the electorate—and, most importantly, the media.” [*American Conservative*, [2/11/08](#)]

Romney: “McCain Is Willing To Say Anything To Try And Get Elected And Is A Flip Flopper” According to Fox News, Romney has said that McCain was “willing to say anything to try and get elected. He’s been looking for this job for a long, long time.” Romney went on to say about McCain, “Senator McCain was against the Bush tax cuts and now he’s for the Bush tax cuts. He was against ethanol, then for ethanol, then against ethanol.” [Fox News, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Accused of Being Dishonest on Iraq Withdrawal

Romney: McCain Was Dishonest In Saying That I Wanted To Set A Specific Date For Iraq Withdrawal.

According to CBS News, Mitt Romney responded to an attack by McCain that “Governor Romney wanted to set a date for withdrawal similar to what the Democrats are seeking, which would have led to the victory of Al-Qaeda in my view.” Romney said in response, “You know, I don’t know why he’s being dishonest, but that’s dishonest...To say that I have a specific date is simply wrong and is dishonest and he should apologize. That is not the case, I’ve

never said that.” Romney also said, “It’s fine for [McCain] to express his view on different topics, and I know he’s trying desperately to change the topic from the economy and trying to get back to Iraq...But to say something that’s not accurate is simply wrong and he knows better.” [CBS News, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain Attacked for Lack of Conservative Credentials

Romney Said McCain Doesn’t Represent the ‘Heart and Soul’ of GOP. While making a last minute visit to California, Romney said, “one of the reasons I came back to California is that I know Republicans in California care very deeply about the heart and soul of the Republican Party.” He continued, “You know what, we don’t want Senator McCain, We want a conservative to be in the White House.” [Reutuers, [2/4/08](#)]

Romney Accused McCain of Leading GOP to Take a “Sharp Turn Left.” At a campaign stop in Illinois, Romney rhetorically asked, “there’s a battle over the heart and soul of the Republican Party. Are we going to take a sharp left turn... get as close as we can to Hillary Clinton?” [[Chicago Sun-Times, 2/4/08](#)]

Ann Coulter: “Hillary is More Conservative Than McCain.” Appearing on *Hannity & Colmes*, Ann Coulter stated, “If you’re looking at substance rather than whether it’s an R or D after his name manifestly, if he’s our candidate, then Hillary’s gonna be our girl, Sean, ‘cause she’s more conservative than he is. I think she would be stronger on the war on terrorism.” [[Townhall.com, 2/1/08](#)]

Joe Scarborough: No, No, I Say No, John McCain is not a Conservative. Speaking on *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough said, “No, no I say no, John McCain is not a conservative.” He adds, “A conservative is not a man that calls tax cuts that George Bush passed, that revived the economy, tax cuts for the rich, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that is one of two Republicans standing alone in Washington, DC voting against those tax cuts that every other Republican supported in Washington DC that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that teams up with Teddy Kennedy to produce a bill that is nothing short of amnesty that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to gain legal status the day after John McCain’s bill and Teddy Kennedy’s bill becomes law, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not somebody that goes on Tim Russert’s show, a couple of weeks ago, and says that if that amnesty bill, that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to becomes citizens the next day, he does not go on that show and say, “Yes, I would sign that bill,” but don’t worry, it’s not going to come to my desk. That is not a conservative.” A conservative is not a man that says who he wants to increase taxes, maybe 50 cents per gallon, on the American people, trying to pass through a bill that the rest of the world won’t sign on to.” [[MSNBC, 1/31/08; Townhall.com, 2/1/08](#)]

McCain’s Conservative Credentials Criticized by Hastert. Former Speaker Dennis Hastert criticized McCain’s loyalty to the GOP by describing him as “the unpredictable vote “who consistently “allied with Democrats.” Hastert also claimed that McCain changed after his implication in the “Keating Five” scandal. [[The Swamp, 1/31/08](#)]

Romney: McCain’s Views “Outside the Mainstream of Republican Thought.” At the last Republican debate, Mitt Romney called many of McCain’s views “outside the mainstream of Republican thought.” [[Seattle Times, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain Dubbed “Most Liberal, Least Trustworthy Candidate.” Michael Graham, a conservative talk-radio host and author, called McCain the GOP’s “most liberal, least trustworthy candidate.” This shows that while McCain has cemented his frontrunner status, he is still loathed by many in his own party. [[Wall Street Journal, 1/31/08](#)]

Conservative Group, Citizens United, Airing Ads Against McCain. According to the *New York Sun*, “A conservative group, Citizens United, said it would begin airing an ad on Fox News today in which Mr. McCain’s visage suddenly emerges from behind a picture of Senator Clinton. ‘One candidate voted against the Bush tax cuts — both times. And pushed more restrictions on gun owners’ rights. The same candidate joined Ted Kennedy to sponsor amnesty for illegals. And was even mentioned as a running mate for John Kerry,’ the ad says. ‘Hillary Clinton? No, John McCain ... surprisingly liberal.’ ‘I’m hoping we can stop him from running the table,’ the head

of Citizens United, David Bossie, said. He acknowledged that the ads aren't that different from some of Mr. Romney's spots, which failed to stop Mr. McCain. 'Maybe people would be open to issues or to a message that isn't coming from another candidate,' Mr. Bossie said." [New York Sun, 1/31/08]

McCain Accused Of Having A "Liberal Democrat" Senate Career By Romney. According to the Associated Press, while campaigning in Florida a day before the G.O.P. primary there, Mitt Romney "...attacked [McCain] for his legislation reducing the role of money in politics, for his position on immigration and for his support of an energy bill that Romney said would have driven up consumer costs." Romney said, "If you ask people, 'Look at the three things Senator McCain has done as a senator,' if you want that kind of a liberal Democrat course as president, then you can vote for him...But those three pieces of legislation, those aren't conservative, those aren't Republican, those are not the kind of leadership that we need as we go forward." [Associated Press, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Attacked By Romney On McCain-Feingold, Immigration, And Possibility Of Vice Presidency With Kerry. According to the Associated Press, while campaigning in Florida a day before the G.O.P. primary there, Mitt Romney continued lines of attack on McCain and his "liberal Democrat" record. According to the AP, "Romney said the 2002 McCain-Feingold campaign finance law 'hit the First Amendment' with its controls over advertising spending. [Romney] labeled last year's failed McCain-Kennedy immigration bill "the amnesty bill" because it would have allowed illegal immigrants to remain in the country indefinitely. Romney also said a 2003 McCain-Lieberman energy cap-and-trade bill would have increased energy costs for the average Florida family of four by \$1,000." Apparently Romney even joked about the possibility of McCain becoming Kerry's running mate in 2004, he said, "Had someone asked me that question, there would not have been a nanosecond of thought about it; it would have been an immediate laugh...And, of course, if someone asked him if he would consider me as a running mate, he would have also laughed immediately." [Associated Press, [1/28/08](#)]

Conservatives Are Skeptical Of McCain

Limbaugh: There's A Lot Of Anxiety Among A Lot Of Conservatives About Senator McCain. According to the *New York Sun*, "A popular talk radio host who has vocally opposed Mr. McCain in recent weeks, Rush Limbaugh, sounded resigned yesterday to the prospect that the Arizona senator will be the Republican nominee. 'It looks like McCain's pretty far down the line now to having wrapped this up,' Mr. Limbaugh said on his program. 'There's a lot of anxiety among a lot of conservatives about Senator McCain. It's simply indisputable, but there was no figure in our roster of candidates who rose up to challenge him or to galvanize conservative support. All the candidates on our side, for various reasons, are uninspiring or worse, and so, just as I predicted, the base has fractured.'" [New York Sun, 1/31/08]

Carol Platt Liebau: Republicans Who Support McCain Should Know They Risk Driving Conservatism To The Sidelines At Home. Political commentator Carol Platt Libau wrote an article entitled, "The Unique Threat of John McCain." Libau said, "Although there is much to praise in McCain's defense record (most notably, his support for the surge in Iraq), when it comes to a domestic agenda, he's about the most "civil" Republican a Democrat could hope for. Indeed, in a McCain presidency with a Democratic Congress, conservatives risk becoming irrelevant." Libau compared the possibility of a McCain presidency to that of a Schwarzenegger presidency, and said that "McCain's history is littered with examples of his eagerness to work across the aisle; the McCain-Kennedy immigration bill, McCain-Feingold campaign finance 'reform,' and McCain-Lieberman environmental legislation come instantly to mind. There's no doubt that John McCain has earned the praise of Democrats and The *New York Times* by being willing to support their pet causes." [Op-Ed, Townhall.com, [1/28/08](#)]

AZ G.O.P Chairman: McCain Is Tough To Deal With. According to CBS News, Chairman of the Arizona Republican party has said about McCain, "He's tough to deal with, there's no doubt about it...He believes what he believes in, and he wants other people to support him in those beliefs." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain's Battles Increase Animosity, Breed Resentment. According to CBS News, GOP strategist Greg Mueller commented about McCain, "Some of his battles are so intense and loud that it sort of increases the animosity... You've got these intense issues where a lot of rhetoric gets tossed around and it breeds resentment." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain Could Have Trouble Winning Over Conservatives On Supreme Court Judge Issue.

According to CBS News, “McCain and his surrogates have made some overtures to skeptical conservatives by stressing that McCain will pick strict constructionist judges as president.” GOP Strategist Greg Mueller commented on the issue, “It’s a huge issue for Republicans, a party crossing issue...The next president could appoint two, three, even four Supreme Court judges. If McCain goes out and talks about that, it’s going to be a reminder to the conservative base of the party – ‘who do you want picking your judges?’” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

David Keene: “McCain Would Like To Remake Party Without Conservatives.” In a CBS News article on McCain having to face conservative skeptics, American Conservative Union chairman David Keene commented on McCain, “There’s this personal animosity he has towards people over issues...Most conservatives see that he would like to remake the party without them.” According to CBS News, Keene also said “those who’ve worked with [McCain] get the sense that he doesn’t like conservatives.” Keene also remarked, “In [McCain’s] world, it’s very difficult to have a simply policy disagreement...Everything becomes personal. His position is right, and everyone else’s is basically evil.” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Is Worst Possible G.O.P. Presidential Nominee Because Of McCain-Feingold. Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* said, “For conservatives with long memories, John McCain is about the worst possible Republican presidential nominee... And the reason why can perhaps best be summed up in two words: McCain-Feingold.” Muth continued, “Sen. McCain’s campaign finance reform bill - which he pushed relentlessly, almost to the exclusion of everything else - was a frontal attack on the right of free speech. Not commercial or pornographic free speech, mind you. Political free speech. The kind of speech the Founders clearly had in mind when they emphatically declared that Congress shall make no law abridging.” [Op-Ed, *Nevada Appeal*, [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Criticized For Leading “Gang Of 14” To Undercut GOP Attempt To Break Filibusters Of Conservative Judges.** Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* wrote an op-ed column criticizing McCain. He said, “...it was Sen. McCain who led the ‘Gang of 14,’ which undercut the GOP attempt to break Harry Reid’s filibusters of conservative judges. Many conservative judicial nominees have never received so much as the courtesy of an up-or-down vote, thanks to Sen. McCain and his band of moderate Republicans.” [Op-Ed, *Nevada Appeal*, [1/25/08](#)]

Rush Limbaugh Likened McCain To Hillary Clinton. According to *Time*, Rush Limbaugh commented on McCain and Mike Huckabee on his radio show. He said, “If either of these two guys gets the nomination, it’s going to destroy the Republican Party.” Several days after making that remark, Limbaugh said, “If you Republicans don’t mind McCain’s positions, then what is it about Hillary’s positions you dislike? They’re the same!” [Time, [1/23/08](#)]

Real Clear Politics Op-Ed: Who Will Save Republicans From John McCain? According to Robert Tracinski, columnist for *Real Clear Politics*, John McCain must be stopped to “save Republicans.” Tracinski pointed out that while McCain may have widespread appeal as a winnable G.O.P. frontrunner, and a staunch advocate of the War on Terrorism, McCain would be “...a suicidal choice for Republicans, because on every issues other than the war, he stands for capitulation to the left.” Tracinski said, “There are three big domestic issues that will be decided by the 2008 election: socialized medicine, higher taxes, and global warming regulations. The Democrats are in favor of all three--and John McCain won’t stop them.” Tracinski asserted that “...the best hope to save Republicans from McCain is the one candidate who hasn’t yet fully entered the race--but who will finally have his chance against McCain in Florida: Rudy Giuliani.” [Column, *Real Clear Politics*, [1/22/08](#)]

National Review Op-Ed.: “McCain Isn’t Right For The Right.” According to Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, “there is plenty to admire about Senator John McCain...” such as his experience in Vietnam, his “forceful” backing of President Bush’s military surge, and “his eternal vigilance against absurd and costly government boondoggles...” On the other hand, said Murdoch, “...argues against his presidential bid.” Murdoch pointed out that, “McCain diligently has stymied conservative, free-market policies...is dangerously soft on captured terrorists...and...is anyone’s guess whether he will support the Right or sandbag its efforts.” [Op-ed, *National Review Online* via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Drilling In ANWR.** In his article “McCain Isn’t Right For the Right”, Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, reminded readers that “...McCain rejected drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at least four times.” Murdoch also wrote, “Had April 2002 legislation prevailed ‘to reduce dependence on foreign sources of crude oil and energy...and to promote national security,’ an area the size of Washington-Dulles Airport would augment Earth’s petroleum supply. Instead, McCain joined Hillary Clinton and John Edwards to defeat this measure.” [Op-ed, *National Review Online* via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]
- **McCain-Lieberman Bill Would Have Caused A De Facto Energy Tax.** In his article “McCain Isn’t Right For the Right”, Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, reminded readers that McCain co-sponsored a bill with Joe Lieberman that would make power producers pay to exceed government-imposed limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Murdoch mentioned, “The John Locke Foundation’s Roy Cordato cited a July 2007 Environmental Protection Agency letter to McCain measuring McCain-Lieberman’s de facto energy tax: ‘The present value of the cumulative reduction in real GDP for the 2012-2030 period ranges from \$660 billion to \$2.1 trillion,’ [the EPA calculated]. For 2012 to 2050, that figure is \$1.6 trillion to \$5.2 trillion.”[Op-ed, *National Review Online* via CBS News, [1/20/08](#)]

McCain’s Reconciliation With Christian Community Turned Off Old Admirers, Conservatives Still Distrust Him. According to Dan Nowicki of the *Arizona Republic*, McCain’s “...attempts to patch up old feuds with the evangelical Christian community turned off many old admirers” and “at the same time, many social conservatives continue to distrust him.” [Column, *Arizona Republic*, [1/2/08](#)]

Grover Norquist Called McCain A Flip Flopper Who Would Not Lead With Conservative Values.

During an interview which on ABC News, Grover Norquist, the head of the conservative group Americans for Tax Reform, said McCain’s flip-flopping tendency would be damaging to conservative goals. Norquist said of McCain, “What McCain has done is flip-flopped on the gun issue, on the tax issue. He used to be a Reagan Republican on taxes. He’s voted against every one of President Bush’s tax cuts. He voted for the first one before he voted against it but he’s voted against all of them. He’s flip-flopped back and forth not because of where the American people are but because of where the cameras are.” Norquist added that McCain’s “phototropism” was “very damaging from a conservative perspective because that’s unlikely to lead to conservative governance.” [ABC News, 6/11/06]

Republicans Still Suspicious of McCain, Say There Is “No Support” For Him And Were Insulted By Previous Statements.

Many conservative leaders in Iowa are skeptical about a McCain candidacy in 2008. The head of the Iowa Christian Alliance, Steve Scheffler, said of McCain’s chances of success in Iowa, “I don’t want to say it’s an insurmountable hurdle, but it’s a big, big hill to climb.” Scheffler continued, saying, “There’s no support for McCain in this constituency, and I don’t see how you can make a scenario where you can bypass us.” Chuck Hurley, who heads the Iowa Family Policy Center, still holds against McCain his comments in 2000 about Jerry Falwell and the Christian right, Hurley said, “I don’t think Christian leaders who urge people to vote biblically, I don’t think that’s an evil influence...To me that statement by McCain is an extreme slap in the face to my faith.” [AP, 4/13/06]

McCain’s Straw Poll Stunt Designed To Mask His Poor Support Because He’s Gone “Wobbly” On Conservative Issues. The SLRC straw poll “was deliberately undercut by Sen. John McCain and his backers,” who “threw a wrench in the polling Friday night by asking delegates to vote for Bush” to give McCain “some political cover if he fare[d] poorly in the contest.” The move was met with skepticism by delegates to the SLRC where there was “much grumbling and a bit of laughter” about the write-in campaign, an act which one woman labeled “absurd.” In the end, McCain “finished a distant fifth” overall with only 66 votes, because according to a GOP consultant, the voters know that “on the big social issues, he’s gone wobbly.” His finish highlighted the challenge for McCain’s 2008 ambitions, which is “the elites adore him, or at least respect him, but the activists, who actually pick the nominee, don’t seem to like him very much.” [*The State*, 3/12/06; Associated Press, 3/12/06, 3/11/06; *Sacramento Bee*, 3/12/06; *American Spectator*, 3/13/06; *Newsday*, 3/14/06]

Conservatives Whispers Continue That McCain May Not Be Conservative Enough. “Republican Party activists who dominate the nomination process are increasingly wondering if Sen. John McCain of Arizona, thought to be the early front-runner, is really conservative enough to satisfy them. There is already a whispering campaign underway to revive criticisms that McCain is short-tempered and a loose cannon. Many conservatives are still unhappy with McCain’s past criticisms of Christian conservative leaders and his maverick ways on campaign finance reform and other issues.” [U.S. News and World Report, 3/6/06]

Dobson On McCain: “I Pray We Don’t Get Stuck With Him.” James Dobson, “founder of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family as well as the Focus Action cultural action organization set up specifically to provide a platform for informing and rallying constituents,” came out strongly against a McCain candidacy during a radio interview. Dobson said in response to a statement McCain made on gay marriage, “Speaking as a private individual, I would not vote for John McCain under any circumstances.” Dobson reasoned his opposition both because of social issues and “legislation he’d just been discussing on the program, regarding an attempt by Democrat leaders in Congress to create obstacles for ministries such as Focus to reach constituents with action messages about pending legislation, is being supported by McCain, too.” Dobson criticized the legislation as having originated from McCain, saying, “that came from McCain, and the McCain Feingold Bill kept us from telling the truth right before elections.” Dobson added that “there are a lot of other things,” pointing out that McCain’s “not in favor of traditional marriage,” and concluded saying, “I pray that we won’t get stuck with him.” Despite the attack, McCain was open to heal the fissure with Dobson, saying, “I’m obviously disappointed and I’d like to continue and have a dialogue with Dr. Dobson and other members of the community.” Noting his past success reaching out to other conservative leaders, McCain said, “I’m happy to say that I’ve established a dialogue with a number of other leaders,” such as Jerry Falwell, Rick Warren and Dr. Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention.

[Worldnetdaily.com, 1/13/07; AP, 1/17/06]

Mccain No Longer The Maverick Of 2000

L. Ian MacDonald: McCain Went From Maverick Candidate In ‘00 To “Consensus Establishment Moderate Right Of Center” Candidate In ‘08. According to *National Post* columnist, L. Ian MacDonald, “McCain, very much the maverick in 2000, has now emerged as the consensus establishment and moderate right-of-centre candidate in 2008.” [Op-Ed, National Post, [1/23/08](#)]

Hartford Courant: “The Senator Is A Salty, Reformist, Provocative And Classy Presence In Our Politics. At Least The Straight-Talking Mr. McCain Of The 2000 Campaign Was.” According to a *Hartford Courant* editorial, “If you were speculating just a few months ago about the most likely major candidate to drop out of the 2008 presidential race first, chances are you wouldn’t have named John McCain. But today the Arizona Republican -- the presumed front-runner for his party’s nomination a year ago -- is teetering and may indeed fall, despite his protestations to the contrary. ... Mr. McCain’s campaign has made serious mistakes -- among them, pandering to the religious right (which calls his authenticity into question) and spending too much money. The result has been plummeting donations and poll numbers, a nearly empty treasury and campaign workers heading for the exits. Mr. McCain slogs on, but pundits are saying ‘dead man walking.’ ... The senator is a salty, reformist, provocative and classy presence in our politics. At least the straight-talking Mr. McCain of the 2000 campaign was.” [Editorial, *Hartford Courant*, 7/13/07]

Alter: He Repressed The Maverick Spirit Of The 2000 Campaign. According to an op-ed by Jonathan Alter published in the *Charleston Gazette*, “On the surface, McCain’s strategy for becoming president makes perfect sense. He repressed the maverick spirit of the 2000 campaign (it didn’t get him elected last time, he’s said), hired a bunch of Bushies and signed off on a strategy of kissing up to the hard-core conservatives who dominate the Republican primaries. The fact that many liberals and independents fell out of love with him didn’t seem relevant; they don’t vote in those contests. Under the GOP’s system of primogeniture, the nomination traditionally goes to the guy whose turn it is. It’s McCain’s turn, so he figured all he had to do was sound a few conservative themes and line up the right endorsements. He’d lock it up early, then tack to the center for the general election. But something’s gone terribly wrong. The political positioning is too transparent to be convincing. ... McCain remains an endearing, sometimes provocative campaigner, but the magic is on the wane. ... John McCain may be playing the political angles on various social issues, but not on Iraq. Henry Clay, the great 19th-century senator, once said,

'I'd rather be right than be president.' Sadly for McCain, the odds are growing that he'll be neither." [Op-Ed, Jonathan Alter, Charleston Gazette, 4/10/07]

Roanoke Times: "McCain Has Sacrificed The Last Drop Of Credibility In What Was Once A Rather Deep Well." According to an editorial in the *Roanoke Times*, "And so the presidential candidate who once boasted of riding the 'Straight Talk Express' has been exposed as a ridiculous Pollyanna, desperate to prove that some Baghdad neighborhoods are safe and blind to the actual truth exposed by his visit. For some inexplicable reason, McCain is staking his political career on his unwavering support for President Bush's invasion and occupation of Iraq. And so he has joined the president and others in the administration in making ridiculously overconfident and optimistic statements that defy the reality of the situation in Iraq. Perhaps it is only possible to wholeheartedly support what is happening in Iraq through the dark tint of rose-colored glasses. But in so doing, McCain has sacrificed the last drop of credibility in what was once a rather deep well." [Editorial, Roanoke Times, 4/05/07]

Concord Monitor: "Some Left-Leaning Voters Feel McCain Has Dispensed With The 'Straight Talk' To Pander To His Party's Base." According to a *Concord Monitor* editorial, "In 2000 New Hampshire was ready to elect John McCain president even if the rest of the country wasn't. Tomorrow he makes his first visit this year as a candidate for president in 2008. He's unlikely to be able to pick up exactly where he left off. ... Has McCain changed as well? He was well served here in 2000 by his image as the candidate who bucked the party establishment, rebuked the fringes of the religious right and spoke movingly of causes larger than self-interest. Now some left-leaning voters feel McCain has dispensed with the 'straight talk' to pander to his party's base. Of course, the politics of positioning cuts both ways. Some right-leaning voters remember deciding McCain was not one of them in 2000. Persuading people to change their minds can be harder than winning them over to start with. ... Seven years ago, no one knew better than New Hampshire voters that there was a world of difference between John McCain and George W. Bush. Fairly or not, McCain returns as the candidate most entwined in Bush's defining endeavor. As he makes the case for why the war must be seen through to fruition, can McCain remind us why he would have been the better president after all?" [Editorial, Concord Monitor, 3/15/07]

Dowd: "But There's One Huge Group That He's Not Pandering To: Americans." According to Maureen Dowd, "Certainly, the senator has tried to worm his way into the affections of W. and the religious right: The Discovery Institute, a group that tries to derail Darwinism and promote the teaching of Intelligent Design, helped present the lunch, dismaying liberal bloggers who have tracked Sen. McCain's devolution on evolution. ... But there's one huge group that he's not pandering to: Americans. Most Americans are sick and tired of watching things go hideously backward in Iraq and Afghanistan, and want someone to show them the way out. Mr. McCain is stuck on the bridge of a sinking policy with W. and Dick Cheney, who showed again last week that there is no bottom to his lunacy. The senator supported a war that didn't need to be fought and is a cheerleader for a surge that won't work. It has left Sen. McCain, the Arizona Republican, once the most spontaneous of campaigners, off balance. He's like a cat without its whiskers. ... Sometimes I miss John McCain, even when I'm with him." [Op-Ed, Maureen Dowd, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2/26/07]

Krugman: "Senator John McCain, Whose Reputation For Straight Talk Is Quickly Getting Bent Out Of Shape..." According to Paul Krugman, "Senator John McCain, whose reputation for straight talk is quickly getting bent out of shape, appears to share the Bush administration's habit of rewriting history to preserve an appearance of infallibility. Last month Senator McCain asserted that he knew full well what we were getting into by invading Iraq: 'When I voted to support this war,' Mr. McCain said on MSNBC, 'I knew it was probably going to be long and hard and tough, and those that voted for it and thought that somehow it was going to be some kind of an easy task, then I'm sorry they were mistaken.' But back in September 2002, he told Larry King, 'I believe that the operation will be relatively short,' and 'I believe that the success will be fairly easy.'" [Op-Ed, Paul Krugman, New York Times, 2/19/07]

McCain "Seems To Be Adopting Tactics He Previously Criticized." According to the *Charleston Gazette*, "Respected Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is running for president again. Although he has long been a clean-campaigns advocate, he seems to be adopting tactics he previously criticized. At least, he's hiring campaign operatives once involved in ugly smears. During early Republican primary elections in 2000, campaign dirty tricksters attacked McCain, falsely, for being a traitor while he was in jail as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. And an

outfit backing George W. Bush made telephone calls to potential voters in the South Carolina primary suggesting that McCain had fathered a ‘black child,’ perhaps with a ‘black prostitute.’ (The McCains did adopt a daughter, named Bridget, through an orphanage Mother Teresa had created in Bangladesh.) During the 2004 presidential campaign, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth ran television ads smearing Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was running against Bush. At the time, McCain attacked those Swift Boat ads as ‘dishonest and dishonorable.’ But today, McCain is using that same Swift Boat firm to help him plan campaign ads for 2008. He also has hired a wide array of dirty tricksters to run his presidential race, including key political operatives Bush used to attack McCain in 2000, according to the *New York Times*. Last fall, McCain’s top adviser criticized a TV smear of former Rep. Harold E. Ford Jr., D-Tenn, which showed the black congressman flirting with a young, scantily clad, blonde, white woman. The ad had racist overtones. Terry Nelson, a former Bush campaign consultant, headed the committee sponsoring that ad. McCain first hired Nelson as an adviser last spring. After the Ford TV ad controversy hit the news, McCain promoted Nelson to his national campaign manager, the *Times* reports. What has happened to the Arizona Republican known for integrity?” [Editorial, Charleston Gazette, 2/12/07]

“In The Past, McCain Presented Himself As ‘Senator Straight Talk.’ That Image May Not Work In The 2008 Political Battles.” According to the *Charleston Gazette*, “With Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., McCain sponsored the bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 to regulate campaign financing. He’s generally deemed a politician of honor. But recently, McCain has backpedaled to endorse President Bush’s escalation of the Iraq war and to solidify relations with the fundamentalist Religious Right. In the past, McCain presented himself as ‘Senator Straight Talk.’ That image may not work in the 2008 political battles.” [Editorial, Charleston Gazette, 2/12/07]

McCain 2008 Campaign A “Far Cry” From His 2000 Bus, Which May Exact An “Awful Price” And He Knows It. Todd Purdum wrote in *Vanity Fair* that McCain is not the same candidate he was in 2000. “But the plain truth is that the Straight Talk Express, Version 2.008, is often a far cry from the Magic Bus of 2000.” Discussing comments McCain made on the campaign trail in 2004, Purdum wrote, “That’s not straight talk. That’s partisan pap,” adding, “Nor, presumably, was it straight talk last summer at an Aspen Institute discussion when McCain struggled to articulate his position on the teaching of intelligent design in public schools.” Overall, Purdum found, “McCain’s own compromises in pursuit of the presidency may be necessary, even justified. And they may, in fact, pave his way to victory in the Republican primaries, and perhaps to the White House itself. But even if no one calls him out, and the public plays along, McCain may pay an awful price. Because, whatever happens, he will know. He will know. He will know.” [Vanity Fair, February 2007]

Richard Cohen: “The Straight Talk Express Is In A Ditch.” According to Richard Cohen of the *Washington Post*, “McCain’s virtue is his virtue - those aspects of his character that mirror his physical courage. He has been the politician who would not play politics, the presidential candidate who would sweep out the White House, put K Street in its place, rein in Congress and, always, talk plainly and candidly to the American people. In short, he was the man who could restore faith in government. But he cannot do that if, at the same time, he defends a war fought for nonexistent reasons, preceded by fibs, lies and exaggerations, draining America of blood and treasure and leaving us worse off now than before those bombs were dropped where - as it symbolically turned out - Saddam Hussein was not. Times have changed. The Straight Talk Express is in a ditch.” [Op-Ed, Richard Cohen, Washington Post, 5/16/06]

Tom Edsall: McCain Trying To Maintain Straight Talker Credibility While Doubletalking To Win GOP Nomination. Tom Edsall said, “McCain is trying to do two contradictory things...he wants to retain the appeal he had in 2000 as a straight talker who will not adjust his words and positions for political gain, and he is trying to win the Republican nomination. The nomination will be determined by voters and activists, many of whom do not like McCain because 1) he has voted against some of the Bush tax cuts, 2) he is the prime sponsor of campaign finance legislation seen by libertarians as an attack on free speech, and 3) he pointedly attacked Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson in a highly publicized speech in 2000. McCain is now trying to thread about three needles as once, a tough task for anyone.” [washingtonpost.com, 5/15/06]

McCain, “Unbidden,” Said Changing Positions Could Damage His Greatest Attraction. The *New York Times* wrote, “Unbidden, [McCain] acknowledged the danger of the perception that he had become politically expedient. Mr. McCain said there was ‘much increased sensitivity for me not to display traces of hypocrisy’

because of the way he had defined himself. ‘I would argue that I have not changed any of my positions, and if I did really change my positions on issues, that I would lose what is probably one of the greatest attractions that people have for me, and that is as a person who stands up for what he believes in,’ Mr. McCain said” [New York Times, 4/9/06]

McCain “Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush’s Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security.” According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, “At least President Bush didn’t kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn’t faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush’s misguided bid to privatize Social Security.” [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, 2/25/05]

“The Straight Talk Express Has Blown A Tire.” According to Marie Cocco, “The Straight Talk Express has blown a tire. Sen. John McCain speaks before the Republican National Convention tonight and drapes the mantle of his moral stature around George W. Bush. As men, the two could not differ more. The president believes in his own righteousness. McCain believes in the righteous act of speaking truth to power. As politicians, the two share a deep conviction. They are dedicated to the art of the mutual use. ... The Arizona Republican made his reputation in 2000 as the candidate willing to challenge his party orthodoxy on both policy and smash-mouth politics. Above all, he presented himself as the principled foe of the special interests and the slick tacticians that have hijacked politics. ‘Straight talk,’ he called it. McCain now asks us to forgive his own superficial maneuver. He wants us still to believe he is above the cynicism of contemporary politics, while he simultaneously indulges in it. ... Tonight McCain maintains his political viability within the system. It is a perfect gambit. But it is out of sync with the premise of McCain’s appeal. McCain’s great strength is that he offers us the hint there is something at his core that is special, and true. We already have enough politicians with something at the core that is ambition. He wants us still to believe he is above the cynicism of politics while he indulges in it.” [Op-Ed, Marie Cocco, *Newsday*, 8/30/04]

MCCAIN NO LONGER A MAVERICK ON IRAQ

Salon.com: “McCain Sounded, At Times, Less Like A Straight-Talking Maverick And More Like The Neoconservative Former Deputy Secretary Of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.” According to Salon.com, “In the period leading up to the war, McCain sounded, at times, less like a straight-talking maverick and more like the neoconservative former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. ‘It’s going to send the message throughout the Middle East that democracy can take hold in the Middle East,’ McCain said about the war on Fox’s ‘Hannity & Colmes’ on Feb. 21, 2003. He seemed to think Iraq would be a cakewalk, predicting that the war ‘will be brief.’” [Salon.com, 1/17/08]

Rennie: “Irreconcilable Differences Replaced Straight Talk.” According to an op-ed by Kevin Rennie published in the *Hartford Courant*, “McCain’s stand on Iraq has been disjointed. He was a fierce critic of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s conduct of the war, but refused to attribute any of Rumsfeld’s mistakes to the decider, Bush. McCain sounded like he was embellishing progress in Baghdad in a ‘60 Minutes’ profile this year. Irreconcilable differences replaced straight talk. McCain’s been in a fast fade for months. Supporters from the past have moved on to fresher candidates. He’s weary, often looking like he’s on a forced march instead of a presidential race.” [Op-Ed, Kevin Rennie, *Hartford Courant*, 7/22/07]

CFR Fellow: McCain’s Slide On Iraq Policy Could “Eclipse” Maverick Image. Peter Beinart, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote that Iraq was causing a sharp decline in McCain’s support. Beinart wrote, McCain’s “lead in a hypothetical face-off against Hillary Clinton, which once regularly topped ten points, has dwindled to nothing. That has a lot to do with his stance on Iraq, and, with the war about to escalate, his slide may well continue. By next year, McCain’s government-reforming, straight-talking image could be largely eclipsed by his role as cheerleader-in-chief for an Iraq policy Americans can’t stand. Give McCain his due: He’s acting from conviction. He’s doing exactly what pundits always demand of politicians--ignoring the consultants, ignoring the polls, and doing what he thinks is right. At this point, McCain’s position probably hurts him even in the Republican primary. It’s one of the more remarkable episodes in recent political memory.” [The New Republic, 1/22/07]

Peter Canellos: McCain's Reputation Tied to Bush's Handling Of Iraq. Peter Canellos, a columnist for the Boston Globe, wrote that McCain, “a frank neoconservative who envisions Iraq as part of a global war on terrorism that is at least as expansive as Bush’s,” may start to be “linked in the public mind with Bush’s failures” on the war. Canellos theorized that “once more troops head into the war zone, McCain’s credibility will be on the line. A year from now, barring an unexpected decision to forgo the presidential race, McCain will face Republican primary voters. If the situation on the ground hasn’t improved, his rivals are certain to hold him at least partially responsible for the flawed strategy.” [Boston Globe, 1/9/07]

McCain Is Dead Wrong On Immigration

Arizona Governor Criticized McCain’s Immigration Plan. Janet Napolitano criticized McCain’s plan to halt illegal immigration, particularly his claim that he was forcing governors to certify that their borders are secure. Napolitano said, “It certainly sounds good, but it is a snapshot not a sustained presence, and a snapshot could vary greatly within any given state within any given year.” [ABC News, [2/3/08](#)]

Roy Beck: “Every Single Immigration Activist And Organization Is Terrified By [McCain’s] N.H. Results.” According to the *Washington Post*, executive director of the group NumbersUSA said of McCain, “I can tell you every single immigration activist and organization is terrified by the New Hampshire results...My day starts in the morning with a call from a talk radio station, and that’s how the day ends. We’re getting our message across, and I am taking McCain to task. It’s no holds barred.” [*Washington Post*, [1/14/08](#)]

Romney Attacked McCain For Supporting Amnesty. According to *USA Today*, “Romney on Friday began to air a TV ad in New Hampshire that accuses McCain of supporting ‘amnesty’ for illegal immigrants, which McCain denies. McCain acknowledged that his support of an immigration bill that included tougher enforcement and a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants continues to dog his campaign. Republican voters in Iowa and New Hampshire now cite illegal immigration as their top concern. ‘I think it is a very big problem for me,’ McCain said, saying the ‘depth of the emotion’ has been surprising. ‘The issue comes up in every town hall meeting.’” [*USA Today*, 12/30/07]

Bilbray Said McCain Was “Dead Wrong” On Immigration And Told Him Not To Come To A Scheduled Fundraiser At The Request Of The NRCC. Prior to McCain’s scheduled fundraising appearance with Bilbray, Bilbray “told McCain’s staff that McCain is ‘dead wrong on the amnesty issue,’ and a number of the people who attended the Wednesday breakfast were prepared to tell the senator the same thing, Bilbray said. Had McCain come, Bilbray said, it would have put him in the position of ‘maybe having to protect the senator from reaction here in San Diego.’” McCain “had planned to fulfill his commitment” to appear at the fundraiser, and the idea to disinvite McCain came from the NRCC, which “suggested McCain’s presence would not be helpful” in winning the campaign. [*North County Times*, 5/31/06; *Chicago Sun Times*, 6/11/06]

Dobbs: “Senator John McCain, A Strong Supporter Of Course Of Amnesty For Illegal Aliens. After All, It Is The McCain-Kennedy Bill.” According to Lou Dobbs, “Senator John McCain, a strong supporter of course of amnesty for illegal aliens. After all, it is the McCain-Kennedy bill. Well, he’s urging Hispanic officials to show support for that amnesty legislation that passed the Senate two weeks ago. McCain spoke last week to a group of Hispanic and civic leaders in Orange County, California, where the Senator said, quote, ‘This is a call to arms for you to rise up and speak for people who can’t speak up very well for themselves.’ Senator McCain, by the way, though it more important to speak to that group of Hispanic activist leaders than he did to show his support for fellow Republican Brian Bilbray, who is running in tomorrow’s special election in California’s 50th congressional district. He says there should be no amnesty for illegal aliens. Senator McCain cancels an appearance with Brian Bilbray, although he does support his candidacy.” [CNN, “Lou Dobbs Tonight,” 6/05/06]

McCain Failed Immigration Litmus Test Among Conservative Reagan Republicans. Jerome Corsi, who co-authored a book attacking John Kerry’s war record during the 2004 election, wrote that McCain’s stance in the immigration debate failed a litmus-test for conservative Republicans. Corsi wrote, “[w]hen McCain put his name on the immigration bill sponsored by Sen. Teddy Kennedy, many conservatives felt he virtually embraced the concept of amnesty for the approximately 12 million illegal aliens the Bush Administration admits are now in the United

States...[M]any on the right felt his alignment with the Democratic left on the immigration issue was the last straw ... Immigration for the Reagan conservative movement is quickly becoming a litmus test issue, every bit as much as the issue of abortion already is. McCain fails on both accounts." [Jerome Corsi, www.humaneventsonline.com, 5/9/06]

Dobbs: McCain Booed By Construction Workers. According to Lou Dobbs, "A room full of construction workers gave Senator John McCain a little straight talk of their own yesterday. And it was almost more than he could bear. The AFL-CIO's construction and building trades booed Senator McCain when he said illegal aliens fill jobs that Americans won't do. ... Senator McCain getting some straight talk of his own. Senator McCain offering to leave when the crowd jeered him earlier, but he decided to stay. And in general, at least in my opinion, handled it with pretty good humor. Supporters of the amnesty agenda say illegal aliens fill jobs that Americans won't do. They also say paying farm workers decent wages would just drastically raise the price of groceries that we have to buy in this country. But guess what? Like so many arguments in this illegal alien discussion, this illegal immigration crisis, it's just an argument that is totally refuted by the facts." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 4/05/06]

- **McCain: "I'll Offer Anybody Here \$50 An Hour If You'll Go Pick Lettuce In Yuma This Season And Pick For The Whole Season."** According to CNN, McCain said, "Now, my friends, I'll offer anybody here \$50 an hour if you'll go pick lettuce in Yuma this season and pick for the whole season. So -- OK? Sign up. OK. You sign up. You sign up, and you'll be there for the whole season, the whole season. OK? Not just one day. Because you can't do it, my friend." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 4/05/06]

Dobbs Said McCain Should Be Embarrassed For Either For Immigration Or Isolationist Argument. On CNN, Michael Goodwin said, "I do think there's a false choice being put here by people like John McCain, which is that we are either for immigration or we are isolationists...." According to Lou Dobbs, "...that the idea that the issue here is whether you're for immigration or not for immigration, is the kind of thing that Senator McCain ought to really -- he should be embarrassed. Because, Michael, your point is exactly right. We're going to have immigration in this country -- welcomes warmly legal immigrations to this country. The idea that the president, his U.S. -- the U.S. trade representative Rob Portman today finally brings a blast against China. And my goodness, even Mexico and Canada. And you know, I've been called by this administration an economic isolationist because I want them to open markets, because I want fair, reciprocal and mutual trade. Is the Bush administration -- Michael, do you think they're turning into economic isolationists right before our eyes? Protectionists?" [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 3/31/06]

Dobbs Characterized McCain-Kennedy Bill As Opportunity to Buy Citizenship. According to Lou Dobbs, "Let's sort some things out here, if we may, Dana. The McCain-Kennedy legislation basically providing a pathway. You're saying the guest worker program as envisioned by that legislation has passed the Judiciary Committee through amendment? ... Closest to the one that -- in the House, and as Dana Bash reported, the Kennedy-McCain bill is moving through, apparently, at least the Judiciary Committee, which is basically a pay for citizenship, pay as you -- as you go or come, as the saying goes. ... It gives them a chance to buy citizenship, the McCain -- and that's simply what it is. It is a guest worker program. This president talking about a guest worker program. There is no security for the borders. And just help me out with this, Janet. Explain to me something just as simple as I can, because what you're talking about are conservatives and liberals at the far end of this debate, both as liberals and conservatives, and frankly I think there is wrong-head at both ends because they merge on this. They're both owned by the corporate interests and the special interests in this country. The Democrats looking for votes. The Republicans looking to exploit cheap labor. There's no significant fine against illegal employers and you and I both know it. There's not another element of border security." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 3/27/06]

McCain Accused Of Not Being A Fiscal Conservative

Giuliani Press Release: "McCain: Not A Fiscal Conservative." According to the *Boston Globe*, Rudy Giuliani's campaign "...issued a released headlined 'John McCain: Not A Fi\$cal Conservative' cuffing McCain not only for opposing the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, but also voting for tax increases at least 52 times in the past 20 years." According to the *Globe*, economics are becoming a defining factor in the G.O.P. primary fight in Florida. [[Boston Globe, 1/23/08](#)]

Romney Said McCain Failed “Reagan 101” By Opposing Bush Tax Cuts. According to the Associated Press, “Taking aim at a rallying John McCain, New Hampshire front-runner Mitt Romney said yesterday that his GOP presidential rival had failed ‘Reagan 101’ by twice opposing President George W. Bush’s tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. . . Taxes, a major focus in a state without an income tax, drew Romney’s attention in his criticism of McCain. ‘He voted against the Bush tax cuts - twice,’ Romney said. ‘That’s failing Reagan 101. [Ronald] Reagan taught . . . almost all of us in the Republican Party that lowering taxes would grow the economy and was good for our economy and good for individuals.’” [AP, 12/23/07]

Krugman: If McCain Votes For Cloture Or Compromise On Estate Tax, He’s A Hypocrite Trying To Have It Both Ways. “Any senator who votes to repeal the estate tax, or votes for a “compromise” that goes most of the way toward repeal, is in effect saying that increasing the wealth of people who are already in line to inherit millions or tens of millions is more important than taking care of fellow citizens who need a helping hand. . . the estate tax is up for a vote this week. First, Republicans will try to repeal the estate tax altogether. If that fails, they’ll offer a compromise that isn’t really a compromise, like a plan suggested by Senator Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona, that would cost almost as much as full repeal, or a plan suggested by Senator Max Baucus, Democrat of Montana, that is only slightly cheaper. In each case, the crucial vote will be procedural: if 60 senators vote to close off debate, estate tax repeal or something close to it will surely pass. Any senator who votes for cloture but against estate tax repeal -- which I’m told is what John McCain may do -- is simply a hypocrite, trying to have it both ways.” [Krugman Op-Ed, New York Times, 6/5/06]

McCain Attacked For Opposing Bush On Torture

McCain’s Opposition to Bush on Torture Could Run Presidential Ambitions “Aground.” The *Washington Post* reported that “McCain’s bid to position himself as the natural heir to President Bush as a wartime commander in chief and to court conservative leaders in advance of his likely 2008 presidential campaign has threatened to run aground in recent days, as the two men clash over how to detain and try terrorism suspects.” The *Post* went on to note that “some prominent conservatives are branding him a disloyal Republican and an unreliable conservative because of his assertiveness on the detainee issue,” including Rush Limbaugh who said that McCain’s opposition to Bush “is going to go down as the event that will result in us getting hit again, and if we do, and if McCain, et al., prevail, I can tell you where fingers are going to be pointed.” [Washington Post, 9/19/06]

Union Leader President Joseph McQuaid: McCain Fighting Wrong War With Torture Vote. Joseph McQuaid wrote in the *Union Leader* questioning McCain’s opposition to Bush in the debate on torture. McQuaid wrote, “in the midst of the most difficult and challenging war we have ever faced, can the nation afford a President McCain? No doubt his motives are pure, but McCain’s current actions are blocking our ability to gain from terrorist captives the vital information we need to fight a war in which the enemy strikes us here at home from multiple locations around the world.” McQuaid reasoned that if McCain didn’t understand the consequences of his opposition, “New Hampshire citizens must question why they should support him for President.” [Union Leader, 9/16/06]

SC GOP Chair: South Carolinians Say McCain Wrong to Oppose Bush on Torture. Katon Dawson, the Republican Party chairman in South Carolina said McCain’s stance was opposite that of the voters he would need to win the South Carolina primary. Dawson said, “South Carolina is certainly Bush country. Overwhelmingly, the communications we’re getting are supporting the president. Obviously, the president is right on this issue. I think John McCain thinks he’s right - McCain and Warner and Graham. I think people on the ground think they’re wrong.” [Myrtle Beach Sun-News, 9/16/06]

McCain Accused Of Being A Traitor In Vietnam

McCain Accused Of Being A Traitor While He Was A Vietnam POW. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, A group called Vietnam Veterans Against John McCain distributed a flier which alleged that Senator McCain was a traitor when he was a Vietnam P.O.W. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, the flier said that when McCain was

a POW he was a “Hanoi Hilton songbird” who collaborated with the enemy. Apparently the flier provided “scant” evidence to back up the group’s claims, but there have been many interviews of McCain and other Vietnam POWs who served with McCain, that prove the claims incorrect. [[St. Petersburg Times, 1/18/08](#)]

- **Accusations On The Flier Were Partially Correct, But Did Not Prove He Collaborated With Enemy.** According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, the flier contained several criticisms of McCain “...but only a few support the accusation that he was helping the enemy” and the claims “...collectively ...do not prove McCain was involved in ‘collaborations with the enemy.’” The flier said that McCain told his captors, “O.K., I’ll give you military information if you will take me to the hospital.” The flier also claimed that the Honoi news media reported McCain had given information about this flight, rescue ships and the order of U.S. attacks. And the flier claimed that McCain broke the military code because he answered questions from a Spanish psychiatrist who had apparently been cooperating with the North Vietnamese. [[St. Petersburg Times, 1/18/08](#)]

McCain Said That He Offered Information To Vietnamese Because He Feared Death, Gave False

Information As Well. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, “In his memoir *Faith of My Fathers*, McCain [said] that he initially offered the information [to the Vietnamese] because he was badly injured and afraid of dying. But, he wrote, ‘I didn’t intend to keep my word.’ When he was later interrogated, McCain gave his ship’s name and squadron number and confirmed the target of his failed mission, he wrote. He also gave the names of the Green Bay Packers’ offensive line and said they were members of his squadron.” Even when asked to identify the U.S.’s future targets, McCain listed cities that the U.S. had already bombed. [[St. Petersburg Times, 1/18/08](#)]

McCain Ignored Evidence That Live POWs Were Left Behind In Vietnam Said Ross Perot. According to the *Dallas Morning News*, after endorsing Mitt Romney in the G.O.P. primary, Ross Perot criticized John McCain for several reasons. During an interview, Perot told *Newsweek* that he carries a grudge against McCain because, he said McCain ignored evidence that live POWs were left behind in Vietnam. Perot also told *Newsweek* that some POWs were transferred to the Soviet Union for human experimentation, and that “There’s evidence, evidence, evidence...McCain was adamant about shutting down anything to do with recovering POWs.” [[Dallas Morning News, 1/17/08](#)]

Viet Nam Veterans Against John McCain Established. According to Rightwingnuthouse.com, The same fellow who mounted the Viet Nam Veterans Against John Kerry now has a group called Viet Nam Veterans Against John McCain. Gerard “Jerry” Kiley is claiming that McCain betrayed the United States as a POW and hints that he is being blackmailed even today by the Vietnamese. [Right Wing Nuthouse, 1/2/08]

McCain’s Healthcare Policy Leaves Uninsured Behind

McCain’s Health Care Plan Does Not Address the Declining Level of Coverage and Gives No Help for 47 Million Without Insurance. “John McCain focuses on the rising costs of treating chronic diseases rather than the declining level of coverage.” McCain’s plan does not focus on “reducing the ranks of the uninsured,” of which there are about 47 million, or one in seven Americans. [[Washington Post, 10/17/07](#); [Wall Street Journal, 10/11/07](#); [DNC Press Release, 11/1/07](#)]

- **Experts: McCain’s Health Care Plan Would Make It Hard for Those Who Need It Most To Find Coverage.** In a plan like McCain’s for individual coverage, it would be “difficult for older, sicker people to find affordable coverage or, in some cases, any coverage at all.” [[Wall Street Journal, 6/7/07](#); [DNC Press Release, 11/1/07](#)]
- **NY Times: Danger of Cherry-Picking.** Among the central criticisms of moving away from an employer-based system “is the concern that insurance companies would ‘cherry pick’ by insuring only healthier people, or by charging much higher rates to more vulnerable people -- like those with chronic diseases.” [[New York Times, 8/1/07](#); [DNC Press Release, 11/1/07](#)]

Health Care Is Not a Priority for Senator McCain. “John McCain, running largely on Iraq and national security, has not said anything substantial about health care, nor has he even included it among issues listed on his campaign Web site.” [New York Times, 9/23/07]

McCain Attacked For Operating Outside Finance Laws He Wrote

George Will: McCain Prepared To Operate Outside Campaign Finance Laws He Wrote. George Will wrote, “McCain’s undeclared but ubiquitous presidential campaign will produce a delicious moment when he announces, as he surely will, that he will not participate in the public funding system for presidential primaries...There are two compounded ironies. First, the mantra of campaign ‘reformers’ is that there is ‘too much’ money in politics. But McCain will shun public funding because it provides too little money. He can raise much more from private interests. (But not from ‘special interests’ -- interests McCain disapproves of.)” McCain is “the person most responsible for the perverse consequences of the government’s multiplying intrusions into what should be a free market for political speech.” [Washington Post, 5/28/06]

McCain Charged With Soliciting Soft Money From Prohibited Sources And In Excess Of The Federal Contribution Limits. According to the Associated Press, “The California Democratic Party said Friday it will ask government regulators to investigate Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sen. John McCain for allegedly violating campaign-finance law. The allegations center around a scheduled March 20 fundraiser in Beverly Hills, in which donors have been asked to contribute up to \$100,000 for Schwarzenegger and the state Republican Party. McCain, R-Ariz., is the featured speaker. ... At issue is whether McCain’s appearance runs afoul of restrictions on federal officeholders taking part in events that solicit political funds. Ironically, McCain is being accused of violating a law he helped write. The complaint, to be filed Monday with the FEC in Washington, charges that McCain and Schwarzenegger ‘are soliciting soft money from prohibited sources and in excess of the federal contribution limits.’” [Associated Press, 3/04/06]

McCain Attacked For His Record On Social Security

Club for Growth: Stance On Personal Accounts Though, Is Marred By His Willingness To Raise Social Security Taxes. According to the Club for Growth, “This positive stance on personal accounts though, is marred by his willingness to raise Social Security taxes as part of a package that would include personal accounts. On a February, 23, 2005 edition of Meet the Press, Tim Russert asked Senator McCain if he would support ‘as part of the solution to Social Security’s solvency problem, that you lift the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher?’ Senator McCain answered, ‘As part of a compromise I could . . . I’m proud of the job that Senator Lindsey Graham has been doing in his leadership position on this issue and showing some courage.’ Raising Social Security taxes in this manner is not a sign of courage. It could constitute a massive tax increase and prove devastating to economic growth in this country. Furthermore, Senator McCain’s support for Lindsey Graham’s proposal to raise Social Security taxes contradicts his own observation about the woefully poor return workers receive. Raising taxes would only make that return worse. As Senator McCain hinted in 2000, it is not Social Security taxes that are too low, but the below-market return on those taxes that should most concern policy makers and taxpayers alike.” [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

McCain “Too Easily Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush’s Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security.” According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “At least President Bush didn’t kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn’t faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush’s misguided bid to privatize Social Security. By diverting a portion of payroll taxes from Social Security into the stock market, Bush would add risk to retirement income and burden the program with trillions of dollars of debt. Bush’s real purpose is to cut traditional retirement benefits, which could be necessary to control costs, but he won’t provide any details on that part of his plan. Instead, Bush launched one last effort to sell skeptical Americans on private accounts. By his side at several stops was McCain,

resorting to the kind of questionable tactics that once had been used against him.” [Editorial, St. Petersburg Times, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

- **St. Petersburg Times: “Shame On McCain For Being A Part Of This Effort ... He Even Resorted To Misinformation.”** According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “Shame on McCain for being a part of this effort to divide the generations. Usually noted for candid speech, he even resorted to misinformation when he said in 2002 ‘we stop paying people Social Security.’ McCain knows that isn’t true. That is the date (actually it was changed to 2041 the other day) when Social Security reserves are expected to be used up. Even then, with no change in the program, recipients would continue to get about 75 percent of what was promised them.” [Editorial, St. Petersburg Times, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

McCain Accused Of Being “Bush Lite” On Climate Issues

McCain’s Climate Message Is “Bush-Lite” And “Insubstantial.” Michael Shank, of the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, said that while John McCain’s climate message “...may, comparatively speaking, have the upper hand among Republican candidates” it is “...not only Bush-lite, but also insubstantial.” Shank pointed out that both Bush and McCain acknowledged that global warming exists and that something should be done, but “their approaches are strikingly similar and sadly unassertive: let innovation, technology, and the free market solve the problem. According to both, business will lead and the greening of America will follow.” Shank pointed out, “The only main difference between the two is that Bush would rely on ethanol subsidies to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil while for McCain leans heavily toward nuclear energy.” [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Accused As “Out Of Touch” On Catastrophic Relief

Giuliani Attacked McCain On Being Against A National Catastrophic Relief Fund. “Giuliani says that a vote for opponents John McCain and Mitt Romney will mean voting to go without a National Catastrophic Relief Fund. Speaking outside of a rally of over a hundred Cuban Americans, Giuliani told reporters, ‘I am for the National Catastrophic Fund. John McCain is against the National Catastrophic Fund’” [From The Road, CBS, [1/25/08](#)]

Giuliani FL Chair: McCain “Out Of Touch” With FL Voters On National Catastrophic Relief Fund Issue.

According to CBS News, “Giuliani Florida chair and state attorney general Bill McCollum said McCain was ‘out of touch’ with Florida voters on the issue of having a National Catastrophic Relief Fund to keep insurance costs down for Floridians. The fund is a proposal Giuliani favors but McCain has not supported. Asked if Giuliani agreed with McCollum’s statement, Giuliani said, ‘No, I agree with the assessment that I gave...I am the one who supports it and I think people have a right to evaluate it that way. And have a right to evaluate all these different positions. In some cases we have the same positions, in some we have different positions.’” [CBS News, [1/22/08](#)]

L.A. Times Op-Ed.: McCain’s Opposition To National Catastrophic Fund May Be “Disaster” In FL And CA.

According to a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed, McCain’s opposition to a national catastrophic fund could be problematic for McCain in Florida and possibly in California. In Florida, supporters of Rudolph Giuliani have attacked McCain on the issue and according to the op-ed, “Californians, not exactly unfamiliar with natural disasters, can expect to hear more of this debate as the GOP campaign heads their way in advance of the state’s Feb. 5 primary. The degree to which it is discussed, however, probably depends on whether Giuliani does well enough in Florida to still have a major voice in the contest.” [Op-Ed, *L.A. Times*, [1/25/08](#)]

S.C. Group Called McCain “A Democrat” For Opposing Confederate Flag

McCain Wanted Out Of SC By Confederate Flag Supporters’ Group. According to *Newsweek*, as John McCain campaigned in South Carolina before the state’s G.O.P. primary, leaders from a group called the Confederate States of America Historical Preservation Society protested outside of a McCain rally. A leader from

the group yelled, “McCain is a Democrat and we want him booted out of the state” for a camera crew from PBS’s News Hour with Jim Lehrer. [[Newsweek, 1/16/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Was Proud S.C Voted To Take Confederate Flag Off Statehouse.** While McCain campaigned in South Carolina, he answered a question about his call for the removal of the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina’s Statehouse eight years prior. McCain answered, “Sir, I cannot be more proud of the overwhelming majority of the people of this state who joined together taking that flag off the Capitol dome, putting it in the place where it belongs - of the many people of South Carolina who have made the decision to settle this issue against people like you, sir.” The crowd where McCain fielded the question cheered loudly, drowning out the possibility for the questioner to rebut. [[GoUpstate.com, 1/17/08](#)]

McCain Criticized On Life Issues

McCain Accused Of Voting To Use Unborn Babies In Medical Research. According to the *New York Times*, a group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to households in South Carolina telling voters, according to one of the calls, that Mr. McCain “has voted to use unborn babies in medical research.” (The campaign of Mr. Huckabee, a former governor of Arkansas, said it had no connection to the group and had asked it to stop the calls.) [[New York Times, 1/17/08](#)]

George Will Questioned McCain’s Commitment To Constructionist Judges And Pro-Life Credentials. In response to a comment by McCain where he felt that “quote-First Amendment rights” were being stretched too far, George Will hypothesized that statement showed that a President McCain would appoint judges who held elastic interpretations of the Constitution in support of abortion rights. George Will wrote, “McCain hopes that in 2008 pro-life Republicans will remember his pro-life record. But they will know that, regarding presidents and abortion, what matters are Supreme Court nominees. McCain favors judges who think the Constitution is so radically elastic that government regulation of speech about itself is compatible with the First Amendment. So Republican primary voters will wonder: Can President McCain be counted on to nominate justices who would correct such constitutional elasticities as the court’s discovery of a virtually unlimited right – one unnoticed between 1787 and 1973 – to abortion?” (“Imus in the Morning,” 4/28/06; George Will, [Washington Post, 5/11/06](#))

McCain Accused Of Supporting Most Restrictive Assault On Free Speech

McCain-Feingold Attacked As Most Restrictive Assault On Free Speech In U.S. A group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to households in South Carolina, not only attacking McCain on his abortion record but also telling voters that in writing the McCain-Feingold bill tightening rules on campaign donations, Mr. McCain had created “the most restrictive assault on free speech ever passed in America.” [[New York Times, 1/17/08](#)]

McCain Accused Of Being Too Old To Be President

McCain’s Age Expected to Play a Large Role in Election. Recent polls stated that 48% of those surveyed were “less likely to support a candidate in his or her 70s.” McCain’s age is expected to affect more voters than will Clinton’s gender or Obama’s race. [[Newsweek, 1/31/08](#)]

- **HDTV Debate Viewers Saw “Oatmeal on McCain’s Chin.”** The skepticism about McCain’s age was intensified after GOP debate broadcasted in HDTV. According to one viewer, “Those of us with HDTV could see the oatmeal on McCain’s chin. McCain’s age is reported to become a large issue, comparable to Clinton’s gender and Obama’s race. [[Boston Herald, 2/3/08](#)]

McCain May Be Too Old To Handle Pressure Of Being President, Afraid V.P. Would Take Over. Chuck Norris, a celebrity supporter of Mike Huckabee, commented on his doubts about McCain’s older age and ability to

be president. Norris claimed presidents aged three years to every one year while in the Oval Office. He said, "Now I'm thinking if John takes over the presidency at 72 and if he ages three-to-one, how old will he be in four years? He'll be 84 years old...Now can he handle that kind of pressure in that kind of job?" According to the *Herald Sun*, Norris "...said he was 'afraid' if Senator McCain became president the vice-president would wind up taking over." [[Herald Sun, 1/22/08](#)]

McCain Accused Of Being A Classic Opportunist

Ross Perot Endorsed Romney, Criticized McCain For Divorcing First Wife And Being Opportunist. According to the *Dallas Morning News*, H. Ross Perot has endorsed Romney in the G.O.P primary. Apparently, Perot told *Newsweek* magazine that McCain was "the classic opportunist" who was always reaching for "attention and glory." *Newsweek* even quoted Perot as stating, "Other POWs won't even sit at the same table with him." According to *Dallas Morning News*, "Mr. Perot told *Newsweek* that at one point he took care of Mr. McCain's family after Mr. McCain's former wife was in a serious car accident. 'After he came home, he walked with a limp, she [Carol McCain] walked with a limp. So he threw her over for a poster girl with big money from Arizona [Cindy McCain, his current wife], and the rest is history,' Mr. Perot said." [[Dallas Morning News, 1/17/08](#)]

McCain Accused of Breeding Divisiveness

Romney Said McCain's Go-It-Alone Attitude Will Breed Divisiveness In Washington. According to the Associated Press, "Romney also sought to turn McCain's well-known maverick streak - a central theme in his campaign ads - against him. McCain's go-it-alone attitude, Romney suggested, will breed more divisiveness in Washington if he wins." [AP, 12/23/07]

Previous Attacks on John McCain

Anti-Abortion Groups, The Tobacco Lobby, A Pro-Confederate Flag Group And A Bob Jones University Professor All Launched Attacks On McCain.

In 2000, according to the *Post and Courier*, “Anti-abortion groups, the tobacco lobby, a pro-Confederate flag group and a Bob Jones University professor all launched attacks on McCain, who started comparing himself to Luke Skywalker from Star Wars. Saying he wanted to be president ‘in the best way, not the worst way,’ McCain pulled his negative ads. Bush called it just another campaign tactic. Analysts said it was a strategic error.” [[Post and Courier](#), 3/15/00]

- **Sheer Volume of Attacks Forced McCain Off His Message.** According to the Associated Press, “The sheer volume of attacks forced McCain off his message as an outsider and a reformer, and he never really was able to return to it, [Trey] Walker [McCain’s national field director and former South Carolina Republican Party executive director] said.” [AP, 3/14/00]

“As A Member Of Congress, With A Washington Zip Code, He’s The Ultimate D.C. Insider.”

Bush Accused McCain of Being the “Ultimate D.C. Insider.” According to the *Post and Courier*, “Bush bashed McCain’s tax plan, his capabilities as a leader and what he called his ‘Washington double-talk campaign.’ ... Bush prudently is attacking McCain’s government service. He says he respects McCain’s patriotism and his POW experience, but charges ‘as a member of Congress, with a Washington zip code, he’s the ultimate D.C. insider.’ ‘No question he was a valiant soldier but his experiences has been as a legislator. There’s a difference between a legislator and an executive,’ Bush said. ‘The difference is between a maverick and a leader,’ said spokesman Tucker Eskew, Bush’s South Carolina spokesman. ‘We like our mavericks, but we respond to our leaders.’” [[Post and Courier](#), 2/06/00]

McCain Accused of Neglecting Arizonan Issues. Ed Ranger, Jr., McCain’s Democratic opponent in 1998, criticized McCain for, “focusing largely on national issues and not focusing on problems we have here at home.” [[Broadcasting & Cable](#), September 14, 1998]

“Complain Against McCain” Rallies Sparked Recall Campaign. After rumors surfaced about McCain considering leaving the Republican Party, Arizona activists started a campaign to recall McCain. According to the *Arizona Republic*, “The next month, McCain opponents launched two separate recall drives. It was a bit tricky and probably unconstitutional because federal lawmakers are not subject to the Arizona Constitution’s recall provisions. But McCain previously had pledged to abide by a recall election’s results and step down if that were the voters’ preference.” [[Arizona Republic](#), 3/1/07]

Accused of Being a “Liberal”

McCain Accused of Being a “Liberal.” According to *The State*, “Bush, in an appearance at fundamentalist Bob Jones University in Greenville, laid out a conservative message that his campaign advisers believe will resonate in South Carolina. He also stepped up his attack on McCain, portraying him as a ‘liberal’ out of step with his own party. ‘He came at me from the left on education and he came at me on the left on the tax plan - and it worked [in New Hampshire],’ Bush told reporters.” [[The State](#), 2/03/00]

McCain Accused of Being Inconsistent on Reforming Campaign Finance

Bush Accused McCain of Being Inconsistent on Reforming Campaign Finance. According to the *New York Times*, “Gov. George W. Bush, did not use the disclosure to criticize Mr. McCain head-on, although he suggested that the senator’s action did not comport with his views on reforming the campaign finance system. ‘I think

somebody who makes campaign finance an issue has got to be consistent, and walk the walk,’ Mr. Bush said at a New Hampshire campaign appearance.” [New York Times, 1/06/00]

- **McCain Demanded Regulatory Action to Benefit Major Contributor in 2000.** According to the *New York Times*, “Senator John McCain, who has made fixing the corrosive influence of money in politics the cornerstone of his campaign, twice demanded in recent weeks that a regulatory agency take action in a matter that ultimately benefited a major contributor to his presidential campaign. Once in November and again last month, Mr. McCain wrote letters to the Federal Communications Commission seeking a speedy vote on a complicated swap of television station licenses in Pittsburgh that would enable the contributor’s company, Paxson Communications, to buy one of the stations in the only big market where it lacks one. Mr. McCain sent the letters after he and his aides had met with and received more than \$20,000 in contributions from executives for the company and lobbyists. The head of the company, Lowell Paxson, who also lent Mr. McCain his corporate jet four times last year for campaign travel, had scheduled a fund-raiser for Mr. McCain in Florida for this weekend, but canceled it at the end of the day.” [New York Times, 1/06/00]

Bush Accused McCain of Hypocrisy For Taking Contributions from Special Interest. According to *The Herald*, “In his own ads, he accused McCain of starting the attacks, implied that McCain was a hypocrite for taking contributions from the same special interests against which he rails, questioned McCain’s conservatism, accused him of wanting to help labor unions with his campaign finance bill and suggested that McCain’s tax plan was so liberal that even Democrats and the news media liked it.” [The Herald, 2/27/00]

Bush Ad: McCain’s Campaign Is Crawling With Lobbyists. According to the Associated Press, “...he suggested McCain is a hypocrite on his signature issue of political reform. Soon, the message found its way into Bush ads. An ad released Feb. 8 quoted a newspaper article, saying, ‘McCain’s campaign is crawling with lobbyists.’” ... “Bush then attacked McCain for promoting campaign finance reform while hitting up Washington lobbyists at a fund-raiser that night.” [AP, 2/12/00; Greenville News, 2/12/00]

McCain Accused of Flip-Flopping on Maintaining Ban on Federal Funds for Research

South Carolina Citizens for Life Accused McCain Flip-Flopped on Promise to Maintain Ban on Federal Funds for Research “That Uses The Body Parts Of Aborted Babies.” According to the Boston Globe, “...McCain’s votes to allow research on fetal-tissue transplants have come under fire in his presidential campaign. South Carolina Citizens for Life aired radio ads urging voters to oppose McCain in the primary on Saturday because, the ads said, the Arizona Republican had ‘flip-flopped’ on a promise to maintain the ban on federal funds for research ‘that uses the body parts of aborted babies.’ ... There’s no disputing that McCain was inconsistent on the fetal-tissue issue, and that the candidate who rails against special interests listened to a lobbyist who championed fetal-tissue therapies. The lobbyist was Anne Udall. Her father, former Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona was in a Veterans Administration medical center, wasting away from the Parkinson’s disease that would kill him in December 1998 at age 76.” [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

- **McCain Said He Would Not Support Use of Fetal Tissue; Voted to Lift Moratorium on Fetal-Tissue Transplants.** According to the *Boston Globe*, “In a January 1992 letter to the director of Arizona Right to Life, McCain said the group could count on his being ‘steadfast’ against abortion. ‘I have no intention of supporting the use of fetal tissue’ from abortions, McCain wrote. Three months later, McCain voted in favor of a Senate bill authorizing funds for the National Institutes of Health that included a provision to lift the federal-research moratorium that presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush had imposed on fetal-tissue transplants. ‘I have lost sleep struggling with this,’ McCain wrote to a constituent in May 1992. ‘My abhorrence for the practice of abortion is unquestionable. Yet my abhorrence’ for Parkinson’s and juvenile diabetes ‘and the suffering they cause is just as strong.’” [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

- **McCain Opposed Amendment that Banned Research on Fetal-Tissue Transplants.** According to the *Boston Globe*, McCain “was the chief sponsor of a bill, enacted in 1997 and bearing Udall’s name, that provides \$100 million a year for finding a cure for Parkinson’s disease, a progressive neurological disorder that afflicts about 1 million Americans. He opposed an amendment that would have banned research on fetal-tissue transplants.” [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

McCain Accused of Not Being Pro-Life

SC Citizens for Life Ad: ‘If You Are A Voter Who Wants A Strongly Pro-Life President, Then On February 19 Don’t Support John McCain.’ According to *The Herald*, “Anti-abortion, conservative Christian and tobacco industry groups attacked McCain with hard-hitting ads... ‘If you are a voter who wants a strongly pro-life president, then on February 19 don’t support John McCain,’ said one of a series of radio ads paid for by South Carolina Citizens for Life.” [The Herald, 2/27/00]

McCain Accused of Being Soft on Roe v. Wade. According to Associated Press, “The ads accused McCain of being soft on repeal of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decision that made abortion legal nationwide. The ads also attacked McCain for backing legislation funding fetal tissue research.” [AP, 2/08/00]

McCain Has “Clouded Vision” on Education

Bush Charged McCain Offered “Clouded Vision” on Education. According to the *Post and Courier*, “Echoing the theme of a new campaign ad airing in New York and California, Bush charged that McCain offered a ‘clouded vision’ on education policy when asked during a debate Thursday night. Bush is starting to air a radio ad this weekend in downstate New York and ‘targeted markets’ in California strongly criticizing McCain’s position on education and praising Bush’s as ‘remarkable for its conservatism.’” [Post and Courier, 3/05/00]

Giuliani Called McCain’s Legislative Record “Anti-New York” in 2000

Giuliani Accused McCain for “Anti-New York” Legislative Record. According to the *Post and Courier*, “New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who has endorsed Bush, went public with his refusal to join a Pataki-led effort to attack McCain’s legislative record as ‘anti-New York.’” [Post and Courier, 3/05/00]

McCain Attacked on Environmental Record

Wly Brothers Ran Ads in New York Attacking McCain’s Environmental Record. In 2000, Dallas tycoons Sam and Charles Wly ran ads in New York attacking McCain’s environmental record. [Post and Courier, 3/17/00]

McCain Attacked As Opponent of Increased Breast Cancer Research

Bush Campaign Commercial Attacked McCain as Opponent of Increase Breast Cancer Research. According to the *Post and Courier*, “In addition, McCain was angered by a Bush campaign commercial, running in New York, that attacked him as an opponent of increased breast cancer research.” [Post and Courier, 3/07/00]

McCain Accused of Hypocrisy for Running Dirty Campaign

Bush Accused McCain Of Riding His “High Horse” Down A “Low Road.” According to the Associated Press, “Bush, for his part, continued waving a McCain campaign flyer he said was an attack that violated McCain’s positive campaign pledge, arguing McCain was riding his ‘high horse’ down a ‘low road.’ ‘I’m saying this is a man who says one thing and does another,’ the Texas governor said, drawing a frosty retort from McCain.” [AP, 2/18/00]

Bush Campaign Accused McCain of Smearing Bush Record on Social Security. In 2000, Bush state campaign spokesman Tucker Eskew “accused the McCain campaign of using a telephone survey ‘smearing Gov. Bush’s record’ on Social Security. It was the fourth day of feuding over an ad the Bush campaign began airing Friday in South Carolina, alleging that a McCain ad on Bush’s tax plan ‘is untrue and McCain knows it.’ The spat involves whether Bush would earmark \$2 trillion of the budget surplus for Social Security, paying down the national debt and cutting taxes. He says he would. McCain said Social Security funds are already covered by federal law and Bush’s debt repayment is too skimpy. … Ari Fleischer, Bush’s national spokesman, said the ad is a disservice to the GOP and ‘John McCain has gone too far.’” [\[Greenville News, 2/08/00\]](#)

McCain Accused of Smear Campaign Over Religion

Bush Accused McCain of Smearing His reputation With Campaign Attacks Over Religion. According to *Post and Courier*, “George W. Bush accused John McCain in debate Thursday night of smearing his reputation with campaign attacks over religion and said, ‘I don’t appreciate it one bit.’ His GOP presidential rival denied the charge, saying he had merely served up ‘straight talk’ about the Texas governor’s visit to Bob Jones University.” [\[Post and Courier, 3/03/00\]](#)

- **Bush Accused McCain of “Demonizing People, Holding People Up for Scorn.”** According to *Post and Courier*, “McCain also attempted to tie Bush to a conservative South Carolina university that has espoused anti-Catholic views. Bush accused McCain of ‘demonizing people, holding people up for scorn.’” [\[Post and Courier, 3/01/00\]](#)

Ad Suggested McCain Would Bring Rudman Into Government; Rudman Said Christian Conservative Movement Included “Anti-Abortion Zealots and Bigots.” According to *The Herald*, “Another ad suggested that electing McCain would bring former New Hampshire Sen. Warren Rudman into the government and implied that would be disastrous because Rudman believes the Christian conservative movement ‘includes anti-abortion zealots and bigots.’” [\[The Herald, 2/27/00\]](#)

McCain Hit for Position on Budget Surplus

McCain Hit for Not Proposing Larger Tax Cut. According to *Myrtle Beach Sun-News*, Coverdell and Gramm [Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., and Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas] criticized McCain’s views on tobacco and the federal budget surplus. … McCain suggests using the budget surplus to lower taxes, protect Social Security and cut the national debt. Bush, the governor of Texas, says the surplus should bolster Social Security and significantly cut taxes. ‘We are spending that surplus as quickly as it can be spent,’ Gramm said. ‘We need to give part of that surplus back to the taxpayers.’ McCain’s camp says tax cuts and lowering the national debt are pressing needs, especially when the country is enjoying such economic health. ‘Every family in South Carolina realizes that in economic good times, paying off the family’s debt is the smart and conservative thing to do,’ said McCain spokesman Dan McLagan.

McCain Hit for Supporting Cigarette Tax Increase

McCain Hit for Attempting to Raise Cigarette Taxes in 1998. According to *Myrtle Beach Sun-News*, “Gramm and Coverdell [Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., and Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas] also attacked McCain’s record on tobacco. ‘We’re already reeling, and it’s happening here because of McCain’s stance on tobacco,’ Coverdell said. ‘You wouldn’t want to be McCain and walk through some of the rural neighborhoods through my state.’ McCain supported an unsuccessful attempt to raise cigarette taxes by \$1.10 per pack in 1998. ‘These are real; these are the ground issues that affect the health of the economy of South Carolina,’ Coverdell said. ‘That’s just not the straight talk.’” [\[Myrtle Beach Sun-News, 2/08/00\]](#)

McCain Accused of Supporting Tobacco Increase Favored by President Clinton. According to the Associated Press, “Already, voters in South Carolina are being reminded of McCain’s unsuccessful attempt in 1998 to raise

cigarette taxes by \$1.10 per pack and give the federal government new power to regulate nicotine. Television ads by the National Smokers Alliance, a group supported by the tobacco industry, started showing this week in Columbia, Charleston and Florence bashing the Arizona senator for supporting the tobacco tax increase favored by President Clinton. ... Already, voters in South Carolina are being reminded of McCain's unsuccessful attempt in 1998 to raise cigarette taxes by \$1.10 per pack and give the federal government new power to regulate nicotine. Television ads by the National Smokers Alliance, a group supported by the tobacco industry, started showing this week in Columbia, Charleston and Florence bashing the Arizona senator for supporting the tobacco tax increase favored by President Clinton. ... Clinton, opening an election-year fight, on Friday proposed a 25-cent-a-pack tax increase on cigarettes for an anti-smoking campaign. He also proposed accelerating an approved 5 cent per pack tax increase to take effect Oct. 1 instead of Jan. 1, 2002. And he wants to penalize cigarette-makers \$3,000 each year for every underage smoker if teen smoking is not cut in half by 2004." [AP, 2/04/00]

McCain Engaged in Political Opportunism

McCain Abandoned His Good Friend and Mentor When It Threatened His Career. When McCain's good friend and political mentor Darrow "Duke" Tully was caught up in a scandal and forced to resign from his post as editor of *The Arizona Republic*, McCain denied any personal connection with Tully. Tully had many connections and helped McCain in his first bid for congress. During McCain's first campaign for senate, it was discovered that Tully had a drinking problem and had lied about his past. After Tully was forced to resign, McCain brushed off press questions about his former friend and diminished their relationship. In the words of one of Tully's former executives, Bill Shover, "He [McCain] used Duke Tully to gain what he got in his life and he left him just when Duke needed him most." Shover called McCain a political opportunist who "moved quickly" to distance himself from Tully. [[The Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

- **McCain Credits Tully With Helping Him Win His First GOP Primary.** McCain credits Duke Tully for delivering the endorsement of *The Arizona Republic* during the tough primary battle of his first campaign for congress. "The endorsement was instrumental in helping McCain break out of the GOP pack." [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Was a Carpetbagger. After mulling a run for congress in Florida since 1976 and determining he couldn't win, McCain moved to Arizona merely because the state added a congressional district after the 1980 census. McCain himself wrote, "My ambition was plainly obvious, and to some, it was presumptuous and arrogant." [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

- **McCain "Snapped" When Asked About His Suspicious Change in Residency.** At an candidates forum, McCain "snapped" when asked about his residency. McCain responded, "Listen, pal. I spent 22 years in the Navy. My grandfather was in the Navy. We in the military service tend to move a lot. We have to live in all parts of the country, all parts of the world. I wish I could have had the luxury, like you, of growing up and living and spending my entire life in a nice place like the first district of Arizona, but I was doing other things. As a matter of fact, when I think about it now, the place I lived longest in my life was Hanoi." The *Phoenix Gazette* called his response "the most devastating response to a potentially troublesome political issue." [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Criticized for Tax Record

McCain Criticized for Opposing Bush Tax Cuts. Senator McCain voted against six tax cuts including final passage of the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts. [Americans for Tax Reform website, accessed 1/29/08]

McCain Opposes a Permanent Repeal of the Estate Tax. According to Americans for Tax Reform, headed by Grover Norquist, John McCain has repeatedly opposed permanently repealing the Estate Tax, "a major goal of the taxpayer movement." [Americans for Tax Reform website, accessed 1/29/08]

McCain Voted Against the 2004 American Jobs Creation Act. According to Americans for Tax Reform, McCain opposed “[f]inal passage of conference report for international tax legislation which needed passage to bring the US in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Since the US was out of compliance the European Union (EU) was able to slap tariffs on American products until the illegal subsidy was removed, which this legislation did. In addition, the legislation cut the corporate tax rate for domestic manufacturers and allowed companies to repatriate their foreign profits back into America at a lower tax rate.” [Americans for Tax Reform website, accessed on 1/29/08]

McCain Accused of Having Illegitimate Daughter

McCain’s Daughter Portrayed As Child of an Illicit Union. According to the *New York Times*, “There are the children from his first marriage — Doug and Andy, from his first wife’s former marriage — whom he adopted when they were small, as well as a daughter, Sidney. Then there is the second family: Meghan, Jimmy, Jack and the McCain’s adopted daughter, Bridget, 16, who became a target of dirty campaigning in the 2000 presidential race, when she was portrayed as the child of an illicit union.” [New York Times, 12/27/07]

- **McCains Adopted A Bangladeshi Orphan That Cindy Brought Back To U.S. For Medical Help.** According to *Good Housekeeping*, John McCain said that his wife, Cindy’s “finest hour” came when in 1991, when Cindy went on a trip to Bangladesh, with the American Voluntary Medical Team, an organization she had launched in 1988 with part of her family’s fortune. Also according to *Good Housekeeping*, Mrs. McCain “...visited an orphanage where 150 malnourished infants were living in squalor. Toward the end of her stay, nuns brought her a 10-week-old named Bridget. The baby was severely disfigured by a cleft palate; her caretakers begged Cindy to take her to the United States for treatment, and she quickly agreed.” Once back in the U.S., both Cindy and John decided to adopt Bridget. [Good Housekeeping, 2/1/00]

McCain Accused of Being a “Disgraced Senator”

McCain Accused of Being a Disgraced Senator Due to His Association with the Keating Five Scandal. During his 1992 re-election campaign, McCain’s Democratic Opponent, Claire Sargent, described McCain as a “disgraced senator” due to his association with Charles H. Keating and the Keating Five scandal. [Washington Post, September 24, 1992]

- **Opponent Alludes to McCain as a “Boob.”** McCain’s opponent in his 1992 senate re-election campaign, Claire Sargent, stated, “I think it’s about time we voted for senators with breasts. After all, we’ve been voting for boobs long enough.” [Washington Post, 9/24/92]

McCain Criticized for Tasteless Jokes

McCain Criticized for Making an Inappropriate Joke Regarding Chelsea Clinton. During a 1998 GOP Fundraiser, McCain made a joke at the expense of Chelsea Clinton, the President’s teenage daughter. McCain reportedly said, “Why is Chelsea Clinton so ugly? Because Janet Reno is her father.” [Broadcasting & Cable, September 14, 1998; Salon.com, June 25, 1998]

McCain Referred to Retirement Home as “Seizure World,” Where Residents Either Voted, or Were In Intensive Care. In June of 1986, McCain referred to Leisure World, an Arizona retirement community, as Seizure World where “97 percent of the people voted and the other 3 percent were in intensive care.” McCain attributes the gaffe to his “irremediable” personality trait of being a “wiseass.” [The Arizona Republic, 3/1/07]

McCain’s Personal Life

McCain Cheated On and Divorced His First Wife After She Suffered a Disabling Care Accident. The *New York Times* writes, “His wife, Carol, a tall, slim woman who had once been a model, had nearly died in a car wreck in 1969 [while McCain was a prisoner of war]. The injuries left her four inches shorter and on crutches, and she had gained a good deal of weight.” They add, “[His] personal life was a mess: Although he was still living with his wife, he was aggressively courting a 25-year-old woman who was as beautiful as she was rich.” After meeting at a party, McCain pursued the woman “aggressively, flying around the country to see her.” McCain divorced his first wife the next year, and “promptly married Miss Hensley, his present wife.” [[New York Times, 2/27/00](#); [Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Threatened to “Personally Beat the Shit” Out of His Opponent. After McCain’s opponent contacted his ex-wife in hopes of “digging up dirt on McCain,” Carol called to warn her former husband. McCain recalls, “When the debate ended, I walked over to the opponent who had attempted to mine some little nasty opposition research from my failed marriage and told him with as much steel as I’m capable of demonstrating, ‘If you ever try to hurt anyone in my family again, I will personally beat the shit out of you.’” [[The Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain: A Flip-Flopper From Day One

McCain Flip-Flopped on Several Issues to Win His First Election. McCain’s opponent in the 1982 Republican Primary, Ray Russell stated, “He really wanted that worse than anything. There were several issues that he flip-flopped on. He wanted to win so badly that he’d tell people whatever they wanted to hear.” [[The Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Lied Under Oath

McCain Allegedly Lied Under Oath During the “Keating Five” Investigation. Congressional investigator during the Keating Five investigations, Clark B. Hall personally concluded that “McCain was one of the principal leakers” of information to the press. McCain testified under oath that he was not involved in the leaks. [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain's Ego, Temper and Off-Color Sense of Humor

McCain Joked About Waterboarding His Staff. McCain joked about waterboarding staff members who left the campaign over the summer. *The New Yorker* wrote, “At one moment, bursting into laughter, he exuberantly explains why, after “a short period of waterboarding to find out what they did in their absence,” he would take back some of the staffers who fled his campaign at its low point.” [[The New Yorker, 2/25/08](#)]

McCain Showed That He Is About As Articulate As George Bush. Regarding McCain’s speech after his sweep A *National Post* article wrote, “By contrast, John McCain showed once again that he is about as articulate as is George Bush. His speech was halting. On Tuesday night, he also won three primaries but choose to use his prime-time television exposure by reading a prepared speech in front of loyal followers. Interestingly, his “backdrop” was telling. Behind him on the podium were five white people: two women; two businessmen and one elderly ex-senator.” [[National Post, 2/14/08](#)]

David Keene: McCain is An “Ornery Old Guy.” When discussing McCain’s potential running mates, David Keene, president of the American Conservative Union, said, “That’s the high-profile, easy way” to get right with conservatives. “If you said, ‘I can’t change because I’m too old to change and I’m too ornery and I don’t want to be nice to you but I’ll select as my running mate someone you really love,’ then they’ll all say ‘OK, we’ll put up with the ornery old guy.’” [[Associated Press, 2/10/08](#)]

McCain Admitted His Temper Caused Him to Make Mistakes. In his 2002 book, *Worth the Fighting For*, McCain wrote of his temper, “I have one, of course, and its exercise, usually when I am very tired, has caused me to make most of the more serious mistakes of my career.” [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

The Myth of John McCain

Newsweek Completed Special Report on McCain; McCain “Truly Humble Man, Capable of Profound Forgiveness.” Newsweek has completed a Special Report on John McCain entitled “What These Eyes Have Seen.” The piece will reportedly be published in the February 11th issue of the news magazine. The report states that McCain is, “truly humble man, capable of profound forgiveness.” [[Newsweek, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain Staffer: “Outrage” is an Admirable Trait. McCain staffer Mark Salter reportedly said of McCain, “When he’s arguing about something he believes in, he’s arguing about it. It’s an admirable trait, the capacity to be outraged.” [[Washington Post, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain Has Won Over Voters With His Personality, Despite His Politics. McCain has won over Republican voters by “investing them in a national cult of personality,” according to the *The Boston Globe*. McCain’s media consultant Mark McKinnon stated, “It’s about a constellation of attributes. If you think someone has character, you’re willing to suspend your disagreements.” [[Boston Globe, 2/2/08](#)]

John McCain Has a Temper

Bob Corker Refused To Say McCain Had The Temperament To Be President. Senator Bob Corker twice refused to say that McCain has the temperament to be president when asked on *Hannity & Colmes*. When asked, Corker said, “You know, his temperamental issues have been written about,” and, “Well I think he is an American hero.” [[Think Progress, 2/19/08](#)]

Santorum: McCain’s Temper Is A “Legitimate Cause For Concern.” While talking to the *New York Times* about McCain’s famous temper, former senator Rick Santorum said, “Does he have a capacity to control it? Over the course of the campaign, I think he has managed to. But I think it is a legitimate cause for concern.” [[New York Times, 2/17/08](#)]

McCain Compared to Norman Bates, The Killer From *Psycho*. Neil Cavuto said, “I’m also hearing a lot of people are waiting for Senator McCain to snap; for him to do something crazy and that just as he’s on the verge of winning this, he’s gonna go, you know, kinda like a Norman Bates deal.” [FOX News, 2/6/08; Newshounds, [2/6/08](#)]

McCain Said That He Has Regretted Losing His Temper, But There Are Things Worth Getting Angry About In Politics. The *Boston Globe* reported on McCain and his temper. They cited a passage from McCain’s memoir “Worth the Fighting For” wherein McCain addressed the issue. McCain apparently wrote, “My temper has often been both a matter of public speculation and personal concern...I have a temper, to state the obvious, which I have tried to control with varying degrees of success because it does not always serve my interest or the public’s. I have regretted losing my temper on many occasions. But there are things worth getting angry about in politics, and I have at times tried to use my anger to incite public outrage. I make no apologies for that. . . . When public servants lose their capacity for outrage over practices injurious to the national interest, they have outlived their usefulness to the country.” [*Boston Globe*, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain’s Temperament May Be Most Discussed Element Of His Life And Career. According to *Vanity Fair*, “McCain’s temperament may be the single most discussed element of his life and career.” McCain’s high school nicknames were apparently “Punk” and “McNasty” and McCain has been rated, by Capitol Hill staffers in the *Washingtonian*, as having one of the top “Hottest Tempers” several times. [*Vanity Fair*, 2007]

- **McCain Last One To Recognize He Has Hot Tempered Reputation.** According to *Vanity Fair* “McCain’s aides [said] that McCain himself was the last to recognize that he had a reputation as a hothead, and used to rail at them in private every time a public commentator suggested he had a problem, shouting, ‘I do *not* have a temper. I just care passionately.’” [*Vanity Fair*, 2007]
- **McCain’s Willingness To Think Candidly Out Loud May Be Risky.** *Vanity Fair* columnist Todd Purdum commented, “What’s so different about—and potentially risky for—McCain is his perpetual willingness to think out loud, unplugged and unfiltered.” [*Vanity Fair*, 2007]

McCain Was Frequently Rated As Having One Of Congress’ “Hottest Tempers” By Washingtonian Magazine. John McCain was rated in the *Washingtonian* as having one of Congress’ “hottest tempers” in 2006, 2004, 2000, and 1998. McCain had the second “hottest temper” in Congress in 2006, placed first in 2004, 2000, and placed second in 1998. [*Washingtonian*, September 2006; *Washingtonian*, September 2004; *Washingtonian*, September, 2000; *Washingtonian*, July 1998]

McCain Admitted He Had a “Pretty Massive Ego”

McCain Said He Had A “Pretty Massive Ego” But Was Not Planning To Run Against The Clintons Just Yet. On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain, “If you were the Republican nominee and Hillary Clinton was the Democratic nominee, would you have to run against Bill and Hillary Clinton? And how would you do it?” McCain answered, “You know, I don’t, I don’t know, but I think it would be clearly a philosophical difference. But I haven’t, frankly--obviously Senator Obama’s win last night makes him very, very competitive. Senator Edwards is still in it. I have to--look, I’ve only won two primaries, Tim. I’m--I got a pretty massive ego, but not quite so much as I’m planning on that yet.” [*Meet The Press*, [1/27/08](#)]

GOPers Suggest McCain Unfit for Presidency

GOP Aide: McCain Is “My-Way-Or-The Highway” Type Of Leader. According to *The Hill*, a House GOP Leadership aide said McCain has been “my-way-or-the-highway” in the Senate. When asked about McCain’s address to the House Republican Conference, he said, “Members will be generally curious to hear what Sen. McCain has to say, but the tone of his message and the framework of his campaign strategy will be very important, particularly to conservatives. Will he sound like the ‘my-way-or-the-highway’ McCain that’s graced the Senate for

10 years? Or will he sound like a presidential candidate that realizes it's a two-way street and is willing to embrace conservatism?" [The Hill, [2/12/08](#)]

Thad Cochran: No Other President Has Had McCain's Temper. When asked if McCain's temper was disabling or disqualifying in a potential president, Cochran responded, "I certainly know no other president since I've been here who's had a temperament like that." [Newsweek, [2/11/08](#)]

- **Sen. Thad Cochran: McCain Is Erratic, Hotheaded, Loses His Temper, And It Worries Me.** Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, who has endorsed Mitt Romney, criticized McCain's temper. Cochran said, "The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine...He is erratic. He is hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me." [Boston Globe, [1/27/08](#)]

GOP Rejected Idea of McCain Nomination and Warned His Tirades Suggest a Temperament Unfit for the Oval Office. According to the *Washington Post*, "...others have outright rejected the idea of a McCain nomination and presidency, warning that his tirades suggest a temperament unfit for the Oval Office. 'The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine,' Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), also a senior member of the Appropriations panel, told the Boston Globe recently. 'He is erratic. He is hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me.' A former colleague says McCain's abrasive nature would, at minimum, make his relations with Republicans on Capitol Hill uneasy if he were to become president. McCain could find himself the victim of Republicans who will not go the extra mile for him on legislative issues because of past grievances. 'John was very rough in the sandbox,' said former senator Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), who is outspoken in his opposition to McCain's candidacy. 'Everybody has a McCain story. If you work in the Senate for a while, you have a McCain story. . . . He hasn't built up a lot of goodwill.'" [Washington Post, [2/04/08](#)]

Santorum Raised Questions About McCain's Temperament. According to the *Boston Globe*, "Mitt Romney's campaign is blasting out automated phone calls that feature a recording of former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania raising questions about John McCain's 'temperament' -- a hot-button issue that Romney himself has assiduously avoided. Santorum said in an interview today that he wrote the script himself, and the campaign deferred to him and approved it. 'John McCain has written about and talked about the issues that he has with respect to his temperament and his ability to work with other people and to do so in a way that's productive,' Santorum said in an interview after stumping for Romney at Dave & Buster's restaurant. 'This is not something he hasn't spoken about and talked about and admitted to and I think that to me it is a relevant issue for people to consider...I think it's one without question that factors into his ability to govern, to form coalitions and to get things done.' ... Santorum said he had personally witnessed problems with McCain's temperament, which he declined to detail. 'I don't know anybody in the Senate who hasn't,' Santorum said. 'Everybody has their McCain story.'" [Boston Globe, Political Intelligence, [2/03/08](#)]

Colleagues Acknowledged McCain is "Tough to Deal With" and a "Hothead"

Newsweek: McCain can seem Prickly, Impetuous and Vindictive. In a special report, *Newsweek* reported that "in rare weak moments, he can seem prickly, impetuous, vindictive – the sort of military martinet whose finger is supposed to be kept far away from the button." [Newsweek, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Described as a "Tough, Mean Little Fucker." McCain's nicknames at Episcopal High School were reportedly "Punk," "Nasty," and "McNasty." He was even described as a, "tough, mean little fucker" by a classmate. [Newsweek, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain is Rumored to Have Shoved Strom Thurmond. "Senator Hothead," as described by *Newsweek*, was rumored to have shoved "one or two" senators, including Strom Thurmond, who was in his 90s at the time of the alleged incident. [Newsweek, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Described as Vindictive with “More Enemies than Nixon.” According to a *Newsweek* report, McCain has “a bit of a vindictive streak.” A former Pentagon official stated, “John has an enemies list longer than Nixon’s. And unlike Nixon, McCain really does try to get you.” [*Newsweek*, [2/11/08](#)]

AZ G.O.P Chairman: McCain Is Tough To Deal With. According to CBS News, Chairman of the Arizona Republican party has said about McCain, “He’s tough to deal with, there’s no doubt about it...He believes what he believes in, and he wants other people to support him in those beliefs.” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain’s Battles Increase Animosity, Breed Resentment. According to CBS News, GOP strategist Greg Mueller commented about McCain, “Some of his battles are so intense and loud that it sort of increases the animosity...You’ve got these intense issues where a lot of rhetoric gets tossed around and it breeds resentment.” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

Orrin Hatch Called It “Awful” To Be The Focus Of McCain’s Anger. “Hatch, who serves with McCain in the Senate, said his colleague ‘is a passionate person and he does have a temper and sometimes it’s awful to be on the wrong side of it.’” [Associated Press, 12/2/99]

McCain “The Biggest Bully In The Senate.” “According to Douglas Johnson, the legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, an anti-abortion lobbying group, McCain is reputed to be ‘the biggest bully in the Senate.’” [*Arizona Republic*, 11/5/99]

McCain’s Communications Director Said Anger Was Part Of John McCain. Dan Schnur, John McCain’s communications director in the 2000 presidential race, acknowledged McCain’s tendency toward anger, saying, “Anybody who knows John McCain knows that he gets angry.”” [*Washington Post*, 11/2/99]

Friends And Colleagues Acknowledge That McCain “Blows Up” And Will “Hammer” Those Who He Disagrees With. “[McCain] just comes out and blows up every once in a while,’ says a congressional correspondent, who didn’t want to be named. ‘You can almost see the steam coming out of his ears.’ In a Senate that still tries to present itself as a polite debating club, McCain stands out for his willingness to take on ‘distinguished colleagues.’ Sometimes his wrath reaches beyond Capitol Hill. Cross one of the lines he has drawn and he’ll take you on, no matter your rank.” [*Washingtonian*, 2/97]

McCain’s Tempestuous Behavior

McCain Called Student “A Little Jerk” Who Ought to be Drafted. According to Think Progress, “In September, a high school student asked McCain whether the senator was ‘too old to be president and too conservative to be respected.’ McCain ‘jokingly’ responded by calling the student ‘a little jerk’ who ought to be drafted. [*Think Progress*, [9/4/07](#)]

McCain Threatened to “Personally Beat the Shit” Out of His Opponent. After McCain’s opponent contacted his ex-wife in hopes of “digging up dirt on McCain,” Carol called to warn her former husband. McCain recalls, “When the debate ended, I walked over to the opponent who had attempted to mine some little nasty opposition research from my failed marriage and told him with as much steel as I’m capable of demonstrating, ‘If you ever try to hurt anyone in my family again, I will personally beat the shit out of you.’” [*The Arizona Republic*, [3/1/07](#)]

McCain Apparently Once Told Chuck Grassley He Was A “Fucking Jerk.” According to *Salon.com* reporter Jake Tapper, McCain had a large temper. Tapper wrote about a story told to him, by another Senator, wherein McCain once said to Chuck Grassley, “I thought your problem was that you don’t listen. But that’s not it at all. Your problem is that you’re a fucking jerk.” McCain and Grassley had been embroiled in a debate over how to deal with former U.S. Marine Bobby Garwood, a former POW who had been an accused defector, during a meeting of the Senate Special Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. McCain believed Garwood had been a “traitor” while Grassley believed Garwood had been wrongly accused. [*Salon.com*, 5/14/99]

McCain Tore Into Obama For Supporting Competing Reform Legislation. On Monday, February 6, “McCain literally exploded” and “blasted Obama” when he “delivered a sharp scolding...in a two-page letter, which contained atypically harsh and sarcastic words from one senator to another.” McCain “accused his Democratic colleague Barack Obama of ‘partisan posturing’ on the issue of lobbying ethics reform,” “delivered a caustic rebuke” and “unleashed an unusually biting and blunt broadside Monday against one of his Democratic colleagues, Sen. Barack Obama,” [CBS News, 2/6/06; UPI, 2/7/06; [Chicago Tribune](#), 2/7/06; Associated Press, 2/7/06; [New York Sun](#), 2/7/06; CNN.com, 2/7/06]

McCain Known To Have A “Short Fuse.” Sidney Hoff Hay, now an aide to GOP presidential candidate Alan Keyes, said McCain yelled at her during an early 1990s meeting of local activists at McCain’s home. The activists, who were pushing conservative reforms McCain didn’t fully support, complained to McCain that his aides had failed to notify them of the meeting until late the day before. ‘He just almost leaped out of his chair,’ Hoff Hay said. ‘He was like, ‘How dare you say that?’ He basically said I was lying.’ ...’For him to say he never gets angry, and that he doesn’t fly off the handle -- I mean, come on. You know (he does it) all the time. He’s got a short fuse sometimes, and he fires it off.’” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/5/99]

McCain Known To Attack The Motives Of Those Who Disagree With Him. “In 1996, McCain vented during a meeting attended by McCain, [David] Johnson [legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee] and Bill Pierce, president of the National Committee for Adoption. Johnson and Pierce had come to voice their concerns about a bill McCain was then sponsoring. But, according to Johnson, ‘McCain didn’t want to hear any of that...All he wanted to do is berate this man,’ Johnson said, referring to Pierce...’When someone disagrees with him, he immediately attacks their motives,’ Douglas Johnson said. ‘(He thinks) anyone who disagrees with him is driven by selfish motives and perhaps even stupidity.’” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/5/99]

McCain Began His Senate Career Screaming At A Young Volunteer. “It was election night 1986, and John McCain had just been elected to the U.S. Senate for the first time. Even so, he was not in a good mood. McCain was yelling at the top of his lungs and poking the chest of a young Republican volunteer who had set up a lectern that was too tall for the 5-foot-9 politician to be seen to advantage, according to a witness to the outburst.” Jon Hinz, then Executive Director of the Arizona Republican Party, noted of the outburst, “You’d have to stick cotton in your ears not to hear it. He (McCain) was screaming at him, and he was red in the face. It wasn’t right, and I was very upset at him.” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/5/99]

McCain’s Staff Had To Restrain Him From Attacking A Phoenix City Councilwoman. “In 1993, [former Phoenix City Councilwoman Kathy] Dubs, a Republican, was singed by McCain during a presentation about a proposed regional airport that was to be located between Phoenix and Tucson. Phoenix wasn’t happy about an airport that would compete with Sky Harbor International, recalled Dubs, then on the City Council...I said, ‘You know, the question that comes to my mind, that my constituents would ask me, is, ‘How much property do your relatives own in Casa Grande?’’ Dubs said. That’s when McCain grew angry. ‘He slammed his fist to the table and stood up and said this meeting is over,’ she said. ‘Then he pointed his finger at me and started calling me names. His staff was pulling him back, trying to get him to sit down.’” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/5/99]

McCain Threatened An Arizona Politician For Not Endorsing His Senate Run. “Carl Kunasek, now a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission, was blasted by McCain in 1985, when Kunasek refused to endorse McCain during his first run for the U.S. Senate. The incident ‘included [McCain] standing on his feet and leaning over and telling me what would happen to me,’ Kunasek said Thursday. Kunasek declined to say what McCain threatened, but added that the threat, political in nature, was never acted on. The incident, Kunasek said, ‘was not pleasant, and I was surprised.’” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/5/99]

McCain “Scuffled” With 92 Year-Old Strom Thurmond After A Committee Hearing Dispute. “In January 1995, McCain was midway through an opening statement at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing when Chairman Strom Thurmond asked, ‘Is the senator about through?’ McCain glared at Thurmond, thanked him for his ‘courtesy’ (translation: buzz off), and continued on. McCain later confronted Thurmond on the Senate floor. A scuffle ensued, and the two didn’t part friends.” [[Washingtonian](#), 2/97]

McCain Refused To Speak To Senators Pryor And Heflin For Years Following The Keating Investigation. “The Senate’s special counsel recommended in 1990 dropping charges against McCain for doing anything illegal or even unseemly to shield savings-and-loan operator Charles Keating from federal investigators. Yet Democrat David Pryor of Arkansas kept voting against freeing McCain from the Senate’s Keating Five investigation. ‘It was purely political,’ says McCain, who didn’t speak to Pryor for nearly six years. Alabama’s Howell Heflin got the same silent treatment.” [[Washingtonian](#), 2/97]

McCain “Screamed ‘F*ck You!’ at Senator John Cornyn. According to a Romney press release, “Defending His Amnesty Bill, Sen. McCain Lost His Temper And ‘Screamed, ‘F*ck You!’ At Texas Sen. John Cornyn’ (R-TX). ‘Presidential hopeful John McCain - who has been dogged for years by questions about his volcanic temper - erupted in an angry, profanity-laced tirade at a fellow Republican senator, sources told The Post yesterday. In a heated dispute over immigration-law overhaul, McCain screamed, ‘F--- you!’ at Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who had been raising concerns about the legislation. ‘This is chickens---stuff,’ McCain snapped at Cornyn, according to several people in the room off the Senate floor Thursday. ‘You’ve always been against this bill, and you’re just trying to derail it.’” (Charles Hurt, “Raising McCain,” New York Post, 5/19/07)” [[Romney Press Release, 1/05/08](#)]

McCain Repeatedly Called Senator Pete Domenici an “Ahole.”** According to a Romney press release, “Sen. McCain Repeatedly Called Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) An ‘A**hole’, Causing A Fellow GOP Senator To Say, ‘I Didn’t Want This Guy Anywhere Near A Trigger.’ ‘Why can’t McCain win the votes of his own colleagues? To explain, a Republican senator tells this story: at a GOP meeting last fall, McCain erupted out of the blue at the respected Budget Committee chairman, Pete Domenici, saying, ‘Only an a--hole would put together a budget like this.’ Offended, Domenici stood up and gave a dignified, restrained speech about how in all his years in the Senate, through many heated debates, no one had ever called him that. Another senator might have taken the moment to check his temper. But McCain went on: ‘I wouldn’t call you an a--hole unless you really were an a--hole.’ The Republican senator witnessing the scene had considered supporting McCain for president, but changed his mind. ‘I decided,’ the senator told Newsweek, ‘I didn’t want this guy anywhere near a trigger.’ (Evan Thomas, et al., “Senator Hothead,” Newsweek, 2/21/00)” [[Romney Press Release, 1/05/08](#)]

McCain Cheated on First Wife

McCain Cheated On and Divorced His First Wife After She Suffered a Disabling Care Accident. The *New York Times* writes, “His wife, Carol, a tall, slim woman who had once been a model, had nearly died in a car wreck in 1969 [while McCain was a prisoner of war]. The injuries left her four inches shorter and on crutches, and she had gained a good deal of weight.” They add, “[His] personal life was a mess: Although he was still living with his wife, he was aggressively courting a 25-year-old woman who was as beautiful as she was rich.” After meeting at a party, McCain pursued the woman “aggressively, flying around the country to see her.” McCain divorced his first wife the next year, and “promptly married Miss Hensley, his present wife.” [[New York Times, 2/27/00](#); [Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Has Contempt for the Media

McCain: “Jerks from the Media.” According to Think Progress, “Speaking to Fox and Friends in March, McCain noted that he allows ‘jerks from the media’ to come on board his bus, the ‘Straight Talk Express.’” [[Think Progress, 4/28/07](#)]

McCain Has “Contempt for His Fellow Humans”

Reagan’s Son Claimed McCain Has “Contempt for His Fellow Humans.” Michael Reagan, son of former president Ronald Reagan, said McCain’s “contempt for his fellow humans is patently obvious.” [[Townhall.com, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain’s Racial Slurs

MCCAIN: “I Hate the Gooks.” During the 2000 presidential campaign, McCain refused to apologize for saying, “I hate the gooks, I will hate them as long as I live.” [San Francisco Chronicle, [2/18/00](#)]

McCain Referred to His Vietnamese Wartime Captors as “Gooks.” According to *Asian Week*, “Less than 24 hours after stories ran about Sen. John McCain’s statement to reporters that he would continue to refer to his Vietnamese wartime captors as ‘gooks,’ his campaign announced Feb. 18 that he would no longer use that term. Three days later McCain issued an official apology. Several stories that ran last Friday quoted McCain as saying ‘I hate the gooks. I will hate them as long as I live... I was referring to my prison guards and I will continue to refer to them in language that might offend.’ ... ‘I will continue to condemn those who unfairly mistreated us,’ McCain said in a statement released Feb. 21. ‘But out of respect to a great number of people for whom I hold in very high regard, I will no longer use the term that has caused such discomfort... I apologize and renounce all language that is bigoted and offensive, which is contrary to all that I represent and believe.’” [*Asian Week*, [1/24/00](#); U.S. News & World Report, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Used “Tar Baby” In Response to Question at Town Hall Meeting. According to CNN, “Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, issued an apology for his use of the phrase ‘tar baby’ in response to a question he received at his mid-day town hall meeting in Cedar Falls, Iowa on Friday. A questioner asked McCain whether as president he ‘would be bold enough to address the issue of equal access to children for fathers that have gone through divorce.’ The Republican presidential candidate responded, ‘I’m sorry to disappoint you, I am not going to overturn divorce court decisions. That’s why we have courts and that’s why people go to court and get a divorce. If I as President of the United States said this decision has to be overturned without the proper appeals process then I would be disturbing our entire system of government... But for me to stand here before all these people and say that I’m going declare divorces invalid because someone feels that they weren’t treated fairly in court, we are getting into a, uh, uh, tar baby of enormous proportions. For me to stand here before all these people and say that I’m going declare divorces invalid because someone feels that they weren’t treated fairly in court, we are getting into a, uh, uh, tar baby of enormous proportions.’ Later at a press conference, CNN’s Senior Political Correspondent Candy Crowley asked McCain about his use of the phrase ‘tar baby,’ viewed by some as having racist overtones. ‘I hope that it’s not viewed that way,’ McCain said. ‘It was a situation where if I kept going on that I would then be overturning court decisions. I don’t think I should have used that word and it was wrong to do so.’” [CNN, [3/16/07](#)]

McCain Used Racist “Tar Baby” Phrase to Explain His View On Bosnia. When describing his skepticism of air strikes in Bosnia, McCain rhetorically asked, “The question is do air strikes help, do they exacerbate, or do they put our fist in the tar baby that would inevitably lead us to military intervention on the ground?” Apparently McCain made the phrase a part of his vocabulary long before his gaffe in Iowa. [*All Things Considered*, NPR, 4/28/93]

McCain’s Off-Color Sense of Humor

McCain Referred to Retirement Community as “Seizure World.” According to the *Arizona Republic*, “In June 1986, ... Speaking in Tucson, he jokingly referred to Leisure World as ‘Seizure World,’ the East Valley retirement community where, in the 1984 election, according to McCain’s gag, 97 percent of the people voted and ‘the other 3 percent were in intensive care.’ ... The ‘Seizure World’ flap ‘would have passed a hell of a lot faster if I had listened to my advisers and apologized immediately and fully for my courtesy,’ McCain recalls in his book. ‘Instead I insisted on responding to every accusation of insensitivity by launching into a litany of my steadfast support for any and all interests of concern to the elderly, without actually getting around to saying, ‘I’m sorry.’’’ McCain attributes the ill-advised quip to his ‘irremediable’ personality trait of being ‘a wiseass.’ ‘Occasionally my sense of humor is ill-considered or ill-timed, and that can be a problem,’ he conceded in his 2002 memoir.” [Arizona Republic, [3/01/07](#)]

“McCain Told a Downright Nasty Joke” Making Fun of Chelsea Clinton and Janet Reno. According to Salon, “Earlier this month, at a Republican Senate fund-raiser, McCain told a downright nasty joke making fun of Janet Reno, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton. ...Salon feels its readers deserve the unadulterated truth.

Though no tape of McCain's quip has yet emerged, this is what he reportedly said: 'Why is Chelsea Clinton so ugly? Because her father is Janet Reno.'" [Salon.com, 6/25/98]

McCain Joked He Had an IED for Jon Stewart. "A day earlier, McCain was criticized by Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., an opponent of the war in Iraq and a Vietnam veteran — like McCain — for McCain's appearance Tuesday night on 'The Daily Show With Jon Stewart.' Stewart, who has had McCain on the show more times than any other guest, asked the 2008 Republican presidential candidate whether he wanted to start their conversation with McCain's joke to a group of veterans about bombing Iran or his recent trip to Iraq in which he walked through a Baghdad market that he later described as safe despite wearing a flak jacket at the time. 'Let's see. Which one have I seen most on your show?' McCain asked Stewart. 'I think maybe shopping in Baghdad. I had something really picked out for you, too.' 'Did you really?' Stewart asked. 'Yes, it's a nice little IED to put onto your desk,' McCain joked." [FOX News, [4/26/07](#)]

McCain is Stubborn

Joe Lieberman: John's An Awful Stubborn Guy. When discussing John McCain as a possible presidential running mate, Joe Lieberman said, "John's an awful stubborn guy, you know." [The Hotline, [12/9/02](#)]

McCain is a Very Stubborn Man. While speaking on CNN about campaign finance reform, Susan Page said, "Anybody who thinks they're not going to come back and have to vote on this issue does not know John McCain, who is a very stubborn man and who actually believes in this issue. This is not -- this has succeeded in derailing this vote on campaign finance reform, but this issue is no way over." [[7/15/01](#)]

Ted Koppel: McCain is a Stubborn, Old Navy Pilot. While covering Gov. George W. Bush's campaign for the Republican nomination for President Ted Koppel said, "Late this evening the candidate's plane put down in New Hampshire, where a stubborn old Navy pilot by the name of John McCain presents what may be the last major obstacle in the path of the Bush bandwagon." [[1/12/00](#)]

McCain Is As Stubborn as James Dobson. The *Chicago Daily Herald* claimed that, "Sen. John McCain is as stubborn as [James] Dobson." [[5/27/98](#)]

McCain's Flip-Flops

McCain Compromised Long-Held Positions For Political Gain. According to the *Boston Globe*, David Golove, a New York University law professor, “He’s willing to compromise on long-held positions that he’s taken, which are positions that have great moral considerations that stand behind them, apparently out of concern about political consequences.” [Boston Globe, [2/16/08](#)]

McCain’s Flip-Flops Have Made It Nearly Impossible to Figure Out His Beliefs. Jonathan Chait of *The New Republic* wrote, “[McCain] has diverged wildly from conservative orthodoxy, but he has also reinvented himself so completely that it has become nearly impossible to figure out what he really believes.” [National Post, [2/14/08](#)]

Torture

FLIP: McCain Strongly Disagreed With Allowing Waterboarding As An American Interrogation Technique.

According to an opinion article in the *Nation*, after McCain won the New Hampshire primary, the *National Review* continued attacks on him for his stance against waterboarding. McCain disagrees with Mitt Romney on waterboarding, as was discussed at a past G.O.P. debate. McCain said, “Governor, I’m astonished that you haven’t found out what waterboarding is,” after Romney was asked about the technique and said he would have to check with his advisers, “How in the world anybody could think that that kind of thing could be inflicted by Americans on people who are held in our custody is absolutely beyond me.” [*The Nation*, [1/10/08](#)]

- **FLOP: McCain Voted Against Waterboarding Ban.** Although McCain once appeared as a passionate advocate of the ban on waterboarding, he voted against the bill. In a statement, McCain said, “I believe that our energies are better directed at ensuring that all techniques, whether used by the military or the CIA, are in full compliance with our international obligations and in accordance with our deepest values.” [*Los Angeles Times*, [2/14/08](#)]

Abortion

1999: Age 62

FLIP: McCain Was Opposed To Overturning Roe Because It Would Force Women To Seek Illegal Abortions.

McCain told the editorial board of the San Francisco Chronicle in 1999 why he didn’t want to overturn Roe, saying, “I’d love to see a point where [Roe vs. Wade] is irrelevant, and could be repealed because abortion is no longer necessary. But certainly in the short term, or even the long term, I would not support repeal of Roe vs. Wade, which would then force X number of women in America to [undergo] illegal and dangerous operations.” [*San Francisco Chronicle*, [8/20/99](#)]

2006: Age 70

FLOP: McCain Now Supports Overturning Roe v. Wade.

Speaking on ABC News, McCain said that he supported a reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision. McCain said, “I do believe that it’s very likely, or possible, that a Supreme Court should - could overturn Roe v. Wade which would then return these decisions to the states which I support.” McCain had previously said that he would not support overturning Roe v. Wade because it would “force X number of women to undergo illegal and dangerous operations.” [ABC News, [11/19/06](#); *San Francisco Chronicle*, [8/20/99](#)]

Ronald Reagan

1986: Age 49

FLIP: McCain Accused Reagan of Being a Lame Duck. McCain said he agreed with Rep. Les Aspin when he claimed that, “I think we’re seeing a little lame-duckism,” in regards to President Reagan. McCain added, “Ronald Reagan is not going to be at the top of the ticket, and people are striking out on their own. I don’t think anybody wants to be perceived as a Reagan Robot.” [*New York Times*, [5/25/86](#)]

2008: Age 71

FLOP: McCain Claimed to Have Been A Foot Soldier in the Reagan Revolution. A McCain campaign advertisement claimed that McCain had been inspired by Ronald Reagan. McCain said, “I enlisted as a foot soldier in the Reagan Revolution.” [JohnMcCain.com, “True Conservative,” [2/1/08](#)]

Religious Right

2000: Age 64

FLIP: McCain Called Falwell “Evil Influence” on Republican Party. McCain’s 2000 presidential bid tanked in Virginia and South Carolina when he called religious broadcasters Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson “agents of intolerance” who exerted an “evil influence” on the Republican Party. [[Kansas City Star](#), 5/28/05]

2006: Age 69

FLOP: McCain Said The Christian Right Had A Major Role In The GOP. In 2006, McCain affirmed his support of the Christian right’s place in the GOP, saying, “I believe that the Christ--quote, ‘Christian right,’ has a major role to play in the Republican Party,” and reasoned that Falwell was no longer intolerant, answering a question if he still believed his 2000 statement to be true, saying, “No, I don’t.” [NBC News, 4/2/06]

Wly Brothers

2000: Age 64

FLIP: McCain Predicted Backlash Against Bush And “His Sleazy Texas Buddies.” According to *Post and Courier*, “McCain said he sensed a backlash developing against campaign commercials aired by Bush and ‘his sleazy Texas buddies’ in New York and elsewhere. … ‘We’re starting to see a backlash’ against television commercials, he said. ‘We ask Governor Bush to do what he refused to do all day yesterday on nationwide television and tell his sleazy Texas buddies to stop these negative attacks.’ McCain was referring to commercials attacking his environmental record, paid for by two Texas brothers, Sam and Charles Wly, who are supporters of the governor. In addition, McCain was angered by a Bush campaign commercial, running in New York, that attacked him as an opponent of increased breast cancer research.” [Post and Courier, 3/07/00]

2006: Age 69

FLOP: McCain Raised Money From “Sleazy” Wly Brothers and Funders of Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. In response to ads run against him in 2000 by “Republicans for Clean Air,” a group funded by Texans Sam and Charles Wly, McCain called the Wylys Bush’s “sleazy Texas buddies,” called the group “disgraceful” and their money “dirty.” He also attacked Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which ran ads against John Kerry in 2004, as “dishonest” and “dishonorable.” However, McCain’s fundraiser in Dallas on May 15, 2006 for his political action committee had the Wly brothers and Albert Huddleston and Harold Simmons, who together gave \$3.1 million to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, as members of the host committee. [UPI, 4/24/06; CBS News, 3/7/00; Dallas Morning News, 5/14/06; Dallas Morning News, 4/23/06; AP, 8/5/04; abcnews.com, 4/23/06]

Bush Tax Cuts

2001: Age 65

FLIP: McCain “Vigorously” Opposed Bush Tax Cuts. According to Club for Growth, “When the most important pro-growth tax cuts in a generation were proposed by President Bush in 2001 and 2003, Senator McCain vigorously opposed them. The depth of this opposition goes a long way towards tarnishing the Senator’s fiscal credentials. First, it is notable that Senator McCain stood so astride the Republican anti-tax position that he was one of only two Republican senators to oppose the 2001 tax cuts and one of only three GOP senators to oppose the 2003 reductions. [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

- **McCain: “I Cannot In Good Conscience Support A Tax Cut In Which So Many Of The Benefits Go To The Most Fortunate Among Us...”** According to Club for Growth, “Second, Senator McCain’s stated reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts rhetorically allied him with the most radical anti-growth elements of national politics. Senator McCain argued, “I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who need tax relief.” [Club for Growth White Paper, 3/12/07]

2006: Age 69

FLOP: McCain Voted For Bush Tax Cuts And Defended The Flip-Flop As A Legislative Gimmick. In 2006, McCain voted to extend tax cuts supported by the president that were set to expire between 2005 and 2010. “The Senate voted 53-47...in favor of extending the president’s investor tax cuts on dividends and capital gains. Joining in this breakthrough vote was John McCain, the senator who voted against these tax cuts when they were introduced in 2003. This is an important shift for the GOP presidential frontrunner[.]” McCain’s vote was described as “a sharp reversal of his anti-tax-cut posture,” though he defended the shift, saying, “it was a gimmick,” reasoning that “the tax cuts were temporary and then had to be made permanent.” [Senate vote #10, H.R. 4297, 2/2/06, passed 66-31; New York Times, 2/21/06; Washington Times, 3/6/06; NBC News, 4/2/06]

- **McCain Supported the Bush Tax Cuts After He Had Denounced Them in the Past.** The *New York Times* reported, “But an equally breathtaking turnabout occurred earlier in the year, when Mr. McCain embraced the Bush tax cuts he had once denounced as an unaffordable giveaway to the rich. In an interview with National Review, Mr. McCain justified his reversal by saying, ‘Tax cuts, starting with Kennedy, as we all know, increase revenues.’” [New York Times, 10/9/07]

Stem Cell Research

January 1992: Age 55

FLIP: McCain Said He Would Not Support Use of Fetal Tissue. According to the *Boston Globe*, “In a January 1992 letter to the director of Arizona Right to Life, McCain said the group could count on his being ‘steadfast’ against abortion. ‘I have no intention of supporting the use of fetal tissue’ from abortions, McCain wrote. [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

May 1992: Age 56

FLOP: McCain Voted to Lift Moratorium on Fetal-Tissue Transplants. McCain voted in favor of a Senate bill authorizing funds for the National Institutes of Health that included a provision to lift the federal-research moratorium that presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush had imposed on fetal-tissue transplants. ‘I have lost sleep struggling with this,’ McCain wrote to a constituent in May 1992. ‘My abhorrence for the practice of abortion is unquestionable. Yet my abhorrence’ for Parkinson’s and juvenile diabetes ‘and the suffering they cause is just as strong.’” [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

- **1997: McCain Opposed Amendment that Banned Research on Fetal-Tissue Transplants.** According to the *Boston Globe*, McCain “was the chief sponsor of a bill, enacted in 1997 and bearing Udall’s name, that provides \$100 million a year for finding a cure for Parkinson’s disease, a progressive neurological disorder that afflicts about 1 million Americans. He opposed an amendment that would have banned research on fetal-tissue transplants.” [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

Iraq Occupation

2005: Age 69

FLIP: McCain Didn’t Want Permanent Military Presence in Iraq Before He Wanted Million Year Troop Commitment. During a discussion of the Administration’s Iraq War failures, McCain stated neither he nor the American Public would support keeping troops in Iraq for an indefinite amount of time. Said McCain: “I’m not for keeping troops there forever. I hope—I wish we could take them out tomorrow. It’s not a question of whether we want to withdraw or not. We all want that.” [Meet the Press, 12/5/05]

2008: Age 71

FLOP: McCain: “I Don’t Think Americans Are Concerned If We’re There For 100 Years or 1,000 Years or 10,000 Years.” In an interview on “Face the Nation,” host Bob Scieffer asked McCain about staying in Iraq for 100 years. McCain responded, “We’ve got to get Americans off the front line, have the Iraqis as part of the strategy, take over more and more of the responsibilities. And then I don’t think Americans are concerned if we’re there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years. What they care about is a sacrifice of our most precious treasure, and that’s American blood. So what I’m saying is look, if Americans are there in a support role, but they’re not taking casualties, that’s fine. We’re in Kuwait now. As you well recall, we had a war, we stayed in Kuwait. We didn’t stay in Saudi Arabia. So it’s going to be up to the relationship between the Iraqi government and the United States of America.” [CBS, “Face the Nation,” [1/06/08](#)]

Immigration

2003: Age 66

McCain Said “Amnesty Has To Be A Component” Of Immigration Reform. [The Politico](#) reported that “McCain himself embraced the term [“amnesty”] during a news conference a few years ago in his office in Tucson, Arizona. “McCain Pushes Amnesty, Guest-Worker Program,” reported the [Tucson Citizen](#) of May 29, 2003. The senator is quoted as saying: ‘Amnesty has to be an important part because there are people who have lived in this country for 20, 30 or 40 years, who have raised children here and pay taxes here and are not citizens. That has to be a component of it.’ The newspaper also quoted McCain as saying: ‘I think we can set up a program where amnesty is extended to a certain number of people who are eligible and at the same time make sure that we have some control over people who come in and out of this country.’” [[The Politico](#), 6/4/07; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08; [Tucson Citizen](#), 5/29/03]

2008: Age 71

McCain Said He Had Never Supported Amnesty. At the ABC News/Facebook/WMUR New Hampshire Republican debate, McCain Said, “I have never supported amnesty.” [ABC News/Facebook/WMUR N.H. GOP Debate, 1/5/08; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]

Bosnia

1995: Age 58

FLIP: McCain Long Opposed Military Options in Bosnia. McCain was adamantly opposed to U.S. involvement in the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia, and then co-authored a resolution that backed US peacekeepers on the ground. He said, “I have long opposed this action. I am very concerned about the ultimate outcome of the use of air power without a full commitment of the US forces because I do not believe it is a viable military option.” [[Boston Globe](#), 4/29/99]

1995: Age 58

FLOP: McCain Changed Position to Support Dole in 1996. Likely presidential nominee, Bob Dole, and John McCain co-sponsored a resolution that called for 20,000 US ground forces to keep the peace in Bosnia. The resolution gives “assent to the operation while insisting on a U.S.-led effort to begin immediate arming and training of the Muslims. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, McCain supported the measure “not because he agrees with the policy and not because he can make a case that Bosnia is vital to America’s national security. “I have no choice,” he said. [[Boston Globe](#), 4/29/99; [Washington Post](#), [12/12/95](#); [U.S. News & World Report](#), [12/18/1995](#)]

Kosovo

1998: Age 62

FLIP: McCain Accused the Clinton Administration of Misleading Congress on Kosovo. According to *CNN*, McCain accused the President of misleading congress in U.S. involvement in Kosovo. He said, “They have not made

the case either to Congress or the American people, and the president has to explain why our interests are there.” [CNN, [10/7/98](#)]

1999: Age 62

FLOP: MCCAIN: We are a Superior Power, and We Must Win This Conflict With Whatever It Takes.

Speaking about the conflict in Kosovo, McCain stated, “I saw we’re in it, and we have to win it.” He added, “That means that we have to exercise every option,” and, “We are a superior power, and we must win this conflict with whatever it takes.” [ABC This Week, [3/28/99](#)]

Rumsfeld

2003: Age 67

FLIP: McCain Expressed Full Faith in Rumsfeld Iraq War Strategy. John McCain supported the initial war plan created by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. “McCain was among the most aggressive proponents of a preemptive strike against Saddam Hussein, cosponsoring the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. He also expressed full faith in the way it would be executed -- a war plan conceived and executed by Rumsfeld.” [Salon.com, 1/17/08]

2008: Age 71

FLOP: McCain Said Problem With Iraq Was Mishandling by Rumsfeld. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, “The problem was the mishandling of Iraq by nearly four years by Rumsfeld. Again, I railed against that, I was criticized by Republicans.” [MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, [1/24/08](#); DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

McCain Skipped 11 Key Iraq Votes in 2007

In 2007, Senate debate over the war in Iraq ignited to unprecedented levels. Competing proposals over funding, strategy, and accountability were voted on throughout the year. Despite claiming the war in Iraq is “the premier issue of my time and the next generation,” Senator John McCain skipped so many of these votes the National Journal was unable to draw a composite score of his voting record on foreign policy matters, the only Senator running for president with such a distinction. It’s clear McCain put his presidential ambitions ahead of doing the people’s work he was elected into the Senate to accomplish.

Nov 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on Two Measures Providing Funding for the War in Iraq. [S 2340, [Vote #410](#); HR 4156, [Vote #411](#); 11/16/07]

- **A Day Before the Vote, McCain Attended Fundraiser in Sacramento.** “McCain, who held a fundraiser Thursday at the Sacramento Sheraton, said he has already told Schwarzenegger to count him in.” [[Sacramento Bee, 11/15/07](#)]
- **McCain Campaigned in Colorado on the Day of the Vote.** “McCain made the announcement during a campaign stop in the Denver suburb of Centennial, where he accepted an endorsement from former interior secretary and Colorado Lt. Gov. Jane Norton.” [AP, 11/16/07]

October 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill to Withdraw Troops from Iraq. [HR3222, [Vote #362](#), 10/03/07]

- **McCain Appeared at Multiple Campaign Events on the Day of the Vote.** “The senator decided to talk to students at Camden Military Academy, a grade 7-12 military prep school, about service and sacrifice. Later Wednesday, McCain spoke at a town hall meeting at the College of Charleston, promising if he was elected president he would brief the public each week on the war in Iraq.” [AP, 10/4/07]

September 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Concerning Federalism in Iraq. [HR 1585, [Vote #349](#), 9/26/07]

- **McCain Had Diner with Actor James Gandolfini on the Day of the Vote.** “Republican John McCain shared a meal Wednesday night with more than the typical political colleague. He dined with Tony Soprano. In New York to give a speech on the military, the Arizona senator held a private dinner with James Gandolfini, the actor who played the New Jersey mob boss on HBO’s ‘The Sopranos.’” [AP, 9/27/07]

May 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Concerning Accountability for the President’s Iraq Policy. [HR 1495, [Vote #168](#), 5/16/07]

- **McCain Held A Breakfast In New York City Which Required Individuals To Fundraise \$9,200 To Attend.** [JohnMcCain.com, accessed [02/05/08](#)]
- **McCain Was In New York City For His Daughter’s Graduation On The Day Of The Vote.** “(McCain) then was scheduled to arrive in New York early Wednesday morning to attend the graduation of his daughter, Meghan, at Columbia University.” [East Valley Tribune, 5/16/07]
- **McCain Gave The Keynote Speech At A “Much-Needed” New York State Republican Party Fundraiser The Day After The Vote.** “It’s his hometown, but Rudolph Giuliani of Arizona, deliver the keynote address at tonight’s annual fundraising dinner for the New York State Republican Committee... The dinner is expected to attract more than 1,000 people to the Sheraton New York Hotel on Seventh Avenue in Manhattan and provide much-needed revenue to the struggling state GOP.” [Journal News, 5/17/07]

May 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Setting a Timetable for Withdrawing Troops from Iraq. [HR 1495, Vote [#167](#), 5/16/07]

- **McCain Attended the GOP debate in South Carolina the Day Before the Vote.** “A feud that has been brewing quietly for months burst into the open Tuesday night as former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and Sen. John McCain of Arizona clashed sharply in a Republican presidential debate in South Carolina. [Washington Post, 5/17/07]

April 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for Military Operations in Iraq and Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Programs. [HR 1591, [Vote #147](#), 4/26/07; CQ Floor Votes, [4/26/07](#)]

- **McCain Played the Beach Boy's 'Barbara Ann' at a Campaign Stop in South Carolina on the Day of the Vote.** According to CNN, after enduring criticism for adapting a Beach Boy's tune into a call for war on Iran, McCain's campaign continued to play the original song at campaign appearances. “Senator McCain, by the way, is making it clear today he will keep joking and keep pushing the envelope. Kathleen Koch just mentioned how McCain got flak for changing the words of the ‘Beach Boys’ hit ‘Barbara Ann’ into ‘bomb Iran.’ Guess what song the McCain played at the end of an event in South Carolina today? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ('BARBARA ANN' PLAYS) BLITZER: A McCain aide tells CNN the campaign played ‘Barbara Ann’ to add a little bit of levity to the campaign, to show the senator isn’t -- is not going to be pushed around.” [CNN’s The Situation Room, 4/26/07]
- **McCain Issued a Statement From South Carolina Rather Than a Vote in the Senate.** According to Fox News, despite not being in the Senate to vote on the bill, McCain issued a statement indicating he expected the President to veto the bill. “Senator John McCain wasn’t there for the vote because he was campaigning in South Carolina where he issued a statement saying he was looking forward to the president’s prompt veto.” [Fox News Special Report, 4/26/07]

April 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on the Fiscal 2007 Intelligence Authorization Bill. [S 372, Vote [#131](#), 4/17/07]

- **McCain Planned Multiple Campaign Appearances and Fundraisers for the Day of the Vote.** According to the Arizona Republic, McCain had scheduled events in South Carolina and Georgia on April 17th but cancelled the appearances in the wake of the Virginia Tech Shootings. “He canceled all scheduled events for Tuesday, ‘including meetings and fundraisers in Atlanta and a town-hall meeting in SC.’” [Arizona Republic, 4/17/07; Hotline, 4/17/17]
- **McCain Reiterated His Support for Gun Ownership In the Wake of the Virginia Tech Tragedy.** According to the AP, just a day after the shootings at Virginia Tech, McCain expressed his support for the right to bare arms. “McCain also defended his support for gun rights. McCain: “It doesn’t change my views on the Second Amendment, except to make sure that these kinds of weapons don’t fall into the hands of bad people” [AP, 4/16; Hotline, 4/17/07]

March 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill to Express the Sense of Congress that Funds for U.S. Troops in the Field Should Not be Cut Off. [SConRes 20, [Vote #77](#), 3/15/07]

- **McCain Campaigned Throughout Iowa on the Day of the Vote.** The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported McCain was campaigning in Iowa on the day of the vote. “(Minnesota) Gov. Tim Pawlenty stumped across Iowa on Thursday to lend a hand to U.S. Sen. John McCain’s presidential bid, with both men repeatedly swatting away speculation that Pawlenty might become McCain’s running mate. At stops in Des Moines, Ames and Mason City, the two men repeatedly heaped praise on each other but danced around a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer.” [Star Tribune, 3/16/07]
 - **Pawlenty Criticized for Leaving Minnesota to Campaign with McCain.** “Even before Pawlenty hit the stage in Ames, Brian Melendez, Minnesota DFL Party chair, issued a statement criticizing

Pawlenty for politicking instead of focusing on floods in western Minnesota. ‘The governor is once again putting his national ambitions ahead of Minnesotans’ interests,’ Melendez said. ‘Western Minnesota is flooding and local officials are seeking disaster relief, but Governor Pawlenty is spending his time campaigning for a struggling presidential candidate in Iowa.’” [Star Tribune, 3/16/07]

- **McCain Used the Term “Tar Baby” During the Iowa Campaign Swing.** According to the Des Moines Register, McCain used the slur “Tar Baby” while campaigning in for three days in Iowa. “Republican presidential candidate John McCain used the term “tar baby,” which is sometimes associated with racist connotations, during a campaign stop in northern Iowa on Friday and immediately expressed regret.” [Des Moines Register, 3/17/07]

March 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Mandating a Withdrawal of Troops from Iraq. [SJRes 9, [Vote #75](#), 3/15/07]

- **John McCain “Skipped the Vote to Campaign in Iowa.”** Congressional Quarterly reported on the vote to withdraw troops, stating “Republicans probably would have received 51 votes if John McCain of Arizona had not skipped the vote to campaign in Iowa.” [CQ, 3/16/07]

February 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Sense of Congress Proposal Regarding the President’s Surge Strategy in Iraq. [S 574, [Vote #51](#), 2/17/07]

- **McCain Skipped Vote on Surge, Called Debate Over Strategy “Insulting.”** According to Deseret News, McCain dismissed vital discussions regarding the direction of the Iraq war in order to assure primary voters in Iowa he favored waging war in Iraq at all costs. “To be here, McCain skipped the debate in the Senate -- he called the rare Saturday session in the Capitol ‘insulting to the public and our soldiers’ -- but the war was as omnipresent in Des Moines as it was in Washington. It brought to life what has become a central strategic gamble for the McCain campaign: that his support of the war in Iraq would help him among the select groups of Iowa Republicans who will caucus here next January.” [Deseret News, 2/18/07]

Vote Summaries	McCain's Location
To appropriate funds with conditions on Iraq funding (Vote #411, 11/16/07)	McCain – CO & NH Press Release : John McCain Announces Colorado Leadership
To appropriate funds without conditions (Vote #410, 11/16/07)	Town halls in NH 11/17/07 Breakfast/Lunch in California 11/15/07 Fundraiser in Denver 11/15/07
To withdraw troops (Vote #362, 10/03/07)	Advisory : McCain Releases Radio Spot - "Courage"
Express the sense of Congress that Iraq should be divided into Shiite, Kurdish, and Sunni federal regions. (Vote #348, 9/26/07)	What: New York Fundraiser When: September 26, 2007 6:00PM EDT
To allow the President to get around benchmark requirements (Vote #168, 5/16/07)	New York - Fundraising Breakfast Host: Henry Kravis Location: Kohlberg, Kravis and Roberts 9 West 57th Street New York, NY Ticket: Each individual must raise \$9200 Press Release : Positive Coverage of McCain at GOP Debate.
To withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq by March 31, 2008 (Vote #167, 5/16/07)	South Carolina GOP Debate held 5/15/07
To requiring the Iraq Government to meet benchmarks (Vote #147, 4/26/07)	McCain Announcement Tour SC Greenville, Columbia, & Charleston Press Release : Iowa Leadership Team Announced
To Limit debate on the fiscal 2007 intelligence authorization bill. (Vote #131, 4/17/07)	McCain - Atlanta, GA fundraiser 12:30 McCain – Lexington, SC
To express the sense of Congress that funds for U.S. troops in the field should not be cut off. (Vote #77, 3/15/07)	McCain in Ames(11:30) & Mason City(5:00), IA Meet & Greet
To withdraw most combat troops by March 2008 (Vote #75, 3/15/07)	McCain in Ames(11:30) & Mason City(5:00), IA Meet & Greet U.S. Senator John McCain's presidential campaign today announced that the Arizona Senator will conduct a bus tour through Iowa on March 15th and 16th with town halls in Ames, Mason City, and Cedar Falls. Press Release : New Jersey Leadership Team Announced
To limit debate on a proposal to express the sense of Congress to disagree with the president's troop increase in Iraq. February 17. (Vote #51, 2/17/07)	Town Hall Meetings in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, & Davenport
To allow debate on Bush's escalation plan (Vote #44, 2/5/07)	Press Releases: McCain Announced FL Finance Team McCain Announced Guy Rodgers in Americans of Faith Coalition McCain Announced MI GOP House Members to Serve on Steering Committee

Conservatives Hate John McCain

On February 7, 2008, John McCain was scheduled to speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference in an attempt to seek a “truce with right wing critics.” This comes just days after he lost all southern states in Super Tuesday. McCain’s relationship with the conservative right has been described as “rocky” and “fractious” and his efforts may not be enough.

McCain Reaching Out to Conservatives

McCain Accused Of Changing Views To Consolidate Support Among Conservatives. McCain has used recent senate votes on warrantless wiretapping and waterboarding to appeal to the base of the Republican Party. According to the *Boston Globe*, “David Golove, a New York University law professor who studies executive power, said McCain seems to be changing his views in order to “consolidate support among the most conservative parts of the Republican Party, who generally have been sympathetic to the kinds of activities undertaken by President Bush that had made Senator McCain extremely uncomfortable.” [Boston Globe, [2/16/08](#)]

McCain Has Drastically Shifted To The Right. According to Matthew Yglesias, “After a generally conservative career, the John McCain who emerged in the 107th Senate really was a moderate Republican. According to the Poole-Rosenthal ‘optimal classification’ algorithm, only Lincoln Chaffee, Arlen Specter, Olympia Snowe, and Susan Collins were less conservative among members of the GOP caucuses. But by the 108th Senate he’d decided not to run for Vice President on John Kerry’s ticket, George W. Bush had been re-elected, and McCain decided to shift back far right en route to the nomination. Suddenly only Don Nickles, Jeff Sessions, and Jon Kyl were more conservative than McCain. And in the 109th Senate, only Kyl has been more conservative.” [The Atlantic, [2/13/08](#)]

Poll: Only 51% Of Republicans Are ‘Satisfied With McCain.’ In a new Gallup poll, a mere 51% of Republicans said they would be satisfied if John McCain won the Republican presidential nomination. [National Review, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Said “Conservative” 17 Times In CPAC Speech. The *Washington Post*’s Ruth Marcus wrote, “McCain packed 17 mentions of “conservative” into the speech: He was “proud to be a conservative” with “conservative convictions.” He would run “a campaign based on conservative principles.” He would have “a clearly conservative approach to governing.” Candidates tend to run to the extremes in the primaries and veer back to the center for the general. McCain doesn’t have that luxury yet.” [*Washington Post*, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Called Jerry Falwell’s Son Before Virginia Primary. The *Daily Press* reported, “The Rev. Jonathan Falwell, son of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, said Wednesday that he had talked with John McCain within the past 24 hours. Falwell said he wasn’t ready to endorse a candidate, but wanted to hear more from the Arizona senator on the issues.” [*Daily Press*, [2/07/08](#)]

McCain Scheduled to Mend Fences at CPAC. McCain announced he would speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference. According to David Keene, president of the ACU, “He’s pretty much blown his credibility with these people.” [*Wall Street Journal*, [2/6/08](#)]

- **McCain Booed At CPAC.** According the *Hotline On Call*, “McCain was introduced first, though erroneously, by former VA guv George Allen. Allen, who endorsed McCain today after having supported Fred Thompson’s bid, was supposed to introduce Sen. Tom Colburn who had the official honor of presenting McCain. So, with the double introduction, McCain was booed not once, but twice.” [*Hotline On Call*, [2/7/08](#)]

McCain Asked Talk Show Hosts to Stop Being Mean. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that, “To help close the gap, McCain asked right wing radio hosts to quit tearing into him.” Personalities who had previously rallied against McCain have realized that he is the party’s likely nominee. [*Los Angeles Times*, [2/7/08](#)]

Conservative Talking Heads Hate John McCain

Rick Santorum: McCain Was Not Only Against Conservatives But Leading Charge On The Other Side. ON MSNBC's *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain about criticism that he was not conservative enough or not a good Republican. He referred to past quote by former Senator Rick Santorum: "The bottom line is that I served 12 years with [McCain], six years in the United States Senate as one of the leaders of the Senate who had responsibility of trying to put together the conservative agenda, and almost at every turn on domestic policy, John McCain was not only against us, but leading the charge on the other side." [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

Talk Radio Attacks John McCain. Conservative talk radio hosts are targeting John McCain for his liberal stances on many issues. Hosts Rush Limbaugh, Laura Ingraham, Sean Hannity, Michael Medved, Mark Levin, and Hugh Hewitt will be touting Romney in the days leading up to the February 5th primaries. [[Washington Times](#), 1/30/08; [DNC Daily Flipper](#), 1/30/08]

David Keene: "McCain Would Like To Remake Party Without Conservatives." In a CBS News article on McCain having to face conservative skeptics, American Conservative Union chairman David Keene commented on McCain, "There's this personal animosity he has towards people over issues...Most conservatives see that he would like to remake the party without them." According to CBS News, Keene also said "those who've worked with [McCain] get the sense that he doesn't like conservatives." Keene also remarked, "In [McCain's] world, it's very difficult to have a simply policy disagreement...Everything becomes personal. His position is right, and everyone else's is basically evil." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain Could Have Trouble Winning Over Conservatives On Supreme Court Judge Issue. According to CBS News, "McCain and his surrogates have made some overtures to skeptical conservatives by stressing that McCain will pick strict constructionist judges as president." GOP Strategist Greg Mueller commented on the issue, "It's a huge issue for Republicans, a party crossing issue...The next president could appoint two, three, even four Supreme Court judges. If McCain goes out and talks about that, it's going to be a reminder to the conservative base of the party – 'who do you want picking your judges?'" [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

Ann Coulter: "Hillary is More Conservative Than McCain." Appearing on *Hannity & Colmes*, Ann Coulter stated, "If you're looking at substance rather than whether it's an R or D after his name manifestly, if he's our candidate, then Hillary's gonna be our girl, Sean, 'cause she's more conservative than he is. I think she would be stronger on the war on terrorism." [Townhall.com, [2/1/08](#)]

Rush Limbaugh Likened McCain To Hillary Clinton. According to *Time*, Rush Limbaugh commented on McCain and Mike Huckabee on his radio show. He said, "If either of these two guys gets the nomination, it's going to destroy the Republican Party." Several days after making that remark, Limbaugh said, "If you Republicans don't mind McCain's positions, then what is it about Hillary's positions you dislike? They're the same!" [*Time*, 1/23/08]

GOP Strategist: McCain's Battles Increase Animosity, Breed Resentment. According to CBS News, GOP strategist Greg Mueller commented about McCain, "Some of his battles are so intense and loud that it sort of increases the animosity...You've got these intense issues where a lot of rhetoric gets tossed around and it breeds resentment." [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

Real Clear Politics Op-Ed: Who Will Save Republicans From John McCain? According to Robert Tracinski, columnist for *Real Clear Politics*, John McCain must be stopped to "save Republicans." Tracinski pointed out that while McCain may have widespread appeal as a winnable G.O.P. frontrunner, and a staunch advocate of the War on Terrorism, McCain would be "...a suicidal choice for Republicans, because on every issues other than the war, he stands for capitulation to the left." Tracinski said, "There are three big domestic issues that will be decided by the 2008 election: socialized medicine, higher taxes, and global warming regulations. The Democrats are in favor of all three--and John McCain won't stop them." Tracinski asserted that "...the best hope to save Republicans from

McCain is the one candidate who hasn't yet fully entered the race--but who will finally have his chance against McCain in Florida: Rudy Giuliani." [Column, [Real Clear Politics, 1/22/08](#)]

National Review Op-Ed.: "McCain Isn't Right For The Right." According to Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, "there is plenty to admire about Senator John McCain..." such as his experience in Vietnam, his "forceful" backing of President Bush's military surge, and "his eternal vigilance against absurd and costly government boondoggles..." On the other hand, said Murdoch, "...argues against his presidential bid." Murdoch pointed out that, "McCain diligently has stymied conservative, free-market policies...is dangerously soft on captured terrorists...and...is anyone's guess whether he will support the Right or sandbag its efforts." [Op-ed, [National Review Online via CBS News, 1/20/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Drilling In ANWR.** In his article "McCain Isn't Right For the Right", Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, reminded readers that "...McCain rejected drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at least four times." Murdoch also wrote, "Had April 2002 legislation prevailed 'to reduce dependence on foreign sources of crude oil and energy...and to promote national security,' an area the size of Washington-Dulles Airport would augment Earth's petroleum supply. Instead, McCain joined Hillary Clinton and John Edwards to defeat this measure." [Op-ed, [National Review Online via CBS News, 1/20/08](#)]
- **McCain-Lieberman Bill Would Have Caused A De Facto Energy Tax.** In his article "McCain Isn't Right For the Right", Deroy Murdoch of the *National Review Online*, reminded readers that McCain co-sponsored a bill with Joe Lieberman that would make power producers pay to exceed government-imposed limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Murdoch mentioned, "The John Locke Foundation's Roy Cordato cited a July 2007 Environmental Protection Agency letter to McCain measuring McCain-Lieberman's de facto energy tax: 'The present value of the cumulative reduction in real GDP for the 2012-2030 period ranges from \$660 billion to \$2.1 trillion,' [the EPA calculated]. For 2012 to 2050, that figure is \$1.6 trillion to \$5.2 trillion." [Op-ed, [National Review Online via CBS News, 1/20/08](#)]

Grover Norquist Called McCain A Flip Flopper Who Would Not Lead With Conservative Values.

During an interview which on ABC News, Grover Norquist, the head of the conservative group Americans for Tax Reform, said McCain's flip-flopping tendency would be damaging to conservative goals. Norquist said of McCain, "What McCain has done is flip-flopped on the gun issue, on the tax issue. He used to be a Reagan Republican on taxes. He's voted against every one of President Bush's tax cuts. He voted for the first one before he voted against it but he's voted against all of them. He's flip-flopped back and forth not because of where the American people are but because of where the cameras are." Norquist added that McCain's "phototropism" was "very damaging from a conservative perspective because that's unlikely to lead to conservative governance." [ABC News, 6/11/06]

Joe Scarborough: No, No, I Say No, John McCain is not a Conservative. Speaking on *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough said, "No, no I say no, John McCain is not a conservative." He adds, "A conservative is not a man that calls tax cuts that George Bush passed, that revived the economy, tax cuts for the rich, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that is one of two Republicans standing alone in Washington, DC voting against those tax cuts that every other Republican supported in Washington DC that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that teams up with Teddy Kennedy to produce a bill that is nothing short of amnesty that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to gain legal status the day after John McCain's bill and Teddy Kennedy's bill becomes law, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not somebody that goes on Tim Russert's show, a couple of weeks ago, and says that if that amnesty bill, that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to become citizens the next day, he does not go on that show and say, "Yes, I would sign that bill," but don't worry, it's not going to come to my desk. That is not a conservative." A conservative is not a man that says who he wants to increase taxes, maybe 50 cents per gallon, on the American people, trying to pass through a bill that the rest of the world won't sign on to." [MSNBC, 1/31/08; Townhall.com, [2/1/08](#)]

Carol Platt Liebau: Republicans Who Support McCain Should Know They Risk Driving Conservatism To The Sidelines At Home. Political commentator Carol Platt Libau wrote an article entitled, "The Unique Threat of John McCain." Libau said, "Although there is much to praise in McCain's defense record (most notably, his

support for the surge in Iraq), when it comes to a domestic agenda, he's about the most "civil" Republican a Democrat could hope for. Indeed, in a McCain presidency with a Democratic Congress, conservatives risk becoming irrelevant." Libau compared the possibility of a McCain presidency to that of a Schwarzenegger presidency, and said that "McCain's history is littered with examples of his eagerness to work across the aisle; the McCain-Kennedy immigration bill, McCain-Feingold campaign finance 'reform,' and McCain-Lieberman environmental legislation come instantly to mind. There's no doubt that John McCain has earned the praise of Democrats and *The New York Times* by being willing to support their pet causes." [Op-Ed, Townall.com, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Dubbed "Most Liberal, Least Trustworthy Candidate." Michael Graham, a conservative talk-radio host and author, called McCain the GOP's "most liberal, least trustworthy candidate." This shows that while McCain has cemented his frontrunner status, he is still loathed by many in his own party. [[Wall Street Journal, 1/31/08](#)]

LIMBAUGH ATTACKS MCCAIN

Limbaugh Accused McCain Of Diluting The Republican Party. Rush Limbaugh said, "We are trying to stop the wanton destruction of the party, the wanton dilution of the party. We are sick and tired of how the people who seem to be triumphing in our party are precisely the people who seem to be selling this party out in terms of its ideology." [[Atlanta Journal Constitution, 2/7/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Is Not a Loyal Republican. Rush Limbaugh said, "Bob Dole is something that John McCain is not: He's a loyal Republican." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Accused McCain of Exploiting His Military Record. Rush Limbaugh said, "Senator McCain is resorting to the same kind of politics as Hillary Clinton: Every challenge to him is said to be a challenge to his military record -- Hillary uses her gender the same way." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said A McCain Nomination Would Destroy the Republican Party. When speaking about Huckabee and McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "I'm here to tell you, if either of these two guys get the nomination, it's going to destroy the Republican Party, it's going to change it forever, be the end of it. A lot of people aren't going to vote. You watch." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 1/15/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain "Slid Right Into Bed" With Socialists. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "Slides right into bed with the liberal socialists every single time they wink at him." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Lied About Romney. When speaking about McCain's character, Rush Limbaugh said, "Is it character when you lie about your opponent's position on "timetables" for withdrawal from Iraq, are proven to have been wrong about it and yet continue the lie?" [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Lied About Opposing the Bush Tax Cuts. When speaking about McCain's character, Rush Limbaugh said, "Senator McCain has also lied about his reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts, and the Drive-Bys let him get away with this. His original reason was that he didn't want to support these tax cuts without appropriate budget cuts, spending cuts. That's not what he said at the time. No less than the [Associated Press](#) has gone out and fact-checked this. "In 2001, McCain said the tax cuts favored the wealthy at the expense of the middle class. In 2003, he said there should be no tax cuts until the Iraq war costs were known." He's changing his position and his explanation on his position, practically every time he's asked about this." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Would Turn GOP Into a Liberal Wing of the Democratic Party. Rush Limbaugh said, "You know, I'm all for expanding the party, too, but not by changing the party into a liberal wing of the Democrat Party." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Accused McCain of Attempting to Destroy the Republican Party. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "I think ever since South Carolina 2000 he's had it in for the Republican Party, and one of his objectives is to destroy it and change it." [RushLimbaugh.com, [2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Doesn't Have a Philosophy. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "His positions are not rooted in philosophy," meaning he doesn't have a philosophy." [RushLimbaugh.com, [2/4/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain "Bucks Principles Held By a Majority of People." When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "He loves the maverick business. What is a maverick? A maverick is somebody that bucks tradition and principles held by a majority of people. A maverick is somebody in it for himself." [RushLimbaugh.com, [2/4/08](#)]

Limbaugh Questioned McCain's "Maverick" Label. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "The American people who pay scant attention, who don't really know what's going on this early prior to an election, they focus on personalities and soap operas of campaigns and this kind of thing. Maverick, yeah, tough guy, rugged individualist who will speak his mind. He's not one. He's taking the easy route, moistening the finger. He's out there saying the Democrat Party has better ideas than we do; the Democrat Party's ideas poll better than ours do. I'm going to adopt the Democrat Party's ideas." [RushLimbaugh.com, [2/4/08](#)]

Limbaugh Claimed McCain Has a Pious Attitude. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "You know, McCain does have this St. John of Arizona type attitude. You're not supposed to ask him about his past record." [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/31/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Casts Principles Aside For Political Gain. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "I think one of the reasons they're able to embrace candidates like Senator McCain is that he's been so willing to cast conservative principles aside when it makes sense for him politically, socially, or what have you." [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/31/08](#)]

Limbaugh: There's A Lot Of Anxiety Among A Lot Of Conservatives About Senator McCain. According to the *New York Sun*, "A popular talk radio host who has vocally opposed Mr. McCain in recent weeks, Rush Limbaugh, sounded resigned yesterday to the prospect that the Arizona senator will be the Republican nominee. 'It looks like McCain's pretty far down the line now to having wrapped this up,' Mr. Limbaugh said on his program. 'There's a lot of anxiety among a lot of conservatives about Senator McCain. It's simply indisputable, but there was no figure in our roster of candidates who rose up to challenge him or to galvanize conservative support. All the candidates on our side, for various reasons, are uninspiring or worse, and so, just as I predicted, the base has fractured.'" [New York Sun, 1/31/08]

Limbaugh Claimed McCain Was Not the Choice of Conservatives. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "to pretend that Senator McCain is the choice of conservatives when exit poll data from every primary state show just the opposite... He is not the choice of conservatives, as opposed to the choice of the Republican establishment -- and that distinction is key." [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/30/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain's Alleged Stance on Alito. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "Now, McCain has told conservatives that he would be happy to appoint the likes of, say, John Roberts to the Supreme Court, but he indicated he might draw the line on a Samuel Alito because, quote, "he wore his conservatism on his sleeve," unquote." [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/28/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain's Stance on Torture. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "See, but this is one of the things about Senator McCain that troubles me, and it goes beyond the obvious conclusion here that if you're not going to do what you can in the nuclear ticking time bomb situation, if you're not going to cast it all aside to save your own country, you know, fine. The question I have is, why does Senator McCain want to sound like the liberals on this? I mean, here's a guy who's promoting his national security foreign policy military expertise and experience and yet offered the ticking time bomb scenario, he says there's no way we shall ever

torture anybody to get what we want because it would diminish us in the rest of the world. Well, so would a nuclear bomb diminish us and kill a bunch of us, by the way.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/25/08](#)]

Limbaugh Accused McCain of Having Contempt for Conservatives. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “McCain, frankly, has shown conservatives little but contempt over many years.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/21/08](#)]

Rush Limbaugh: McCain Wants People to Shut Up. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “By the way, McCain wants people to shut up. That's called McCain-Feingold. McCain passed the first successful, major shut-up bill in the history of the country. McCain-Feingold was an abridgement of free speech. McCain wants people to shut up. Why should we shut up? Why don't they shut up?” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/21/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Would Not Try to Bring Jobs to Michigan. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “Nobody knows, but what McCain essentially said to the people of Michigan was, ‘I'm not going to try to get the jobs back.’” When he says the jobs aren't coming back, it means, “I'm not going to try to get ‘em back.” By the way, we're talking about jobs, not certain types of jobs. What Michigan needs is employment, and if certain types of jobs are out the window... I mean, they no longer have people that manufacture the horse and buggy or the buggy whip. But there's still people getting jobs as the economy grows. McCain sent the message he wasn't even going to try.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/21/08](#)]

Limbaugh Accused McCain of Having a Bad Temper. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “Who is it that is having to fight off the tendency to display a bad temper on the Republican side? I believe it is Senator McCain.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/21/08](#)]

Limbaugh Lambasts McCain's Record. While quoting Mark Levin, Rush Limbaugh said, “The McCain domestic record is a disaster. To say he fought spending, most particularly earmarks, is to nibble around the edges and miss the heart of the matter. For starters, consider: McCain-Feingold -- the most brazen frontal assault on political speech since Buckley v. Valeo. McCain-Kennedy -- the most far-reaching amnesty program in American history. McCain-Lieberman -- the most onerous and intrusive attack on American industry -- through reporting, regulating, and taxing authority of greenhouse gases -- in American history. McCain-Kennedy-Edwards -- the biggest boon to the trial bar since the tobacco settlement, under the rubric of a patients' bill of rights. McCain-Reimportation of Drugs -- a significant blow to pharmaceutical research and development, not to mention consumer safety.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Was Hostile to American Enterprise. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “As chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, McCain was consistently hostile to American enterprise, from media and pharmaceutical companies to technology and energy companies.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain's Involvement in the “Gang of 14.” When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “How many of us can forget the Gang of 14 debacle? Remember that, ladies and gentlemen? The Gang of 14 prevented the Republican leadership in the Senate from mounting a rule change that would have ended the systematic use (actual and threatened) of the filibuster to prevent majority approval of judicial nominees. You never had to have 60 votes to get a judicial nominee approved. The Democrats started filibustering, you needed 60 votes. We were going to pull the trigger on the nuclear option to get rid of this once and for all and McCain rides in with Senator Lindsey Grahamnesty and others, to form the Gang of 14 -- which, by the way, has expired, ladies and gentlemen. The Gang of 14 deal has expired now.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain For Taking Credit For Iraq Surge. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “His supporters point to essentially one policy strength, McCain's early support for a surge and counterinsurgency. It has now evolved into McCain taking credit for forcing the president to adopt General David Petraeus's strategy, but I haven't seen any "evidence to support" that. But McCain's supporters saying Bush wouldn't have done it if it weren't for the influence of McCain. McCain had it right? I haven't seen the evidence.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain For Granting Terror Suspects Due Process. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “McCain-ACLU -- the unprecedented granting of due-process rights to unlawful enemy combatants (terrorists). McCain has repeatedly called for the immediate closing of [Club Gitmo] and the introduction of Al-Qaeda terrorists into our own prisons -- despite the legal rights they would immediately gain and the burdens of managing such a dangerous population.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Limbaugh Criticized McCain For Attempting to Silence Wisconsin Pro-Life Group. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “Well, what did he do to advance his pro-life belief? He joined liberal Democrats in filing a brief in the Supreme Court against the ability of the Wisconsin Right to Life committee to run ads about life and abortion prior to an election. This is above and beyond McCain-Feingold! He actually filed his own brief in the Supreme Court against the ability of Wisconsin Right to Life committee to run ads about life and abortion prior to an election.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

The Christian Right Hates McCain

Conservatives Would Rather “Chew Off Their Legs Than Support” McCain. The *Globe and Mail* wrote, “You’ve got to like John McCain. He’s got the hard right in a froth. They hate him even more than they hate Hillary Clinton. They’d rather chew off their legs than support him. This is an enormous plus. I figure anyone who’s incurred the wrath of Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter and the Christian fundamentalists must have a lot going for him.” [*Globe and Mail*, [2/7/08](#)]

Republicans Still Suspicious of McCain, Say There Is “No Support” For Him And Were Insulted By Previous Statements. Many conservative leaders in Iowa are skeptical about a McCain candidacy in 2008. The head of the Iowa Christian Alliance, Steve Scheffler, said of McCain’s chances of success in Iowa, “I don’t want to say it’s an insurmountable hurdle, but it’s a big, big hill to climb.” Scheffler continued, saying, “There’s no support for McCain in this constituency, and I don’t see how you can make a scenario where you can bypass us.” Chuck Hurley, who heads the Iowa Family Policy Center, still holds against McCain his comments in 2000 about Jerry Falwell and the Christian right, Hurley said, “I don’t think Christian leaders who urge people to vote biblically, I don’t think that’s an evil influence...To me that statement by McCain is an extreme slap in the face to my faith.” [AP, 4/13/06]

Mccain’s Reconciliation With Christian Community Turned Off Old Admirers, Conservatives Still Distrust Him. According to Dan Nowicki of the *Arizona Republic*, McCain’s “...attempts to patch up old feuds with the evangelical Christian community turned off many old admirers” and “at the same time, many social conservatives continue to distrust him.” [Column, *Arizona Republic*, [1/2/08](#)]

James Dobson Announced He Would Never Vote For McCain. James C. Dobson released a statement that “he would under no circumstances vote for Mr. McCain in November.” [*New York Times*, [2/6/08](#)]

- **Dobson On McCain: “I Pray We Don’t Get Stuck With Him.”** James Dobson, “founder of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family as well as the Focus Action cultural action organization set up specifically to provide a platform for informing and rallying constituents,” came out strongly against a McCain candidacy during a radio interview. Dobson said in response to a statement McCain made on gay marriage, “Speaking as a private individual, I would not vote for John McCain under any circumstances.” Dobson reasoned his opposition both because of social issues and “legislation he’d just been discussing on the program, regarding an attempt by Democrat leaders in Congress to create obstacles for ministries such as Focus to reach constituents with action messages about pending legislation, is being supported by McCain, too.” Dobson criticized the legislation as having originated from McCain, saying, “that came from McCain, and the McCain Feingold Bill kept us from telling the truth right before elections.” Dobson added that “there are a lot of other things,” pointing out that McCain’s “not in favor of traditional marriage,” and concluded saying, “I pray that we won’t get stuck with him.” Despite the attack, McCain was open to heal the fissure with Dobson, saying, “I’m obviously disappointed and I’d like to continue and have a dialogue with Dr. Dobson and other members of the community.” Noting his past success reaching out to other

conservative leaders, McCain said, "I'm happy to say that I've established a dialogue with a number of other leaders," such as Jerry Falwell, Rick Warren and Dr. Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention. [Worldnetdaily.com, 1/13/07; AP, 1/17/06]

- **James Dobson: McCain Has Stuck His Thumb In Conservatives' Eye.** When talking about John McCain, James Dobson said, "I am convinced Sen. McCain is not a conservative, and in fact, has gone out of his way to stick his thumb in the eyes of those who are ... I cannot, and will not, vote for Sen. John McCain, as a matter of conscience," he said in a statement on Tuesday." [[2/5/08](#)]

Conservatives Whispers Continue That McCain May Not Be Conservative Enough. "Republican Party activists who dominate the nomination process are increasingly wondering if Sen. John McCain of Arizona, thought to be the early front-runner, is really conservative enough to satisfy them. There is already a whispering campaign underway to revive criticisms that McCain is short-tempered and a loose cannon. Many conservatives are still unhappy with McCain's past criticisms of Christian conservative leaders and his maverick ways on campaign finance reform and other issues." [[U.S. News and World Report, 3/6/06](#)]

McCain Is Dead Wrong On Immigration

Texas GOP Executive Committee Members Said McCain's Immigration Stance is "Intolerable." Members of the Texas Republican Party's executive committee said that McCain's stances on illegal immigration were intolerable. According to *The Dallas Morning News*, "Several members of the state Republican executive committee expressed serious reservations Wednesday about Mr. McCain's conservative credentials." Committee member John Cook said, "It was amnesty. I don't want our nominee to carry the party to the moderate wing." [[Dallas Morning News, 2/6/08](#)]

McCain Failed Immigration Litmus Test Among Conservative Reagan Republicans. Jerome Corsi, who co-authored a book attacking John Kerry's war record during the 2004 election, wrote that McCain's stance in the immigration debate failed a litmus-test for conservative Republicans. Corsi wrote, "[w]hen McCain put his name on the immigration bill sponsored by Sen. Teddy Kennedy, many conservatives felt he virtually embraced the concept of amnesty for the approximately 12 million illegal aliens the Bush Administration admits are now in the United States...[M]any on the right felt his alignment with the Democratic left on the immigration issue was the last straw ... Immigration for the Reagan conservative movement is quickly becoming a litmus test issue, every bit as much as the issue of abortion already is. McCain fails on both accounts." [Jerome Corsi, [www.humaneventsonline.com, 5/9/06](#)]

McCain Criticized on Economic Issues

Limbaugh Said McCain Would Not Try to Bring Jobs to Michigan. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "Nobody knows, but what McCain essentially said to the people of Michigan was, "I'm not going to try to get the jobs back." When he says the jobs aren't coming back, it means, "I'm not going to try to get 'em back." By the way, we're talking about jobs, not certain types of jobs. What Michigan needs is employment, and if certain types of jobs are out the window... I mean, they no longer have people that manufacture the horse and buggy or the buggy whip. But there's still people getting jobs as the economy grows. McCain sent the message he wasn't even going to try." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 1/21/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Lied About Opposing the Bush Tax Cuts. When speaking about McCain's character, Rush Limbaugh said, "Senator McCain has also lied about his reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts, and the Drive-Bys let him get away with this. His original reason was that he didn't want to support these tax cuts without appropriate budget cuts, spending cuts. That's not what he said at the time. No less than the [Associated Press](#) has gone out and fact-checked this. "In 2001, McCain said the tax cuts favored the wealthy at the expense of the middle class. In 2003, he said there should be no tax cuts until the Iraq war costs were known." He's changing his position and his explanation on his position, practically every time he's asked about this." [[RushLimbaugh.com, 2/5/08](#)]

Limbaugh Said McCain Was Hostile to American Enterprise. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “As chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, McCain was consistently hostile to American enterprise, from media and pharmaceutical companies to technology and energy companies.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Joe Scarborough: No, No, I Say No, John McCain is not a Conservative. Speaking on *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough said, “No, no I say no, John McCain is not a conservative.” He adds, “A conservative is not a man that calls tax cuts that George Bush passed, that revived the economy, tax cuts for the rich, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that is one of two Republicans standing alone in Washington, DC voting against those tax cuts that every other Republican supported in Washington DC that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that teams up with Teddy Kennedy to produce a bill that is nothing short of amnesty that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to gain legal status the day after John McCain’s bill and Teddy Kennedy’s bill becomes law, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not somebody that goes on Tim Russert’s show, a couple of weeks ago, and says that if that amnesty bill, that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to become citizens the next day, he does not go on that show and say, “Yes, I would sign that bill,” but don’t worry, it’s not going to come to my desk. That is not a conservative.” A conservative is not a man that says who he wants to increase taxes, maybe 50 cents per gallon, on the American people, trying to pass through a bill that the rest of the world won’t sign on to.” [MSNBC, 1/31/08; Townhall.com, [2/1/08](#)]

Krugman: If McCain Votes For Cloture Or Compromise On Estate Tax, He’s A Hypocrite Trying To Have It Both Ways. “Any senator who votes to repeal the estate tax, or votes for a “compromise” that goes most of the way toward repeal, is in effect saying that increasing the wealth of people who are already in line to inherit millions or tens of millions is more important than taking care of fellow citizens who need a helping hand. . the estate tax is up for a vote this week. First, Republicans will try to repeal the estate tax altogether. If that fails, they’ll offer a compromise that isn’t really a compromise, like a plan suggested by Senator Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona, that would cost almost as much as full repeal, or a plan suggested by Senator Max Baucus, Democrat of Montana, that is only slightly cheaper. In each case, the crucial vote will be procedural: if 60 senators vote to close off debate, estate tax repeal or something close to it will surely pass. Any senator who votes for cloture but against estate tax repeal -- which I’m told is what John McCain may do -- is simply a hypocrite, trying to have it both ways.” [Krugman Op-Ed, [New York Times](#), 6/5/06]

Grover Norquist Called McCain A Flip Flopper Who Would Not Lead With Conservative Values.

During an interview which on ABC News, Grover Norquist, the head of the conservative group Americans for Tax Reform, said McCain’s flip-flopping tendency would be damaging to conservative goals. Norquist said of McCain, “What McCain has done is flip-flopped on the gun issue, on the tax issue. He used to be a Reagan Republican on taxes. He’s voted against every one of President Bush’s tax cuts. He voted for the first one before he voted against it but he’s voted against all of them. He’s flip-flopped back and forth not because of where the American people are but because of where the cameras are.” Norquist added that McCain’s “phototropism” was “very damaging from a conservative perspective because that’s unlikely to lead to conservative governance.” [ABC News, 6/11/06]

Club for Growth: Stance On Personal Accounts Though, Is Marred By His Willingness To Raise Social Security Taxes. According to the Club for Growth, “This positive stance on personal accounts though, is marred by his willingness to raise Social Security taxes as part of a package that would include personal accounts. On a February, 23, 2005 edition of Meet the Press, Tim Russert asked Senator McCain if he would support ‘as part of the solution to Social Security’s solvency problem, that you lift the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher?’ Senator McCain answered, ‘As part of a compromise I could . . . I’m proud of the job that Senator Lindsey Graham has been doing in his leadership position on this issue and showing some courage.’ Raising Social Security taxes in this manner is not a sign of courage. It could constitute a massive tax increase and prove devastating to economic growth in this country. Furthermore, Senator McCain’s support for Lindsey Graham’s proposal to raise Social Security taxes contradicts his own observation about the woefully poor return workers receive. Raising taxes would only make that return worse. As Senator McCain hinted in 2000, it is not Social Security taxes that are too low, but the below-

market return on those taxes that should most concern policy makers and taxpayers alike.” [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

McCain “Too Easily Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush’s Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security.” According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “At least President Bush didn’t kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn’t faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush’s misguided bid to privatize Social Security. By diverting a portion of payroll taxes from Social Security into the stock market, Bush would add risk to retirement income and burden the program with trillions of dollars of debt. Bush’s real purpose is to cut traditional retirement benefits, which could be necessary to control costs, but he won’t provide any details on that part of his plan. Instead, Bush launched one last effort to sell skeptical Americans on private accounts. By his side at several stops was McCain, resorting to the kind of questionable tactics that once had been used against him.” [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

- **St. Petersburg Times: “Shame On McCain For Being A Part Of This Effort ... He Even Resorted To Misinformation.”** According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “Shame on McCain for being a part of this effort to divide the generations. Usually noted for candid speech, he even resorted to misinformation when he said in 2004 ‘we stop paying people Social Security.’ McCain knows that isn’t true. That is the date (actually it was changed to 2041 the other day) when Social Security reserves are expected to be used up. Even then, with no change in the program, recipients would continue to get about 75 percent of what was promised them.” [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

McCain Attacked For Opposing Bush On Torture

Limbaugh Criticized McCain’s Stance on Torture. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, “See, but this is one of the things about Senator McCain that troubles me, and it goes beyond the obvious conclusion here that if you’re not going to do what you can in the nuclear ticking time bomb situation, if you’re not going to cast it all aside to save your own country, you know, fine. The question I have is, why does Senator McCain want to sound like the liberals on this? I mean, here’s a guy who’s promoting his national security foreign policy military expertise and experience and yet offered the ticking time bomb scenario, he says there’s no way we shall ever torture anybody to get what we want because it would diminish us in the rest of the world. Well, so would a nuclear bomb diminish us and kill a bunch of us, by the way.” [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain’s Opposition to Bush on Torture Could Run Presidential Ambitions “Aground.” The *Washington Post* reported that “McCain’s bid to position himself as the natural heir to President Bush as a wartime commander in chief and to court conservative leaders in advance of his likely 2008 presidential campaign has threatened to run aground in recent days, as the two men clash over how to detain and try terrorism suspects.” The *Post* went on to note that “some prominent conservatives are branding him a disloyal Republican and an unreliable conservative because of his assertiveness on the detainee issue,” including Rush Limbaugh who said that McCain’s opposition to Bush “is going to go down as the event that will result in us getting hit again, and if we do, and if McCain, et al., prevail, I can tell you where fingers are going to be pointed.” [*Washington Post*, 9/19/06]

Union Leader President Joseph McQuaid: McCain Fighting Wrong War With Torture Vote. Joseph McQuaid wrote in the *Union Leader* questioning McCain’s opposition to Bush in the debate on torture. McQuaid wrote, “in the midst of the most difficult and challenging war we have ever faced, can the nation afford a President McCain? No doubt his motives are pure, but McCain’s current actions are blocking our ability to gain from terrorist captives the vital information we need to fight a war in which the enemy strikes us here at home from multiple locations around the world.” McQuaid reasoned that if McCain didn’t understand the consequences of his opposition, “New Hampshire citizens must question why they should support him for President.” [*Union Leader*, 9/16/06]

SC GOP Chair: South Carolinians Say McCain Wrong to Oppose Bush on Torture. Katon Dawson, the Republican Party chairman in South Carolina said McCain's stance was opposite that of the voters he would need to win the South Carolina primary. Dawson said, "South Carolina is certainly Bush country. Overwhelmingly, the communications we're getting are supporting the president. Obviously, the president is right on this issue. I think John McCain thinks he's right - McCain and Warner and Graham. I think people on the ground think they're wrong." [[Myrtle Beach Sun-News](#), 9/16/06]

Group Called McCain "A Democrat" For Opposing Confederate Flag

McCain Wanted Out Of SC By Confederate Flag Supporters' Group. According to *Newsweek*, as John McCain campaigned in South Carolina before the state's G.O.P. primary, leaders from a group called the Confederate States of America Historical Preservation Society protested outside of a McCain rally. A leader from the group yelled, "McCain is a Democrat and we want him booted out of the state" for a camera crew from PBS's News Hour with Jim Lehrer. [[Newsweek, 1/16/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Was Proud S.C. Voted To Take Confederate Flag Off Statehouse.** While McCain campaigned in South Carolina, he answered a question about his call for the removal of the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina's Statehouse eight years prior. McCain answered, "Sir, I cannot be more proud of the overwhelming majority of the people of this state who joined together taking that flag off the Capitol dome, putting it in the place where it belongs - of the many people of South Carolina who have made the decision to settle this issue against people like you, sir." The crowd where McCain fielded the question cheered loudly, drowning out the possibility for the questioner to rebut. [GoUpstate.com, [1/17/08](#)]

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McCain Criticized On Life Issues

McCain Accused Of Voting To Use Unborn Babies In Medical Research. According to the *New York Times*, a group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to households in South Carolina telling voters, according to one of the calls, that Mr. McCain "has voted to use unborn babies in medical research." (The campaign of Mr. Huckabee, a former governor of Arkansas, said it had no connection to the group and had asked it to stop the calls.) [[New York Times, 1/17/08](#)]

George Will Questioned McCain's Commitment To Constructionist Judges And Pro-Life Credentials. In response to a comment by McCain where he felt that "quote-First Amendment rights" were being stretched too far, George Will hypothesized that statement showed that a President McCain would appoint judges who held elastic interpretations of the Constitution in support of abortion rights. George Will wrote, "McCain hopes that in 2008 pro-life Republicans will remember his pro-life record. But they will know that, regarding presidents and abortion, what matters are Supreme Court nominees. McCain favors judges who think the Constitution is so radically elastic that government regulation of speech about itself is compatible with the First Amendment. So Republican primary voters will wonder: Can President McCain be counted on to nominate justices who would correct such

constitutional elasticities as the court's discovery of a virtually unlimited right – one unnoticed between 1787 and 1973 – to abortion?" ["Imus in the Morning," 4/28/06; George Will, [Washington Post](#), 5/11/06]

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Limbaugh Criticized McCain For Attempting to Silence Wisconsin Pro-Life Group. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "Well, what did he do to advance his pro-life belief? He joined liberal Democrats in filing a brief in the Supreme Court against the ability of the Wisconsin Right to Life committee to run ads about life and abortion prior to an election. This is above and beyond McCain-Feingold! He actually filed his own brief in the Supreme Court against the ability of Wisconsin Right to Life committee to run ads about life and abortion prior to an election." [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/11/08](#)]

Accused Of Supporting Most Restrictive Assault On Free Speech

McCain Is Worst Possible G.O.P. Presidential Nominee Because Of McCain-Feingold. Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* said, "For conservatives with long memories, John McCain is about the worst possible Republican presidential nominee... And the reason why can perhaps best be summed up in two words: McCain-Feingold." Muth continued, "Sen. McCain's campaign finance reform bill - which he pushed relentlessly, almost to the exclusion of everything else - was a frontal attack on the right of free speech. Not commercial or pornographic free speech, mind you. Political free speech. The kind of speech the Founders clearly had in mind when they emphatically declared that Congress shall make no law abridging." [Op-Ed, [Nevada Appeal](#), [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Criticized For Leading "Gang Of 14" To Undercut GOP Attempt To Break Filibusters Of Conservative Judges.** Chuck Muth, columnist for the *Nevada Appeal* wrote an op-ed column criticizing McCain. He said, "...it was Sen. McCain who led the 'Gang of 14,' which undercut the GOP attempt to break Harry Reid's filibusters of conservative judges. Many conservative judicial nominees have never received so much as the courtesy of an up-or-down vote, thanks to Sen. McCain and his band of moderate Republicans." [Op-Ed, [Nevada Appeal](#), [1/25/08](#)]

McCain-Feingold Attacked As Most Restrictive Assault On Free Speech In U.S. A group called Common Sense Issues, which has announced its support for Mike Huckabee, made about a million automated calls to households in South Carolina, not only attacking McCain on his abortion record but also telling voters that in writing the McCain-Feingold bill tightening rules on campaign donations, Mr. McCain had created "the most restrictive assault on free speech ever passed in America." [New York Times, [1/17/08](#)]

Rush Limbaugh: McCain Wants People to Shut Up. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "By the way, McCain wants people to shut up. That's called McCain-Feingold. McCain passed the first successful, major shut-up bill in the history of the country. McCain-Feingold was an abridgement of free speech. McCain wants people to shut up. Why should we shut up? Why don't they shut up?" [RushLimbaugh.com, [1/21/08](#)]

McCain Lost GOP Base

Conservatives Hate McCain Because He Is Exactly Like Bush. Conservatives' discontent with McCain is widely known, but it originated from "buyer's remorse" after Bush. *USA Today* wrote, "There is, in fact, a much broader anti-Bush sentiment in the party. The right wing of the GOP is suffering from a deep buyer's remorse of its own." McCain and Bush agree on nearly every issue that upsets conservatives, from immigration to campaign finance. [USA Today, [2/12/08](#)]

Poll: Only 51% Of Republicans Are ‘Satisfied With McCain.’ In a new Gallup poll, a mere 51% of Republicans said they would be satisfied if John McCain won the Republican presidential nomination. [[National Review, 2/12/08](#)]

McCain Received The Support Of Only 25% Of Conservatives In Virginia Primary. Exit polls after the Virginia primary showed that McCain lost among self-identified conservatives to Mike Huckabee, 25% to 51%. [[TIME, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Has Been Endorsed By Less Than Half of Congressional Republicans. Even though he has emerged as the clear frontrunner, McCain has only been endorsed by “about 40 of the 198 House Republicans; in the Senate, he is endorsed by about 20 of 49 Republicans.” [[Associated Press, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Lost Every Southern State. While McCain emerged from Super Tuesday as a clear frontrunner, he lost 12 states. McCain also lost every state in the south, which Republicans need if they plan to win in November. [[Politico, 2/6/08](#)]

McCain Lost Arizona Straw Poll. McCain recently lost a Republican Presidential Straw Poll in Maricopa County, the state’s most populous county. According to Republican state representative, Russell Pearce, “We feel betrayed and let down by our senior senator. I will not support a candidate I don’t care how many medals he has on his chest, when he won’t do the right thing for America.” [[Los Angeles Times, 2/4/08](#)]

More Than Half of Republicans Have Voted Against McCain. McCain has won three early primary states, but never winning more than 50% of the vote. More Republican voters have voted against McCain than have voted for him. [[Sydney Morning Herald, 2/1/08](#)]

59% of Maricopa County Republicans Named McCain “Unacceptable.” During a straw poll in Maricopa County, Arizona, 59% of attendees named John McCain as an unacceptable candidate.” [[Salon.com, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain Faced Backlash From Arizona Republicans. Rob Haney, a passionate Arizona conservative, said “It’s an unending litany of items that we find unacceptable in a Republican candidate who would represent Republican values.” [[Salon.com, 2/4/08](#)]

- **McCain Lost Among Arizona Conservatives.** Mitt Romney beat John McCain 47-36 among self-described conservatives in McCain’s home state of Arizona. [[TIME, 2/6/08](#)]

Conservative Backlash Predicted to Affect McCain’s Chances in November. According to Salon.com, “William Dixon, the head of the University of Arizona political science department, thinks there is a distinct possibility that conservative anger toward McCain could cause him problems in the general election. Dixon says conservatives disdainful of McCain aren’t likely to vote for a Democrat in November but might choose to sit out the election altogether.” [[Salon.com, 2/4/08](#)]

McCain’s Relationship With Conservatives Viewed as “Rocky” and “Fractious.” Conservatives have waged a war with McCain before primaries on Super Tuesday. GOP strategist Greg Mueller said “My view is that there obviously continues to be a rocky relationship between Senator McCain and conservatives.” [[New York Times, 1/31/08](#)]

Conservatives in Florida Favored Romney Over McCain. According to exit polls, McCain garnered only 29% of self-described conservatives in the Florida Republican Presidential primary. Romney, McCain’s chief rival, earned 37% among conservatives. [[CNN.com, January 29, 2008](#); [DNC Daily Flipper, 1/30/08](#)]

After Winning in Florida, McCain Can Expect Attacks from GOP Establishment. *Slate Magazine* reports that, “Now McCain can expect an influx of money from supporters and a hail of attacks from that portion of the GOP establishment that despises him. The race has shaken out, and it’s now down to just Romney and McCain. While McCain has the momentum and will inherit most of Giuliani’s supporters when he drops out, Romney, who can spend his own money, will now benefit from all of those Republicans who McCain has pissed off over the

years. Already David Bossie, longtime GOP operative denounced by members of both parties in the past, is behind an ad campaign airing on Fox that compares McCain to Hillary Clinton. Rush Limbaugh is already on Romney's side, and Tom DeLay will no doubt come out of retirement with a broken beer bottle." [Slate.com, 1/30/08]

McCain's Efforts May Not Move Conservatives. "McCain's efforts to present himself as an establishment conservative Republican may not sway his target audience. Many conservatives dismiss his image overhaul as mere opportunism. They acknowledge McCain's conservative voting record, but they point out that on a lot of big issues - such as campaign-finance reform and guest-worker immigration reform - he hooks up with liberal Democratic senators like Russ Feingold and Edward Kennedy... Jim Pinkerton, a conservative commentator who worked in the senior George Bush's administration, said, 'Just because he's in trouble with the media now, that doesn't mean conservatives will think that he can suddenly be trusted. Because they feel he's been sucking up to the press for years and years. The suspicion is, 'OK, they'll fight with each other for the next two years [until he wins the nomination], and then he'll be their friend again.' ...Of course it's standard for politicians to tack this way and that way. But the distances that McCain needs to travel [have] to be setting some kind of record.'" [\[Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/16/06\]](#)

McCain's Straw Poll Stunt Designed To Mask His Poor Support Because He's Gone "Wobbly" On Conservative Issues. The SLRC straw poll "was deliberately undercut by Sen. John McCain and his backers," who "threw a wrench in the polling Friday night by asking delegates to vote for Bush" to give McCain "some political cover if he fare[d] poorly in the contest." The move was met with skepticism by delegates to the SLRC where there was "much grumbling and a bit of laughter" about the write-in campaign, an act which one woman labeled "absurd." In the end, McCain "finished a distant fifth" overall with only 66 votes, because according to a GOP consultant, the voters know that "on the big social issues, he's gone wobbly." His finish highlighted the challenge for McCain's 2008 ambitions, which is "the elites adore him, or at least respect him, but the activists, who actually pick the nominee, don't seem to like him very much." [\[The State, 3/12/06; Associated Press, 3/12/06, 3/11/06; Sacramento Bee, 3/12/06; American Spectator, 3/13/06; Newsday, 3/14/06\]](#)

"Anybody But McCain" Blog Coalition Emerged. Conservative bloggers have created an "Anybody but McCain" coalition in an attempt to derail McCain's presidential bid. [\[College Conservative Movement, 1/31/08\]](#)

Abortion

Planned Parenthood Launched Anti-McCain Spots. Planned Parenthood has began airing attack ads against John McCain. “The 60-second spot will air in the DC area through Tuesday and adds that McCain has a “zero percent rating from Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the lowest rating in the US Senate.” The group promises an “aggressive effort” to educate voters about McCain’s pro-life record through the general election.” [FOX News, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Has Voted Anti-Choice 123 Times. According to NARAL, John McCain has voted against choice 123 out of the 128 times he voted on reproductive rights. [NARAL.org, accessed on [2/12/08](#)]

NARAL Said McCain Has Solidly Anti-Choice Record. According to NARAL Pro-Choice America, “Sen. John McCain served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983 to 1986 and in the U.S. Senate from 1987 to present. During his four years in the House, then-Rep. McCain cast 11 votes on abortion and other reproductive-rights issues. Ten of these votes were anti-choice. In the Senate, through 2006, Sen. McCain cast 117 votes on abortion and other reproductive-rights issues, 113 of which were anti-choice. In addition to his solidly anti-choice record, Sen. McCain has never cosponsored or supported legislation that would prevent unintended pregnancy or reduce the need for abortion.” [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [2/07/08](#)]

Sen. McCain has an anti-choice record. McCain received the following scores on NARAL Pro-Choice America’s Congressional Record on Choice:

MCCAIN CHOICE SCORECARD	
2007:	0 percent
2006:	0 percent
2005:	0 percent
2004:	0 percent
2003:	0 percent
2002:	0 percent
2001:	Because only one choice-related vote was taken in 2001 – to confirm John Ashcroft as United States Attorney General – no numerical score was given for the year. Sen. McCain voted anti-choice.

McCain: “I Pledge to You to be Loyal and Unswerving Friend of the Right to Life Movement. “If I am fortunate enough to be elected as the next President of the United States, I pledge to you to be a loyal and unswerving friend of the right to life movement.” [Statement by Sen. McCain read by Sen. Sam Brownback at the March for Life in Washington, DC, January 22, 2008. <http://www.catholic.org/politics/story.php?id=26539> (accessed January 30, 2008.)]

McCain Web Site Said Roe v. Wade was “Flawed Decision.” Sen. McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign website states that he “believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned.” [John McCain for President 2008 campaign website, On the Issues: Human Dignity and the Sanctity of Life (accessed February 4, 2008). <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/95b18512-d5b6-456e-90a2-12028d71df58.htm>]

- **McCain Said Roe v. Wade Should Be Overturned.** McCain said, “I do not support Roe v. Wade. I think it should be overturned.” [Ann Althouse, Rudy & Mitt Hem & Haw on Abortion, N.Y. Times, February 24, 2007.]

McCain Proud of Alito and Roberts. “I’m proud that we have Justice Alito and Roberts on the United States Supreme Court. I’m very proud to have played a very small role in making that happen.” [Transcript, Republican Presidential Candidates Participate in a Debate, May 3, 2007.]

McCain Supported Federal Abortion Ban. On the Federal Abortion Ban, Sen. McCain said, “Today’s Supreme Court ruling is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of life and integrity of the judiciary. The ruling ensures that an unacceptable and unjustifiable practice will not be carried out on our innocent children. It also clearly speaks to the importance of nominating and confirming strict constructionist judges who interpret the law as it is written, and do not usurp the authority of Congress and state legislatures. As we move forward, it is critically important that our party continues to stand on the side of life.” [Press release, April 18, 2007 (accessed February 4, 2008). <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/f96d220f-b10d-48fe-ae9-d69c0d2802c3.htm>]

McCain Supported “Rights of the Unborn” for 24 Years. Sen. McCain said that he has supported “the rights of the unborn” for 24 years “without changing, without wavering.” [Michael Finnegan, Republicans Enter the Ring in Iowa; At a Key Party Dinner, Frontrunners for the Presidential Nomination Take a Beating From Lesser-Known Rivals, L.A. Times, April 15, 2007.]

McCain Said His Pro-Life Voting Record “Consistent.” Discussing his pro-life voting record, McCain said, “I have many, many votes and it’s been consistent. And I’ve got a consistent zero from NARAL throughout all those years... [M]y record is clear. And I think the important thing is you look at people’s voting record because sometimes rhetoric can be a little... misleading... As you know I don’t support Roe v. Wade. I thought it was a bad decision, and I think that the decision should be made in the states.” [Transcript, The Full McCain: An Interview, National Review, March 5, 2007.]

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MTMxOWRkYjgyNDhjOTU5ZTY2OWU2ZTg2ZmUzMzQ1NjQ=>

1999: McCain Was Opposed To Overturning Roe Because It Would Force Women To Seek Illegal Abortions. McCain told the editorial board of the San Francisco Chronicle in 1999 why he didn’t want to overturn Roe, saying, “I’d love to see a point where [Roe vs. Wade] is irrelevant, and could be repealed because abortion is no longer necessary. But certainly in the short term, or even the long term, I would not support repeal of Roe vs. Wade, which would then force X number of women in America to [undergo] illegal and dangerous operations.” [San Francisco Chronicle, 8/20/99]

2006: McCain Said He Wouldn’t Be Bothered By An Abortion Ban And Falwell Was “Happy” With McCain’s Views On Life. McCain told CBS News he wouldn’t be bothered by an overturn of Roe v. Wade. McCain was asked, January 25, 2006, if he thought the nomination of Samuel Alito would sway the Supreme Court to ban abortion. McCain replied, saying, “I don’t know the answer to that. I’ve never agreed with Roe v. Wade, so it wouldn’t bother me any.” Additionally, McCain’s stance was accepted by the reverend Jerry Falwell who noted that he and “most of the pro-life community” are “happy” with McCain’s “pro-life views.” [CBS News, 1/25/06; ABC News, 3/29/06]

2006: McCain Said He Would Sign SD Abortion Bill With Some Added Exceptions—His Staff Had to Clarify What He Really Meant. When asked if he would have signed the South Dakota bill recently signed by Governor Rounds, McCain said he would sign the bill, but only if there were exceptions for the life of the woman and would not sign the bill without such allowances. McCain said, “my position has been consistently pro-life but rape, incest, and the health of the mother has been my position.” When told that the South Dakota bill went further than that and asked again if he would sign it, McCain said, “Not if-, my position has been clear for 20 some years.” Following the interview, McCain’s staff clarified his position with conservatives, saying, “[McCain] would have signed the legislation, but would also take the appropriate steps under state law -- in whatever state -- to ensure that the exceptions of rape, incest or life of the mother were included.” [ABC News, 2/26/06; NationalJournal.com, 2/28/06]

Reversing 1999 Position, McCain Now Supports Overturning Roe v. Wade. Speaking on ABC News, McCain said that he supported a reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision. McCain said, “I do believe that it’s very likely, or possible, that a Supreme Court should - could overturn Roe v. Wade which would then return these decisions to the states which I support.” McCain had previously said that he would not support overturning Roe v. Wade because it would “force X number of women to undergo illegal and dangerous operations.” [ABC News, 11/19/06; San Francisco Chronicle, 8/20/99]

McCain Railed Against Roe Decision And Said He Would “Welcome” Its Reversal. In his prepared Senate floor statement for the debate on the proposed marriage amendment, McCain said that the Supreme Court decision declaring abortion a constitutionally protected right flawed the democratic process of states’ rights. McCain said, “Decisions such as Roe v. Wade continue to distort the democratic process in ways large and small to this very day.” McCain went on to support the reversal of Roe v. Wade, adding, “those of us who consider ourselves pro-life would welcome the Supreme Court’s reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision that found a Constitutional right to an abortion. The result of that reversal would be to return the regulation of abortion to the states, where the values of local communities would be influential.” [McCain Senate press release, 6/6/06]

George Will Questioned McCain’s Commitment To Constructionist Judges And Pro-Life Credentials. In response to a comment by McCain where he felt that “quote-First Amendment rights” were being stretched too far, George Will hypothesized that statement showed that a President McCain would appoint judges who held elastic interpretations of the Constitution in support of abortion rights. George Will wrote, “McCain hopes that in 2008 pro-life Republicans will remember his pro-life record. But they will know that, regarding presidents and abortion, what matters are Supreme Court nominees. McCain favors judges who think the Constitution is so radically elastic that government regulation of speech about itself is compatible with the First Amendment. So Republican primary voters will wonder: Can President McCain be counted on to nominate justices who would correct such constitutional elasticities as the court’s discovery of a virtually unlimited right – one unnoticed between 1787 and 1973 – to abortion?” [“Imus in the Morning,” 4/28/06; George Will, Washington Post, 5/11/06]

McCain Was “Uncharacteristically Muted” On South Dakota Abortion Ban. When asked at the SRLC if the South Dakota ban would “cause problems for the party”, McCain was “uncharacteristically muted” and said, “I just don’t know.” [Newsweek, 3/20/06]

McCain Said He Would Sign SD Abortion Bill With Some Added Exceptions—His Staff Had to Clarify What He Really Meant. When asked if he would have signed the South Dakota bill recently signed by Governor Rounds, McCain said he would sign the bill, but only if there were exceptions for the life of the woman and would not sign the bill without such allowances. McCain said, “my position has been consistently pro-life but rape, incest, and the health of the mother has been my position.” When told that the South Dakota bill went further than that and asked again if he would sign it, McCain said, “Not if-, my position has been clear for 20 some years.” Following the interview, McCain’s staff clarified his position with conservatives, saying, “[McCain] would have signed the legislation, but would also take the appropriate steps under state law -- in whatever state – to ensure that the exceptions of rape, incest or life of the mother were included.” [ABC News, 2/26/06; NationalJournal.com, 2/28/06]

McCain Told Social Conservative Gary Bauer That He Would Appoint Pro-Life Judges. According to the *New Yorker*, in 1999 McCain had the support of social conservative Gary Bauer. In reference to appointing pro-life judges, Bauer said, “I wanted a commitment from either George Bush or John McCain that if elected he would appoint pro-life judges to the Supreme Court...Bush said he had no litmus test, and his judges would be strict constructionists. But McCain, in private, assured me he would appoint pro-life judges.” [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

McCain Has Ben “Unwaveringly Pro-Life” But Distanced Himself From Outspoken Support For It. A seasoned former McCain aide told the *New Yorker* that McCain “...got the benefit of the pro-life label but would never go out and make speeches for them [Pro Life organizations]...” He continued, “I think he feels that government should not be involved, but it is, and he took a fairly expedient position.” [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

McCain Chose To Be Pro-Life Because It Would Be Difficult To Run In AZ Otherwise, Said His Friends. Several of McCain’s friends told *New Yorker* reporter, Connie Bruck, that McCain chose to be pro-life when he first ran for Congress “...because it would have been more difficult to win as a Republican in Arizona otherwise.” According to Bruck, McCain has been “unwaveringly” pro-life throughout his career. [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

Budget and Spending

Blamed Bush For Runaway Spending; Voted For At Least Four Budgets That Contributed To Deficit

McCain Said Bush's Biggest Mistake Was Spending. During an interview on "Meet the Press," McCain said, "In Look, I think the president of the United States has made mistakes, but I would say the biggest one is spending. That, that's what our base is unhappy about. That's what I'm going to fix. That's what I've fought against for years, and I've done so pretty effectively. Saved the taxpayers a couple of billion dollars in a Boeing tanker deal. I--the reason--I led the investigation of Jack Abramoff. But our base has got to have--restore--got to have their confidence and their trust restored because they have lost it, and there's no doubt about that." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 1/06/08]

HOWEVER...

McCain Voted For Budget Plan With \$1.35 Trillion in Tax Cuts. In 2001, McCain voted for the adoption of the conference report on the concurrent resolution to adopt a 10-year budget plan that calls for approximately \$1.35 trillion in tax cuts through fiscal 2011, including a \$100 billion stimulus package. The agreement would cap discretionary spending at \$661.3 billion. Discretionary spending allocations would total \$325.1 billion for defense and \$336.2 billion for non-defense. The report passed 53-47. [H.Con.Res.83, Vote #98, 5/10/01]

McCain Voted Bill Critics Argued Failed To Consider Cost of War and Would Not Result in Halving the Deficit. In 2004, McCain voted for the Senate version of the \$2.4 trillion budget resolution. Among other things, supporters said the bill aimed to halve the \$477 billion fiscal deficit in three years—faster than the five years Bush had suggested—but critics argued that by ignoring the cost of the war in Iraq and failing to ease the alternative minimum tax, the budget would not result in halving the deficit. The bill passed 51-45. [S.Con.Res.95, Vote #58, [3/12/04](#); Reuters, 3/13/04; AP, 3/12/04]

McCain Voted for Initial FY 2006 Budget Resolution; Included Even More Tax Cuts Than The President Requested. In 2005, McCain voted for the Senate version of the \$2.57 trillion FY 2006 Budget. The bill included \$134 billion in tax cuts, even more than the President requested, partially by extending capital gains and dividend tax cuts, while it called for about \$17 billion in mandatory spending cuts over five years. The budget also included parliamentary language that would make it easier to open ANWR to oil exploration and drilling. [S.Con.Res.18, Vote #81, [3/17/05](#); New York Times, 3/18/05; Anchorage Daily News, 3/18/05; Knight Ridder, 3/18/05]

- **McCain Voted Against Increasing FY06 Veterans' Health Care Funding By \$2.8 Billion And Reducing The Deficit By \$2.8 Billion.** In 2005, McCain voted against an amendment that would increase funding for veterans health care by \$2.8 billion for fiscal 2006, reduce the deficit by \$2.8 billion and close corporate tax loopholes. The amendment failed 47-53. [SCR 18, Vote #55, 3/16/05]
- **McCain Voted Against Requiring A 60-Member Vote For Any New Tax Cut Or Deficit-Increasing Measures.** In 2005, McCain voted against an amendment that would make the consideration of new tax cuts or net mandatory spending that would increase the deficit subject to a 60-vote point of order unless Congress had restored the solvency of Social Security for 75 years. The amendment failed 45-55. [SCR 18, Vote #47, 3/15/05]
- **McCain Voted Against Reducing Deficit.** In 2005, McCain voted against an amendment that would, in addition to increase funding for first responders, but would also reduce the federal deficit by \$1.6 billion, which would be offset by a \$3.2 billion reduction in tax reconciliation provisions. The amendment failed 46-54. [SCR 18, Vote #50, 3/15/05]

McCain for Sham Budget Resolution that Claimed It Would Reduce Deficit. In 2006, McCain voted for the budget resolution that Senate Republicans claimed would reduce the deficit. The cumulative deficit over five years was already forecasted to be \$1.14 trillion with this budget—before lawmakers added another \$16 billion for appropriations to help the package win approval. Under the Republican five-year budget, the U.S. debt would reach nearly \$12 trillion in 2011. With no brakes on spending and no plans to raise revenues, the “federal debt is now raising at an unprecedented clip.” [S.Con.Res.83, Vote #74, 3/16/06; Democratic Policy Committee, 3/14/06; Budget Committee Minority Staff, 3/15/06; Washington Post, 3/17/06]

- **McCain Admitted “Did Not Face Up To Reality,” But Voted For It Anyway.** Prior to voting for a Republican budget supported by the president, McCain criticized its accumulation of spending proposals, saying, “we’re not yet ready to face up to the realities of having to make some tough decisions.” After making the statement, McCain, “eyeing a run for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination, joined the majority leader in voting for the budget resolution, which passed 51 to 49.” The budget proposal supported by McCain and the republicans was a “\$2.8-trillion annual budget that would boost funding for a number of politically popular domestic programs” including “guidelines for future legislation and “a new effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, a measure long sought by President Bush.” [Los Angeles Times, 3/17/06]

Reagan Legacy

McCain Said He Was Right In 2001, Cited Need For Spending Restraint, And Being Part Of Reagan Revolution. On MSNBC’s Meet the Press, McCain defended his vote against Bush’s tax cuts in 2001. He said, “And let me go back to 2001 again. I was right, we had to have restraint of spending. I’m proud to have been one in the Reagan revolution where we not only cut taxes, which I’m proud to have supported and I have a record of it, but we restrained spending. And when you have tax cuts and not restrain spending and let things go completely out of control, as we did, look, we lost the 2006 election because we didn’t restrain spending. So I not only didn’t--had a different set of tax cut proposals, which were very strong, but I also had restraint of spending.” [Meet The Press, 1/27/08]

McCain Said He Was Proud To Be Part Of Reagan Tax Cut “Revolution.” At the Fox News Channel Republican presidential forum, McCain said “Well, now when I first came to Congress we were in the middle of the Reagan revolution and I was proud to be a foot soldier in that revolution and we cut taxes. But we cut spending and Ronald Reagan insisted that we cut spending because he knew that it was vital if we’re going to keep the deficit down and not have the fiscal difficulties we have today, we had to cut spending.” [Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, 1/6/08; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

- **The Reagan Spending Legacy: Only Good When Compared to Bush.** From 1981 to 1990 government spending increased from \$678 billion to nearly \$1.3 billion per year. From 1981 to 1990 the federal deficit increased from \$79 billion to \$221 billion per year. White House Office of Management and Budget, Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2007 [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/pdf/hist.pdf>], Table 1/1; GOP Public Information, 1/6/08]
- **The Debt Gap: Republican Administrations’ Red Ink Nearly 10 Times As High As Democratic Administrations.** “The U.S. government has borrowed over \$5 trillion from the public in the past thirty years. In 2007, American taxpayers will pay \$235 billion in net interest payments to service this debt, or 9.1 cents on every dollar of government revenues. Over the past thirty years, public borrowing has averaged \$233 billion per year under Republican administrations compared to \$26 billion per year under Democratic ones – nine times as high.” [Report of the Senate Joint Economic Committee and the House Budget Committee, 9/12/2007, <http://jec.senate.gov/Documents/Releases/08.28.07%20Poverty%20Report%20Release.pdf>; GOP Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain: “Wartime Has Been A Time Of Sacrifice”

Wartime Responsibility: McCain Opposed Cutting Taxes During Wartime. “Senator McCain, who spent five years in a North Vietnamese prison, excoriated fellow Republican for pushing more tax cuts while U.S. troops are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. ‘Throughout our history, wartime has been a time of sacrifice...What have we sacrificed?’ McCain said. ‘As mind-boggling as expanding Medicare has been, nothing tops my confusion for cutting taxes during wartime. I don’t remember ever in the history of warfare when we cut taxes.’” [AP, 5/19/04; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

- **McCain Proposes Unlimited Presence In Iraq Despite Huge Deficits. Cost of Current Obligation Outstrips All Other Proposals.** McCain interrupted a voter during a town hall meeting in New Hampshire telling him we should “make it a hundred” years in Iraq and “that would be fine with me.” After the town hall meeting, he told a reporter “that U.S. troops could be in Iraq for ‘a thousand years’ or ‘a million years,’ as far as he was concerned.” [McCain Derry, NH town hall meeting, 1/3/08; motherjones.com , 1/3/08] The cost of the current actions in Iraq has boomed from \$50 billion to \$1.2 trillion. Enough to pay for universal health care, universal preschool and implementing every recommendation of the 9/11 commission, and still have more than \$50 billion left. [New York Times, 1/17/07; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

Consistently Voted To Spend More And More On Defense Spending...

McCain Voted for \$70B for Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq With No Conditions. In 2007, McCain voted for a amendment to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill to provide \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with no conditions. A “yea” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion passed 70-25. [Council for a Livable World; CQ Floor Votes; HR 2764, [Vote #439](#), 12/18/07]

McCain Failed to Vote to Proceed on \$50B Funding for Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would appropriate \$50 billion in emergency supplemental funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for fiscal 2008. The bill would require troops to begin withdrawing from Iraq within 30 days of enactment, with a goal of withdrawing most troops by Dec. 15, 2008. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 53-45. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 4156, [Vote #411](#), 11/16/07]

McCain Failed to Vote on Motion to Proceed to Appropriate Funds for Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., motion to proceed to the bill that would appropriate \$70 billion in emergency supplemental funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for fiscal 2008. A “yea” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 45-53. [CQ Floor Votes; S 2340, [Vote #410](#), 11/16/07]

McCain Voted Against The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill. Senator McCain voted against the emergency supplemental appropriations bill that provided funding for the troops in Iraq as well as a plan for withdrawal. McCain voted nay. [H.R.1591, [Vote # 126](#), 3/29/07, passed 51-47]

McCain Voted For \$82 Billion In Emergency Supplemental Spending For FY ‘05. In 2005, McCain voted for \$82 billion in emergency supplemental spending for FY05, including funding for military operations, reconstruction and security in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill passed 100-0. [HR 1268, [Vote #117](#), 5/10/05]

McCain Voted To Authorize An Additional \$25 Billion For Military Operations In Iraq And Afghanistan. In 2004, McCain voted for the Warner Amendment that would authorize an additional \$25 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amendment passed 95-0. [S 2400, [Vote #106](#), 6/2/04]

McCain Voted For Passage Of \$86.5 Billion In Emergency Spending For Military Operations And Reconstruction In Iraq And Afghanistan. In 2003, McCain voted for passage of the bill that would appropriate \$86.5 billion in fiscal 2004 supplemental spending for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill passed 87-12. [S 1689, [Vote #400](#), 10/17/03]

...WHILE REJECTING PROPOSALS TO MONITOR SPENDING OR GENERATE REVENUE

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Submit A Budget For Military Operations In Iraq and Afghanistan for the Following Year. In 2003, McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table the Dorgan amendment which requires the President to submit a budget amendment for FY 2004, which sets forth the cost of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The motion passed 53-41. [HR 2658, [Vote #278](#), 7/16/03]

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Seek Congressional Approval To Spend \$20 Billion On Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted to kill an amendment that would require the President to seek Congressional approval through the appropriations process to spend \$20 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq. The motion passed 49-46. [S 1689, [Vote #398](#), 10/17/03; Congressional Record, 10/17/03]

McCain Voted Against Forcing Bush To Offset Spending for the War In Iraq By Increasing Revenues. In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would express the sense of the Senate that the President should, within 60 days of enactment, submit a proposal to the Senate Finance Committee to raise sufficient revenues to offset the funds spent in this bill for the war in Iraq; and if the President does not submit such a proposal, the Finance Committee should put forward its own proposal. The motion to table the amendment passed 79-18. [S.Amdt. 479 to S. 762, [Vote #121](#), 4/03/03; Hollings Floor Statement, CR page, S4781, 4/3/03]

McCain Voted Against Reducing Top Tax Cuts To Pay For \$87 Billion Request for Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table Biden, et al., amendment, which reduces tax cuts for top income tax rates from 2005-2010 in order to fund \$87 billion requested for Iraq. The motion passed 57-42. [S 1689, [Vote #373](#), 10/2/03]

Campaign Finance And Election Reform

McCain Introduced Legislation To Regulate 527s, Allowed For 501(c) Loophole.

On April 5, 2006, McCain introduced the 527 Reform Act of 2006, which was referred to committee. The bill was written to include 527s into the scope of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. The bill specifies that nothing within it should be construed “as affecting the determination of whether a group organized under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is a political committee[.]” [109th Congress, S. 2511, 4/5/06; thomas.loc.gov, 4/13/06]

- **McCain-Supported House Bill Would Limit 527s And Eliminate Restrictions On Coordination Between Parties And Candidates – To The Benefit Of The Republican 2008 Nominee.** McCain supported a bill passed in the House that would “sharply limit contributions to nonprofit advocacy groups” that operate under the “527” IRS tax code. “The measure would cap individual contributions to so-called 527 groups, which draw their name from a provision in the tax code, to \$25,000 a year for activities intended to mobilize voters behind issues, as opposed to specific candidates.” The bill that House Republicans and McCain agreed upon would “eliminate restrictions on coordination between national parties and federal candidates, a change in the law that would be of great benefit to the winner of the 2008 GOP presidential primary.” The change in the law “would be a boon to McCain’s campaign, if he wins his party’s nomination,” according to both Republican and Democratic campaign finance experts. [New York Times, 4/6/06; The Hill, 4/6/06]

McCain Proposed Strict 527 Reforms And Prepared Them For Constitutional Challenge.

McCain “has unveiled a proposal to limit donations to 527 organizations to \$25,000 per person each year, or \$50,000 each election cycle, that if enacted could be a huge blow to the groups’ hopes of being a force in the 2006 elections. Those groups raised and spent more than \$500 million in the previous cycle...In addition to the \$50,000 cap on donations, McCain’s proposal also would require 527 organizations to use ‘hard money’ raised under federal campaign limits to pay for certain campaign activities. McCain also included a provision allowing a speedy judicial review of the proposal if it becomes law and is challenged on constitutional grounds.” [Roll Call, 3/14/06]

McCain Sided With Conservative Lobbying Group Against Reporting Requirements For Grassroots Advocacy.

Conservative grassroots activists, including Grover Norquist, formed LobbySense, a non-profit group aimed to “take on lobbying reform proposals that call for increased disclosure for the lobbying activities of certain grassroot groups, coalitions and associations,” championed by McCain. The spokesperson for LobbySense, Kerri Houston said that “her group is lobbying McCain’s office to consider redrafting their legislation to reflect the groups concerns,” and McCain seemed to have agreed with their opposition. Facing increasing opposition from groups such as LobbySense, “McCain, a leader in the push for the grassroots advocacy reporting] legislation, said he was ambivalent about the reporting requirement for citizen advocacy groups. ‘I don’t want it to take down the whole legislation,’ he said.” [White House Bulletin, 2/22/06; Los Angeles Times, 3/8/06]

McCain’s Lobbying Reform Bill Proposed Disclosure Of Grass-Roots Lobbying Activities, Travel And Gift Restrictions, But Fell Short Of Feingold’s Proposed Reforms.

“Sen. John McCain (R) of Arizona proposed greater disclosure of lobbyists’ activities, including for the first time those of grass-roots lobbying firms. His bill also mandates tighter restrictions on travel, gifts, and other favors lobbyists give lawmakers. Former members would have to wait two years instead of one before lobbying lawmakers. Rep. Christopher Shays (R) of Connecticut has introduced similar legislation in the House. Though Senator McCain and Sen. Russ Feingold (D) of Wisconsin worked together on campaign-finance reform, they have taken different paths on lobbying. Senator Feingold’s bill on lobbying and ethics reform, introduced in July, is more restrictive than McCain’s.” [Christian Science Monitor, 1/9/06]

Campaign Finance

FEC Chairman Denied McCain's Request To Withdraw From Public Financing. The FEC has sent McCain a letter stating that the commission had not granted his request to withdraw from the presidential public financing system. The FEC lacks quorum, and the chairman said McCain could not be released from the system until the senate confirms President Bush's nominees. If McCain knowingly exceeds spending limits, he could face up to five years in prison. [[Washington Post, 2/22/08; FEC](#)]

McCain Pressured Obama To Accept Public Financing. In a series of speeches, McCain pressed Barack Obama to accept public financing for the general election. McCain said, "I think the American people would expect him to hold to that commitment, especially if we want to bring about change." In response to Obama's op-ed, McCain said, "That's Washington doublespeak, I committed to public financing. He committed to public financing. It's not any more complicated than that. I'll keep my word, and I want him to keep his." [[Associated Press, 2/20/08](#)]

FEC Sent Letter To McCain Inquiring Whether He Used Taxpayers As Collateral For Campaign Loan. According to the *Associated Press*, "Federal Election Commission Chairman David Mason, in a letter to McCain this week, said the all-but-certain Republican nominee needs to assure the commission that he did not use the promise of public money to help secure a \$4 million line of credit he obtained in November." [[Associated Press, 2/21/08](#)]

McCain Raised \$11.7 Million In January. According to the *Boston Globe*, "John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, reported raising \$11.7 million last month and borrowing \$950,000." McCain had nearly \$3 million cash on hand at the end of January. [[Boston Globe, 2/20/08](#)]

NYT: McCain Should Reveal Personal Finances. A *New York Times* editorial pressed John McCain to disclose his personal finances and tax returns. It reads, "Both Senator John McCain, the Republican front-runner, and [Clinton] owe it to their parties and to voters to promptly make available their Internal Revenue Service filings, and to respond to any questions about them." Additionally, it said, "Senator McCain has yet to release his tax returns, a strange omission for a candidate with a record of supporting strong government ethics measures." [[New York Times, 2/15/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Attempted To Lure Obama Into Accepting Public Financing. John McCain's presidential campaign attempted to lure Obama into restating his earlier pledge to accept public financing if the GOP candidate did. A McCain adviser said, "It's not a game to McCain. Mr. Obama gave his word, and he either places value on that or he's just fooling voters." [[New York Times, 2/15/08](#)]

McCain Claimed Lobbyists Donated To His Campaign Because They're "Tired" Of Having Influence. While appearing on *Hardball* on MSNBC, McCain was asked how he explains taking lobbyist money at a fundraiser while claiming to fight their influence. McCain answered, "Because a lot of these guys that are going to be showing up, and women who are going to be showing up there . . . are sick and tired of it, too. They're tired of being dunned for all this money. They're tired of getting - having money being the reason why their legislation gets through or not, rather than virtue." [[Washington Times, 2/11/00](#)]

Record-Breaking Bush Fundraiser Signed Up with McCain. On February 12, McCain "announced that Mercer Reynolds, who helped Mr. Bush raise a record \$273 million for the 2004 re-election campaign, would be the national co-chairman for Mr. McCain." [[New York Times, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Planning Privileges for Top Fundraisers. "Mr. McCain's advisers said that the senator's campaign would also be bestowing titles on its most prolific fund-raisers under an 'incentive system,' with privileges for those who raised the most money." [[New York Times, 2/13/08](#)]

McCain Received \$100,000 From Abramoff's Lobbying Firm. According to the *Huffington Post*, "A review of campaign finance filings shows that the Arizona Republican has accepted more than \$100,000 in donations from employees of Greenberg Traurig, the very firm where Abramoff once reigned." Among the companies represented by McCain's lobbyist donors are, "NewsCorp, Rupert Murdoch's media empire; Spi Spirits, a Cyprus based company that has fought with the Russian government for the rights to the Stolichnaya vodka brand name; El Paso Corp, a major energy company; General Motors; and the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, a group of businesses and trade associations "concerned" about the shortage of lesser skilled and unskilled labor." [Huffington Post, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Rejects Primary Public Funds. "Sen. John McCain, a passionate advocate of limits on campaign finances, is turning down government matching funds for the primary to free him to spend more money as he prepares for a general election contest. McCain, who appears headed to win the Republican presidential nomination, sent letters to the Federal Election Commission and the Treasury Department notifying them of his decision to withdraw from the presidential election financing system." [Associated Press, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain May Hurt GOP Fundraising With Evangelicals. The nomination of John McCain may thrust financial hardship on the Republican party, which has relied on evangelical financial support for decades. Historian Fred Siegel wrote, "Politics is a business. McCain is bad for people whose business it is to act as intermediaries between the social conservatives and the GOP." For them, he says, McCain's nomination could well be a revolution because "they will have lost control of the funding mechanism." [U.S News & World Report, [2/8/08](#)]

Karl Rove Donated \$2,300 to McCain. Karl Rove donated \$2,300 to McCain's presidential campaign. [[TIME, 2/8/08](#)]

McCain Scheduled To Attend Fundraiser in Seattle. McCain's campaign announced that McCain "will address a closed [\$2,300 a plate] fundraising event at the Westin Seattle Hotel." [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain Decided to Forgo Public Funds. McCain, a staunch advocate of reducing money's power in politics, has decided to forgo matching public funds for the general election. According to *Politico*, "the Arizona Senator's rejection of the presidential public financing program he once defended is just the latest evidence of how ineffective the post-Watergate reform has become in an era of multimillion-dollar candidacies. [[Politico, 2/4/08](#)]

Washington Establishment Donated to McCain. According to the *Washington Post*, Republicans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area donated more money to McCain than to any of his rivals. McCain raised \$2.6 million in the region, followed by \$2.3 million and just under \$2 million for Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, respectively. [[Washington Post, 2/3/08](#)]

McCain Took \$3 Million Loan to Keep Campaign Afloat. After his campaign went into debt, McCain secured "\$3 million line of credit from Fidelity & Trust Bank in Bethesda in November," with "the chief asset among \$5 million pledged as collateral was McCain's huge fundraising lists." Between November 18 and December 16, "McCain drew \$2.97 million." [[Washington Post, 2/1/08](#)]

- **Republican Campaign Finance Lawyer Criticized Loan.** "Clea Mitchell, a Republican campaign finance lawyer who has been a critic of McCain's, said she believes the arrangement raises serious questions. 'Did they base this loan on the fact that, even if he lost, he would still be a sitting senator and able to raise money?' she asked. 'In my mind, that raises questions about whether he complied with Senate ethics rules,' which bar members from using their position to negotiate financial terms that an average citizen could not." [[Washington Post, 2/1/08](#)]

McCain Has Raised \$1 Million Per Day Since New Hampshire Win. John McCain's presidential campaign has raised approximately one million dollars per day since McCain's win in the New Hampshire primary. [[Guardian, 2/1/08](#)]

McCain's Disclosure of Lobbyist Fundraising Worse than Bush-Cheney. Public Citizen has found that “when it comes to disclosing how much lobbyists are raising for his presidential campaign,” McCain “has fallen short, even by standards set by the Bush/Cheney 2004 campaign which voluntarily disclosed on its Web site the names of bundlers who raised at least \$100,000 and \$200,000.” [[ABC News](#), 1/29/08]

McCain Gained Financial Momentum After New Hampshire, Florida Wins. McCain’s campaign said money has been ‘pouring in’ since his New Hampshire win. The campaign expected continued fundraising success in the wake of the Florida primary and recent endorsements. [[The Arizona Republic](#), 1/31/08]

McCain Fundraising Event Claimed 24 Lobbyist Co-Chairmen. 24 Washington lobbyists were listed as co-chairmen of a recent McCain fundraiser at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in Washington, D.C. [[ABC News](#), January 29, 2008]

- **McCain’s Campaign Relies on 59 Lobbyist Fundraisers.** [[whitehouseforsale.org](#), Accessed January 30, 2008; [ABC News.com](#), January 29, 2008]

McCain Appoints Abramoff-linked Senator to Campaign Leadership Post. John McCain has appointed Conrad Burns, former GOP Senator from Montana, to lead his campaign in that state. Burns lost his 2006 re-election race to Jon Tester, and was once under investigation for suspected links with convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. [[Raw Story](#), January 29, 2008]

McCain Has Raised More Than 7 Million Dollars In January 2008. According to the Associated Press, McCain has raised more than \$7 million during the month of January 2008. According to the AP, McCain took in more in the three weeks than he raised during a three month period in 2007. The AP reported, “McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker said McCain has expanded his total base of contributors to more than 110,000 donors and raised \$3 million online. McCain raised \$5.7 million between July 1 and Sept. 30.” McCain has also qualified for public matching funds. [[Associated Press](#), [1/24/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Ends Year with Debt. According to the *Associated Press*, McCain ended 2007 with \$3 million cash on hand and a \$4.5 million debt. During the last quarter of 2007, McCain raised \$6.7 million and borrowed an additional \$3 million. However, McCain claims to have raised \$7 million in the first three weeks of 2008 and is expected to see a sudden influx of donations after his win in Florida. [[Associated Press](#), January 30, 2008]

McCain Raised \$6.7 Million During 4th Quarter of 2007. According to the *Associated Press*, “McCain’s end-of-year financial reports” filed with the FEC “showed he raised \$6.7 million during the last three months of 2007 and borrowed \$3 million.” [[Associated Press](#), 1/30/08]

McCain Spent Nearly \$9.5 Million During 4th Quarter of 2007. According to the *Associated Press*, the McCain Campaign “spent nearly \$9.5 million during” the fourth quarter of 2007, “with \$4.3 million devoted to advertising.” [[Associated Press](#), 1/30/08]

McCain Raised \$1M Over One Night In N.Y., On Giuliani’s Political Turf. The *New York Times* reported that in just one night, in Manhattan’s St. Regis Hotel, the McCain campaign raised up to \$1 million “in the center of Rudolf W. Giuliani’s political turf.” [[New York Times](#), [1/23/08](#)]

- **McCain Released List Of New York Supporters.** According to the *New York Times*, McCain’s campaign released a list of his high profile New York supporters who include: former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger; Peter G. Peterson, a co-founder of the Blackstone Group and a former secretary of commerce; Michael C. Finnegan, once a counsel to former Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. According to the *Times*, Edward F. Cox, a son-in-law of President Richard M. Nixon and a senior partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, Mr. Giuliani’s former law firm, is the chairman of Mr. McCain’s campaign in New York. [[New York Times](#), [1/23/08](#)]

McCain Raised \$5.7M In 3rd Quarter, December Was Best Fundraising Month Since June. According to the *Arizona Republic*, McCain raised \$5.7 million in the third quarter and continued to carry debt from his free-spending days. Also according to the *Arizona Republic*, “Rick Davis, [McCain’s] national campaign manager, negotiated a \$3 million line of credit for the campaign to help with priorities.” While McCain also remained eligible for federal primary matching funds, he had not tapped then. Doing so would subject him to spending limits. McCain’s campaign manager said that December was McCain’s best fundraising month since June. [[Arizona Republic, 1/10/08](#)]

Novak: McCain’s PAC Obtained Bush’s Major Donor Direct Mail List, Sent Fundraising Letters.

“Major political contributors to George W. Bush who have never given a dime to prospective 2008 Republican presidential candidate John McCain received letters, dated Feb. 8, asking for donations to the senator’s Straight Talk America political action committee. Obviously using President Bush’s direct mail list, the letter signed by McCain asks for \$1,000 or \$1,500 to support candidates agreeing with McCain on ‘key issues.’ It specifically lists ‘limiting federal spending, immigration reform, military readiness, global climate change, Social Security reform, reining-in lobbyists, reducing the power of the special interests and putting an end to wasteful pork barrel spending by Congress.’ Each recipient received a card to be filled in for McCain’s files. “I’m asking you to update your file card,” requests the letter, though the Bush contributors had no previous card in the senator’s files.” [[Chicago Sun Times, 2/19/06](#)]

McCain Accepted \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. According to Center for Responsive Politics, the numbers “are based on contributions from PACs and individuals giving \$200 or more. All donations took place during the 1989-2008 election cycle and were released by the Federal Election Commission.” [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

Financial Summary: 2008 Presidential Campaign

The following information was provided by CQ MoneyLine, accessed 1/31/08

Ending coverage date: 12/31/07

Beginning cash on hand: \$472,454

Ending cash on hand: \$5,896,854

Debts Owed: \$9,032,060

TOTAL RECEIPTS	
Type	Amount
Total receipts	\$40,383,022
Total individual contributions	\$36,534,073
Total contributions from PACs and candidate committees	\$516,072
Contributions/loans from the candidate	\$0
Contributions from party	\$2,500
Contributions from other politicians PACs	\$58,600
Contributions from other candidates/incumbents	\$25,945

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	
Type	Amount
Total disbursements	\$38,153,795
Contributions to others by this candidate	\$0
Coordinated expenditures	\$0

Independent expenditures	
Support:	\$0
Oppose:	\$108,637

PAC CONTRIBUTIONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Amount
Single-Issue Groups	\$83,500
Law	\$60,600
Communication, Technology	\$47,000
Finance, Insurance	\$28,500
Business - Retail, Services	\$22,500
Transportation	\$21,600
Health Care	\$21,000
Energy, Natural Resources	\$14,800
Real Estate/Construction	\$14,500
Manufacturing	\$12,000
Defense	\$8,500
City/County	\$5,000
Undetermined	\$5,000
Agriculture	\$3,300
Organized Labor	\$2,500
Miscellaneous	\$2,000

2007 FOURTH QUARTER FIGURES

Type	Amount
Total receipts	\$9,969,292
Total individual contributions	\$6,781,807
Total contributions from PACs and candidate committees	\$54,265
Transfers from McCain's Senate Account	\$1,056,001
Loans received from or guaranteed by candidate	\$2,971,697
Total disbursements	\$10,509,492

TOP CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE, DATE AND EMPLOYER / OCCUPATION

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE

State	Amount
California	\$4,605,645
New York	\$3,598,934
Arizona	\$2,750,997
Texas	\$2,478,975
Florida	\$2,209,205
Virginia	\$1,764,921
New Jersey	\$1,203,031
Michigan	\$1,079,997
Connecticut	\$1,061,752
Illinois	\$1,090,964

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY DATE

Date	Amount
3/31/2007 (1,043)	\$1,342,427
6/30/2007 (825)	\$932,214
3/30/2007 (588)	\$802,135
9/30/2007 (756)	\$600,331
3/23/2007 (421)	\$466,210
2/28/2007 (366)	\$452,137
3/2/2007 (282)	\$443,450
6/26/2007 (385)	\$422,683
3/16/2007 (296)	\$420,700
3/14/2007 (274)	\$406,800

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION

Employer	Amount
Retired (7,483)	\$4,126,847
Homemaker (2,032)	\$2,662,599
Not reported (2,634)	\$1,484,070
Self-Employed / Attorney (558)	\$425,228
Self-Employed / Investor (257)	\$287,326
Self-Employed / Physician (389)	\$263,177
Self-Employed / Consultant (268)	\$209,900
Student (158)	\$186,433
Self-Employed (188)	\$150,435
Self-Employed / Real Estate (118)	\$114,436

2008 ELECTION CYCLE PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

PAC	Amount	Industry
Advanced Medical Options Inc PAC	\$5,000	Healthcare
Advanced Micro Devices Inc. PAC	\$1,000	Communication,
AGL Resources Inc. – PAC	\$500	Energy, Natural Resources
Airborne Freight Corporation PAC (ABXPAC)	\$2,100	Transportation
Airtran Airways Inc PAC	\$2,500	Transportation
Alabama Aircraft Industries Inc PAC	\$5,000	Defense
Albanian American Public Affairs Committee	\$5,000	Single Issue Group
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry PAC	\$5,000	Health Care
American Congress on Surveying and Mapping	\$1,000	Real Estate / Construction

American Waterways Operators – PAC	\$1,000	Transportation
Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc. PAC	\$5,000	Alcohol
APL Limited PAC	\$1,000	Transportation
AT&T Federal PAC	\$10,000	Communication,
AT&T Mobility LLC Employee PAC	\$0***	Communication,
Baker Botts Bluebonnet Fund	\$5,000	Law
Baker Manock & Jensen, A Professional	\$500	Law
Bank of New York Mellon Corporation Federal	\$5,000	Finance, Insurance
Bankunited Financial Corporation PAC	\$3,000	Finance, Insurance
Bingham McCutchen LLP PAC	\$2,000	Law
Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina	\$5,000	Health Care
Butler Snow PAC	\$4,600	Law
Ben Nighthorse Campbell, via Campbell for	\$2,300	Candidate's Committee
Chesapeake Energy Corporation FED-PAC	\$1,000	Energy, Natural Resources
Citizen Beztak	\$5,000***	Single Issue Group
Citizens Financial Group Inc. Political	\$1,000	Finance, Insurance
Clark Hill Federal PAC	\$1,000	Law
Comerica Inc. PAC	\$5,000	Finance, Insurance
Commerce Bancs PAC	\$1,000	Finance, Insurance
Commerce, Hope, Innovation & Progress PAC	\$4,600	Leadership PAC
Committee to Draft John McCain	\$400	
Consumer Electronics Association PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
Contran Corporation PAC	\$5,000	Manufacturing
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste	\$1,000	Single Issue Group
Dallas Entrepreneur PAC	\$5,000	Single Issue Group
Democracy Believers PAC	\$2,000	Single Issue Group
Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, via Lincoln Diaz-	\$2,000	Candidate's Committee
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, via Mario Diaz-Balart	\$2,000	Candidate's Committee
DLA Piper U.S. PAC	\$5,000	Law
Drummond Company Inc. PAC	\$1,000	Energy, Natural Resources
Echostar Communications Corporation PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
Enersys PAC	5,000	Manufacturing
Exelon Corporation PAC	\$5,000	Energy, Natural Resources
Fidelity National Financial Inc. PAC 2001	\$0***	Finance, Insurance
Fowler White Boggs Banker PA And Suncoast	\$5,000	Law
Fulbright	\$1,000	Law
Fund for America's Future (Sen. Lindsey	\$5,000	Leadership PAC
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP PAC	\$5,000	Law
GoDaddy.com Inc. PAC	\$0***	Communication,
Heartland Values PAC (Sen. John Thune)	\$5,000	Leadership PAC
IDT Corporation PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
Impact America	\$10,000	Single Issue Group
International Bank of Commerce Committee for	\$5,000	Finance, Insurance
International Game Technology (IGT) PAC	\$5,000	Business – Retail, Services
International Union of Operating Engineers	\$2,500	Organized Labor
IRL PAC (Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen)	\$2,000	Leadership PAC
Irvine Company Employees PAC, The	\$5,000	Real Estate / Construction

Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer	\$3,000	Law
Jim Beam Brands Co. PAC	\$2,500	Alcohol
Jones International LTD PAC	\$1,000	Communication,
Keyspan Corporation PAC (KEYPAC)	\$1,000	Energy, Natural Resources
Rep. Ray LaHood, via Friends of Ray LaHood	\$2,000	
Latino Alliance	\$4,300	Single Issue Group
Latino Christian Political Committee	\$2,000	Single Issue Group
Lent & Scrivner PAC	\$2,000	Law
Lincoln Club of Orange County Federal PAC,	\$5,000	Single Issue Group
MacAndrews And Forbes Holdings Inc. PAC	\$5,000	Finance, Insurance
Maersk Inc. Good Government Fund	\$5,000	Transportation
Masco PAC	\$1,000	Real Estate / Construction
Maverick PAC USA	\$5,000	Single Issue Group
Maynard Cooper And Gale PC PAC	\$500	Law
John McCain's Senate Campaign Account	\$1,050,00	
McGuireWoods LLP	\$1,000	Law
MGM Mirage PAC	\$10,000	Business – Retail, Services
National Apartment Association PAC	\$5,000	Real Estate / Construction
National Bank of South Carolina PAC, The	\$2,500	Finance, Insurance
National Cable and Telecommunications	\$5,000	Communication,
Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough Federal	\$5,000	Law
New Jersey Medical PAC	\$1,000	Health Care
New Republican Majority Fund (Sen. Trent	\$5,000	
Next Century Fund (Sen. Richard Burr)	\$5,000	
Northern Trust Company Good Government	\$1,000	Finance, Insurance
O'Melveny & Myers PAC	\$5,000	Law
Ohio S 17 Star PAC	\$5,000	Single Issue Group
Patriot Fund (Rep. Rick Renzi)	\$2,000	
Pequot PAC	\$0***	Business – Retail, Services
Piedmont Natural Gas PAC	\$1,300***	Energy, Natural Resources
Pinnacle West Capital Corporation PAC	\$5,000	
Qualcomm Incorporated PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
Qwest Communications International Inc. PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
Recreational Fishing Alliance PAC	\$2,000	Miscellaneous
Renew America PAC (ex-Sen. Alfonse D'Amato)	\$1,000	
Republican Member Senate Fund	\$2,000	Single Issue Group
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, via Ros-Lehtinen for	\$2,000	
RPM International Inc. Manufacturing in	\$2,000	Manufacturing
Salt River Valley Water Users' Association	\$5,000	City / County
Sandler Travis and Rosenberg P.A. PAC	\$2,000	Law
Senate Majority Fund (Sen. Jon Kyl)	\$5,000	
Rep. Chris Shays, via Christopher Shays for	\$2,300	
Rep. John Shimkus, via Volunteers for Shimkus	\$2,000	
SI International Inc. PAC	\$3,500	Defense
Nick Smith, via My Committee Nick Smith for	\$1,000	
Smithfield Foods Inc. PAC	\$2,300	Agriculture
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP PAC	\$2,000	Law

South Financial Group Inc. Good Government	\$1,000	Finance, Insurance
Southwest Gas Corporation PAC	\$2,500	Energy, Natural Resources
SSA Marine Inc. Good Government Fund	\$5,000	Transportation
SSL Political Action Committee	\$3,000	Law
William Henry Szych, via Billy Szych for	\$345	
T-Mobile USA Inc. PAC	\$2,500	Communication,
Former Rep. Billy Tauzin, via Billy Tauzin	\$1,000	
Tria Hospitals Inc. Good Government Fund	\$5,000	Health Care
Trust PAC Team Republicans for Utilizing	\$5,000	
United States Telecom Association PAC	\$5,000	Communication,
UST Inc. Executives Administrators And	\$1,000	Agriculture
Verizon Communication Inc. Good Govt Club	\$5,000	Communication,
Watkins Associated Industries Inc. Employees	\$5,000	Transportation
Westfield Development Inc. PAC	\$2,500	Real Estate / Construction
Weston Solutions Inc. PAC	\$2,500	Energy, Natural Resources
Winstead PC PAC	\$2,500	Law
Winthrop & Weinstine P.A. Political Fund	\$500	Law
Wolf Block Federal PAC	\$5,000	Law

All Cycle Contributions By Industry

The following information was provided by the Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08:

METHODOLOGY: The numbers on this page are based on contributions from PACs and individuals giving \$200 or more. All donations took place during the 1989-2008 election cycle and were released by the Federal Election Commission.

McCain Accepted \$704,796 from Insurance Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted \$704,796 from the insurance industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Accepted \$689,704 from the Lobbying Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted \$689,704 from the lobbying industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Accepted \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

McCain Accepted \$443,869 from Defense Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$443,869 from the defense industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Accepted \$265,093 from the Pharmaceutical Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$265,093 from the pharmaceutical industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Beholden to Communications Industry Special Interests

McCain Lied About Taking Money From Special Interests. During at town hall meeting in New Hampshire, McCain told the audience that, "I'm the only one the special interests don't give any money to." According to the

Center for Responsive Politics McCain has received \$1.2 million in campaign contributions from the telecommunications industry. [Think Progress, [2/21/08](#)]

McCain has Taken Hundreds-of-Thousands from Top Telecom Companies. McCain has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars in special interest contributions from the telecommunications industry, including more than \$145,000 from America's six largest telecommunications companies alone – Verizon, AT&T, Sprint-Nextel, Comcast, Bell South and Qwest. [Analysis of CQ Moneyline data, 1985-2007; [Fortune](#), 7/26/06]

McCain Took Over \$55,000 from Communications Industry Special Interests in 2007 Alone. In 2007 alone, McCain took over \$55,000 from special interests representing the communications and telecommunications industries for his presidential campaign. As a member of the powerful Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, McCain regulates and oversees these industries. [FEC, accessed 2/1/08]

McCain's Special Interest Donors are Lobbying for Retroactive Immunity in Domestic Spying. The telecommunications industry, specifically “AT&T and Verizon,” the nation’s two largest telephone companies, “have been lobbying hard to insulate themselves from suits over their reported roles” in participating in President Bush’s “secretly approved” NSA eavesdropping program initiated after 9/11. [[New York Times](#), 10/23/07]

Verizon Lobbyist is Former McCain Staffer, Campaigned in NH for McCain. Robert Fisher, “who is a federal government relations vice president at Verizon” and a lobbyist, “spent six years working for McCain, the one-time chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.” Fisher “booked a trip to New Hampshire to volunteer for the presidential campaign of his one-time boss,” using vacation days. [[Roll Call](#), 12/3/07]

McCain Introduced “Statewide Franchise” Legislation Supported by Verizon and Opposed by Consumer Groups and Local Governments. BellSouth and Verizon support state legislative efforts “which would relieve companies from having to strike agreements with local governments to sell cable TV service,” effectively allowing a company to cherry-pick the neighborhoods it wants to service. Big cable companies, such as Comcast and Adelphia, which are bound by that method, are fearful that the telecommunications companies will target their business. The president of the Florida Cable and Telecommunications Association warned of the telecomm industry’s might: “The phone companies are a formidable lobby, so I would never underestimate what they could do.” Of course, McCain sponsored federal legislation on “statewide-franchising” which would give telecomm companies more leeway in entering the cable industry. [[Palm Beach Post](#), 3/4/06]

McCain Is Perceived As An Ally Of The Telecommunications Industry. *The Hill* wrote, “Supporters note a list of positives: McCain is perceived as an ally of telecommunications companies and supports free trade.” [[The Hill](#), [2/11/08](#)]

McCain CONNECTION TO BIG PHARMA

McCain Bundler is President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. Richard L. Boals, president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, is a McCain bundler and long-time supporter. In addition to bundling contributions for McCain’s presidential bid, Boals has given McCain \$6,200 over the years for his campaigns and \$1,000 to his PAC. His wife, Maryglen Boals, has also given McCain \$2,300 for his presidential bid.

- **Boals Favored Higher Co-Pays to Discourage Doctor Visits.** “When they have a \$5 co-pay to go to a doctor, it’s not an incentive for them to ask whether or not this runny nose really requires a physician visit,” Boals, then chief operating officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, said in 1999. [[Arizona Republic](#), 10/31/99]

McCain CONNECTION TO WALL STREET

McCain AND THE ABRAMOFF SCANDAL

Abramoff's Lobbying Firm is McCain's Biggest Corporate Contributor. Employees at Greenberg Traurig, the lobbying firm where Jack Abramoff worked, have given more money to John McCain this election cycle than those from any other single company or firm. In 2007 alone, 68 Greenberg Traurig employees contributed a total of \$106,637 to McCain's presidential campaign. Among those giving to McCain were Greenberg Traurig CEO Cesar Alvarez and Greenberg Traurig President Matthew Gorson, each of whom contributed \$4,600 – the maximum for both the primary and general elections. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/7/08]

- **Former Congressman and Greenberg Traurig Lobbyist Serves as McCain Bundler.** Former Rep. Matt Salmon, who served three terms representing Arizona's 1st congressional district and was later a Phoenix-based lobbyist for Greenberg Traurig, is a John McCain bundler. He personally gave McCain \$2,550 in 2007. Salmon has since left the lobbying firm. [Public Citizen, accessed 2/7/08; CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/7/08]
- **McCain Received Large Number of Greenberg Traurig Donations on Single Day.** McCain received \$42,958 in campaign contributions from Greenberg Traurig employees on May 1, 2007. The vast majority of these contributors listed addresses in the New York metropolitan area, suggesting they all may have attended a high-priced McCain fundraiser in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/7/08]

RELATIONSHIP WITH LOBBYISTS

Charles Black Admitted To Lobbying By Telephone From The Straight Talk Express. According to the *Washington Post*, McCain adviser Charles Black admitted to lobbying lawmakers via phone from McCain's "Straight Talk Express" campaign bus. [[Washington Post, 2/22/08](#)]

McCain's Campaign Meeting Resembled Lobbyist Roundtable. When McCain met with his closest campaign advisers in Arizona, "virtually every one was part of the Washington lobbying culture he has long decried." According to the *Washington Post*, "the fact that lobbyists are essentially running his presidential campaign... seems to some people to be at odds with his anti-lobbying rhetoric. [[Washington Post, 2/22/08](#)]

Lobbyist: McCain Is The Lesser Of Three Evils. Even though McCain has claimed to fight special interests, they still prefer him to Obama or Clinton. *The Hill* wrote that, "K Street's prevailing opinion seems to be that the party faithful will come around, even if some lobbyists hold their noses as they write their checks." [[The Hill, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain Campaign Used 26 Lobbyists as Advisors and Fundraisers. The Center for Responsive Politics said that McCain's campaign had 6 registered lobbyists as campaign advisers or fundraisers in 2007. McCain has pledged to rein in special interests in Washington, but has relied on special interests to run his campaign. [[Bloomberg, 2/4/08](#)]

Conflict of Interest: Five McCain Fundraisers Lobby for Foreign Governments. According to a Center for Investigative Reporting and ABC News analysis, "McCain has five fundraisers who lobby for foreign interests," including lobbyists for Saudi Arabia, Peru, the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, Colombia and Dubai. [[ABC News, 2/1/08](#)]

- **Campaign Chair and Chief Fundraiser Lobbies for Saudi Arabia.** Among McCain's fundraisers who lobby for foreign interests is his "campaign co-chair and chief moneyman, Thomas Loeffler," who "has lobbied for Saudi Arabia for five years. Loeffler, a former congressman and longtime Republican

fundraiser, chairs the firm that helped the Saudi kingdom join the World Trade Organization, fight anti-Saudi legislation and improve its image in the war on terrorism. The Saudi royals paid Loeffler's firm more than \$11 million in two years for its efforts on their behalf." Loeffler said in 2007 that "he would handle 'all of the work' of his firm while working on the McCain campaign. He also said, 'I do not find a conflict of interest at this time.'" [ABC News, 2/1/08]

- **McCain Fundraiser Lobbies for Colombia and Pushes U.S.-Colombia FTA.** Peter Madigan, a lobbyist who "works for the government of Colombia," actively works "to promote a U.S.-Colombia free-trade agreement" and to seek appropriations for the Colombian government. Madigan's firm has even "distributed papers defending Colombian President Alvaro Uribe against allegations of ties to paramilitary groups, and promoting the controversial anti-drug program 'Plan Colombia' as achieving 'strengthening human rights.'" American unions point to Uribe's terrible record on labor and human rights. The AFL-CIO points out that hundreds of trade unionists have been killed in Colombia since he took office in 2002 and his government has done nothing to address the problem. [ABC News, 2/1/08; AFL-CIO, <http://blog.aflcio.org/2007/05/02/no-trade-deal-with-a-corrupt-regime>, 5/2/07]
- **McCain Fundraiser Hired to Fight Child Enslavement Claims.** Peter Madigan, a top McCain fundraiser, lobbies for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE, "facing a class-action lawsuit over alleged enslavement of boys as jockeys in camel races, has hired several top Washington lobbyists and PR firms to present their case to Congress and the public." The lawsuit alleged "that senior ministers from Dubai conspired to force thousands of underage boys to race camels." According to The Hill, "The year-long contract with Johnson Madigan could cost the sheikhs' more than \$800,000. Jeffrey Peck, Sen. Joseph Biden's (D-Del.) former counsel, and Peter Madigan, once a State Department official under the first President Bush, signed the subcontract." [ABC News, 2/1/08; The Hill, 4/4/07]

DESPITE HIS RHETORIC, MCCAIN HAS DONE SPECIAL INTEREST FAVORS

The Keating Five Scandal

McCain met on two occasions with banking regulators to ask them to ease off on Keating. In June 1987, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) joined four other senators in two meetings with regulators at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the agency that oversaw the savings and loan industry. Edwin J. Gray, the board chairman, later told Congress that the Keating Five offered him "a deal" in which Gray would withdraw a regulation that would have forced Keating's bank, Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, California, to divest itself of large real estate holdings. In return, the senators were to persuade Keating to make safer investments in home loans. "It sounded like a quid pro quo," Mr. Gray said of the proposal offered to him by the four Senators. "It was a quid pro quo." (New York Times, November 8, 1989) Although McCain was cleared of criminal wrongdoing, much about the affair, including the fact that senate staffers were explicitly excluded from the meetings, supported the Senate Select Ethics Committee's judgment that McCain had, at a minimum, "exercised poor judgment in the matter." (Public Campaign Action Fund; New York Times, November 17, 1990)

McCain's accepted contributions and Bahamian vacations from Keating before lobbying on his behalf. At the time of McCain's meetings with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, he had received \$112,000 campaign contribution and trips, including vacations to the Bahamas, valued at \$13,433, from donors connected to Keating's Lincoln Savings & Loan. These latter perks included flights on Keating's corporate jet for him and his family. (Public Campaign Action Fund; New York Times, November 18, 1989)

Cablevision

McCain used position as Chairman of Senate Commerce Committee to help Cablevision. According to the Washington Post, "In 2003 and 2004, for example, McCain took two actions favorable to Cablevision, the cable TV company, while Davis, his chief political strategist at the time, solicited the company for a total of \$200,000 for the

Reform Institute, a tax-exempt group that advocated an end to outsize political donations. Davis solicited an initial donation from Cablevision chief Charles Dolan a week after Dolan testified before the Senate Commerce Committee in favor of a position backed by McCain. Davis said there was no connection between the testimony and the solicitation. Less than a year later, McCain wrote to the Federal Communications Commission recommending Cablevision's position on cable pricing, citing Dolan by name. Cablevision followed soon thereafter with a second \$100,000 donation, the Associated Press reported." [Public Campaign Action Fund; Washington Post, 12/31/07]

In addition, McCain championed "a la carte" cable TV pricing that Cablevision wanted. McCain championed "a la carte" cable TV pricing, a policy sought by Cablevision. In July 1998, the senator held a hearing, where he called "a la carte" pricing an "attractive possibility" for lowering prices. He went on to request the General Accounting Office (GAO) to study the issue, as well as Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell to help the GAO. In May 2003, Dolan testified before the Senate Commerce Committee, where McCain was chair, and endorsed a la carte pricing. In May 2004, McCain wrote Powell urging the agency to make a la carte pricing available to customers. In his letter, he quoted Dolan's testimony. Later that year, McCain wrote to Dolan, thanking him for sharing his views on cable pricing and telling him to "feel free to contact me to discuss these issues further." [Public Campaign Action Fund; Associated Press, March 8, 2005]

In 2006, McCain sponsored a bill, S. 3457, that would have provided "a national franchise and regulatory relief to video service providers who offer a-la-carte programming for cable television." That same year, he introduced an amendment in the Senate Commerce Committee that would have required cable companies to offer a la carte programming. The amendment failed. [Public Campaign Action Fund; Daily Variety, June 29, 2006.]

McCain benefits from Cablevision Contributions. Cablevision's Political Action Committee (PAC) and executives have given McCain more than \$36,000 for his campaigns since 1998. This includes \$8,200 from Dolan and his wife, Helen, \$6,200 of which they gave in 2007. [Public Campaign Action Fund; Center for Responsive Politics]

In May 2003, Rick Davis solicited a commitment of \$100,000 a year for McCain's Reform Institute from Dolan. Then, two months later, Cablevision's CSC Holdings donated \$100,000 to the Reform institute. The next August, CSC Holdings donated another \$100,000 to the Reform Institute. [Public Campaign Action Fund; Associated Press, March 8, 2005]

Bankruptcy

McCain supported industry backed bankruptcy bill. John McCain voted in favor of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. The bill, which was the subject of heavy lobbying by the banking industry, disqualified many families from taking advantage of bankruptcy protections that have existed since 1898, imposed significantly higher costs on those that remained eligible, and gave creditors enhanced legal tools to collect assets. The legislation was opposed by numerous law professors and bankruptcy court judges, 104 of which signed a letter predicting that "the deepest hardship" would "be felt in the heartland." [Public Campaign Action Fund; New York Times, April 14, 2005]

McCain took more than \$1 million from banking/credit card industry. Commercial banks and credit card company interests donated \$1,070,550 to McCain's campaigns and PACs between 2000 and 2008. This included \$197,445 for the 2000 election cycle, an additional \$60,450 through 2004, \$153,300 on top of that through 2006, and \$659,325 over the last year while he's run for president. [Public Campaign Action Fund; Center for Responsive Politics]

Many of McCain's bundlers are lobbyists for the banking and credit industries. These include Thomas Loeffler (Citigroup), Peter Madigan (Electronic Payments Coalition), Christine Burgeson (Citigroup), and Phil Gramm (UBS). [Public Campaign Action Fund; Center for Responsive Politics]

Arizona Consumers Hurt by Bill as Economy Deteriorates. The 10,570 bankruptcy filings in that state in 2007 reflect a 63% increase over 2006. [Public Campaign Action Fund; American Bankruptcy Institute, Households Per

Consumer Filing, Rank; United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Arizona, Filing Statistics Analysis, Calendar Year 2007 vs. 2006]

Lobbying Industry

McCain Accepted \$689,704 from the Lobbying Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted \$689,704 from the lobbying industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

- **McCain Voted Against Landmark Ethics Bill.** In 2007, McCain voted against the final version of S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which required disclosure of bundled campaign contributions over \$15,000 in a six-month period, institute a two-year waiting period for former senators to become lobbyists, require quarterly lobbying disclosure reports, deny congressional pensions to members who've committed certain felonies, require senators and candidates to pay for charter planes, and alter House and Senate rules. McCain was one of only 14 Senators (all Republicans) to oppose the legislation. Senators Obama and Clinton both voted for it. The legislation passed 83-14. [S. 1, [Vote #294](#), 8/2/2007]
- **McCain Voted to Weaken New Lobbying Disclosure Rules.** In 2007, McCain voted for an amendment to the ethics and lobbying overhaul legislation that eliminated requirements for grassroots lobbying organizations to disclose their fundraising activities. Both Senators Obama and Clinton voted against the amendment. The amendment passed 55-43. [S 1, [Vote #17](#), 1/18/2007]
- **McCain Voted Against Expanding Lobbyist Gift and Meal Ban.** In 2006, McCain voted to kill an amendment that would have expanded the definition of a lobbyist, as it relates to the gift and meal ban, to include not only an organization or person required to register as a lobbyist, but any employee of a registered lobbyist. Senators Obama and Clinton both voted in favor of the amendment. The motion to kill the amendment passed 68-30. [S 2349, [Vote #80](#), 3/29/2006]
- **McCain Led Effort to Maintain Lobbyist Donations.** In 2001, McCain made a motion to kill an amendment that would ban members of the House and Senate from accepting contributions from a registered lobbyist, lobbyist employee or lobbyist PAC while Congress is in session. McCain's motion to kill this amendment passed 74-25. [S 27, [Vote #40](#), 3/20/2001]

Defense

McCain Accepted \$443,869 from Defense Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$443,869 from the defense industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

- **McCain Voted Against Allowing Competition For Defense Contracts.** In 2002, McCain voted to kill a Kennedy amendment that would allow private and public agencies to compete for new Defense Department contracts based on current department standards. It also would codify a contracting prohibition on work currently performed in the public sector unless the agency can show a savings of at least 10 percent. Motion to table passed 50-49. [S2514, [Vote #162](#), 6/25/2002]
- **McCain Voted Against Stricter Penalties For War Profiteering And Fraud.** In 2004, McCain against the Leahy amendment that would make profiteering on contracts in connection with military or rebuilding activities in Iraq, Afghanistan or other countries punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison and \$1 million in fines. Amendment rejected 46-52. [S 2400, [Vote #120](#), 6/16/04]
- **McCain Voted To Protect Administration War Profiteering.** In 2003, McCain voted against prohibiting the use of Iraqi reconstruction funds for any contract or financial agreement with an entity that pays deferred compensation to the president, the vice president, or a Cabinet-level official, or any entity in

which the president, vice president, or Cabinet-level official holds options to purchase more than 1,000 shares of stock. It would be effective 90 days after the bill's enactment. Motion to table passed 65-34. [S 1689, [Vote #386](#), 10/16/03]

Oil and Gas

McCain Accepted \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

- **McCain Twice Rejected Windfall Profits Tax for Big Oil in 2005.** In November 2005, McCain voted against imposing a temporary 50% tax on oil company profits from the sale of any crude oil above \$40 a barrel. Revenues from the tax would be used to provide income tax rebates to consumers. [S 2020, Vote #331, 11/17/05; S 2020, Vote # 341, 11/17/05; [Houston Chronicle](#), 11/17/05; [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 11/18/05; [Environment and Energy Daily](#), 11/18/05]

Nuclear Power Industry

McCain Accepted \$72,600 from Nuclear Power Industry. Between 1997 and 2002, McCain received in \$72,600 Nuclear Power Industry Contributions to Senators. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 2/21/08]

- **McCain Voted to Dump Nuclear Waste at Yucca Mountain.** In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to proceed to the resolution which, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, approves of the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Nuclear Energy Institute was “the nuclear power industry’s trade association, representing 260 corporations in 15 countries. NEI is reportedly the mastermind behind the Alliance for Sound Nuclear Policy, a coalition of pro-nuclear groups.” [S.J. Res 34, Vote #167, 7/09/02]

TELECOM

McCain has Taken At Least \$1,163,727 from the Telephone Utility and Telecom Services Industries – More than Any Other Senator. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has taken at least \$1,163,727 in campaign contributions from the telephone utility and telecom service industries, more than any other Senator. [Center for Responsive Politics]

- **McCain Voted to Grant Retroactive Legal Immunity to Telecommunications Companies.** In 2008, McCain voted for Passage of the bill that would amend the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to authorize warrantless surveillance of foreign targets, even if they are communicating with someone in the United States. It would give the FISA court authority to approve several aspects of how such surveillance is conducted. It also would grant retroactive legal immunity to telecommunications companies alleged to have participated in the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program. It would sunset in six years. As amended, the bill would allow court reviews of the administration's compliance with "minimization" procedures, which are the steps the government takes to minimize retention of sensitive information about U.S. citizens that it collects incidentally. It also would include prohibitions on the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in FISA. It would clarify

FISA's applicability to those suspected of seeking to spread weapons of mass destruction. The bill passed 68-29. [S 2248, Vote #20, 2/12/08]

Defense

McCain Is Expected To Be Difficult For Pentagon Leadership. McCain's military background and stubborn personality have led experts to believe McCain would "pose the greatest threat to the status quo." Andrew Bacevich, history professor at Boston University said, "I'm not at all sure McCain would be inclined to consult with the military." [[Kansas City Star, 2/18/08](#)]

McCain Believes U.S. Should Be 'The Police of the World.' In regards to McCain's justification of the "100 years in Iraq" statement, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote that, "The charitable view of this is that McCain is talking benignly of a military-police-of-the-world type of role for American troops. There are not many people in the streets complaining about our bases in Germany. But those bases were established after a "good war." Iraq is an invasion and occupation built on falsehoods, if not lies. It took a while, but Americans have figured that out." [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/19/08](#)]

McCain Said U.S. Could Have Military Presence "Anywhere In The World." When asked if he regretted his "100 years" comment, McCain answered, "The U.S. could have a military presence anywhere in the world for a long period of time." [[Good Morning America, 2/20/08](#)]

Disaster Relief and First Responders

McCain Repeatedly Opposed First Responder Funding. In 2006 McCain chose the preserving the Bush tax cuts over increasing funding for first responders. In 2005 McCain voted against first responder funding AND against reducing the federal deficit in favor of keeping the tax cuts. In 2004 McCain voted against funding for first responders 3 times including against increasing funding for firefighter assistance grants, which is the money that goes to volunteer fire departments. [7/13/2006; Senate Vote #197; 2/4/08; 3/15/2005, Senate Vote #50; 9/14/2004, Senate Vote 175; see also: 9/9/2004, Senate Vote 170; 3/11/2004, Senate Vote 48; DNC Daily Flipper, 2/4/08]

McCain Does Not Support National Catastrophic Insurance Policy. Campaigning in Florida, McCain told reporters that he did not support national catastrophe insurance. According to the Associated Press, at a round table discussion, McCain said that while he supports state efforts, “I do not support a national catastrophic insurance policy. That insurance policy is there, and it’s called FEMA, and it’s called disaster preparedness and it’s called addressing disasters.” Nevertheless, he said of the Federal Emergency Management Agency: “I still do not have confidence that FEMA is capable of handling all of those responsibilities.” McCain also said, “I believe that this nation and federal government has an obligation to help out in any tragedy or natural disaster...Very badly, we need to fix our ability to bring relief, help and assistance, both short term and long term, to the victims of disaster.” In response to an Associated Press questionnaire, McCain said that under certain conditions he “would consider a national catastrophe fund” to improve disaster response. [Associated Press, [1/22/08](#)]

- **Giuliani FL Chair: McCain “Out Of Touch” With FL Voters On National Catastrophic Relief Fund Issue.** According to CBS News, “Giuliani Florida chair and state attorney general Bill McCollum said McCain was ‘out of touch’ with Florida voters on the issue of having a National Catastrophic Relief Fund to keep insurance costs down for Floridians. The fund is a proposal Giuliani favors but McCain has not supported. Asked if Giuliani agreed with McCollum’s statement, Giuliani said, ‘No, I agree with the assessment that I gave...I am the one who supports it and I think people have a right to evaluate it that way. And have a right to evaluate all these different positions. In some cases we have the same positions, in some we have different positions.’ ” [CBS News, [1/22/08](#)]

McCain Criticized Disaster Relief Money For Hawaii Flood Victims, Then Apologized. When “Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, advanced two last-minute amendments seeking an extra \$1.9 million for his state,” to endure federal disaster relief funds designated by President Bush, the action “provoke[ed] heated criticism” from McCain. “My constituents live in Arizona,” Mr. McCain said. “A lot of us are getting sick and tired of this -- sick and tired.” Following McCain’s remarks, Reid noted that the money was for disaster relief and admonished McCain for making “offensive” remarks which led to an apology from McCain. [[New York Times](#), 5/5/06; [www.azcentral.com](#), 5/5/06]

Earmarks

McCain's Pledged Veto Of Earmarks Not Enough To Balance Budget. McCain's pledge to eliminate earmarks only eliminates \$20-\$30 Billion, and the Bush tax cuts cost approximately \$390 Billion. *Think Progress* wrote, "McCain may decry the current deficits, but his plan will only exacerbate them. The first three items on his tax cut list alone would cost more than \$380 billion in 2009, far more than President Bush's tax cuts combined. So, how will McCain pay for his tax cuts? He touts his pledge to eliminate earmarks, but this would save roughly \$20 to \$30 billion a year. McCain is still left with over \$350 billion in tax cuts unaccounted for, which will require massive — and unpopular — spending cuts if he is going to keep his word." [Think Progress, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Said Cutting Earmarks Would Have a "Confidence Impact" To Help Economy. McCain said, "It also has a confidence impact, a confidence impact that the American people see their tax dollars being frittered away in wasteful and unnecessary spending. Which by the way, Senator Obama has engaged in heavily, and Senator Clinton has engaged in heavily." [This Week, [2/17/08](#)]

McCain Supported Bush SOTU Remarks Against Earmarks

McCain Supported Bush's SOTU Remarks Against Earmarks. According to *Salon.com*, commenting on President Bush's 2008 State of the Union address, McCain said "Tonight, the president of the United States is going to throw down the gauntlet to these pork-barrel appropriators and say, 'We're not going to spend any of that money that's in these committee reports'...My friends, watch the reaction of some of these pork-barrel appropriators in Congress. You're going to think it's the end of Western civilization as we know it. Watch them!" *Salon.com* pointed out that "Bush's move on earmarks gives him a chance to embrace the president on an issue besides the war in Iraq." [Politico, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Claimed He Never Asked For A Single Earmark

McCain Was One of Five Senators To Reject Earmarks In 2007. According to the watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense, McCain was one of five senators to refuse to use earmarks in 2007 [[Washington Post, 2/14/08](#)]

- **Kyl Requested A Whopping \$129,342,500 In Earmarks.** According to a database compiled by Taxpayers for Common Sense, Arizona Senator Jon Kyl requested \$129,342,500 in earmarks during 2007. [Taxpayers for Common Sense, [2/14/08](#)]

In 1992, McCain Requested \$5 Million Earmark for an Arizona Wastewater Project. In 1992, McCain wrote a letter to the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, William K. Reilly, saying "I would like to request that EPA either re-program \$5 million out of existing funds or earmark the amount from an appropriate account," McCain that the earmark was "crucial to protecting the public health and the environment." The earmark was not approved. [[Washington Post, 12/31/07](#)]

- **McCain Made Kyl Do The Dirty Work.** After 15 years of trying, Senators McCain and Kyl wrote another letter to the EPA in October of 2007. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, "Again the EPA left it out, so Kyl — not McCain — put an earmark in the 2008 omnibus spending bill." [Congressional Quarterly/*St. Petersburg Times*, accessed on [2/13/08](#)]

McCain Said He Never Asked For A Single Earmark For Arizona In His 24 Years In Congress. At the Fox News Channel Republican presidential forum, McCain said, "In 24 years as a member of Congress I've never asked for or received a single earmark or pork barrel project for my state" [Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, 1/6/08; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

- **McCain Sponsored \$10 Million Earmark For Law Center In Arizona.** McCain tried to push a bill through Congress to steer “10 million to the University of Arizona to launch an academic center honoring the late Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.” At the same time, McCain was also sponsoring a bill which mounted “a direct assault on congressional earmarks.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 3/4/06; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]
- **McCain Pushed For And Successfully Got \$14.3M For Arizona’s Luke Air Force Base.** McCain pushed for, and got, \$14.3 million for Arizona’s Luke Air Force Base inserted into the just-completed fiscal 2004 military construction appropriations conference report. The only problem is the project to acquire more land near the base was not requested by President Bush or fully authorized by the Senate Armed Services Committee - two of McCain’s criteria for identifying so-called ‘pork.’’’ [[Roll Call](#), 11/6/03; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain Fights Others Pork, Pushes His Own. “Arizona Sen. John McCain is sponsoring two interesting pieces of legislation. One mounts a direct assault on congressional earmarks, those little morsels of home district pork that lawmakers slip into unrelated spending bills. The other steers \$10 million to the University of Arizona to launch an academic center honoring the late Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Yes, McCain does seem to be saying to himself: Stop me before I sin again... McCain and co-sponsor Jon Kyl, Arizona’s other GOP senator, insist their pork proposal isn’t hypocritical because they aren’t trying to hide anything. It is set out in stand-alone legislation to be vetted on its own merits...in Congress, it seems, the only bad pork projects are those sponsored by somebody else.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 3/4/06; DNC Document “The Double Talk Express Sifts Gears For 2008, 1/10/08]

McCain Campaign Fundraiser, Loeffler, Earned \$3.9 Million for Creating \$40 Million in Federal Pork.

McCain’s new Presidential campaign consigliere, and chief fundraising strategist, Tom Loeffler, founder of Loeffler Group has spent much of the last decade as a lobbyist. According to documents filed with the Secretary of the Senate, Loeffler and his associates have collected \$3,920,000 over the years lobbying from the Texas cities of San Antonio, Houston, Pharr, Donna and Mercedes. In return, according to Citizens Against Government Waste, the cities received \$40 Million and possibly more in Federal Government pork. [[Politico](#), 4/4/07; [Washington Post](#), 4/4/07; Lobbyist Disclosure Documents Filled with Secretary of the Senate, Citizens Against Government Waste Pig Book 2003-06; DNC Document “The Double Talk Express Sifts Gears For 2008, 1/10/08]

- **McCain Co-Chair Paid \$300K To Secure Funding For Expansion of Bridge To Mexico.** From midyear 2003 to midyear 2005 Loeffler and his associates were paid \$300K to lobby on Behalf of the City of Pharr, Texas. In papers filed with the secretary of the Senate Loeffler was to lobby the House and Senate on issues “relating to federal funding for transportation projects in Rio Grande Valley including construction of additional span on the Pharr/Renoyosa International Bridge.” [Lobbyist Disclosure Documents Filled with Secretary of the Senate; DNC Public Information 1/10/08]

McCain Said He Would Stop Pork Barrel Spending. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, “I’m going to stop the pork barrel spending and we’re not going to have anymore bridges to nowhere.” [[MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, 1/24/08](#); DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

- **McCain’s Campaign Co-Chair Was Paid At Least \$240,000 to Lobby for Bridge to Mexico.** In 2001 and 2002, The Loeffler Group was paid \$240,000 by the Donna-Mercedes Bridge Board as compensation for efforts to lobby the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The proposed bridge would connect the Rio Grande Valley cities of Donna and Mercedes to Rio Bravo, in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, a city of 150,000 residents. “Bridge advocates say it will improve commerce between the United States and Mexico and decrease air pollution along the Texas-Mexico border.” [[San Antonio Express-News](#), 4/19/02; www.publicintegrity.org; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]
- **2004 Appropriations Bill Included \$750,000 for Bridge to Mexico Project.** The Donna Bridge Corporation is the committee heading the project to build the \$14 million Donna-Rio Bravo International

Bridge. The project dates back to 1979, when the city of Donna acquired a bridge permit, designating the crossing into Rio Bravo, as an inland port of entry. “Phase I is set for completion by January 2006. Phase II includes securing additional funds to build federal facilities, including the toll administration building and duty-free shop, bridge consultant Ernesto Silva said. The final phase will be the actual construction of the bridge corridor. The Mid-Valley Town Crier newspaper reported that \$750,000 of federal funds had been earmarked for the “design and preparation” of the Donna-Mercedes Bridge. The authorization to release the money was approved by Congress in the 2004 Omnibus Bill. [House Appropriations Bill, [2004](#); Mid-Valley Town Crier, [3/12/05](#); DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

- **Total Cost for Bridge Project Estimated at \$102 Million.** In February 2007, “Donna city officials handed 70 acres of land over to the federal government for federal facilities to go up in support of the Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge, a 1,005-foot span expected complete in December 2008. The cost for its construction and the project surrounding it is estimated at \$102 million. With the project moving forward and with support from the federal government, the city is hoping construction on buildings will start by October of next year. [[World Bridge News](#), 2/7/07; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

McCain's Support For The Stimulus Package – Empty Rhetoric

On February 6, John McCain flew back to Washington in time to vote on the crucial economic stimulus package he has touted over and over again on the campaign trail. However, he decided to skip the vote, claiming he was “too busy.” The Senate failed by one vote to move the stimulus package forward. McCain’s reckless decision left rebate checks for hardworking American families in jeopardy and threatened much-needed assistance for seniors, disabled veterans, and businesses. Fears continue to swirl that the economic stimulus will hit the economy too late to avert a recession, and McCain’s decision yesterday delayed the package even further.

McCain Repeatedly Called For Passage Of The Stimulus Package

McCain Said he Backed the Stimulus Plan. Following an interview with John McCain, CNN’s John King said, “McCain says he opposed the Bush tax cuts because the plan did not also include spending cuts. Now he says he backs the White House plan to stimulate the economy with new tax cuts and rebates, but adds a warning.” MCCAIN: If Congress loads it up with the pork-barrel projects, which is a major reason why we have gotten into this mess, then, obviously, I would be in opposition to it.” [CNN Situation Room, 1/21/08; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

McCain Called for Senate to Pass Stimulus Package on Campaign Trail. Speaking about the economy at a campaign event, McCain said the “first thing we gotta do is pass this stimulus package through the Senate, not loaded up with a bunch of pork barrel earmarked projects, and get it through the Senate and get that stimulus to our economy going so people can regain confidence.” [Think Progress, 2/6/08, <http://thinkprogress.org/2008/02/06/mccain-stimulus/>]

McCain Called for Passage of Stimulus Package at GOP Debate. During the January 24 Republican debate, Brian Williams asked McCain if, “as the only member of the Senate on stage, will you vote for this compromise?” McCain responded, “Yes, I will.” [NBC, Republican Debate, 1/24/08, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/24/us/politics/24text-debate.html?pagewanted=print>; Think Progress, 2/6/08, <http://thinkprogress.org/2008/02/06/mccain-stimulus/>]

McCain Called for the Senate to “Stop Fooling Around and Pass” the Stimulus Package. Campaigning in the south before Super Tuesday, McCain said the Senate must “stop fooling around and pass the president’s stimulus package...and restore some confidence.” [Associated Press, 2/3/08]

McCain Said Even Though He Would have Changed Some Things, Congress Should Pass Package. “We have to pass this stimulus package, my friends. It wasn’t written exactly as I would have written it. But the fact is that it does have some incentives to get some people back to work, and get our economy going, and get some investment in our economy.” [PBS, NewsHour, 2/1/08]

McCain Said Stimulus Package Should be Passed Quickly. Asked by Anderson Cooper what he thought of the economic stimulus package, McCain said, “I think it’s a good thing. Obviously, it can’t be written in a vacuum. There are some things I would have changed. But the fact is that we should pass it quickly. And I worry about the Senate adding billions of dollars worth of pork in it. But I think time is very important right now to get it done and get on to other measures in order to get our economy in much better shape.” [CNN, 1/28/08]

McCain Was In DC, But Was “Too Busy” To Vote And Was “Focused On Other Stuff”

McCain was in Washington for Vote. McCain’s “decision to miss the vote appeared to come at the last minute, after his plane had landed at Dulles International Airport outside Washington just before the proceedings opened on the Senate floor.” [Associated Press, 2/6/08]

- **McCain “Too Busy” to Show Up and Vote, “Focused on Other Stuff.”** Asked on his plane to Washington about the vote, McCain said, “I haven’t had a chance to talk about it at all, have not had the opportunity to, even,” McCain said. “We’ve just been too busy, focused on other stuff. I don’t know if I’m doing that. We’ve got a couple of meetings scheduled.” [Associated Press, 2/6/08]

McCain Would have been Deciding Vote. Senate Democrats had 59 votes to end debate and bring the stimulus package to a vote – including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton – meaning McCain would have cast the deciding vote. “The tally was 58-41 to end debate on the Senate measure” because Majority Leader Harry Reid “switched his vote to ‘no’ at the last moment” so he can “bring the measure up for a revote.” [Associated Press, 2/7/08]

Senate Stimulus Package Included Crucial Provisions

McCain’s Decision to Ignore the Vote on the Stimulus Package Threatens America’s Most Vulnerable Citizens. By skipping the Senate vote on the economic stimulus package, McCain not only put rebate checks for over 100 million Americans in jeopardy, he threatened important provisions for some of America’s most vulnerable citizens. The vote he skipped killed legislation that would have:

- Sent stimulus checks to 21.5 million senior citizens
- Sent checks to 250,000 wounded and disabled veterans unable to work because of the sacrifice they made for their country
- Extended unemployment benefits for those whose jobs have fallen victim to the economy
- Provided small businesses with a greater ability to write-off purchases of machinery and equipment
- Addressed the housing crisis by including \$10 billion in mortgage revenue bonds that can be used by the states to refinance mortgages
- Extended energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives to create jobs, lower energy bills, and help slow the on-set of global warming

[<http://democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/record.cfm?id=292203&>]

McCain And The Economy

McCain Has Alluded To Making Big Business Part of His Administration. According to *USA Today*, “Over the past year, he often has talked about approaching U.S. business leaders to serve their country by taking on federal-government responsibilities. He specifically has mentioned Fred Smith of FedEx, John Chambers of Cisco Systems, Steve Ballmer of Microsoft and billionaire investor Warren Buffett as possible Cabinet members.” [[USA Today, 2/19/08](#)]

McCain Said Cutting Earmarks Would Have a “Confidence Impact” To Help Economy. McCain said, “It also has a confidence impact, a confidence impact that the American people see their tax dollars being frittered away in wasteful and unnecessary spending. Which by the way, Senator Obama has engaged in heavily, and Senator Clinton has engaged in heavily.” [*This Week*, [2/17/08](#)]

McCain “Doesn’t Really Understand Economics

McCain Didn’t Know The President Would Be Able To Nominate A Fed Chair. During an appearance on ABC’s *This Week*, McCain was unaware that Ben Bernanke’s term as Chairman of the Federal Reserve would expire during the next president’s tenure. When asked if he would reappoint Bernanke, McCain said, “Oh I think... um, those terms of office...er...” George Stephanopoulos then told McCain that Bernanke’s term expires in 2010. [*This Week*, [2/17/08](#)]

- **McCain Plagued By Nervous Laughter When Discussing The Economy.** During an appearance on ABC’s *This Week*, McCain was repeatedly plagued by nervous laughter when asked about the economy by George Stephanopoulos. [*This Week*, [2/17/08](#)]

McCain Previously Said He “Didn’t Pay Attention” To Economic Issues. Jonathan Chait of *The New Republic*, uncovered an old interview with John McCain from January 2000 in which McCain admitted not paying attention to economic issues. When asked about his sudden shift in economic policy, McCain said, “In the interest of full disclosure. I didn’t pay nearly the attention to those issues in the past. I was probably a ‘supplysider’ based on the fact that I really didn’t jump into the issue.” [*National Post*, [2/14/08](#)]

McCain Criticized For Lack Of Economic Knowledge. E. Thomas McClanahan wrote in his column, “Economics is clearly not McCain’s strength. He has admitted as much. But it’s the implied sneer that rankles. It doesn’t seem to occur to him that at some point, the existence of every business in the American economy depended on the willingness of an entrepreneur or group of gutsy investors to risk scarce capital in an uncertain future. Memo to McCain: Without the profit motive, none of us out here in the private sector would have jobs. Lacking a real understanding of the process of economic growth, a President McCain would be in a poor position to articulate and defend an effective economic program.” [*Kansas City Star*, [2/9/08](#)]

Russert Pushed McCain Again On His Statements That He Had More Military Experiences Than Economic Experience. On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert reminded McCain of a quote from the *a 2005 Wall Street Journal* article, “McCain is refreshingly blunt when he tells me I’m going to be honest, I know a lot less about economics than I do about military and foreign policy issues. I still need to Be Educated.” According to Russert, McCain told the same thing to the *Boston Globe*, in 2007, although when asked about the quote at the Republican primary debate in Florida, McCain said, “Actually, I don’t know where you got that quote from. I’m very well versed in Economics.” [*Meet The Press*, [1/27/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Knows More About National Security Than Any Other Issue, But He Has Strong Record On Economy.** On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, McCain responded to Tim Russert, and explained what he meant by saying he “needed to be educated” about economics. He Said, “I spent 22 years in the military. I spent 20 years in the Senate Armed Services Committee. I’ve been involved in national security

issues all my life. I attended the National War Cause. Of course I know more about national security than any other issue. That's been my entire life. Am I, am I smart on economics? Yes. I was chairman of the Commerce Committee. Why--that's why people like Phil Gramm, Tom Coburn and Warren Rudman and Carly Fiorina and the real strong economic minds, Jack Kemp, the real strong minds on the economy and, and conservatives on the economy are supporting me. They don't think that I'm--of course, I always have things to learn, and I continue to learn every day. But I'm very strong on the economy, and, frankly, my economic record is a lot stronger than that of the governor of Massachusetts when you look at his record as governor." [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Admits He “Doesn’t Really Understand Economics.” At a recent meeting with the wall street journal editorial board, republican presidential candidate John McCain admitted he “doesn’t really understand economics” and then pointed to his adviser and former senate colleague, Phil Gramm - whom he had brought with him to the meeting - as the expert he turns to on the subject, the Huffington Post has learned. [Huffington Post, 1/21/08; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

- **McCain Demurs on Economic Plan Saying “I’ve Got Greenspan’s Book.”** Like Mike Huckabee, who joked recently that he “may not be the expert that some people are on foreign policy, but I did stay in a Holiday Inn Express last night,” McCain suggested to reporters Monday that American consumer culture offered a short cut to expertise. “The issue of economics is not something I’ve understood as well as I should,” McCain said. “I’ve got Greenspan’s book.” [[Boston Globe](#) Political Intelligence, 12/18/07; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]
- **McCain Has Relied On Phil Gramm To Shape Domestic Policies.** Phil Gramm has shaped McCain’s policies on taxes, the economy, and healthcare. According to CNN, Gramm is “McCain’s chief economic adviser... and is the ultimate pure play in free market faith,” and his healthcare plan “bears the Gramm imprint.” [CNN, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Admits Economics Isn’t His Thing. According to the *New York Times*, “In fact, recent statements by the candidates and their surrogates about the economy are quite revealing. Take, for example, John McCain’s admission that economics isn’t his thing. ‘The issue of economics is not something I’ve understood as well as I should,’ he says. ‘I’ve got Greenspan’s book.’ His self-deprecating humor is attractive, as always. But shouldn’t we worry about a candidate who’s so out of touch that he regards Mr. Bubble, the man who refused to regulate subprime lending and assured us that there was at most some ‘froth’ in the housing market, as a source of sage advice?” [Op-Ed, Paul Krugman, [New York Times](#), 1/14/08]

Rose Colored Glasses on the Economy Despite Concerns

Bush: Economy is “Inherently Strong.” “I believe we can find common ground to get something done that’s big enough, effective enough so that an economy that is inherently strong gets a boost to make sure that this uncertainty doesn’t translate into more economic woes for our workers and small business people,” Bush said in the Cabinet Room. [AP, 1/23/08]

- **Bush: I Do Have Confidence In The Economy Now ... This Economy Is Going To Continue To Grow.** “I do have confidence in the economy now ... and I think a lot of the people who analyze the economy have confidence that this economy is going to continue to grow,” the president said in an interview with USA TODAY. “The issue is the uncertainty of the moment. One thing is for certain — that the (Federal Reserve), independent of the administration, and the administration and the Congress have both reacted very quickly and (in) substantial ways.” [[USA Today](#), 1/25/08]
- **Bush: “We Need To Take A Fundamentally Strong Economy And Help It.”** According to the Associated Press, “Bush expressed optimism about quick action. ‘I’m confident that we can get something done,’ Bush said in brief comments to reporters. ‘There’s a spirit that says we need to take a fundamentally strong economy and help it.’” [AP, 1/24/08]

Lazear: “The Structure Of The American Economy Is Sound.” “The structure of the American economy is sound,” said Edward Lazear, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers. [CNN, 1/22/08]

MCCAIN: “I STILL BELIEVE OUR FUNDAMENTAL UNDERPINNINGS OF OUR ECONOMY ARE STRONG...”

McCain: “I Still Believe Our Fundamental Underpinnings Of Our Economy Are Strong...” In a report on CNN McCain said, “I still believe our fundamental underpinnings of our economy are strong, but it’s obvious that we are facing challenges, which will require actions such as the Federal Reserve took today.” [CNN, 1/22/08]

- **McCain Said US Not Going Into Recession; Economy Fundamentals Are Strong.** “I am not convinced that we are necessarily going into a recession. . . . And our economy, I think our fundamentals are strong and America’s greatest days are ahead of us economically and every other way,” said John McCain. [Rally, Hilton Head Island, SC 1/18/08]
- **McCain Said He Is Confident That Federal Interest Rate Cuts Will Support Economic Growth.** John McCain’s campaign issued the following statement by John McCain on the Federal Reserve’s interest rate cuts: “Financial market events raise the urgency of cutting taxes and pro-growth policies in the United States. Last week I offered a strong, pro-growth plan to immediately stimulate the economy and strengthen it over the long term. The role of the Federal Reserve is to ensure that our financial markets are well-functioning and to support economic growth. I am confident that the action taken this morning to cut two key rates will support these goals. The U.S. economy has proven to be quite resilient. I am concerned about financial market events, but with the right leadership and pro-growth policies the economy can weather this upheaval.” [McCain Press Release, [1/22/08](#)]
- **McCain Said Nation Could Afford Tax Cuts and Spending on the War.** According to the *Miami Herald*, “...the so-called ‘Bush tax cuts.’ McCain voted against them in 2003, noting that cutting so many taxes in a time of war and increased spending would widen the budget deficit and hurt the economy. The deficit widened. The economy is getting worse. But McCain now says the tax cuts should stay. The reason: Eliminating a tax cut is a tax increase, he says. Asked about his former logic -- whether the nation could afford tax cuts and spending on the war -- McCain said: ‘Sure, with a healthy economy, absolutely.’” [*Miami Herald*, 1/24/08]
- **McCain: With The Right Leadership And Pro-Growth Policies The Economy Can Weather This Upheaval.** According to the *Tampa Tribune*, But McCain said: ‘The U.S. economy has proven to be quite resilient. I am concerned about financial market events, but with the right leadership and pro-growth policies the economy can weather this upheaval.’ McCain’s plan includes repealing the alternative minimum tax, requiring a three-fifths majority in Congress to raise taxes, eliminating ‘earmarks,’ enacting more tax breaks for research and development, and lowering trade barriers.” [*Tampa Tribune*, 1/23/08]

FLOP: McCain Acknowledged The Economy Is Near A Recession. After being asked if America is in a recession on ABC’s *This Week*, McCain said, “I think according to what the experts, Bernanke and others are saying we’re very close to it.” [*This Week*, [2/17/08](#)]

HOWEVER...

Bernanke “Has Expressed Growing Pessimism About The Economy.” According to USNews.com, “People wondering why Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke suddenly moved to reduce the bank borrowing rate by three quarters of a point should know that in private he has expressed growing pessimism about the economy. Whispers has learned that has told people in recent weeks that the economic situation some see falling into recession will be much worse than he has admitted to publicly. We’re told by those who’ve heard him that he says the first six months of this year will be ‘bad,’ an adjective that some interpret this as signaling there is better than a

50-50 chance for a recession. Even worse, the former Princeton prof believes the ensuing recovery will be ‘weak’ because of persistent problems in the housing market that will result in subdued consumer spending. We checked in with his office, which says it doesn’t comment on what the boss says in private. But it’s certainly not comforting news considering that his recent public testimony was a bummer, like when he told Congress last week, ‘Recently, incoming information has suggested that the baseline outlook for real activity in 2008 has worsened and that the downside risks to growth have become more pronounced ... in particular, a number of factors, including continuing increases in energy prices, lower equity prices, and softening home values, seem likely to weigh on consumer spending as we move into 2008.’” [USNews.com, 1/22/08]

- **McCain Said It Was Unclear If Chairman Bernanke Was Adequately Handling Economic Slowdown.** According to the *New York Times*, at a fundraiser in Florida, McCain “...said it was unclear whether Ben S. Bernanke, the current chairman, was adequately handling the present slowdown.” McCain Said, “Depending on the depth of this crisis that we’re in, we’ll find out whether he acted soon enough and whether he acted appropriately enough...I don’t think it’s clear yet.” [[New York Times, 1/26/08](#)]
- **McCain Criticized Bernanke on Interest Rates.** McCain criticized Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke by saying, “I personally would have liked to have seen those rate cuts earlier. That doesn’t mean I want him fired, it doesn’t mean I’ve lost confidence,” McCain said. [[Bloomberg, 2/17/08](#)]

Bush Getting Vote of No Confidence from World and Domestic Financial Markets. According to the washingtonpost.com, “When it comes to his ability to forestall a recession, President Bush appears to be getting a vote of no confidence from the world and domestic financial markets. ... After massive world-wide sell-offs yesterday -- and despite an emergency interest-rate cut by the Federal Reserve -- the Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 450 points in its opening minutes, before starting to recover.” [washingtonpost.com, 1/22/08]

- **Bush Stimulus Package Did Not Boost Confidence on Wall Street.** According to the washingtonpost.com, “As Peter Baker and Neil Irwin wrote in Saturday’s Washington Post, Bush on Friday called for ‘a \$145 billion stimulus package centered on tax breaks for consumers and businesses to rejuvenate the lagging U.S. economy, a move that drew unusual bipartisan praise on Capitol Hill but did not boost confidence on Wall Street.’” [washingtonpost.com, 1/22/08]

Mortgage Crisis

John McCain says one thing and does another on predatory lending. He suggests cracking down on predatory lenders and deceptive mortgage brokers, but previously voted against an amendment that would do just that. Although John McCain talks tough and says that there are “some greedy people on Wall Street who perhaps need to be punished,” he supports George Bush’s “voluntary” plan under which lenders and investors would help financially struggling borrowers. John McCain said he was reacting to voters’ concerns about the economy, and yet, he fails those same voters by not doing his job in Congress. McCain was absent from a vote on a bill that would overhaul mortgage lending practices of the Federal Housing Administration.

McCain’s Links With Savings & Loans Crisis Compared To Sub-Prime Mortgage Collapse. *Alternet News* wrote “Sen. McCain has a long legislative record and a scandalous relationship with the S&L crisis that is ripe for comparison to the sub-prime mortgage meltdown -- there is a lot of fodder for attack. Picking the right issues and using them at the right time has a lot to do with beating Sen. McCain in the fall.” [[Alternet News, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain Suggested Cracking Down on Predatory Lenders. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, “McCain hosted an economic roundtable at an Orlando bathtub manufacturer. He and other business leaders discussed the tanking economy, the housing slump and how the lack of immigration affects business owners. McCain suggested cracking down on predatory lenders and mortgage brokers that ‘deceived people’ as well as rating agencies ‘that gave high ratings based on nothing I know of.’ ‘We are paying a price for violating one of the fundamental principles of economics: Don’t lend money to people who can’t pay it back,’ McCain said.” [[St. Petersburg Times, 1/24/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Discouraging Predatory Lending Practices.** In 2005, McCain voted against an amendment that discouraged predatory lending practices by prohibiting a creditor from collecting on its claim in bankruptcy court if the creditor has materially failed to comply with any applicable requirement under the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1994. Rejected 40-58: R 1-54; D 38-4; I 1-0. [S 256, Vote #22, 3/03/05]

McCain Suggested That “We Ought To Adjust The Mortgages Of People Who Were Eligible For Better Terms, But Were Somehow Convinced.” According to Human Events Online, “In a question about the current ‘mortgage crisis’, John McCain said he thought ‘efforts so far are laudable’ but that there are ‘some greedy people on Wall Street who perhaps need to be punished.’ He suggested that ‘we ought to adjust the mortgages of people who were eligible for better terms, but were somehow convinced’ to get worse mortgages. In other words, McCain remained true to his very tenuous grip on an understanding of the importance and value of free markets, and the danger of moral hazard.” [Human Events Online, 1/31/08]

- **Gingrich Said He Was “Jarred when Senator McCain Talked About Maybe Some People Need To Be Punished For The Subprime Mortgages.”** On FOX News’ Hannity and Colmes, Gingrich said, “Let me say something beyond that, Sean. I was very jarred last night when Senator McCain talked about maybe some people need to be punished for the subprime mortgages. I don’t -- I think if we started introducing a criminalization, class warfare model, we’re going to wreck this economy. And I found what he said last night about going after some people, about they may need to be punished, I thought that illustrated a very bad understanding of the free market and how this world works.” [FOX News, 1/31/08]

McCain: “We’re Going To Have To Make Sure That People Who Are Struggling To Make Their Mortgage Payments Are Helped Out.” In Londonderry, New Hampshire, McCain said, “So let me just mention very quickly our economy. Our economy is shaky right now. We all know that and we’re going to have to do a lot of things, and we’re going to have to make sure that people who are struggling to make their mortgage payments are helped out so that they have a chance to keep their homes. Meanwhile in Washington, we’re pork barrelling their money that they could use to help these people who are struggling to keep their homes, the American dream, and we’re going to make sure everything in our power to make sure that people can at least have some kind of pause here rather than experience such an increase in their payments and they lose their homes.” [CNN, 12/31/07]

McCain Supported Bush Plan to Deal with the Mortgage Crisis. According to *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, “MORTGAGE CRISIS: President Bush this month unveiled a voluntary plan under which lenders and investors would help financially struggling borrowers by freezing their adjustable-rate mortgages at current interest rates. Romney, McCain and Hunter support the Bush plan.” [*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 12/23/07]

McCain Would Consider Greater Intervention by Federal Government to Mortgage Crisis. According to the *New York Times*, “Reacting to voters’ concerns about the economy, Senator John McCain said Tuesday that he would consider greater intervention by the federal government to limit the fallout of the mortgage crisis if current measures fail. Mr. McCain, who is focusing in more detail on issues related to the economy in the windup to primary season, did not specify what further federal intervention might be necessary. But Mr. McCain, a Republican from Arizona, indicated that the government has a role in helping the truly needy, and he likened the current crisis to the savings-and-loan meltdown in the 1980s, which set off an extensive government bailout to soften its effect on the economy. Mr. McCain said he was generally opposed to federal intervention. ‘Whenever there is government intervention, there are unintended consequences,’ he said. However, he said, this crisis poses such a serious threat to the overall economic health of the nation that he can see the need for even greater steps. Unlike the leading Democrats competing for their party’s nomination, the leading Republicans have been largely silent on the mortgage crisis, not addressing it in any great detail.” [*New York Times*, 12/19/07]

- **McCain Said He Was “Cautiously Optimistic.”** According to the *New York Times*, “President Bush announced a voluntary agreement two weeks ago with mortgage servicing companies and institutional investors to freeze interest rates for some subprime borrowers. The agreement would help about 20 percent of the borrowers. Mr. McCain said that, after consulting with Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of the

Federal Reserve, he was ‘cautiously optimistic’ that the action could stem the bleeding. But he said, the situation was still uncertain. ‘I don’t know how bad it will be,’ he said.” [New York Times, 12/19/07]

McCain Failed to Vote on Bill to Overhaul Mortgage Lending Practices of FHA. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on passage of a bill that would overhaul the mortgage lending practices of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The bill would reduce the required minimum down payment for an FHA-insured loan and simplify its calculation, requiring a flat 1.5 percent of the appraised value of the home. It also would raise the dollar limit on mortgages that FHA can insure to the conforming loan limit, currently \$417,000. The bill would remove the current cap on the number of reverse mortgages made through the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program and raise the current loan limit for the program to a single national loan limit. The bill would establish a pilot program to examine alternative automated credit rating systems for borrowers who have a history of making required payments in a timely fashion but have not established sufficient records at traditional credit bureaus. As amended, the bill would require a 12-month moratorium on the implementation of risk-based premiums for FHA insured mortgages. Passed 93-1: R 47-1; D 44-0; I 2-0. [S 2338, Vote #432, 12/14/07]

McCain Voted Against Tax Deduction for Certain Mortgage Insurance Payments. In 2004, McCain voted against cloture on Majority Leader Frist’s motion to recommit the Corporate Tax Overhaul bill to Committee to include a tax deduction for certain mortgage insurance payments, a 50% tax credit to employers that are paying reservists and National Guard members called to active duty and a welfare-to-work tax credit. The bill included \$13 billion in tax cuts for the energy industry. [Vote 67, [4/7/04](#); CQ, 4/7/04]

McCain Voted to Allow Greater Access to Consumer Financial Reports. In 2003, McCain voted for passage of a bill that would preempt state financial privacy laws and allow banks, retailers and other financial institutions access to consumer financial reports. It would give consumers the right to request a free copy of their credit report once a year from each of the three national credit bureaus. Mortgage lenders would have to disclose consumer credit scores when a customer filed a mortgage application. Note: Before passage, the Senate struck all after the enacting clause and inserted the text of S 1753, as amended. A ‘yea’ was a vote in support of the president’s position. Passed 95-2. [HR 2622, Vote #437, 11/05/03, D-43-2, R 51-0, I 1-0]

McCain Voted Against Pilot Program to Provide Low-Interest Loans to Workers in Job Training or Assistance Programs. In 2002, McCain voted to kill an amendment would require the Labor Department to establish a pilot program that provides low-interest loans to workers in job training or job assistance programs to enable individuals to continue making mortgage payments on their primary residence. The motion to table passed 49-49. [HR 3009, Vote #119, 5/21/02, D 12-38, R 36-11, I 1-0]

McCain’s Plan for the Economy

McCain Said That Detailed Economic Policy Will Be Announced Soon. On the eve of Super Tuesday, McCain announced that he would, “be coming out with more specific proposals” on the economy. “They will be based not on big government interventions and not on raising your taxes and not on increasing government,” he added. [Wall Street Journal, [2/4/08](#)]

McCain Would Cut Government Spending To Reduce Budget Deficit And Simultaneously Lower Taxes. According to the *New York Times*, “Senator John McCain said that, if elected, he would do what other presidents had tried but failed to do: cut government spending sharply enough to reduce the budget deficit while lowering taxes at the same time.” [New York Times, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain’s Economic Plan Would Cut Financing For Programs Deemed “Ineffective” Including Amtrak. According to the *New York Times*, “[McCain’s] campaign says it would also cut financing for programs that the White House budget office has deemed ineffective, a list that includes Amtrak.” [New York Times, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Consider Resuscitating Work of Bipartisan Tax-Reform Commission. According to the *New York Times*, McCain “...said that he would consider resuscitating the work of a bipartisan tax-reform

commission, appointed by Mr. Bush, whose 2005 report on simplifying the tax code was largely ignored by the administration. Using the process that has been used to close military bases, Mr. McCain said he would ask Congress to vote yes or no on an entire tax-simplification program.” [New York Times, [1/26/08](#)]

McCain Backed White House Stimulus Plan

McCain Advisor Opposes Economic Help, Compares Rebates to Dropping Money From Helicopters. “On Wednesday, a top economic adviser to [McCain’s] campaign sharply criticized the stimulus plans floated by the White House and the leading presidential candidates, declaring that they amount to “borrowing money from the Chinese and dropping it from helicopters. … Just raining cash down — which seems like what Congress wants to do—is not going to have much of an effect,” declared Kevin Hassett, a senior McCain adviser.” [[The Hill](#), 1/24/08; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

- **But McCain Previously Said He Backed The White House Plan.** Following an interview with John McCain, CNN’s John King said, “McCain says he opposed the Bush tax cuts because the plan did not also include spending cuts. Now he says he back the White House plan to stimulate the economy with new tax cuts and rebates, but adds a warning.” MCCAIN: If Congress loads it up with the pork-barrel projects, which is a major reason why we have gotten into this mess, then, obviously, I would be in opposition to it. [CNN Situation Room, 1/21/08; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]
- **McCain Even Proposed a \$1000 Tax Credit – Larger Than Bush or Congress.** According to the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain, at a campaign stop in South Carolina, “[A]lmost on the fly, proposed a new tax cut to illustrate how eliminating ‘pork’ would stimulate the economy. ‘Here’s one of my proposals: kill the pork-barrel spending. Give every child in America \$1,000 in tax credits,’ he said.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 1/22/08; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

Despite Calls for Short-Term Economic Relieve, McCain Proposed Long-Term Plan with Lower Corporate Income Tax Rate. According to the Associated Press, “Despite calls in Washington for short-term economic relief, John McCain proposed a long-term economic plan on Thursday that would lower the corporate income tax rate and provide a host of other tax breaks for business. ‘We will get through this rough patch, my friends,’ McCain told supporters. The Republican presidential candidate proposed cutting the corporate tax rate to 25 percent from 35 percent. McCain, speaking to a rally under a tent in the rain, said that would expand the economy, creating jobs and opportunity.” [AP, 1/17/08]

Trade And Globalization

McCain Supports Commitment To Innovation And New Technologies To Sustain Global Competitiveness. According to a post of John McCain’s technology platform in *Information Week*, McCain’s platform stated that he, “...believes we must make a farsighted, robust, and fervent commitment to innovation and new technologies to sustain our global competitiveness, meet our national security challenges, achieve less costly and more effective health care, reduce dangerous dependence on foreign sources of oil, and raise the quality of education in the United States.” [[Information Week](#), [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Believes Globalization Provides Opportunity For American Workers Today And In The Future. According to a post of John McCain’s technology platform in *Information Week*, “John McCain believes that globalization is an opportunity for American workers today and in the future. Ninety-five percent of the world’s customers lie outside our borders and we need to be at the table when the rules for access to those markets are written. To do so, the U.S. should engage in multilateral, regional, and bilateral efforts to reduce barriers to trade, level the global playing field, and build effective enforcement of global trading rules.” [[Information Week](#), [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Has Been “A Strong Proponent Of Free Trade.” According to Club for Growth, “John McCain has been a strong proponent of free trade in the U.S. Senate. He has voted for many bills that broke down trade barriers and increased competition and choice for consumers. These include:

- The Oman Free Trade Act
- The Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Africa Free Trade Act
- U.S.-Australian Trade Act
- U.S.-Chile Trade Act
- U.S.-Singapore Trade Act
- Voted to grant normal trade relations with Vietnam
- Voted to grant normal trade relations with China

Senator McCain also voted to kill the Schumer-Graham bill, which would have imposed an onerous tariff on China if it refused to revalue its currency, and voted to give the President trade promotion authority. The Cato Institute aptly sums up his record on trade by designating him a ‘free trader’ for the 105th Congress through the 108th Congress, a top accolade given out to those who ‘consistently vote against both trade barriers and international economic subsidies.’” [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

Miscellaneous

Goldman Sachs Sent Memo Warning Clients About McCain. “Economists at Goldman Sachs Group Inc., in a newsletter to clients this week, wrote that ‘market participants’ should be aware of areas in which Senator McCain differs from most Republicans, including pharmaceutical and tobacco regulation and climate change legislation. The newsletter said industries that would normally benefit from Republican control ‘might not enjoy as benign a political and regulatory environment under a McCain Administration as they have under the Bush Administration, judging from McCain’s policy stances while in the Senate.’” [Wall Street Journal, [2/7/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was “Free-Enterprise, Capitalist, Full-Bore Guy” In Mold Of Theodore Roosevelt.

According to the *New York Times*, in terms of economic philosophy, “Mr. McCain described himself as being in the mold of Theodore Roosevelt, as a ‘free-enterprise, capitalist, full-bore guy’ who nonetheless believes that the economy depends on government institutions ‘that need to do their job as well.’” [New York Times, [1/26/08](#)]

Education

McCain Has Not Said Much About Education, Does Not Mention Immigration On Website. According to Michigan's *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, McCain's "Straight Talk Express" has not said much about education issues in America, and John McCain's web site did not mention education at all. Apparently, McCain has commented on education issues on the campaign trail, but he has "steer[ed] clear of issues that get him in trouble with pretty much most Republican voters and a lot of independents he relies on." [Jackson Citizen Patriot, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Co-Sponsored Bill To Eliminate Barriers To Higher Education For Undocumented Workers.

According to Michigan's *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, "McCain was among 48 Senate co-sponsors of a bill that would eliminate barriers to higher education for undocumented students." [Jackson Citizen Patriot, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said NCLB Was Not Perfect But Good Beginning. According to Michigan's *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, "Earlier in [his] campaign, McCain said the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is not perfect, but it's a good beginning, and that he supports vouchers and charter schools -- like most of his GOP opponents do." [Jackson Citizen Patriot, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Supported Tax-Deferred Family Savings Accounts When He Ran In 2000. According to Michigan's *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, journalist Sara Hebel pointed out that during his 2000 presidential campaign, "McCain advocated establishing tax-deferred family savings accounts that could be used for higher-education expenses and said he would encourage colleges that have put in place admissions policies that help economically disadvantaged students." [Jackson Citizen Patriot, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Has Support From Academia, Despite Opposition To Academic Earmarks. Michigan's *Jackson Citizen Patriot* reported that the *Chronicle of Higher Education* said McCain was "well known among college (and other) lobbyists for being an ardent opponent of academic earmarks, the noncompetitive set-asides secured by lawmakers for scientific research and other projects at colleges and universities." Apparently, "...despite his stance against university pork barrel projects, McCain has a lot of support [from] academia" having received 228, 00 in donations from college educations through October 30th. [Jackson Citizen Patriot, [1/14/08](#)]

Funding

McCain Says Adequately Funding For Education is More Complex Than Spending More Money. McCain told more than 100 people gathered that it was important to adequately fund public education and to reward good teachers, but he said the issue was more complex than spending more money. He noted that no members of Congress send their children to public schools in Washington. "You know where the highest per student spending in America is? Washington, D.C.," McCain said. "So I'm for spending more money. I'm sure you're for spending more money. But that money has to be spent wisely since it happens to be your tax dollars." [Associated Press, 10/27/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Missed Vote on Education Investment. McCain missed the final passage of education investment legislation (S. 761, A bill to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.), and the day before that, he skipped roll call votes on four amendments and a judicial confirmation. McCain hasn't voted in the Senate since April 12. [Washington Post, 4/27/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Voted Against Fully Funding NCLB. During the 108th Congress, Senator McCain voted at least twice to not fully fund NCLB. In 2003, he voted to kill an amendment that would have provided an additional \$8 billion in the federal budget for the federal program; [Senate Roll Call Vote 60, S Con Res 23, (3.19.03)] a year later, he voted against an amendment that also called for fully funding NCLB. [Senate Roll Call Vote 35, S Con Res 95, (3.10.04); NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Voted for Fiscal 2006 Budget Resolution that Included \$70 Billion in Tax Cuts, but Against Including \$5.4 Billion More for Education Funding. In 2005, Senator McCain voted for the fiscal 2006 budget resolution, which called for \$70 billion in tax cuts [2005 Senate Vote 114 (4.28.05), H Con Res 95] but did not include \$5.4 billion in extra education spending the Senate had inserted in March of that year. [Education Week, May 4, 2005] McCain voted against the amendment that restored the \$5.4 billion in education spending. [2005 Senate Vote 68 (3.17.05), S Con Res 18; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Voted Against Reducing \$1.6 Trillion Tax Cut for More Education Spending. In 2001, McCain voted against reducing a \$1.6 trillion tax cut package by \$448 billion, of which \$250 billion would have gone for increased education spending. [2001 Vote 69 (4.4.01), H Con Res 83; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Would Support Funding for School Construction. In 2004, Senator McCain said he would support increased funding for school capital improvements, including school buildings, infrastructure and technology. [2004 National Political Awareness Test- Senator McCain, http://www.vote-smart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

Did Not Vote to Restore Funding for Career and Tech Ed, Drug Free Schools and TRIO. McCain abstained from voting on an amendment to the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) to restore \$4.8 billion for 48 education programs slated for elimination in the underlying bill, including Career and Technical Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, education technology state grants, and the TRIO and GEAR-UP programs. The amendment failed 44-49 on March 14, 2005. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 45)
[<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Voted for Tax Cuts and Cuts to Student Aid. McCain voted for the fiscal year 2006 budget agreement. The budget agreement cut \$35 billion over five years from programs such as student aid and Medicaid and provided \$70 billion over five years in tax cuts targeted primarily to those with the highest incomes, and failed to make needed investments in public education. The budget agreement passed 52-47 on April 28, 2005. A “no” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 114). [<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Opposed Amendment to Increase Funding for Special Ed. McCain opposed a motion to waive the budget act and allow an amendment offered by Senator Clinton (D-NY) to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) to increase funding for special education. The motion failed 46-53 on October 26, 2005. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 273).
[<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Opposed Increased Funding for Ed and Health Programs. McCain voted against an amendment offered by Senators Specter (R-PA) and Harkin (D-IA) to the Senate budget resolution for fiscal year 2007, which would add \$7.1 billion for education and health programs. The amendment passed 73-27 on March 16, 2006. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 58). [<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

Higher Education

McCain Says the American Education System Must Prepare Students for College. In a New York Daily News questionnaire, McCain agreed that the U.S. should attract immigrants with higher levels of education, but also that the American educational system should be bolstered to prepare citizens for the job market. “For young Americans, we must ensure that getting a high school education means that you are equipped to go on to college and possess the skills that attract employers,” McCain said. [New York Daily News, 7/03/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supports Increased Federal Aid to Pay for College. Senator McCain said he would support legislation that increased federal aid to help students and families pay for college, including more funding for Pell Grants and Stafford Loans, as well as federal tax credits. [2004 National Political Awareness Test- Senator McCain http://www.vote-smart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Would Not Support Affirmative Action for College Admissions. Senator McCain indicated he would not support affirmative action policies in public college admissions. [2004 National Political Awareness Test- Senator McCain http://www.vote-smart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

Voted for Cuts in Student Financial Aid. McCain voted for passage of a budget reconciliation measure (S. 1932), which made massive cuts to entitlement programs, including \$7 billion in cuts to student aid that were projected to increase the average student loan debt by \$5,800. The bill passed 50-50, with Vice President Cheney casting the tie-breaking vote, on December 21, 2005. A “no” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 363). [<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Opposed Raising Pell Grant Maximums and Student Loan Forgiveness. McCain voted no on passage of an amendment offered by Senator Kennedy (D-MA) to the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) to restore funding for college prep programs, raise the maximum Pell Grant to \$4,500 a year (from \$4,050), and provide up to \$23,000 in student loan forgiveness to new teachers in high need schools. The amendment passed 51-49 on March 17, 2005. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 68).
[<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Opposed Raising Pell Grant Maximums and Student Loan Forgiveness. McCain voted against a motion to waive the budget act and allow an amendment offered by Senator Kennedy (D-MA) to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) to increase the maximum Pell Grant award from \$4,050 to \$4,250. The motion failed 48-51 on October 25, 2005. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 268). [<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supported Vocational and Technical Ed Act. McCain voted for passage of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Improvement Act (S. 250), which reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. The bill continued and built on the successes of existing programs, rejecting the President’s proposal to eliminate funding for career and technical education. The bill passed 99-0 on March 10, 2005. A “yes” vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 43).
[<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

No Child Left Behind

McCain Said NCLB Was a “Good Beginning.” In a speech at Clemson, “No Child Left Behind is ‘a good beginning’ that should be improved, not scrapped, said McCain, a proponent of ‘choice and competition’ in schools.” [The Greenville News (South Carolina), 11/29/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Endorsed NCLB, Choice and Competition. On the topic of education, McCain endorsed the No Child Left Behind Act, which sets a national standard for education systems. “Choice and competition are, I believe, the key elements in education reform,” he said. He added, however, that the act needs improvement. [Luther College Student Newspaper, 11/15/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Wants to Fix Problems, Build on Success of NCLB. McCain pledged support for the “No Child Left Behind” act. “I don’t think we ought to discard the whole thing,” McCain said. “I think we ought to fix those areas where there’s problems and build on the success of the ‘No Child Left Behind’ itself.” [KSFY TV, 10/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Wants To Revamp NCLB, But Not Scrap It. On NCLB, It needs to be revamped, McCain said. The No Child Left Behind Act marks the first time schools and teachers have had their performance graded, he added, and changes need to be made, particularly where non-English speaking children are concerned. But McCain was quick to point out that the plan needed to be changed -- not scrapped altogether. "If we scrap it, we'll just have to start over again," McCain said. [Fort Mill Times, 10/24/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Says NCLB Good Start, But Law Has Problems. McCain also addressed President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind legislation. He said the act is a good start toward improving teacher performance and accountability but noted there is a lot more work to be done in this area. "It's got lot of problems. We've got to sit down and fix those problems, particularly with minorities," McCain said. [Orangeburg Times and Democrat, 10/10/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Thinks NCLB is Beginning to Work. In Iowa, "Another issue McCain feels needs addressed is education. He feels that No Child Left Behind is beginning to work, but much more needs addressing in the field of educating our children." [Marshalltown Times-Republican, 9/05/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Would Continue and Improve NCLB. McCain said in an interview he would "Continue No Child Left Behind and improve it ... and build on the progress that's been made, but realize that the economic future of America rests on our ability to improve education. I support vouchers; I support charter schools; and I want to reward good teachers and help bad teachers find another line of work." [Spartanburg Herald-Journal, 7/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Says NCLB "A Good Beginning." In New Hampshire, "McCain parried with a teacher in the audience about the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which the teacher argued takes away too much instructional time for assessment purposes. McCain disagreed, saying that while NCLB was not perfect, it allowed educational leaders to compare test scores from school to school and state to state, which he said is valuable. 'I think that No Child Left Behind was a good beginning,' he said. The senator expressed his support for vouchers and charter schools and emphasized the need for better training in math and science. While McCain failed to win the teacher over on NCLB, the two were able to find common ground on the importance of math and science." [Brattleboro Reformer, 7/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Says NCLB Should Be Fixed, But Not Repealed. From an NEA release, "New Hampshire NEA member Grace Nelson was able to ask Senator John McCain (AZ) about No Child Left Behind at a town hall meeting in Guilford, NH, today. When asked what he would do about NCLB if elected President, the Senator responded that the law should be fixed -- especially in the areas of testing students with disabilities and non-English speaking students -- but that the law should not be repealed. NEA agrees that this aspect of NCLB has been particularly unworkable." [NEA Press Release, [6/05/07](#); NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supports More Accountability, Performance-based Rewards for Teachers, Vouchers and Charter Schools. McCain said at a luncheon in Kalamazoo, MI, that he would make NCLB reauthorization a top priority as president. McCain "said students should have school options, such as charter schools and, in states where they are allowed, vouchers that let students attend schools other than the public schools to which they were assigned." He added, "I would do anything I could to hold teachers and schools more accountable. I would reward teachers on the basis of performance. I would do everything I could to provide choice and competition among schools." [Associated Press, 4/13/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB Will Help Change Failing Education System. During his 2004 reelection, McCain's challenger, Stuart Stockey, said that No Child Left Behind was not helping "teachers teach in the classroom" and was an attempt to shift tax dollars to charter and private schools. McCain--who voted for NCLB [2001 Senate Roll Call Vote 371 (12.18.01)] and supports national standards and public student testing [2004 National Political Awareness Test-Senator McCain http://www.vote-smart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8]-- disagreed and said the law would help schools "do things differently" because the education system was "failing." [Tucson Citizen 10/16/04; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain says NCLB is a Great Beginning. At a Silicon Valley luncheon for business leaders in 2007, McCain stated that he continues to support NCLB, though it does need fine-tuning and more emphasis on math and science. [San Jose Mercury News (California), 1/02/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB is Major Milestone in Improving Education. On Larry King, McCain stated: "...Senator Kennedy and President Bush worked together on the No Child Left Behind Act. The No Child Left Behind Act may have some flaws associated with it, but I still view it as a major milestone in trying to improve education in this country. [CNN transcripts, [11/03/05](#); NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

NCLB Needs to be Reviewed to Measure Full Efficacy. At an Arizona town hall forum, McCain addressed education, saying that holding teachers accountable for educating students improves schools, but No Child Left Behind needs to be reviewed to measure its full efficacy. "It is the first attempt to place some standards on teachers," he said. "Is it an end-all? No. But it's a great start." McCain said he supports incentives for students interested in fields integral to the country's future -- engineering, the sciences and computer science. [The Arizona Republic (Phoenix), 4/20/06; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

Vouchers, Charter Schools, School Choice

McCain Said School Choice is the Answer: Charter Schools, Home Schooling and Vouchers. At the Univision debate, McCain said, "Choice and competition is the key to success in education in America. That means charter schools, that means home schooling, it means vouchers, it means rewarding good teachers and finding bad teachers another line of work. It means... It means rewarding good performing schools, and it really means in some cases putting bad performing schools out of business. About three or four weeks ago, I went to a wonderful, wonderful school in the lower-income part of Philadelphia. It's run by a Hispanic organization called Esperanza. Esperanza has set up a charter school. The kids wear uniforms. It's 98 percent Hispanic and 8 percent African American. Their grades are phenomenal. Their dropout rate is low. Their parents are responsible and they're engaged. And guess what's happening? The public schools in Philadelphia in the area are starting to improve as well, because of the choice and competition that is employed by the parents there. I want every American parent to have a choice, a choice as to how they want their child educated, and I guarantee you the competition will dramatically increase the level of education in America. And I applaud our former Governor Bush for the great job he's done on education in Florida and America." [Political Transcript Wire, 12/10/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supported a Voucher Program. McCain says he supports a voucher program, which would give parents money for education, allowing them to choose whether to spend it on publicly or privately. [KSFY TV, 10/26/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Will Support Voucher Legislation. In 2004, Senator McCain said he would support legislation that allowed parents to use vouchers to send their children to any school of their choice, including public, private and religious schools. [2004 National Political Awareness Test- Senator McCain http://www.votesmart.org/npat.php?can_id=S0061103#8; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Sponsored School Choice Legislation. In 2001, McCain sponsored a \$5.4 billion dollar bill for a three year pilot voucher program. According to a news release from his Senate office, "each eligible child would receive \$2,000 per year for three years, to be used for private or religious school tuition and transportation costs, or supplementary educational assistance while attending either a private or public school." [http://mccain.senate.gov/press_office/view_article.cfm?id=682; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supports Charter Schools. At a Silicon Valley luncheon for business leaders, McCain stated that he supports charter schools because they provide competition. "It's not throwing money at the problem, it's got to do with competition. Why not try vouchers? We ought to do everything we can to instill competition." [San Jose Mercury News (California), 1/02/07; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supports Tax-Free Savings Accounts for Education Expenses. According to his 2000 presidential campaign website, McCain co-sponsored the Education A-Plus bill in 1997 (which Clinton vetoed) and again in 1999, to allow parents to open tax-free savings accounts for their children's educational expenses - including tutoring, computers, and tuition. [McCain for President web site, 7/02/99; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

McCain Supported Katrina Voucher Program. McCain voted for passage of the "motion to invoke cloture" (close debate and move forward to a vote) on the defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 (H.R. 2863). The bill included provisions funding the first national voucher program under the guise of relief for students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The voucher program allowed direct cash payments to flow through public school districts to private and religious schools. The bill also included a 1 percent across-the-board cut in funding for education and other priorities. The motion failed 56-44 (needed 60 votes) on December 21, 2005. A "no" vote supported the NEA position. (Senate Vote # 364). [<http://www.nea.org/lac/votedesc.html#senate>; NEA McCain Education Tracking Document]

Energy

McCain's Climate Message Is "Bush-Lite" And "Insubstantial." Michael Shank, of the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, said that while John McCain's climate message "...may, comparatively speaking, have the upper hand among Republican candidates" it is "...not only Bush-lite, but also insubstantial." Shank pointed out that both Bush and McCain acknowledged that global warming exists and that something should be done, but "their approaches are strikingly similar and sadly unassertive: let innovation, technology, and the free market solve the problem. According to both, business will lead and the greening of America will follow." Shank pointed out, "The only main difference between the two is that Bush would rely on ethanol subsidies to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil while for McCain leans heavily toward nuclear energy." [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Called For Alternative Energy Development And Independent From Oil Producing Nations.

At a rally in Michigan, McCain "...called for the development of solar, wind and tide-powered energy sources. He called for battery-powered cars and independence from oil producing nations. He said he had long favored 'green technologies' and the 'green revolution' that's spreading across America." McCain talked about the necessity of solving global warming issues for the sake of young Americans and he "...based his call for energy independence on national security, claiming the U.S. sends about \$400 billion per year to oil producing nations, and some of that money ends up with terrorist organizations." [MLive.com, [1/15/08](#)]

McCain Said U.S. Needs To Stop Spending On Overseas Oil, Said Oil Money Funds Terrorism. At the 2008 Fox News Channel G.O.P. debate in South Carolina, McCain said that the U.S. must, "...stop spending \$400 billion a year overseas to oil-producing countries that come right out of our economy immediately. Some of that money goes, unfortunately, to fund terrorist organizations." [Fox News Channel G.O.P Debate, [1/10/08](#)]

- **McCain Repeatedly Voted Against American Consumers and for Rich Oil Companies.** In 2005, McCain twice voted against legislation that would have temporarily taxed oil company profits and provided consumers with a tax credit. [Senate Roll Call Vote #341, 11/17/05; Senate Roll Call Vote #331, 11/17/05: DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]
- **McCain Said US Dependence on Foreign Oil Was A Security Threat, Yet He Voted Against Reducing that Dependence.** In 2005, McCain voted against legislation calling on the President to submit a plan to reduce foreign petroleum imports by 40 percent. [Senate Roll Call Vote #140, 6/16/05; DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]

McCain Accepted \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. According to Center for Responsive Politics, the numbers "are based on contributions from PACs and individuals giving \$200 or more. All donations took place during the 1989-2008 election cycle and were released by the Federal Election Commission." [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

McCain Only Senator Who Failed To Vote Energy Bill Aimed At Increasing Fuel Economy Standards. In 2007, McCain was the only senator who failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an additional amendment to the bill that would require new Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards of 35 miles per gallon for cars and light trucks, and require the production and use of 36 billion gallons of biofuels by 2022. It would direct the Energy Department to set new energy efficiency standards. The additional amendment would strike a provision that would require utilities to produce 15 percent of their electricity from alternative sources by 2020. It also would increase to \$21.8 billion a package of tax incentives that would be offset in part by eliminating or reducing \$13 billion in subsidies for major oil and gas companies. The motion was rejected 59-40. [CQ.com; HR 6, [Vote #425](#), 12/13/07]

- **McCain Spokes Said McCain Would Not Have Supported Breaking Filibuster.** According to Forbes.com, "Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., was not present for the voting because he is on the presidential

campaign trail. However, a spokesperson said that he would not have supported breaking the filibuster.” [Forbes.com, [12/13/07](#)]

McCain Failed to Vote to Invoke Cloture to Establish \$32.1B of Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the Baucus, D-Mont., amendment no. 1704 to the Reid substitute amendment no. 1502. The Baucus amendment would establish \$32.1 billion of tax incentives for alternative energy sources while imposing taxes on the oil and gas industry. It would create \$3.6 billion worth of renewable energy bonds, establish \$11 billion in tax incentives for renewable energy and authorize \$2.5 billion for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. The substitute would overhaul national energy policies including requiring the annual use of 15 billion gallons of biofuels by 2015, increasing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 and making petroleum price gouging a federal crime in a “national energy emergency.” It would also encourage carbon sequestration research, require the federal government to purchase 15 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015 and direct the State Department to pursue strategic partnerships with major energy-consuming and energy-producing nations. Motion rejected 57-36: R 10-34; D 45-2 (ND 41-1, SD 4-1); I 2-0. [HR 6, Vote #223, 6/21/07]

- **CAP: “Senate in June attempted to pass an ambitious \$24 billion bipartisan tax incentives package sponsored by Sens. Max Baucus (D-MT) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA).”** According to the Center for American Politics, “Then the Senate in June attempted to pass an ambitious \$24 billion bipartisan tax incentives package sponsored by Sens. Max Baucus (D-MT) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA). The Senate bill—in addition to enacting H.R. 6’s energy provisions—would have provided tax incentives for more energy efficiency and the development of carbon capture and storage technology to reduce global warming pollution from power plants. Both of these bills would have paid for these tax incentives with savings from closing oil company tax loopholes and recovering unpaid royalties from oil and gas production in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The big five oil companies, along with their trade association, the American Petroleum Institute, vigorously opposed these tax packages. Even though the Senate clean-energy tax package would recover a scant \$24 billion out of \$455 billion in profits—5 percent of total profits since 2001—the big oil companies pressured enough senators to oppose it so that it was not added to the Senate energy bill. The senators that voted to block this bill received more than two times the campaign contributions from oil and gas interests than those senators who voted for the clean-energy tax package. Baucus and Grassley hope to pass this package in time to include it in the final energy bill that will likely pass this fall.” [Center for American Progress, 7/23/07]

McCain Failed To Vote On Energy Independence Bill. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendments to the bill that would require new corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards of 35 miles per gallon for cars and light trucks, and require 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be blended with gasoline by 2022. It would require electric utilities to produce at least 15 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 and direct the Energy Department to set new energy efficiency standards. It also includes a \$21.5 billion package of tax incentives that would be offset in part by eliminating or reducing \$13 billion in subsidies for major oil and gas companies. The motion was rejected 53-42. [HR 6, [Vote #416](#), 12/07/07]

McCain Supported “Cap and Trade” System; Opposed Carbon Tax. According to the *New York Times*, “One priority, he said, would be to establish ‘cap and trade,’ a system in which corporations are essentially rewarded for deep cuts in harmful emissions. Mr. McCain has written a bill on that and forced two votes, losing both. … The senator opposes a measure that many environmentalists desire, a carbon tax, most likely as another gasoline tax. He told the warming and energy conference that he generally opposed new taxes but that he also believed that poor workers who tended to commute to work longer distances would be disproportionately affected.” [New York Times, 10/17/07]

McCain “Knew Little About the Climate Problem” in 1999. Senator McCain “acknowledges that he knew little about the climate problem when he sought his party’s presidential nomination eight years ago.” [[New York Times](#), 10/17/07]

McCain Agreed “Nuclear Power Should Be Greatly Expanded.” McCain, along with the rest of the Republican presidential candidates, “agree that nuclear power should be greatly expanded.” [[New York Times](#), 10/17/07]

McCain Opposed Environmentalist-Supported Idea of a Carbon Tax. The New York Times reported, “The senator [McCain] opposes a measure that many environmentalists desire, a carbon tax, most likely as another gasoline tax. He told the warming and energy conference that he generally opposed new taxes.” [[New York Times](#), 10/17/07]

McCain Voted Against Reducing Dependence on Foreign Oil. In 2005, McCain voted against legislation calling on the President to submit a plan to reduce foreign petroleum imports by 40 percent. [Senate Roll Call Vote #140, 6/16/05; DNC Press Release, 6/22/07]

McCain Evolved on Ethanol, From Worthless to Worth Our Investment. During his 2000 campaign, when he decided to forego campaigning in Iowa, John McCain called ethanol “not worth it” and a product with “absolutely, under no circumstances, any value whatsoever[.]” According to the *Des Moines Register* and the *Arizona Republic*, McCain now voiced support for ethanol while campaigning in Iowa and even called for increased investment in its use. [[Des Moines Register](#), 12/19/99; [Aberdeen American News](#), 5/2/04; [Des Moines Register](#), 4/14/06; [Arizona Republic](#), 5/9/06; DNC Press Release, 6/12/07]

McCain “Softened Stance” On Ethanol. McCain “indicate[d] a slight softening of his earlier opposition to the corn-based alternative fuel, which he said in the past was too costly to produce.” McCain “who once described ethanol as ‘good for neither the environment nor the consumer,’ said that rising oil costs make the alternative fuel worthy of another look.” “McCain emphasized … that his opposition to subsidies hasn’t changed, and said that economics, not politics, explains his revised position. ‘I think it ought to be something that ought to be carefully examined’ and researched, he added.” [[Des Moines Register](#), 4/13/06, 4/14/06]

Tax Breaks for Big Oil

McCain Voted Against 2005 Energy Bill. In 2005, McCain broke with the GOP and voted against the bill that would overhaul the nation’s energy policy and provide for approximately \$18 billion in energy-related tax incentives. Note: A “yea” vote was a vote in support of the president’s position. The bill passed 85-12. [HR 6, Vote #158, 6/28/05, D35-7, R 49-5, I 1-0]

- **McCain Voted Against 2005 Energy Bill.** In 2005, McCain voted against the Energy Policy Act of 2005. According to the *Detroit Free Press*, “On the same day the U.S. Senate passed what some call a comprehensive national energy policy, oil prices threatened to surpass \$61 a barrel on news of refinery fires and declining inventories...The legislation would provide incentives for the purchase and manufacture of hybrid-electric vehicles. The bill also would make it easier for energy companies to build coal-fired and nuclear generation facilities. Other highlights of the bill include provisions to extend daylight saving time by a month, subsidies to encourage oil and gas drilling, incentives to construct new nuclear power plants and increased research of renewable fuels.” Note: A “yea” vote was a vote in support of the president’s position. The conference report passed 74-26. [[Detroit Free Press](#), 7/30/05; HR 6, Vote #213, [7/29/05](#)]

McCain Voted Against \$13B Tax Cuts for Energy Industry. In 2004, McCain broke with the GOP and voted against cloture on Majority Leader Frist’s motion to recommit the Corporate Tax Overhaul bill to Committee to include a tax deduction for certain mortgage insurance payments, a 50% tax credit to employers that are paying reservists and National Guard members called to active duty and a welfare-to-work tax credit. The bill included \$13 billion in tax cuts for the energy industry. [Vote 67, 4/7/04; CQ, 4/7/04]

- **McCain Called House Energy Bill “No Lobbyist Left Behind Act”** According to Joel Connelly of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, “The Bush approach to energy can be summed up in four words: More of the same. The administration’s National Energy Policy has called for development of 1,300 new power plants

by the year 2020. ... The House of Representatives has passed an expanded version of the Bush plan. It would ladle out subsidies to oil and gas, nuclear energy, coal and ethanol. ... Truthfully, the subsidies have been too much to swallow, for lawmakers in both parties. ... Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has dubbed House legislation the ‘No Lobbyist Left Behind Act’ and the ‘Hooters and Polluters Act.’ (One piece of fine print in the bill sends an energy-efficient grant to a shopping complex, anchored by a Hooters, in the home district of Louisiana’s powerful Congressman Billy Tauzin.)” [Op-ed, Joel Connelly, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 10/15/04]

McCain Voted Against 2003 Energy Bill. In 2003, McCain broke with the GOP and voted against invoking cloture on the final version of the energy bill, which would have shielded producers of the contaminant MTBE from defective product lawsuits, including some lawsuits that are already in courts. The League of Conservation Voters called the bill “among the most anti-environment pieces of legislation in recent history.” The bill passed 57-40. [Vote 456, 11/21/03; www.LCV.org; D 13-32, R 44-7, I 0-1.]

- **Editorial: 2003 Energy Bill “Stinks.”** In September 2003, the Pioneer Press editorial board wrote that, even with the \$800 billion handout for a Minnesota power plant in the final energy bill, the package “still stinks.” They added, “The federal energy bill, a greased pig waddling to the finish line, stinks. It is too much to hope that it won’t pass. At least the Senate should retain its good sense and say no to drilling in ANWR and ordinary citizens should remember the energy bill fiasco, say, when filling the tank in the family van or paying the heating bills.” [Pioneer Press, 9/30/03]
- **McCain One Of Six GOP Senators to Oppose House-Senate Energy Bill.** According to *Platt's Oilgram News*, “The 1,200-page joint House-Senate energy bill, which proposes the most sweeping overhaul of US energy policy in a decade, was dealt a possibly fatal blow Nov 21 when supporters failed to muster the necessary 60 votes to limit debate on the measure. ... The final vote on ‘cloture’ was 57-40, meaning bill supporters fell three votes short of the 60 needed to limit debate. ... Six Republicans-Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, Judd Gregg and John Sununu of New Hampshire and John McCain of Arizona-joined Democrats in successfully blocking the Republican-led effort to limit debate. The Republicans against the bill are from states with MTBE contamination issues. They also say the bill is laden with billions of dollars of subsidies to the oil, gas, nuclear, coal and utility industries.” [Platt's Oilgram News, 11/24/03]

McCain Called for End to Tax Breaks for Oil and Gas Companies. In 2000, according to Newhouse News Service, “Last week, McCain was criticized by the IPAA for calling for an end to tax breaks for the oil and gas industry, and other special interests. ‘Every tax dollar taken from special interest tax relief is another dollar that can be applied to provide American family tax relief,’ McCain said. Among the tax breaks he would target is the right of oil and gas companies to fully deduct, rather than merely depreciate, certain capital costs associated with drilling, exploration and development.” [Newhouse News Service, 1/20/00]

- **McCain Supported School Vouchers Paid For By Eliminating Ethanol, Gas And Oil Subsidies.** In 2000, McCain supported “School vouchers worth \$2,000 for disadvantaged children under three-year, \$5.4 billion program to be paid for by eliminating ethanol, gas and oil subsidies, and sugar price supports.” [San Diego Union-Tribune, 3/04/00]

McCain Voted Against American Consumers and for Rich Oil Companies... TWICE. In 2005, McCain twice voted against legislation that would have temporarily taxed oil company profits and provided consumers with a tax credit. [Senate Roll Call Vote #341, 11/17/05; Senate Roll Call Vote #331, 11/17/05; DNC, [6/12/07](#)]

Ethanol

1999: McCain Opposes Ethanol Subsidies. In 1999, John McCain said, “Well, on ethanol subsidies, obviously, I oppose that, have always opposed it, as I have most other subsidies.” During a 1999 Presidential debate in Iowa

John McCain said, "Ethanol is not worth it. It does not help the consumer," McCain said. [Fox News, 6/15/99; Des Moines Register, 12/19/99]

2005: Just Last Year, McCain Voted Against Ethanol. In 2005, John McCain "voted with ethanol's critics" against Senate legislation which "would require 8 billion gallons of ethanol to be blended with U.S. gasoline by 2012." [AP, 6/18/05; USA Today, 6/20/05; H.R. 6, 6/14/05, Roll Call #137, 6/15/05, Roll Call #138, 139]

2003, 2004: McCain Also Voted Against Ethanol in 2004, and 2003. In 2004, John McCain voted against an amendment to Senate Bill S 150 to promote ethanol, declaring that ethanol was "a product that we have created a market for which has absolutely, under no circumstances, any value whatsoever except to corn producers and Archer Daniels Midland and other large agribusinesses." In 2003, John McCain voted to block a final vote to an "energy bill coveted by Iowa farm interests" that "would double use of corn-based ethanol." [S 150; Aberdeen American News, 5/2/04, S. Res. 150, 4/29/04, Roll Call #74; Des Moines Register, 11/22/03; H.R. 6, 11/21/03, Roll Call #456]

2006: McCain Emphasized Ethanol And Nuclear Energy As Means To Slow Climate Change. Speaking at the Clean Cities Conference in Phoenix, McCain "noted his concern about the effects of global warming caused by the burning of gasoline and oil. 'Climate change is real and having a real impact on our lives,' McCain said. 'The evidence that the rising temperatures are human-caused is overwhelming.' He called for increased investment in the use of ethanol, a combination of gasoline and grain alcohol, as well as a further commitment to nuclear power for electrical generation. 'I firmly believe that nuclear power is a clean technology for reducing climate change,' McCain said." [\[Arizona Republic, 5/9/06\]](#)

2006: McCain Softened Stance On Ethanol. "While he remains opposed to subsidies for ethanol, U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona indicated today during an Iowa trip that he thinks ethanol can be competitive in an increasingly costly oil market. ... McCain did indicate a slight softening of his earlier opposition to the corn-based alternative fuel, which he said in the past was too costly to produce. In 1998, McCain sought to block the extension of tax credits and subsidies for ethanol producers that were due to expire in 2000. "At \$10 a barrel (for oil), I don't think ethanol was a very viable option. At \$60 or \$70 a barrel, I think it needs to be examined," McCain said. "There's also national security implications but I was and remain opposed to subsidies." ... McCain said ethanol should have to compete without government help. "I think if ethanol is a viable option, it can compete, as it certainly can with \$70-a-barrel oil. I think it ought to be something that ought to be carefully examined." [\[Des Moines Register, 4/13/06\]](#)

Environment

McCain Encourages General Motor To Move In a Greener Direction. While touring a Ford Motor Company plant in Michigan, McCain called Ford's efforts to move in a greener direction "very important." He added, "It's the future, and I'm glad they're doing it here." [Associated Press, [2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain Received a 'Zero' Rating From The League of Conservation Voters.** McCain was awarded a Zero rating by the League of Conservation Voters. McCain missed every single vote concerning the environment in the year 2007. His previous year's ratings were 41%, 56%, and 36% for the 109th, 108th, and 107th congresses, respectively. [League of Conservation Voters, accessed [2/22/08](#)]

McCain Forecasted To Fall Short On Global Warming. While McCain acknowledge the problems associated with global warming, his proposed solutions seem inadequate. If McCain was fully vested in fighting climate change he would have to move beyond cap and trade and focus on judges, federal agencies and departments, alternative fuels, and public advocacy. [Salon.com, [2/8/08](#)]

McCain Defended California's Right to Impose Stricter Emission Standards. During the last Republican presidential debate before Super Tuesday, McCain said he would allow states to impose stricter regulations on greenhouse gases than are currently enforced by the federal government. "McCain said states should be able to decide their own environmental policies, including emissions and offshore drilling. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger backs his state's emissions push, and is slated to endorse McCain in the 2008 Republican presidential contest." [Phoenix Business Journal, 1/31/08]

McCain Claimed That, "We Westerners Care Very Much About Our Environment and We Want to Act." During the California Republican debate, McCain said, "The state of California and state of Arizona, we westerners care very much about our environment and we want to act." [CNN, 1/30/08; DNC Rapid Response]

- **McCain Voted Against Funding for National Parks.** In 1996, McCain voted against an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1997 Budget Resolution (SCR 57) which would have increased funding for national parks and sewer systems by \$6.5 billion. This amendment failed by a vote of 45 to 54. In 1995, McCain also voted against an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Resolution (SCR 13) that would have increased funding for National Parks by \$1 billion. The motion to consider this amendment – which required a 3/5ths vote to pass – was defeated by a vote of 46 to 53. [CQ Vote# 155, 5/23/96; CQ Vote# 210, 5/25/95; DNC Rapid Response]
- **McCain Voted To Allow Oil Drilling In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** In 1995, McCain voted multiple times in favor of amendments to the extreme GOP budget (HR 2491) to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. McCain also voted for the final Senate and conference versions of the bill, which contained language to allow oil drilling in the ANWR. President Clinton vetoed this extreme GOP budget bill. [Senate CQ Vote# 190, 5/24/95; Senate CQ Vote# 525, 10/27/95; Senate CQ Vote# 556, 10/28/95; Senate CQ Vote# 584, 11/17/95; DNC Rapid Response]
- **McCain Voted Against Wilderness Protection.** McCain has voted repeatedly against protecting millions of acres of national forest land and desert land as federally protected wilderness. He voted to defund the Mojave National Preserve, against the California Desert Protection Act, against the Oregon Wilderness Act, and was one of only 11 Representatives to vote against the California Wilderness Act. [Senate CQ Vote# 584, 11/17/95; Wilderness, 12/22/95; Senate CQ Vote# 89, 4/13/94; Senate CQ Vote# 326, 10/8/94; House CQ Vote# 35, 3/21/83; 1983 League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard; House CQ Vote# 47, 4/12/83; DNC Rapid Response]

McCain Is Only GOP Candidate With Comprehensive Global Warming Plan, Endorsed By Republicans For Environmental Protection. According to the *Hartford Courant*, John McCain is the only Republican candidate

with a comprehensive global warming plan. Also according to the *Courant*, McCain was endorsed by the Republicans for Environmental Protection and the League of Conservation Voters called him a “leader” on climate issues. Among a fairly extensive environmental record, McCain apparently also opposes drilling in ANWR. [Hartford Courant, [1/6/08](#)]

McCain Introduced Bill to Curb Global Warming Pollution with Lieberman. In 2003, he introduced the first Senate bill attempting to curb global warming pollution with Senator Joe Lieberman, and reintroduced similar legislation in 2005 and 2007. According to a press release from Senator Lieberman, “Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) reintroduced the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act (S. 280) today with his longstanding ally, Senator John McCain (R-AZ). … The 2005 version of the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act would have capped US greenhouse gas emissions at year 2000 levels without mandating further reductions. The new bill (S. 280) will gradually lower the emissions cap, such that it reaches approximately one third of 2000 levels by 2050. Those long-term reductions will forestall catastrophic, manmade climate change, provided the world’s other major economies follow suit within the next decade. Like the 2005 version, the reintroduced bill controls compliance costs by allowing companies to trade, save, and borrow emissions credits, and by allowing them to generate ‘offset’ credits by inducing non-covered businesses, farms, and others to reduce their emissions or capture and store greenhouse gases. The reintroduced bill, however, increases the availability of borrowing and offsets in order to control costs further. Lieberman and McCain first introduced their landmark bill to curb global warming using a market-based system in 2003. They forced the US Senate to vote on the measure that year, and on the reintroduced bill in 2005. In June 2005, the Senate passed a resolution calling for the enactment of legislation to reverse the persistent growth of global warming pollution without harming the US economy and while encouraging the country’s major trading partners to take comparable action.” [LCV 2008 Presidential Primaries Voter Guide, accessed [1/31/08](#); Lieberman Press Release, 1/12/07]

McCain’s Climate Bill Would Only Reduce Carbon Emissions Only 65% by 2050. According to the League of Conservation Voters, “Yet Sen. McCain’s climate bill would reduce carbon emissions only 65 percent by 2050, whereas science tell us we must meet or exceed 80 percent reductions by 2050 to avoid major environmental catastrophes.” [LCV 2008 Presidential Primaries Voter Guide, accessed [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Co-Sponsored Legislation With Lieberman To Curb Greenhouse Gas Emissions. According to the *New Yorker*, McCain became very passionate about global warming issues and has even co-sponsored legislation with Senator Joseph Lieberman to curb greenhouse-gas emissions. [New Yorker, 5/30/05]



VIEW IMAGES

Name: Vicki Lee Iseman
DOB: October 1967
Home State: Pennsylvania
Education: Indiana University in Pennsylvania, class of 1990

Links To McCain

McCain's Close Relationship With Lobbyist Worried Advisers On 2000 Campaign. Advisers from McCain's 2000 campaign for president were worried about the extent of a relationship between McCain and Vicki Iseman. According to the *New York Times*, "A female lobbyist had been turning up with him at fund-raisers, visiting his offices and accompanying him on a client's corporate jet. Convinced the relationship had become romantic, some of his top advisers intervened to protect the candidate from himself — instructing staff members to block the woman's access, privately warning her away and repeatedly confronting him, several people involved in the campaign said on the condition of anonymity." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain's Advisers Noticed A 'Close Bond' Between McCain And Iseman.**

According to the *New York Times*, McCain and Iseman "both say they never had a romantic relationship. But to his advisers, even the appearance of a close bond with a lobbyist whose clients often had business before the Senate committee Mr. McCain led threatened the story of redemption and rectitude that defined his political identity." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain Was 'Blinded By Confidence.'** According to the *New York Times*, "Even as he has vowed to hold himself to the highest ethical standards, his confidence in his own integrity has sometimes seemed to blind him to potentially embarrassing conflicts of interest." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]
- **Iseman Was 'Always Around' McCain's 2000 Campaign.** According to the *New York Times*, "[Charles] Black said Mr. McCain and Ms. Iseman were friends and nothing more. But in 1999 she began showing up so frequently in his offices and at campaign events that staff members took notice. One recalled asking, 'Why is she always around?'" [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

McCain Was 'Just Like Other Lawmakers' And Flew On The Corporate Jets Of Iseman's Clients.

According to the *New York Times*, "...like other lawmakers, he often flew on the corporate jets of business executives seeking his support, including the media moguls Rupert Murdoch, Michael R. Bloomberg and Lowell W. Paxson, Ms. Iseman's client." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain & Iseman Flew On The Corporate Jet of Paxson Communications, Iseman's Client.**

According to the *New York Times*, Mr. McCain and Ms. Iseman attended a small fund-raising dinner with several clients at the Miami-area home of a cruise-line executive and then flew back to Washington along with a campaign aide on the corporate jet of one of her clients, Paxson Communications." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

Campaign Staffers Were Concerned McCain's Relationship With Iseman Was Romantic. According to the *New York Times*, "...according to two former McCain associates, some of the senator's advisers had grown so concerned that the relationship had become romantic that they took steps to intervene. A former campaign adviser described being instructed to keep Ms. Iseman away from the senator at public events, while a Senate aide recalled plans to limit Ms. Iseman's access to his offices." [[New York Times, 2/21/08](#)]

McCain Admitted Inappropriate Behavior. According to the *New York Times*, "In interviews, the two former associates said they joined in a series of confrontations with Mr. McCain, warning him that he was risking his

campaign and career. Both said Mr. McCain acknowledged behaving inappropriately and pledged to keep his distance from Ms. Iseman.” [New York Times, [2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain Wrote Letters To The FCC, Urging the Approval Of Glencairn Deal.** According to the *New York Times*, “Mr. McCain wrote letters in 1998 and 1999 to the Federal Communications Commission urging it to uphold marketing agreements allowing a television company to control two stations in the same city, a crucial issue for Glencairn Ltd., one of Ms. Iseman’s clients.” [New York Times, [2/21/08](#)]
- **McCain Pushed Tax Incentives For Iseman’s Clients.** According to the *New York Times*, “[McCain] introduced a bill to create tax incentives for minority ownership of stations; Ms. Iseman represented several businesses seeking such a program.” [New York Times, [2/21/08](#)]
- **McCain Pushed For Expedited Approval Of Paxson Communications Deal.** According to the *New York Times*, In late 1999, Ms. Iseman asked Mr. McCain’s staff to send a letter to the commission to help Paxson, now Ion Media Networks, on another matter. Mr. Paxson was impatient for F.C.C. approval of a television deal, and Ms. Iseman acknowledged in an e-mail message to The Times that she had sent to Mr. McCain’s staff information for drafting a letter urging a swift decision.” The Chairman of the FCC rebuked McCain for the interference. [New York Times, [2/21/08](#)]
- **McCain Wrote Letters After Paxson Donated More Than \$20,000 To His 2000 Campaign.** According to the *Associated Press*, “McCain wrote the letters after he received more than \$20,000 in contributions from Paxson executives and lobbyists. Paxson also lent McCain his company’s jet at least four times during 1999 for campaign travel.” [Associated Press, [2/21/08](#)]

McCain’s Campaign Planned Two Use A Two-Pronged Attack To Beat the Iseman Story. According to *Politico*, “The McCain campaign is using a two-pronged attack to push back against the story. First, they’ll argue it was a thinly sourced piece of innuendo journalism. But McCain aides will also strike at the source, using the Times’ liberal reputation as a means of self-defense to draw sympathy from the GOP’s conservative base.” [Politico, [2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain Denied Inappropriate Ties To Iseman.** During a press conference, McCain denied having any inappropriate ties, romantic or professional, with lobbyist Vicki Iseman. According to the *Associated Press*, McCain insisted that, “It’s not true,” and, “At no time have I ever done anything that would betray the public trust.” [Associated Press, [2/21/08](#)]
- **Cindy McCain: I Know He Would Never Do Anything To Disappoint Our Family.** Despite McCain’s admitted marital infidelity in his first marriage, Cindy McCain said at a press conference, “My children and I not only trust my husband, but know that he would never do anything to not only disappoint our family, but disappoint the people of America. He’s a man of great character.”

The Bush White House Jumped To Defend McCain. White House deputy press secretary, Scott Stanzel said, “I think a lot of people here in this building, with experience in a couple campaigns, have grown accustomed to the fact that during the course of the campaign, seemingly on maybe a monthly basis leading up to the convention and maybe a weekly basis after that, the New York Times does try to drop a bombshell on the Republican nominee.” [Associated Press, [2/22/08](#)]

YouTube Member Mentioned McCain-Iseman Relationship on Site. A YouTube member calling themselves “EllaLohan” left a comment to a YouTube video of McCain saying, “Ask John McCain about his lobbyist ‘friend’ Vicki Iseman. I dare you...” [YouTube, “Stallone on McCain,” comment, accessed cached version on 2/5/08]

Vicki Iseman’s Work As A Lobbyist

Iseman Works for Washington Lobbying Firm. Iseman is a partner at Alcade & Fay, a lobbying firm with a large portfolio of clients ranging from municipal governments and public authorities to private companies. Iseman “represents corporate and public clients on issues as diverse as government contracting and regulatory reform” and she represents “clients before Congress, Federal government agencies and local opinion leaders.” Her official bio cites her “extensive experience in telecommunications, representing corporations before the House and Senate Commerce Committees.” McCain was chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee from 1997–2001, for a period in 2001, and again from 2003-2005. [Alcade & Fay, http://www.alcaldefay.com/meet_the_firm/BiosDetail.cfm?id=44]

- **Iseman Worked her way up from Receptionist.** After working for a few months as a receptionist at Alcade & Fay, Iseman walked into the company president’s office and said, “You don’t really know me, but I answer the phones. I’m a college graduate and I’d like you to consider me for a secretarial or an administrative position.” He agreed and within a year she became “his special assistant.” [Indiana University of Pennsylvania Magazine, Fall 2002]
- **Iseman Became Firm’s Youngest Partner.** After eight years at Alcade & Fay, Iseman “became the youngest partner ever in the firm.” [Indiana University of Pennsylvania Magazine, fall 2002]

Iseman Billed over \$8 Million for Lobbying. Between 1999 and June 1997, Iseman and her lobbying firm billed her clients alone at least \$8,005,000 for lobbying services. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/4/08]

Iseman’s Clients Gave Thousands to McCain.

- **Computer Sciences Corporation PAC gave McCain \$4,000.** Iseman has lobbied for Computer Sciences Corporation PAC Since at least 1999, during which time it has given John McCain \$4,000 in campaign contributions. The PAC gave him \$2,000 to his Senate reelection campaign in 2006, \$1,000 to his Senate reelection campaign in 2004, and \$1,000 to his presidential campaign in 2000. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Executives at Defense Contractor CACI gave McCain Thousands Within Days of Iseman Beginning Relationship with Company.** According to Defense News, a part of the Army Times Publishing Company, CACI ranks 43rd in defense contracts and took in over \$1.28 billion in Defense revenue in 2006. It receives over 73 percent of its revenue through DOD contracts. CACI executives and consultants have given at least \$10,100 to McCain’s 2008 presidential bid, including a \$2,300 contribution from CACI Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board J.P. London. Over 85 percent of these contributions were made after Iseman began lobbying for the company on June 22, 2007. In fact, CACI executives made \$3,325 in contributions – over 32 percent of the total given – in the eight days after Iseman registered as a lobbyist for CACI. [Defense News, <http://www.defensenews.com/index.php?S=07top100>, accessed 2/5/08; FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Arison Family Gave McCain Thousands.** Iseman has lobbied for the Arison Family Trust since 2002. Micky Arison, chairman and CEO of Carnival Corporation and Managing General Partner of the Miami Heat, has given McCain three campaign contributions totaling \$4,000, the largest coming after Iseman began lobbying for the Arison Family Trust. He gave McCain \$2,000 for his Senate run in 1998, \$1,000 for his first presidential run in 1999, and \$2,000 for his Senate account in 2003. Micky’s wife, Madeleine Adison, has given McCain a total of \$3,000 - \$2,000 for his Senate run in 1998 and \$1,000 for his first presidential bid in 1999. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08; Miami Heat Director, http://www.nba.com/heat/contact/directory_arison.html, accessed 2/5/08]
- **BearingPoint Director Gave Thousands to McCain.** Iseman has lobbied for Bearing Point since 2004. On June 30, 2007, Albert Lord, a member of the board of BearingPoint, maxed out McCain for the primary and the general, giving him \$4,600. Two months later, on August 28, McCain’s campaign returned \$2,300 to Lord. McCain has also received a \$200 contribution from a BearingPoint consultant, Anthony Klimas. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]

- **Carnival Executives Gave to McCain while Iseman Lobbied for Company.** Iseman lobbied for Carnival Cruise Lines in 1999 and 2000. Over this two year stretch, Carnival CEO and board chairman Micky Arison gave McCain \$1,000 for his first presidential bid. Also during this time, Howard S. Frank, vice chairman of the board and COO gave \$1,000 to McCain 2000 presidential bid. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Christian Networks Executive Gave McCain \$1,000.** In 2000, Robert Bright, an executive with Christian Networks Inc., gave \$1,000 to McCain's 2000 presidential campaign. Iseman lobbied for Christian Networks Inc. and subsequently the Total Living Network (after it changed names) from 2000 to 2003. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Hispanic Broadcasting Executive gave \$1,000 to McCain.** In 2000, Douglas Darfield, director of research at Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, contributed \$1,000 to McCain's presidential campaign. Iseman lobbied for Hispanic Broadcasting and subsequently for Univision Radio after it was acquired by Univision. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]

Iseman Included in “Big Pharma’s 625 Washington Lobbyists.” In 2001, Public Citizen came out with a report titled “The Other Drug War: Big Pharma’s 625 Washington Lobbyists,” which included a list of lobbyists working for the pharmaceutical industry. Iseman was included for her work with AstraZeneca. [Public Citizen, 7/23/01, <http://www.citizen.org/documents/pharmadrugwar.PDF>]

American Freedom PAC

American Freedom PAC was set up in 2004 as a pro-Republican, single-issue group. Officially, it is not affiliated with any other organizations or groups, but its address is listed as the Alcalde & Faye office. Vicki Iseman is listed as the PAC's registered agent with the Virginia State Corporations Commission, and is also one of three directors. One of the other directors also works at Alcalde & Faye, and the other is an executive at Carnival Corporation. There is a clear link between the PAC, the lobbying firm and the cruise line industry. 100 percent of the donations made to this PAC have come from employees of Alcalde & Faye and from the cruise line industry, and a large number of donations have been made to the U.S. senators and representatives from Florida, where the cruise line executives are based.

Iseman is Director and Registered Agent of PAC. In filings with the Virginia State Corporation Commission, Iseman is listed as the “Registered Agent” for the American Freedom Political Action Committee, which means she is the PAC's main point of contact with the commission. She is also listed as one of three directors. The other two are Cindy Colenda and Thomas Dow. The treasurer is listed as Lisa Saenz. The PAC filed with the state in July 2005. FEC records show the PAC began taking contributions and giving to candidates in late 2004. The PAC lists the Alcalde & Fay office in Arlington as its home address. [Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed 2/6/08; FEC, accessed 2/6/08; CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/6/08]

- **Thomas Dow is Executive at Carnival.** Thomas Dow, one of the other two directors of the American Freedom PAC, is the vice president of public affairs for the Carnival Corporation. Iseman lobbied for Carnival in 1999 and 2000, and still lobbies for the Arison Family Trust, which is associated with Micky Arison, the chairman and CEO of Carnival. [Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed 2/6/08; FEC, accessed 2/5/08; Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association, accessed 2/6/08]
- **Cindy Colenda Lobbies at Iseman’s Firm.** Cindy Colenda, one of the other two directors of the American Freedom PAC, is a consultant at Alcalde & Fay, the lobbying firm Iseman works at. She initially joined the firm in 1983 and later served as the president of the International Council of Cruise Lines. [Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed 2/6/08; Alcalde & Fay, http://www.alcalde-fay.com/meet_the_firm/BiosDetail.cfm?id=35, accessed 2/6/08]

All Donations to American Freedom PAC Came from Alcalde & Fay Lobbyists or from the Cruise Line Industry.

Since 2004, all \$93,550 contributed to American Freedom PAC have come from either Alcalde & Faye executives and lobbyists, from Royal Caribbean Cruise and Carnival Cruise executives or their wives, or from the International Council of Cruise Lines PAC. Several large donors make up the bulk of these contributions, including Alcalde & Faye Chairman Hector Alcalde, who has contributed \$4,500; Carnival chairman and CEO Micky Arison and his wife, who have given \$30,000; and Royal Caribbean CEO Richard Fain and his wife, who have given \$35,000. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/6/08]

2003-2004 Donors to American Freedom PAC

DONOR	EMPLOYER	AMOUNT	Date
Alcalde, Hector	Alcalde & Faye / Chairman	\$1,000	9/13/2004
Brown, Shantrel	Alcalde & Fay / Consultant	\$500	11/12/2004
Fain, Richard	Royal Caribbean Cruises / Chairman	\$5,000	10/11/2004
Fain, Colleen	Homemaker	\$5,000	10/19/2004
Sullivan, William	Alcalde & Fay / Consultant	\$500	11/10/2004
International Council of Cruise Lines PAC		\$5,000	9/24/2004

2003-2004 American Freedom PAC Expenditures

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	DATE
Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)	\$2,000	12/22/2004
Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC)	\$1,000	10/28/2004
Rep. Jim Davis (D-FL)	\$1,000	11/01/2004
Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)	\$1,000	10/11/2004
Rep. Richard Baker (R-LA)	\$1,000	09/29/2004
Republican Party of Hillsborough (FL)	\$5,000	10/27/2004
Mark Sharpe Campaign (FL)	\$500	09/15/2004
Campaign for Wayne Richards (FL)	\$500	10/24/2004
The Carlos Alvarez Campaign Fund (FL)	\$250	09/15/2004
Jimmy Morales Campaign (FL)	\$250	09/15/2004

2005-2006 Donors to American Freedom PAC

DONOR	EMPLOYER	AMOUNT	Date
Alcalde Hector	Alcalde & Fay / Chairman	\$2,000	05/17/2005
Arison, Micky	Carnival Cruise Lines/Chairman/CEO	\$5,000	04/27/2005
Arison, Micky	Carnival Cruise Lines/Chairman/CEO	\$5,000	05/22/2006
Arison, Madeleine	Homemaker	\$5,000	04/27/2005
Arison, Madeleine	Homemaker	\$5,000	05/22/2006
Bafalis, Skip	Alcalde & Fay / Partner	\$500	05/27/2005
Catron, Robert	Alcalde & Fay / Partner	\$250	05/27/2005
Catron, Sherry	Homemaker	\$250	05/27/2005
Dow, Thomas	Carnival Cruise Lines	\$2,000	02/02/2006
Dow, Thomas	Carnival Cruise Lines	\$2,500	06/08/2005
Fain, Richard	Royal Caribbean Cruises / Chairman	\$5,000	06/23/2005
Fain, Richard	Royal Caribbean Cruises / Chairman	\$5,000	10/10/2006
Fain, Colleen	Homemaker	\$5,000	10/10/2006
Fay, Kevin	Alcalde & Fay / President	\$1,000	05/27/2005
Hirshberg, Jennifer	Alcalde & Fay / Lobbyist	\$500	01/05/2005

McAdams, Michael	Alcalde & Fay / Partner	\$500	05/17/2005
McBeth, Danielle	Alcalde & Fay / Partner	\$500	05/27/2005
Moore, Lois	Alcalde & Fay / Partner	\$500	05/27/2005
Prowitt, Nancy	Alcalde & Fay	\$550	06/23/2005

2005-2006 American Freedom PAC Expenditures

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	DATE
Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)	\$2,000	06/23/2006
Sen. Mel Martinez (R-FL)	\$2,000	10/12/2005
Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	\$1,000	12/14/2005
Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV)	\$1,000	09/25/2006
Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-MN)	\$1,000	06/23/2006
Sen. Bill Nelson	\$150	09/07/2005
Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL)	\$2,000	04/26/2005
Rep. Don Young (R-AK)	\$2,000	06/08/2005
Rep. Cathy Castor (D-FLA)	\$1,000	11/06/2006
Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL)	\$1,000	10/05/2006
Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA)	\$1,000	06/23/2006
Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA)	\$1,000	10/27/2005
Rep. Bobby Jindal (R-LA)	\$1,000	03/01/2006
Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA)	\$1,000	12/09/2005
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)	\$1,000	12/06/2005
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)	\$1,000	07/27/2006
Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)	\$1,000	09/23/2005
Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX)	\$1,000	09/07/2005
Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX)	\$250	06/17/2005
Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC)	\$1,000	09/23/2005
Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)	\$1,000	09/23/2005
Rep. David Hobson (R-OH)	\$1,000	11/07/2005
Rep. David Hobson (R-OH)	\$1,000	06/24/2005
Rep. Ric Keller (R-FL)	\$1,000	09/12/2005
Rep. John Hunter (R-TN)	\$1,000	06/09/2005
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)	\$1,000	06/08/2005
Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)	\$1,000	01/05/2005
Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)	\$1,000	07/27/2006
Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL)	\$1,000	09/25/2006
Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)	\$1,000	07/27/2006
Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)	\$500	09/23/2005
Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA)	\$500	10/31/2005
Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA)	\$500	06/24/2005
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)	\$500	11/28/2005
Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA)	\$500	06/27/2005
Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)	\$500	11/28/2005
Commonwealth PAC (Gov. Mitt Romney, R-MA)	\$200	10/16/2006
NRCC	\$1,000	06/08/2005
NRCC	\$1,000	06/08/2005
The Badger Fund (Rep. Tom Petri, R-WI)	\$1,000	07/18/2005
Harvest PAC (Rep. Allen Boyd, D-FL)	\$1,000	12/05/2005
Virginia Victory PAC (Sen. George Allen, R-VA)	\$1,000	06/08/2005

2007-2008 Donors to American Freedom PAC (through 12/31/07)

DONOR	EMPLOYER	AMOUNT	DATE
Alcalde, Hector	Alcalde & Fay / Chairman	\$500	05/31/2007
Alcalde, Hector	Alcalde & Fay / Chairman	\$500	04/20/2007
Alcalde, Hector	Alcalde & Fay / Chairman	\$500	02/22/2007
Arison, Madeleine	Homemaker	\$5,000	03/29/2007
Arison, Micky	Carnival Corporation/Chairman/CEO	\$5,000	03/29/2007
Colenda, Cynthia	Alcalde & Fay / Lobbyist	\$250	04/20/2007
Dow, Thomas	Carnival Cruise Lines	\$2,500	03/14/2007
Fain, Richard	Royal Caribbean Cruises / Chairman	\$5,000	06/14/2007
Fain, Colleen	Homemaker	\$5,000	06/14/2007
Fay, Kevin	Alcalde & Fay / President	\$500	02/22/2007
Frank, Howard	Carnival Corporation / Vice Chairman	\$2,500	05/15/2007
Frank, Mary	Art Historian / Homemaker	\$2,500	05/15/2007
Prowitt, Nancy	Alcalde & Fay / Managing Partner	\$500	02/22/2007
Schlesinger, Paul	Alcalde & Fay / Lobbyist	\$250	03/22/2007

2007-2008 American Freedom PAC Expenditures (through 12/31/07)

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	DATE
Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)	\$2,500	06/22/2007
Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)	\$1,000	04/09/2007
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	\$1,000	04/03/2007
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	\$1,000	03/15/2007
Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)	\$1,000	03/21/2007
Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX)	\$500	06/18/2007
Rep. John Murtha (D-PA)	\$400	06/18/2007
Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)	\$1,000	03/29/2007

Iseman's Personal Assets

Iseman Purchased Arlington Home in 1994. In December 1994, Iseman purchased a condo in the Windsor Plaza complex near the Ballston Metro Station in Arlington. The purchase price was \$152,925, and she took out a loan for the vast majority - \$145,900 – from Ameribanc Savings Bank. [Property Transfer Records for Arlington County, VA, accessed 2/6/08]

- **Iseman Sold Condo in 2005 for More than 3 Times what she Paid.** In May 2005, Iseman sold her Arlington condo to Alan Fisher for \$478,000. [Property Transfer Records for Arlington County, VA, accessed 2/6/08]

Iseman Purchased Pricy Alexandra Row House in 2005. In June 2005, Iseman purchased a row house in Alexandra for \$790,000. [Property Record for Alexandra City, VA, accessed 2/6/08]

ESTIMATED ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE JANUARY 1, 2007

Owner: ISEMAN VICKI; Owner Occupied

Mailing Address: 328 CAMERON STATION BV, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

Property Address: 328 CAMERON STATION BV, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

***** **SALES INFORMATION** *****

Recorded Date: 06/03/2005

Sale Price: \$ 790,000 (Full Amount)

Book/Page: 500/1903

Document Number: 050019031

Prior Sales Date: 07/27/2001

Prior Sales Price: \$ 345,125 (Full Amount)

***** **ASSESSMENT INFORMATION** *****

Assessor's Parcel Number: 50674720

Legal Description: LOT: 37; BLOCK: 3; ASSESSOR'S MAP REFERENCE: MAP 68.02

Brief Description: LOT 97 PH 4 CAMERON STATION (D318)

Market Value Year: 2007

Market Land Value: \$ 246,734

Market Improvement Value: \$ 344,344

Total Market Value: \$ 591,078

Land Use: ROW HOUSE RESIDENTIAL; Zoning: CDD#9 - COORDINATED DEVEL

Assessment Year: 2007

Assessed Land Value: \$ 246,734

Assessed Improvement Value: \$ 344,344

Total Assessed Value: \$ 591,078

***** **TAX INFORMATION** *****

Tax Amount: \$ 4,905.95

Tax Year: 2007

***** **PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS** *****

Year Built: 2001

No. of Buildings:

Stories: 2 With Basement

Style:

Units:	Air Conditioning:	Central
Bedrooms:	Heating:	Central
Baths: 4.00	Construction:	Masonry
Partial Baths:	Basement:	Yes
Total Rooms:	Exterior Walls:	Brick/Stone
Fireplace: Yes	Foundation:	
Garage Type: Underground/Basement	Roof:	
Garage Size: 2 Car(s)	Elevator:	
Pool/Spa:	Lot Size:	871 SF
	Building Area:	2000

TAPE PRODUCED BY COUNTY: 6/2007

PROPERTY TRANSFER RECORD FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA

Buyer: ISEMAN, VICKI L

Seller: PARKINGTON ASSOC LC

Property Address: 1045 UTAH ST N 301, ARLINGTON, VA 22201

***** SALES INFORMATION *****

Recorded Date: 12/27/1994

Sale Price: \$ 152,925 (Full Amount Computed From Transfer Tax)

Book/Page: 2707/1895

Assessor's Parcel Number: 14020143

Legal Description: SUBDIVISION: WINDSOR PLAZA CONDO; PHASE NUMBER: 2

Brief Description: BLDG-2; PK SP 109C

***** MORTGAGE INFORMATION *****

Lender: AMERIBANC SAVINGS BANK

Loan Amount: \$ 145,900

***** PROPERTY DESCRIPTION *****

Land Use: CONDOMINIUM

Iseman Criminal History

Iseman Arrested for DWI. On August 14, 1997, Iseman was pulled over for driving while intoxicated. She pleaded guilty to misdemeanor DWI in Arlington General District Court and was fined. [Virginia Criminal History Records, Traffic Courts, accessed 2/6/08]

Iseman Ticketed for Driving in HOV Lane. In August 2003, Iseman was ticketed for failing to obey HOV lane signs. [Virginia Criminal History Records, Traffic Courts, accessed 2/6/08; Virginia Statues, <http://www.vesc.virginia.gov/VCCs/2007/ResearchEdition%20-%20Statute.pdf>, accessed 2/6/08]

Iseman Ticketed for going 22 MPH Over Speed Limit. In October 2001, Iseman was ticketed for driving 52 mph in a 30 mph zone. [Virginia Criminal History Records, Traffic Courts, accessed 2/6/08]

Iseman Ticketed for going 17 MPH Over Speed Limit. In November 1999, Iseman was ticketed for driving 42 mph in a 25 mph zone. [Virginia Criminal History Records, Traffic Courts, accessed 2/6/08]

Iseman Ticketed for Failing to Yield. In August 1994, Iseman was ticketed for failing to yield. [Virginia Criminal History Records, Traffic Court, accessed 2/6/08]

McCain Cheated On His First Wife

McCain Cheated on First Wife. In 1979, at the age of 42, and “although he was still living with his wife, he was aggressively courting a 25-year-old woman who was as beautiful as she was rich.” McCain met the woman, then Cindy Hensley, while still married and on a business trip to Hawaii. “Over the next six months, Mr. McCain pursued Miss Hensley aggressively, flying around the country to see her, and he began to push to end his marriage. Friends say that Carol McCain was in shock. Late that year, the McCains finally separated, and Mrs. McCain accepted a divorce the next February. Mr. McCain promptly married Miss Hensley, his present wife.” [[New York Times](#), 2/27/00]

- **McCain’s Quest for a New Wife May have been based on Looks.** After being released as a POW and returning to the United States, McCain “had a painful shock. His wife, Carol, a tall, slim woman who had once been a model, had nearly died in a car wreck in 1969” which “left her four inches shorter and on crutches, and she had gained a good deal of weight.” [[New York Times](#), 2/27/00]
- **Friends Observe McCain was Looking for a New Wife.** “Some old friends believe that Mr. McCain was as restless in the marriage as in the Navy, and that he was actively looking for a new wife when he met Cindy, with one saying when he met Cindy, McCain “had already made the decision to get divorced.” [[New York Times](#), 2/27/00]

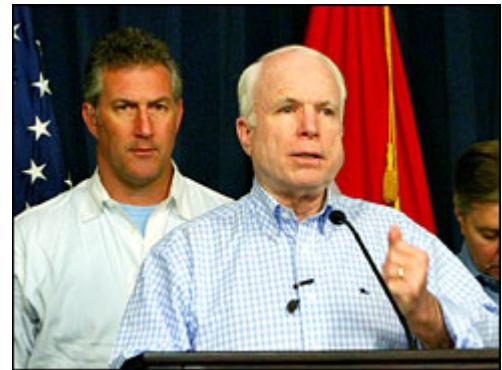
Additional Photos



Key McCain Campaign Leader Indicted on 35 Counts, Including Conspiracy, Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, and Extortion

While John McCain campaigns around the country touting his ‘straight talk’ credentials, his friend Congressman Rick Renzi, a key Arizona ally was indicted for money laundering, extortion, conspiracy and other charges. Not only did corrupt Congressman Renzi serve on McCain’s campaign, the two raised money from each other and McCain refused to say whether the obviously corrupt Renzi should resign his seat in Congress.

Congressman Rick Renzi indicted on 35 Counts: “A federal grand jury has indicted Republican U.S. Rep. Richard Renzi of Arizona on 35 criminal counts including conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and official extortion, according to court papers unsealed on Friday” [[Reuters](#), 2/22/08]



Sought to Profit from Shady Land Deal, Embezzling Money for Campaign “Representative Rick Renzi, a Republican from Arizona who isn’t seeking re-election, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in an alleged scheme to profit from a land deal. Renzi, 49, who was first elected to the House in 2002, was charged along with James Sandlin, 56, a real estate investor and one of his political backers, and Andrew Beardall, 36, an attorney who had been general counsel of Renzi’s family insurance business. Renzi and Beardall are accused of embezzling money from insurance clients to fund the lawmaker’s congressional campaign.” [[Bloomberg](#) 2/22/08]

Despite A Serious Federal Corruption Investigation, ‘Straight Talk’ McCain Enlisted Renzi for His Presidential Campaign

McCain Named Indicted Congressman Rick Renzi to To Co-Chair his “Arizona Leadership Team” In January 2008, just one month before he was indicted on 35 counts, including conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and official extortion, Renzi was named a co-chair of McCain’s ‘Arizona Leadership Team;’ [McCain News Release, 1/26/08; Targeted News Services, 1/26/08]

Renzi Had Been Under Federal Investigation for Over a Year “Just before Rep. Renzi’s reelection in 2006, federal authorities began investigating whether Rep. Renzi used his position as a member of Congress to promote the sale of land owned by his former business partner.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 4/21/2007]

Renzi failed to disclose \$200K “Rep. Rick Renzi (R-Ariz.) failed to disclose a \$200,000 payment he received from a business partner in 2005 in apparent violation of House ethics rules. Prosecutors could use the omission as evidence that Renzi intended to conceal a transaction he knew to be controversial or even improper.” [[The Hill](#) 4/25/07]

McCain and Renzi Go Way Back

McCain Campaigned for Renzi in 2002. “Sens. John McCain (R) and Jon Kyl (R) on 11/4 will campaign with businessman Rick Renzi (R) on his GOP victory tour in Flagstaff and Prescott.” [House Race Hotline, 11/4/02]

McCain Gave Big Boost to Renzi Reelection Campaign “U.S. Sen. John McCain is offering a big boost to Arizona Congressman Rick Renzi’s reelection effort. McCain sent out a fundraising e-mail to supporters Tuesday

asking them help Renzi, a two-term Republican representing a huge swath of rural Arizona including Casa Grande, Flagstaff, Window Rock and Prescott.” [Business Journal of Phoenix 6/26/06]

McCain’s “Straight Talk America Pac” Gave \$5,000 to Troubled Congressman Rick Renzi Under Federal Investigation for Corruption, and facing a serious challenger, Senator McCain’s PAC swooped to Renzi’s rescue with a \$5000 donation, and campaign events for the Congressman [CQ Moneyline 4/6/06; [Business Journal of Phoenix 6/26/06](#)]

You Scratch My Back...

Renzi was Host for McCain Fundraiser. “On the political side, Arizona Sen. John Kyl, GOP Congressmen Jeff Flake, Rick Renzi and John Shadegg and Secretary of State Jan Brewer are also among hosts for the McCain event,” which was an “A-list fundraiser in Phoenix” scheduled in March 2007 for McCain’s presidential campaign. [[Phoenix Business Journal, 2/14/07](#)]

McCain and Renzi Traveled to Iraq Together, Discussed Iraq Speech with Renzi. “In April 2007, Renzi accompanied McCain on a trip to Iraq. While traveling back from Iraq, McCain and Renzi discussed a key McCain campaign speech on Iraq to be given at the Virginia Military Institute. “‘You can’t get around the elephant in the room, which is Iraq,’ said Rep. Rick Renzi (R-Ariz.), who discussed the speech with McCain as the pair flew back together from a congressional visit to Iraq this week.” [[Associated Press Online, 4/3/07](#); [Washington Post, 4/7/07](#)]

Renzi Helps McCain with ‘The Next Phase of His Campaign’ “By kicking off the next phase of his campaign with a speech about the war, McCain embraced not only Bush’s strategy but also the issue that could be his biggest vulnerability.” [[Arizona Republic, 4/12/07](#)]

Crook Congressman Tells McCain To ‘Give it To ‘Em Straight’ “In early drafts, he criticizes the peace of political progress under Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki but argues that the price of defeatism is lower morale among U.S. troops, according to Renzi and advisers familiar with preparations for the speech.” “‘He’s giving it to ‘em straight,’ Renzi said. ‘There was no lack of clarity in that room when John McCain was done talking.’ Renzi said McCain was frustrated with the media coverage of their visit.” [[Washington Post, 4/7/07](#)]

I’ll Scratch Yours

McCain Raised Money for Renzi. “Sen. John McCain (R) ‘sent out a fundraising email to supporters’ 6/27 ‘asking them to help’ Rep. Rick Renzi (R) in his re-election effort. In the e-mail, McCain said: “Already his liberal opponents have started advertising on television against him and the Washington liberals have recruited a multi-millionaire from Ohio to challenge him in November.” McCain continued, “Rick’s opponent...has pledged to spend millions of her own dollars to defeat Rick. We simply cannot let this happen.” [[House Race Hotline, 6/29/06](#)]

McCain Refused to Call for Renzi’s Resignation. “McCain also would not call for the resignation of Arizona Congressman Rick Renzi. Renzi faces pressure to step down in light of an investigation into his part in federal land transaction involving business partner and FBI raids of an insurance business owned by Renzi’s wife.” [[Phoenix Business Journal, 4/28/07](#)]

McCain Danced Around Renzi Question, said Renzi in his Prayers. Asked in April 2007 “if the embattled” Renzi “would continue to play a role” in his presidential campaign, McCain said: “Rick obviously has got great difficulties now. I know nothing about his case. He’s in my prayers. ...And that’s all I’m going to say.” [[Hotline, 4/26/07](#)]

McCain's Connections to Lobbyists & the Special Interests

John McCain portrays himself as a reformer who does not do favors for lobbyists and does not take special interest donations. But McCain has consistently leveraged his powerful position in the United States Senate, including his chairmanship of the committee overseeing industries such as the communications and transportation sectors, to solicit gratuitous campaign contributions. And he has been explicitly linked personally and professionally to Washington lobbyists.

Lies About Special Interest Money

MCCAIN'S FICTION

McCain Claims the Special Interests Don't Give him Money. Speaking in New Hampshire, McCain absurdly claimed he is the only one the special interests don't funnel campaign money to. ["Everyone says they're against the special interests - I'm the only one the special interests don't give any money to."](#) [McCain Town Hall Meeting, New London, New Hampshire, 11/18/07, <http://youtube.com/watch?v=xLfSpYULGXY>]

THE COLD HARD FACTS

McCain Accepted At Least \$689,704 from the Lobbying Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted at least \$689,704 from the lobbying industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain's Campaign Relies on 59 Lobbyist Fundraisers. McCain has more lobbyists raising money for him than any other candidate. [Public Citizen, Accessed January 30, 2008; [ABC News](#), January 29, 2008]

McCain Fundraising Event Claimed 24 Lobbyist Co-Chairmen. 24 Washington lobbyists were listed as co-chairmen of a recent McCain fundraiser at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in Washington, D.C. [[ABC News](#), January 29, 2008]

McCain has Taken At Least \$1,163,727 from the Telephone Utility and Telecom Services Industries – More than Any Other Senator. Senator McCain has taken at least \$1,163,727 in campaign contributions from the telephone utility and telecom service industries, more than any other Senator. [Analysis of Center for Responsive Politics data]

- **McCain has Taken Hundreds-of-Thousands from Top Telecom Companies.** McCain has taken at least \$146,950 from America's six largest telecommunications companies alone – Verizon, AT&T, Sprint-Nextel, Comcast, Bell South and Qwest. [Analysis of CQ Moneyline data, 1985-2007; [Fortune](#), 7/26/06]
- **McCain Took Over \$55,000 from Communications Industry Special Interest PACs in 2007 Alone.** In 2007 alone, McCain took over \$55,000 from special interests representing the communications and telecommunications industries for his presidential campaign. As a member of the powerful Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, McCain regulates and oversees these industries. [FEC, accessed 2/1/08]

McCain Accepted At Least \$704,796 from Insurance Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted at least \$704,796 from the insurance industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Accepted At Least \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted at least \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

McCain Accepted At Least \$443,869 from Defense Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted at least \$443,869 from the defense industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Accepted At Least \$265,093 from the Pharmaceutical Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted at least \$265,093 from the pharmaceutical industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

McCain Lies About Special Interest Favors

MCCAIN'S FICTION

McCain Said He Had “Never Done Any Favors For Anybody – Lobbyist Or Special Interest Group.”

According to the Associated Press, in December 2007, McCain said, “I’ve never done any favors for anybody — lobbyist or special interest group — that’s a clear, 24-year record.” [Associated Press via [WST News](#), 12/20/07]

In Response to Keating Five Incident, McCain Wrote in Book About Not Intervening in Federal Decisions. In his book *Worth the Fighting For*, McCain wrote, “Learning from my unhappy experience, I have refrained from ever intervening in the regulatory decisions of the federal government if such intervention could be construed, rightly or wrongly, as done solely or primarily for the benefit of a major financial supporter of my campaign.” [*Worth the Fighting For*, Chapter 8, pp. 159-160]

THE COLD HARD FACTS

McCain Accepted \$689,704 from the Lobbying Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain accepted \$689,704 from the lobbying industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

- **McCain Voted Against Landmark Ethics Bill.** In 2007, McCain voted against the final version of S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which required disclosure of bundled campaign contributions over \$15,000 in a six-month period, institute a two-year waiting period for former senators to become lobbyists, require quarterly lobbying disclosure reports, deny congressional pensions to members who’ve committed certain felonies, require senators and candidates to pay for charter planes, and alter House and Senate rules. McCain was one of only 14 Senators (all Republicans) to oppose the legislation. Senators Obama and Clinton both voted for it. The legislation passed 83-14. [S. 1, [Vote #294](#), 8/2/2007]
- **McCain Voted to Weaken New Lobbying Disclosure Rules.** In 2007, McCain voted for an amendment to the ethics and lobbying overhaul legislation that eliminated requirements for grassroots lobbying organizations to disclose their fundraising activities. Both Senators Obama and Clinton voted against the amendment. The amendment passed 55-43. [S 1, [Vote #17](#), 1/18/2007]
- **McCain Voted Against Expanding Lobbyist Gift and Meal Ban.** In 2006, McCain voted to kill an amendment that would have expanded the definition of a lobbyist, as it relates to the gift and meal ban, to include not only an organization or person required to register as a lobbyist, but any employee of a registered lobbyist. Senators Obama and Clinton both voted in favor of the amendment. The motion to kill the amendment passed 68-30. [S 2349, [Vote #80](#), 3/29/2006]
- **McCain Led Effort to Maintain Lobbyist Donations.** In 2001, McCain made a motion to kill an amendment that would ban members of the House and Senate from accepting contributions from a registered lobbyist, lobbyist employee or lobbyist PAC while Congress is in session. McCain’s motion to kill this amendment passed 74-25. [S 27, [Vote #40](#), 3/20/2001]

McCain Accepted \$443,869 from Defense Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$443,869 from the defense industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/18/08]

- **McCain Voted Against Allowing Competition For Defense Contracts.** In 2002, McCain voted to kill a Kennedy amendment that would allow private and public agencies to compete for new Defense Department contracts based on current department standards. It also would codify a contracting prohibition on work currently performed in the public sector unless the agency can show a savings of at least 10 percent. Motion to table passed 50-49. [S2514, [Vote #162](#), 6/25/2002]
- **McCain Voted Against Stricter Penalties For War Profiteering And Fraud.** In 2004, McCain against the Leahy amendment that would make profiteering on contracts in connection with military or rebuilding activities in Iraq, Afghanistan or other countries punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison and \$1 million in fines. Amendment rejected 46-52. [S 2400, [Vote #120](#), 6/16/04]
- **McCain Voted To Protect Administration War Profiteering.** In 2003, McCain voted against prohibiting the use of Iraqi reconstruction funds for any contract or financial agreement with an entity that pays deferred compensation to the president, the vice president, or a Cabinet-level official, or any entity in which the president, vice president, or Cabinet-level official holds options to purchase more than 1,000 shares of stock. It would be effective 90 days after the bill's enactment. Motion to table passed 65-34. [S 1689, [Vote #386](#), 10/16/03]

McCain Accepted \$447,962 from Oil & Gas Industry. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has accepted \$447,962 from the oil and gas industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 1/08/08]

- **McCain Twice Rejected Windfall Profits Tax for Big Oil in 2005.** In November 2005, McCain voted against imposing a temporary 50% tax on oil company profits from the sale of any crude oil above \$40 a barrel. Revenues from the tax would be used to provide income tax rebates to consumers. [S 2020, Vote #331, 11/17/05; S 2020, Vote # 341, 11/17/05; [Houston Chronicle](#), 11/17/05; [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), 11/18/05; [Environment and Energy Daily](#), 11/18/05]

McCain Accepted \$72,600 from Nuclear Power Industry. Between 1997 and 2002, McCain received in \$72,600 Nuclear Power Industry Contributions to Senators. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [2/21/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted to Dump Nuclear Waste at Yucca Mountain.** In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to proceed to the resolution which, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, approves of the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Nuclear Energy Institute was “the nuclear power industry’s trade association, representing 260 corporations in 15 countries. NEI is reportedly the mastermind behind the Alliance for Sound Nuclear Policy, a coalition of pro-nuclear groups.” [S.J. Res 34, Vote #167, 7/09/02]

McCain has Taken At Least \$1,163,727 from the Telephone Utility and Telecom Services Industries – More than Any Other Senator. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, McCain has taken at least \$1,163,727 in campaign contributions from the telephone utility and telecom service industries, more than any other Senator. [Center for Responsive Politics]

- **McCain Voted to Grant Retroactive Legal Immunity to Telecommunications Companies.** In 2008, McCain voted for Passage of the bill that would amend the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to authorize warrantless surveillance of foreign targets, even if they are communicating with someone in the United States. It would give the FISA court authority to approve several aspects of how such surveillance is conducted. It also would grant retroactive legal immunity to telecommunications companies alleged to have participated in the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program. It would sunset in six years. As amended, the bill would allow court reviews of the administration's compliance with "minimization" procedures, which are the steps the government takes to minimize retention of sensitive information about U.S. citizens that it collects incidentally. It also would include prohibitions on the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in FISA. It would clarify

FISA's applicability to those suspected of seeking to spread weapons of mass destruction. The bill passed 68-29. [S 2248, Vote #20, 2/12/08]

McCain Lies About Earmarks

MCCAIN'S FICTION

McCain Claims He's Never Asked for an Earmark. McCain has repeated over and over again that he has never asked for or received an earmark for his state of Arizona. [“In 24 years as a Member of Congress I have never asked for nor received a single earmark or pork barrel project for my state.”](#) [Fox Debate, <http://youtube.com/watch?v=5W-uzPblPXE>]

THE COLD HARD FACTS

McCain Sponsored \$10 Million Earmark For Law Center In Arizona. McCain tried to push a bill through Congress to steer “10 million to the University of Arizona to launch an academic center honoring the late Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.” At the same time, McCain was also sponsoring a bill which mounted “a direct assault on congressional earmarks.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 3/4/06; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain Pushed For And Successfully Got \$14.3M For Arizona’s Luke Air Force Base. McCain pushed for, and got, \$14.3 million for Arizona’s Luke Air Force Base inserted into the just-completed fiscal 2004 military construction appropriations conference report. The only problem is the project to acquire more land near the base was not requested by President Bush or fully authorized by the Senate Armed Services Committee - two of McCain’s criteria for identifying so-called ‘pork.’” [[Roll Call](#), 11/6/03; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain Fights Others Pork, Pushes His Own. “Arizona Sen. John McCain is sponsoring two interesting pieces of legislation. One mounts a direct assault on congressional earmarks, those little morsels of home district pork that lawmakers slip into unrelated spending bills. The other steers \$10 million to the University of Arizona to launch an academic center honoring the late Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Yes, McCain does seem to be saying to himself: Stop me before I sin again... McCain and co-sponsor Jon Kyl, Arizona’s other GOP senator, insist their pork proposal isn’t hypocritical because they aren’t trying to hide anything. It is set out in stand-alone legislation to be vetted on its own merits...in Congress, it seems, the only bad pork projects are those sponsored by somebody else.” [[Chicago Tribune](#), 3/4/06; DNC Document “The Double Talk Express Sifts Gears For 2008, 1/10/08]

McCain Deceives America About his Ties to Lobbyists

MCCAIN'S FICTION

McCain Said He Had “Never Done Any Favors For Anybody – Lobbyist Or Special Interest Group.” According to the Associated Press, in December 2007, McCain said, “I’ve never done any favors for anybody — lobbyist or special interest group — that’s a clear, 24-year record.” [[Associated Press via WST News](#), 12/20/07]

THE COLD HARD FACTS

McCain Linked to Lobbyist Vicki Iseman. The New York Times, which endorsed McCain in the Republican primary, revealed that McCain had a very close relationship with Alcalde & Faye lobbyist Vicki Iseman. “Convinced the relationship had become romantic, some of his top advisors intervened to protect the candidate from himself.” In 1999, “McCain and Ms. Iseman attended a small fund-raising dinner with several clients at the Miami-area home of a cruise-line executive and then flew back to Washington along with a campaign aide on the corporate jet of one of her clients, Paxson Communications.” [New York Times, 2/21/08]

Iseman Billed over \$8 Million for Lobbying. Between 1999 and June 1997, Iseman and her lobbying firm billed her clients alone at least \$8,005,000 for lobbying services. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/4/08]

Vicki Iseman's Clients Gave Thousands in Campaign Contributions to McCain.

- **Computer Sciences Corporation PAC gave McCain \$4,000.** Iseman has lobbied for Computer Sciences Corporation PAC Since at least 1999, during which time it has given John McCain \$4,000 in campaign contributions. The PAC gave him \$2,000 to his Senate reelection campaign in 2006, \$1,000 to his Senate reelection campaign in 2004, and \$1,000 to his presidential campaign in 2000. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Executives at Defense Contractor CACI gave McCain Thousands Within Days of Iseman Beginning Relationship with Company.** According to Defense News, a part of the Army Times Publishing Company, CACI ranks 43rd in defense contracts and took in over \$1.28 billion in Defense revenue in 2006. It receives over 73 percent of its revenue through DOD contracts. CACI executives and consultants have given at least \$10,100 to McCain's 2008 presidential bid, including a \$2,300 contribution from CACI Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board J.P. London. Over 85 percent of these contributions were made after Iseman began lobbying for the company on June 22, 2007. In fact, CACI executives made \$3,325 in contributions – over 32 percent of the total given – in the eight days after Iseman registered as a lobbyist for CACI. [Defense News, <http://www.defensenews.com/index.php?S=07top100>, accessed 2/5/08; FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Arison Family Gave McCain Thousands.** Iseman has lobbied for the Arison Family Trust since 2002. Micky Arison, chairman and CEO of Carnival Corporation and Managing General Partner of the Miami Heat, has given McCain three campaign contributions totaling \$4,000, the largest coming after Iseman began lobbying for the Arison Family Trust. He gave McCain \$2,000 for his Senate run in 1998, \$1,000 for his first presidential run in 1999, and \$2,000 for his Senate account in 2003. Micky's wife, Madeleine Adison, has given McCain a total of \$3,000 - \$2,000 for his Senate run in 1998 and \$1,000 for his first presidential bid in 1999. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08; Miami Heat Director, http://www.nba.com/heat/contact/directory_arison.html, accessed 2/5/08]
- **BearingPoint Director Gave Thousands to McCain.** Iseman has lobbied for Bearing Point since 2004. On June 30, 2007, Albert Lord, a member of the board of BearingPoint, maxed out McCain for the primary and the general, giving him \$4,600. Two months later, on August 28, McCain's campaign returned \$2,300 to Lord. McCain has also received a \$200 contribution from a BearingPoint consultant, Anthony Klimas. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Carnival Executives Gave to McCain while Iseman Lobbied for Company.** Iseman lobbied for Carnival Cruise Lines in 1999 and 2000. Over this two year stretch, Carnival CEO and board chairman Micky Arison gave McCain \$1,000 for his first presidential bid. Also during this time, Howard S. Frank, vice chairman of the board and COO gave \$1,000 to McCain 2000 presidential bid. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Christian Networks Executive Gave McCain \$1,000.** In 2000, Robert Bright, an executive with Christian Networks Inc., gave \$1,000 to McCain's 2000 presidential campaign. Iseman lobbied for Christian Networks Inc. and subsequently the Total Living Network (after it changed names) from 2000 to 2003. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]
- **Hispanic Broadcasting Executive gave \$1,000 to McCain.** In 2000, Douglas Darfield, director of research at Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, contributed \$1,000 to McCain's presidential campaign. Iseman lobbied for Hispanic Broadcasting and subsequently for Univision Radio after it was acquired by Univision. [FEC, accessed 2/5/08]

McCain's Campaign Relies on 59 Lobbyist Fundraisers. [Public Citizen, Accessed January 30, 2008; ABC News, January 29, 2008]

McCain Fundraising Event Claimed 24 Lobbyist Co-Chairmen. 24 Washington lobbyists were listed as co-chairmen of a recent McCain fundraiser at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in Washington, D.C. [[ABC News](#), January 29, 2008]

Even Bush Saw McCain's Links to Lobbyists: Bush Ad: McCain's Campaign Is Crawling With Lobbyists. According to the Associated Press, "...he suggested McCain is a hypocrite on his signature issue of political reform. Soon, the message found its way into Bush ads. An ad released Feb. 8 quoted a newspaper article, saying, 'McCain's campaign is crawling with lobbyists.'" ... "Bush then attacked McCain for promoting campaign finance reform while hitting up Washington lobbyists at a fund-raiser that night." [AP, 2/12/00; [Greenville News](#), 2/12/00]

Abramoff's Lobbying Firm is McCain's Biggest Corporate Contributor. Employees at Greenberg Traurig, the lobbying firm where Jack Abramoff worked, have given more money to John McCain this election cycle than those from any other single company or firm. In 2007 alone, 68 Greenberg Traurig employees contributed a total of \$106,637 to McCain's presidential campaign. Among those giving to McCain were Greenberg Traurig CEO Cesar Alvarez and Greenberg Traurig President Matthew Gorson, each of whom contributed \$4,600 – the maximum for both the primary and general elections. [CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/7/08]

- **Former Congressman and Greenberg Traurig Lobbyist Serves as McCain Bundler.** Former Rep. Matt Salmon, who served three terms representing Arizona's 1st congressional district and was later a Phoenix-based lobbyist for Greenberg Traurig, is a John McCain bundler. He personally gave McCain \$2,550 in 2007. Salmon has since left the lobbying firm. [Public Citizen, accessed 2/7/08; CQ Moneyline, accessed 2/7/08]

Conflict of Interest: Five McCain Fundraisers Lobby for Foreign Governments. According to a Center for Investigative Reporting and ABC News analysis, "McCain has five fundraisers who lobby for foreign interests," including lobbyists for Saudi Arabia, Peru, the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, Colombia and Dubai. [[ABC News](#), 2/1/08]

- **Campaign Chair and Chief Fundraiser Lobbies for Saudi Arabia.** Among McCain's fundraisers who lobby for foreign interests is his "campaign co-chair and chief moneyman, Thomas Loeffler," who "has lobbied for Saudi Arabia for five years. Loeffler, a former congressman and longtime Republican fundraiser, chairs the firm that helped the Saudi kingdom join the World Trade Organization, fight anti-Saudi legislation and improve its image in the war on terrorism. The Saudi royals paid Loeffler's firm more than \$11 million in two years for its efforts on their behalf." Loeffler said in 2007 that 'he would handle 'all of the work' of his firm while working on the McCain campaign. He also said, 'I do not find a conflict of interest at this time.'" [[ABC News](#), 2/1/08]
- **McCain Fundraiser Lobbies for Colombia and Pushes U.S.-Colombia FTA.** Peter Madigan, a lobbyist who "works for the government of Colombia," actively works "to promote a U.S.-Colombia free-trade agreement" and to seek appropriations for the Colombian government. Madigan's firm has even "distributed papers defending Colombian President Alvaro Uribe against allegations of ties to paramilitary groups, and promoting the controversial anti-drug program 'Plan Colombia' as achieving 'strengthening human rights.'" American unions point to Uribe's terrible record on labor and human rights. The AFL-CIO points out that hundreds of trade unionists have been killed in Colombia since he took office in 2002 and his government has done nothing to address the problem. [[ABC News](#), 2/1/08; AFL-CIO, <http://blog.aflcio.org/2007/05/02/no-trade-deal-with-a-corrupt-regime>, 5/2/07]
- **McCain Fundraiser Hired to Fight Child Enslavement Claims.** Peter Madigan, a top McCain fundraiser, lobbies for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE, "facing a class-action lawsuit over alleged enslavement of boys as jockeys in camel races, has hired several top Washington lobbyists and PR firms to present their case to Congress and the public." The lawsuit alleged "that senior ministers from Dubai conspired to force thousands of underage boys to race camels." According to The Hill, "The year-long contract with Johnson Madigan could cost the sheikhs' more than \$800,000. Jeffrey Peck, Sen. Joseph

Biden's (D-Del.) former counsel, and Peter Madigan, once a State Department official under the first President Bush, signed the subcontract." [ABC News, 2/1/08; The Hill, 4/4/07]

McCain Campaign Fundraiser, Loeffler, Earned \$3.9 Million for Creating \$40 Million in Federal Pork.

McCain's new Presidential campaign consigliere, and chief fundraising strategist, Tom Loeffler, founder of Loeffler Group has spent much of the last decade as a lobbyist. According to documents filed with the Secretary of the Senate, Loeffler and his associates have collected \$3,920,000 over the years lobbying from the Texas cities of San Antonio, Houston, Pharr, Donna and Mercedes. In return, according to Citizens Against Government Waste, the cities received \$40 Million and possibly more in Federal Government pork. [Politico, 4/4/07; Washington Post, 4/4/07; Lobbyist Disclosure Documents Filled with Secretary of the Senate, Citizens Against Government Waste Pig Book 2003-06; DNC Document "The Double Talk Express Sifts Gears For 2008, 1/10/08]

- **McCain Co-Chair Paid \$300K To Secure Funding For Expansion of Bridge To Mexico.** From midyear 2003 to midyear 2005 Loeffler and his associates were paid \$300K to lobby on Behalf of the City of Pharr, Texas. In papers filed with the secretary of the Senate Loeffler was to lobby the House and Senate on issues "relating to federal funding for transportation projects in Rio Grande Valley including construction of additional span on the Pharr/Renoyosa International Bridge." [Lobbyist Disclosure Documents Filled with Secretary of the Senate; DNC Public Information 1/10/08]

AT&T Lobbyist is one of McCain's Top Fundraisers. Tim McKone, AT&T's executive vice president for federal relations, is a top McCain fundraiser and one of his bundlers. As a bundler, McKone is responsible for raising tens of thousands – if not hundreds of thousands of dollars – for McCain's presidential campaign. McKone has personally contributed the maximum - \$4,600 – to McCain's 2008 presidential bid, and has contributed thousands to his previous campaigns. [FEC, accessed 2/12/2008; Washington Post, 12/1/2005; Public Citizen, <http://www.whitehouseforsale.org/candidate.cfm?CandidateID=C0005>]

Qwest Arizona President is Top McCain Fundraiser. Qwest Arizona President Pat Quinn is one of McCain's top fundraisers and one of his bundlers. As a bundler, McKone is responsible for raising tens of thousands – if not hundreds of thousands of dollars – for McCain's presidential campaign. Personally, Quinn has contributed \$2,300 to McCain's presidential bid and has contributed at least \$1,000 to his past campaigns. [FEC; Qwest Arizona, <http://www.qwest.com/residential/arizona/index.html>]

McCain Repays His Telecom Industry Buddies With FISA Vote

Today, Senator McCain returned to Capitol Hill to do what he does best – protect his specialist interest friends. After skipping all but one Senate vote this year prior to today, McCain showed up to protect his friends in the telecommunications industry by ensuring RETROACTIVE IMMUNITY is included in the Senate FISA bill.

McCain Refused to Comment On Telecom Immunity Vote. According to the *Boston Globe*, “McCain did not explain his vote to give retroactive immunity to the telecommunications companies, and neither the McCain campaign nor his Senate office responded to questions about the issue.” [[Boston Globe, 2/16/08](#)]

McCain Voted Against all Five Amendments to S. 2248, the FISA Amendments Act of 2007. After showing up to vote *only once* this year, McCain came to the Capitol today to vote against all five amendments seeking to protect Americans’ civil liberties while keeping us safe in the war on terror. Among the amendments McCain voted against was one offered by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), which would have eliminated provisions in the legislation providing retroactive immunity from civil liability to telecommunications companies that may have participated in the Bush Administration’s warrantless wiretapping of American citizens.

McCain Voted to Move Retroactive Immunity Bill Forward. After voting down five amendments, McCain then voted to move the FISA bill forward for a vote without any changes to the retroactive immunity provisions, making his telecom industry friends very happy.

McCain Voted to Give his Telecom Industry Donors Retroactive Immunity. After helping bring the legislation to a vote before the Senate, McCain followed through and gave his biggest donors the immunity they lobbied him for and paid him for.

McCain’s Campaigns Have Been Funded By Telecom Industry

RHETORIC

Senator McCain: “I’ve never done any favors for anybody – lobbyist or special interest group – that’s a clear, 24-year record.” [[Associated Press, 12/20/07](#)]

REALITY

Senator McCain, a former chairman of the Commerce Committee which oversees the telecommunications industry, has long funded his campaigns with special interest money poured year after year into his campaign coffers by the communications industry.

McCain has Taken At Least \$1,163,727 from the Telephone Utility and Telecom Services Industries – More than Any Other Senator. Senator McCain has taken at least \$1,163,727 in campaign contributions from the telephone utility and telecom service industries, more than any other Senator. [Analysis of Center for Responsive Politics data]

- **McCain has Taken Hundreds-of-Thousands from Top Telecom Companies.** McCain has taken at least \$146,950 from America’s six largest telecommunications companies alone – Verizon, AT&T, Sprint-Nextel, Comcast, Bell South and Qwest. [Analysis of CQ Moneyline data, 1985-2007; [Fortune, 7/26/06](#)]
- **McCain Took Over \$55,000 from Communications Industry Special Interests in 2007 Alone.** In 2007 alone, McCain took over \$55,000 from special interests representing the communications and telecommunications industries for his presidential campaign. As a member of the powerful Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, McCain regulates and oversees these industries. [FEC, accessed 2/1/08]

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The Same Companies Funding McCain's Campaign Support Retroactive Immunity

McCain's Special Interest Donors are Lobbying for Retroactive Immunity in Domestic Spying. The telecommunications industry, specifically "AT&T and Verizon," the nation's two largest telephone companies, "have been lobbying hard to insulate themselves from suits over their reported roles" in participating in President Bush's "secretly approved" NSA eavesdropping program initiated after 9/11. [[New York Times](#), 10/23/07]

AT&T Sued for Participating in Domestic Spying Program. In 2006, the Electronic Frontier Foundation "filed a class-action suit against AT&T Inc., accusing the company of illegally making communications on its network available to the National Security Agency without warrants." The law suit has moved forward, with a federal judge ordering "the federal government to release information about lobbying efforts by telecommunications companies to protect them from prosecution" in November 2007. [Associated Press Online, 11/29/07]

- **AT&T Hired Lobbyist Specifically for FISA.** "AT&T has hired former Rep. Michael Forbes, D-N.Y., to lobby on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and other telecom issues" in late 2007 as the FISA battle heated up. [Communications Daily, 11/23/07]
- **AT&T Raking Up the Lobbying Bills.** "AT&T's estimated mid-year lobbying budget of \$9.6 million on a variety of tax and communications issues put the company No. 5 amongst the top such spenders." [Communications Daily, 11/23/07]
- **Verizon Lobbyist is Former McCain Staffer, Campaigned in NH for McCain.** Robert Fisher, "who is a federal government relations vice president at Verizon" and a lobbyist, "spent six years working for McCain, the one-time chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee." Fisher "booked a trip to New Hampshire to volunteer for the presidential campaign of his one-time boss," using vacation days. [[Roll Call](#), 12/3/07]

Telecom Giants Seeking Protection. "They won't say whether they have ever helped the government monitor the conversations of millions of Americans, but the nation's largest telecom companies still want blanket protection from lawsuits stemming from the government's anti-terror eavesdropping efforts. [Chicago Tribune, 11/14/07]

- **AT&T has Given McCain Tens of Thousands.** AT&T has given McCain at least \$48,450 in campaign contributions. [Analysis of CQ Moneyline data]
- **Verizon has Given McCain Tens of Thousands.** Verizon has given McCain at least \$35,500 in campaign contributions. [Analysis of CQ Moneyline data]

McCain's Ethics

McCain Lied About Taking Money From Special Interests. During at town hall meeting in New Hampshire, McCain told the audience that, “I’m the only one the special interests don’t give any money to.” According to the Center for Responsive Politics McCain has received \$1.2 million in campaign contributions from the telecommunications industry. [Think Progress, [2/21/08](#)]

Leader On McCain Campaign Was Indicted On 35 Criminal Counts. Rep. Rick Renzi, a member of McCain’s Arizona leadership team, has been indicted on “35 criminal counts including conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and official extortion, according to court papers unsealed on Friday.” [Reuters, [2/22/08](#)]

Charles Black Admitted To Lobbying By Telephone From The Straight Talk Express. According to the *Washington Post*, McCain adviser Charles Black admitted to lobbying lawmakers via phone from McCain’s “Straight Talk Express” campaign bus. [*Washington Post*, [2/22/08](#)]

McCain’s Campaign Meeting Resembled Lobbyist Roundtable. When McCain met with his closest campaign advisers in Arizona, “virtually every one was part of the Washington lobbying culture he has long decried.” According to the *Washington Post*, “the fact that lobbyists are essentially running his presidential campaign... seems to some people to be at odds with his anti-lobbying rhetoric. [*Washington Post*, [2/22/08](#)]

McCain Resigned From Nonprofit Group After News Broke of His Hypocrisy On Corporate Contributions. According to the *New York Times*, “Mr. McCain helped found a nonprofit group to promote his personal battle for tighter campaign finance rules. But he later resigned as its chairman after news reports disclosed that the group was tapping the same kinds of unlimited corporate contributions he opposed, including those from companies seeking his favor. He has criticized the cozy ties between lawmakers and lobbyists, but is relying on corporate lobbyists to donate their time running his presidential race and recently hired a lobbyist to run his Senate office.” [*New York Times*, [2/21/08](#)]

FEC Sent Letter To McCain Inquiring Whether He Used Taxpayers As Collateral For Campaign Loan. According to the *Associated Press*, “Federal Election Commission Chairman David Mason, in a letter to McCain this week, said the all-but-certain Republican nominee needs to assure the commission that he did not use the promise of public money to help secure a \$4 million line of credit he obtained in November.” [*Associated Press*, [2/21/08](#)]

McCain Has Alluded To Making Big Business Part of His Administration. According to *USA Today*, “Over the past year, he often has talked about approaching U.S. business leaders to serve their country by taking on federal-government responsibilities. He specifically has mentioned Fred Smith of FedEx, John Chambers of Cisco Systems, Steve Ballmer of Microsoft and billionaire investor Warren Buffett as possible Cabinet members.” [*USA Today*, [2/19/08](#)]

NYT: McCain Should Reveal Personal Finances. A *New York Times* editorial pressed John McCain to disclose his personal finances and tax returns. It reads, “Both Senator John McCain, the Republican front-runner, and [Clinton] owe it to their parties and to voters to promptly make available their Internal Revenue Service filings, and to respond to any questions about them.” Additionally, it said, “Senator McCain has yet to release his tax returns, a strange omission for a candidate with a record of supporting strong government ethics measures.” [*New York Times*, [2/15/08](#)]

McCain Claimed Lobbyists Donated To His Campaign Because They’re “Tired” Of Having Influence.

While appearing on *Hardball* on MSNBC, McCain was asked how he explains taking lobbyist money at a fundraiser while claiming to fight their influence. McCain answered, “Because a lot of these guys that are going to be showing up, and women who are going to be showing up there . . . are sick and tired of it, too. They’re tired of

being dunned for all this money. They're tired of getting - having money being the reason why their legislation gets through or not, rather than virtue." [Washington Times, [2/11/00](#)]

Lobbyist: McCain Is The Lesser Of Three Evils. Even though McCain has claimed to fight special interests, they still prefer him to Obama or Clinton. *The Hill* wrote that, "K Street's prevailing opinion seems to be that the party faithful will come around, even if some lobbyists hold their noses as they write their checks." [*The Hill*, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Is Perceived As An Ally Of The Telecommunications Industry. *The Hill* wrote, "Supporters note a list of positives: McCain is perceived as an ally of telecommunications companies and supports free trade." [*The Hill*, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain: "I've Never Done Any Favors For Anybody... That's A Clear, 24-Year Record."

McCain Said He Had "Never Done Any Favors For Anybody – Lobbyist Or Special Interest Group."

According to the Associated Press, in December 2007, McCain spoke to reporters in Detroit and they questioned him about a report that the *New York Times* was investigating allegations of legislative favoritism by McCain. In response to their questions, McCain said, "I have not been in talks with the *New York Times*. They've been communicating with our staff and with us," McCain said. "I've never done any favors for anybody — lobbyist or special interest group — that's a clear, 24-year record." Apparently, McCain also said, "I do find the timing of this whole issue very interesting," McCain said. "And we're not going to stand for what happened to us in 2000. We're getting close to the primary. These allegations are coming out at a very interesting time, and I have never, ever done a favor for any lobbyist or special interest group." [Associated Press via WST News, [12/20/07](#)]

McCain Said He and Others Were Trying to Stop Corruption in Washington. Appearing on the "Imus in the Morning" radio program, McCain said, "I work in Washington and I know that money corrupts. And I and a lot of other people were trying to stop that corruption. Obviously, from what we've been seeing lately, we didn't complete the job. But I would rather have a clean government than one where quote First Amendment rights are being respected that has become corrupt. If I had my choice, I'd rather have the clean government." ["Imus in The Morning," 4/28/06]

McCain Helped Lead A Large Investigation Into A Boeing Tanker Deal. According to the *New Yorker*, McCain helped expose "grievous flaws in oversight" during an investigation into a Boeing tanker deal. As a result of the investigation, which was backed by the White House, Pentagon, and key members of Congress, "...two Air Force officials resigned, two Boeing officials [eventually went] to jail, the deal was scrapped, and McCain's reputation as a giant killer was burnished." [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

McCain And The Abramoff Scandal

McCain Appointed Abramoff-linked Senator to Campaign Leadership Post. John McCain appointed Conrad Burns, former GOP Senator from Montana, to lead his campaign in that state. Burns lost his 2006 re-election race to Jon Tester, and was once under investigation for suspected links with convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. [*Raw Story*, 1/29/08]

Abramoff Said He Met With McCain. According to *Vanity Fair*, "Abramoff believes the hearings were unfair and blames McCain, with whom he says he has long had a contentious relationship: Abramoff raised money for Bush in 2000 and urged tribes not to contribute to McCain. McCain staffers deliberately humiliated him, he says, doling out to the press embarrassing e-mails that the Senate committee had subpoenaed-like the one in which he attempted to fabricate a Talmudic scholarship award from a Jewish organization to fortify his application to Washington's prestigious Cosmos Club. 'Mr. Abramoff flatters himself,' said Mark Salter, the senator's administrative assistant. 'Senator McCain was unaware of his existence until he read initial press accounts of

Abramoff's abuses, and had never laid eyes on him until he appeared before the committee.' 'As best I can remember, when I met with him he didn't have his eyes shut,' replies Abramoff. 'I'm surprised that Senator McCain has joined the chorus of amnesiacs.'" [Vanity Fair, April 2006]

- **McCain Spokesperson Acknowledged Receipt Of Abramoff Donations And Pledged McCain Would Return The Money.** In 2006, the AP reported that McCain's chief of staff, [Mark Salter,] said he "hadn't realized the [McCain] campaign had received at least two donations from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians while Abramoff was their lobbyist. One was received just before McCain decided in 2004 not to take any more donations from Indian tribes, Salter said. 'We're just finding out,' Salter said. McCain was out of the country, but Salter said he was confident McCain would agree to return the money. But Salter said McCain likely would not return another \$5,000 from three other Indian tribes in the 2000 campaign cycle." [AP, 1/4/06]

McCain's Doubletalk On Lobbying Reforms

McCain Said One Word Described Need For Lobby Reforms: "Abramoff." McCain, separate from most others who called the Abramoff practices unique and not the norm, said it was the way business is done in Washington. McCain also placed the blame on Abramoff, not the members who worked with him. In calling for increased transparency to lobbying activity, McCain said that the dealings between lobbyists and congressman had become "unfortunately, the ordinary way of doing business in this town." McCain reasoned that lobbyist Abramoff illustrated the need for reforms, saying, "It's obvious why it's needed. One word: Abramoff." [USA Today, 1/10/06]

- **McCain's Abramoff Report Said No Need For New Lobbying Laws Following Abramoff Scandal.** The Indian Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator McCain, declared "No new or revised federal legislation [is] needed" in the aftermath of the Abramoff scandal. The report declared that "Without doubt, the depth and breadth of [Abramoff's and Scanlon's] misconduct was astonishing," but "the Committee concludes that existing federal criminal statutes are sufficient to deter and punish such misconduct," as evidenced by the guilty pleas obtained from the two. ["Gimme Five": Investigation Of Tribal Lobbying Matters, Final Report, Senate Committee On Indian Affairs, 6/22/06]
- **McCain Was Soft On Lobby Reforms While Strengthening K Street Fundraising Efforts.** "McCain's usual allies say he could have done more to strengthen what they consider a generally disappointing [lobbying] reform bill. At the same time, lobbyists say that McCain has been reaching out to K Street to strengthen his national fundraising network. While McCain's efforts to court Bush contributors around the country have been reported, his efforts inside the Beltway have been overlooked." [The Hill, 3/8/06; San Francisco Chronicle, 1/18/06]

McCain Criticized The Senate For Not Voting For An Independent Ethics Review Panel, Urged The Senate To Address Ethics. During debate on the need for an independent Office of Public Integrity to investigate allegations of misconduct in Congress spurred by the Abramoff investigation, McCain said, "If we don't do this, what are we going to do to try to restore some of the confidence that the American people have clearly lost in us?" McCain, stressed the need to "restore the confidence of the American people in the way [the Senate] do[es] business," urged his colleagues to support an independent Office of Public Integrity to recommend matters to the Senate Ethics Committee. McCain asked his colleagues. "Shouldn't we do what we can to help fix either a real or imagined problem?" [Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/29/06; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 3/29/06]

- **McCain Voted Against Bipartisan Lobbying Reform Bill, Saying That It Was Too Weak, But Rejected More Robust Lobbying Reform Bill.** McCain voted against the Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006, which passed 92-8, claiming that it was too "weak." However, when Senator Feingold asked McCain to support a bill with "more robust disclosure of lobbyists' activities," McCain "had considered the idea, but viewed it as 'too onerous' on the lobbying community." [San Francisco Chronicle, 1/18/06; 109th Congress, S. 2349, Vote #82, 3/29/06; New York Times, 3/30/06]

McCain's Report Made No Recommendations To The Ethics Committee And Referred Further Matters To The Finance Committee Alone. In section “E” of the recommendations made in the Final Report of the investigation of tribal lobbying matters, referrals to other committees, McCain’s committee advised only that the Senate Committee on Finance investigate the possible IRS violations of tax exempt organizations, and made no mention of further investigations into members of Congress by the ethics committees. McCain previously “has insisted that the ethical behaviors of fellow members of Congress is not the jurisdiction of the Indian Affairs Committee he oversees but more the business of the Senate and House ethics committees,” but did not refer any actions to the attention of the committees. [“Gimme Five”-Investigation Of Tribal Lobbying Matters, Final Report, Senate Committee On Indian Affairs, 6/22/06; [Arizona Republic](#), 6/22/06]

McCain Failed To Investigate Republican Colleagues

McCain Said Former Members Of Congress Were Jailed For Spending And Corruption. At the Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, McCain said “We have former members of congress residing in federal prison because of the spending and corruption...Ask Jack Abramoff who is in prison today, a guy who was a corrupt lobbyist and his friends if I haven’t cut spending.” [Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, 1/6/08; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

- **McCain Pledged To Not Investigate Republican Colleagues for Their Illegal or Unethical Behavior.** Not only did McCain’s hearings not effect a single spending dollar, but they even failed to go after federal lawmakers who benefited from Abramoff’s lobbying. “McCain said his committee continues to examine all the financial angles of where the \$82 million ended up, as well as other political and charitable contributions the tribes made at Abramoff’s request. But he reiterated that he was following the money trail, not the legislative actions taken by Members of Congress. ‘We stop when we find out where the money went,’ he said.” [[Roll Call](#), 3/10/05; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain Did Not Follow Up Leads Implicating Norquist in the Abramoff Scandal Because of His 2008 Aspirations. According to *New Republic*, “As McCain’s investigation reached its denouement, rumors flew through Washington that his committee was sitting on a trove of damning evidence...And then ...nothing. At the very moment when McCain could have pulled the trigger, he let Norquist walk away. Some mildly damaging e-mails were released by McCain’s committee, but the most tantalizing leads were never pursued. McCain gave up his fight for information about Norquist’s donors, and Norquist himself was never called to testify...Most of the grudges left over from the Bush-McCain wars have thawed, the mutual contempt gradually giving way to mutual self-interest. McCain seems to get the message. He voted last month to extend tax cuts he voted against in 2003. He’s wooing Norquist’s key allies, such as Mallory Factor, an influential New York conservative with whom McCain has met several times. McCain has even agreed to attend Factor’s monthly Monday Meeting, a forum Norquist helped create.” [[The New Republic](#), 3/13/06]

McCain’s Investigation Ignored Congressional Republicans Even Though He Acknowledged They Bore Responsibility In The Lobbying Scandal. McCain acknowledged that Members were responsible for their conduct in Congress surrounding the lobbying scandal, saying, “[W]e should not forget that we, as Members, owe it to the American people to conduct ourselves in a way that reinforces, rather than diminishes, the public’s faith and confidence in Congress.” But during his investigation, McCain stated that his investigation would not include the legislative actions taken by Members of Congress saying, “We stop when we find out where the money went.” The AP reported that, “The intervention by congressional Republicans ... was all but ignored in recent hearings on Capitol Hill led by [McCain] that examined Abramoff’s lobbying inside Interior. [Senator McCain, CQ Transcriptions, 1/25/06; [Roll Call](#), 3/10/05; AP, 11/17/05]

Campaign Staff/Lobbyist

McCain’s Campaign Manager in 2000 Became Campaign Manager for 2008 Campaign. According to the *Arizona Republic*, “Rick Davis, a longtime political player, former lobbyist and McCain’s campaign manager since

July, is reprising the role he played in 2000, when he helped coordinate McCain's well-remembered insurgent challenge to GOP front-runner George W. Bush. ... Davis' first experience as a national campaign manager was with McCain in 2000. He has been active in Republican presidential politics since 1980, when he was a regional political director for Ronald Reagan." [Arizona Republic, 9/27/07]

- **Davis Career As Lobbyist Was Issue in 2000; Lobbyist at Davis Manafort.** According to the *Arizona Republic*, "Davis' career as a Washington, D.C.-area lobbyist was an issue in the 2000 race. Davis Manafort represented communications companies with interests before Congress and the Federal Communications Commission. At the time, McCain was chairman of the influential Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee." [Arizona Republic, 9/27/07]
- **Davis Quit Lobbying in 2003; Said He Didn't Pressure McCain.** According to the *Arizona Republic*, "Davis said he quit lobbying four years ago 'partially because it is a conflict' but said that at no time did he go to great lengths to pressure McCain. 'I never really lobbied him much, even when I was a lobbyist, and hadn't done it for four years before this campaign started,' Davis said. 'There's never been any indication that I'd ever tried to get him to change his mind on anything. Anybody who lobbies John McCain knows that the only way that you can lobby him is to get a client who he already agrees with, because otherwise, you're lost.'" [Arizona Republic, 9/27/07]
- **Arizona Republic: "For McCain, The Lobbyist Connection Could Prove Potentially Embarrassing."** According to the *Arizona Republic*, "For McCain, the lobbyist connection could prove potentially embarrassing: He was one of the strongest critics of the recent lobbyist corruption scandal on Capitol Hill and has a reputation as a crusader for clean government." [Arizona Republic, 9/27/07]

Davis Partner, Manafort, Carried Out "A Yanukovich Makeover." According to the *International Herald Tribune*, "With a critical election Sunday, the Ukrainian prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, is displaying a deft new touch that has helped transform him from arch-villain of the Orange Revolution (at least in the eyes of the West) to arguably the country's most popular politician. Yanukovich has not, though, done it all on his own. From an anonymous office off Kiev's main square, a seasoned American political strategist has for many months been carrying out a Yanukovich makeover. The strategist, Paul Manafort Jr., who was once a senior aide to prominent Republicans, has sought to remain behind the scenes. ... Yanukovich was introduced to Manafort by Rinat Akhmetov, a Yanukovich supporter and billionaire industrialist who is the richest man in Ukraine. Manafort was advising Akhmetov at the time on improving the image of his companies. Manafort's firm - Davis, Manafort - is among the most influential political consulting firms in the United States. He worked for Bob Dole, once the Republican nominee for president. His partner, Rick Davis, manages the Republican presidential campaign of Senator John McCain of Arizona." [International Herald Tribune, 9/29/07]

- **McCain Often Warned Against Yanukovich Power.** According to the *New York Times*, "News reports also noted that Davis Manafort, the business development and consulting practice from which Mr. Davis is on leave, had been giving campaign advice to the Ukrainian prime minister, Viktor F. Yanukovich, a favorite of the Kremlin, whose power Mr. McCain often warns against." [New York Times, 10/23/07]

McCain Criticized President Bush For His Close Relationship With The Saudi Government; Denounced the Saudi Arabian Government For Funding Extremist Groups. On MSNBC's Hardball, McCain criticized Bush for his dealings with the Saudi Arabian government, noting, "15 of the 19 terrorists were Saudi citizens. They've got to stop the money that goes to the extremists." According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, McCain accused the Saudi government of "trying to have it both ways," by financing extremist groups and allowing them to "have the megaphone." [MSNBC Hardball, 10/16/02; Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/22/01; DNC Press Release, 4/23/07]

- **But Then McCain Signed On, and Promoted Saudi Lobbyist to Bolster Lagging Campaign.** After McCain's "disappointing" fundraising numbers of the first quarter of 2007, his campaign announced that its "general co-chairman, former Texas congressman Tom Loeffler," was "put in charge of fundraising and began a review of fundraising operations." But McCain had made the same announcement nearly a month earlier, naming Loeffler his "consigliere." The *Washington Post* reported that "Loeffler will play a similar

role to that of Don Evans during then Texas Governor George W. Bush's 2000 campaign, managing McCain's interests across a variety of intersecting universes -- donors, lobbyists Capitol Hill and the executive branch." [[Washington Post](#), 4/3/07; [Washington Post](#), 3/7/07; DNC Press Release, 4/23/07]

- **Loeffler Received Nearly a Million Dollars a Year to Set Up Meetings Between the White House and Saudi Arabia.** "Loeffler first raised big bucks for [G.W. Bush's] gubernatorial campaigns. Since Bush's election in 2000, Loeffler's firm has signed up several lucrative clients, including the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, which he advises on trade and terrorism issues. Loeffler, whom the Saudis pay about \$900,000 a year, has helped arrange meetings between Saudi officials and such senior Bush administration officials as Karl Rove." [[National Journal](#), 1/15/05; DNC Press Release, 4/23/07]
- **Loeffler Lobbied Senate on Behalf of Saudi Arabia.** "The Loeffler Group, the powerful firm hired to lobby for the Saudis, has given senators a 70-page Saudi-friendly position paper, and several paid experts have written op-ed pieces in the Arab media denouncing scheduled witnesses." [[New York Post](#), 11/8/05; DNC Press Release, 4/23/07]
- **Despite Saudi Criticism of Iraq War, Loeffler Sees No "Conflict of Interest At This Time."** "The potential conflict was underscored late last month when King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia startled the Bush administration by expressing harsh criticism of the U.S. role in Iraq. At an Arab conference in Riyadh that was held just days before McCain flew to Iraq, Abdullah denounced the U.S. occupation of Iraq as 'illegal,' and said it's an 'illegitimate foreign occupation.' Loeffler said he will continue to handle 'all of the work' of his law firm. He declined to comment on any clients, including Saudi Arabia, but added, 'I do not find a conflict of interest at this time.'" [[National Journal](#), 4/7/2007; DNC Press Release, 4/23/07]

Relationship With Lobbyists

McCain Fundraising Event Claimed 24 Lobbyist Co-Chairmen. 24 Washington lobbyists were listed as co-chairmen of a recent McCain fundraiser at the Charlie Palmer Steakhouse in Washington, D.C. [ABC News, 1/29/08]

McCain's Campaign Relyed on 59 Lobbyist Fundraisers. According to a press release from Public Citizen, "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has 59 lobbyist-bundlers raising money for him, almost twice as many as former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who has the second-highest number." [Public Citizen press release, 1/29/08; [whitehouseforsale.org](#), accessed 1/30/08; ABC News.com, 1/29/08]

Nonpartisan Campaign Finance Institute: McCain Has 32 Bundlers Who Are Lobbyists. According to the *Washington Post*, "Nonetheless, a recent study by the nonpartisan Campaign Finance Institute and the liberal advocacy group Public Citizen found that McCain has more lobbyists raising funds for his presidential bid than do any of his rivals. He has 32 'bundlers' of donations who are lobbyists. Former New York mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani (R) is the closest to him with 29 lobbyist bundlers, followed by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) with 18." [[Washington Post](#), 12/31/07]

- **McCain Campaign "Guided By Lobbyists."** According to the *Washington Post*, "McCain's campaign has also been guided by lobbyists. Davis, the campaign manager, is a former lobbyist who represented major telecommunications companies. The campaign's senior adviser is Charles R. Black Jr., chairman of BKSH & Associates, which represents drug companies, an oil company, an automaker, a telecommunications company, defense contractors and the steel industry, among others. Former congressman Tom Loeffler (R-Tex.) was brought in to shore up the campaign's finances and operations. Yet he maintains his day job as chairman of the Loeffler Group, whose clients include oil, auto and telecommunications companies, as well as a tobacco firm and an airline. Other occasional McCain advisers include lobbyists Timothy P. McKone of AT&T, Robert S. Aiken of Phoenix-based Pinnacle West Capital, John W. Timmons of the Cormac Group and John Green of Ogilvy Government Relations. Also at Ogilvy is a major McCain fundraiser, Wayne L. Berman. Their firms' clients have been a significant source of

contributions to McCain's campaign. Executives for the clients of Ogilvy Government Relations gave at least \$271,000 for McCain's presidential bid. Loeffler Group client employees donated \$118,500, according to a Washington Post analysis. BKSH clients' executives gave \$24,000." [Washington Post, 12/31/07]

Dirty Campaign Staff

McCain "Seems To Be Adopting Tactics Her Previously Criticized." According to the *Charleston Gazette*, "Respected Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is running for president again. Although he has long been a clean-campaigns advocate, he seems to be adopting tactics he previously criticized. At least, he's hiring campaign operatives once involved in ugly smears. During early Republican primary elections in 2000, campaign dirty tricksters attacked McCain, falsely, for being a traitor while he was in jail as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. And an outfit backing George W. Bush made telephone calls to potential voters in the South Carolina primary suggesting that McCain had fathered a 'black child,' perhaps with a 'black prostitute.' (The McCains did adopt a daughter, named Bridget, through an orphanage Mother Teresa had created in Bangladesh.) During the 2004 presidential campaign, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth ran television ads smearing Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was running against Bush. At the time, McCain attacked those Swift Boat ads as 'dishonest and dishonorable.' But today, McCain is using that same Swift Boat firm to help him plan campaign ads for 2008. He also has hired a wide array of dirty tricksters to run his presidential race, including key political operatives Bush used to attack McCain in 2000, according to The New York Times. Last fall, McCain's top adviser criticized a TV smear of former Rep. Harold E. Ford Jr., D-Tenn, which showed the black congressman flirting with a young, scantily clad, blonde, white woman. The ad had racist overtones. Terry Nelson, a former Bush campaign consultant, headed the committee sponsoring that ad. McCain first hired Nelson as an adviser last spring. After the Ford TV ad controversy hit the news, McCain promoted Nelson to his national campaign manager, the Times reports. What has happened to the Arizona Republican known for integrity?" [Editorial, *Charleston Gazette*, 2/12/07]

McCain Hired Terry Nelson To Be His Campaign Manager. According to the *New York Times'* The Fix, "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) continues to recruit top GOP political operatives in expectation of a presidential run. According to a source close to the McCain operation, the candidate has lined up Terry Nelson to serve as campaign manager (if a formal bid is announced), and Republican National Committee Communications Director Brian Jones has committed to lead the press effort for a national bid. Nelson, who served as national political director for President Bush's 2004 reelection campaign, joined McCain's Straight Talk America political action committee in March." [*New York Times*, "The Fix," 12/07/06]

- **Nelson "Sandwiched Right Between Tom Delay And Rove's RNC In The Alleged Money Laundering That Took Place In Texas In 2002."** According to MyDD, "This recruit is a double-whammy, because Nelson was sandwiched right between Tom Delay and Rove's RNC in the alleged money laundering that took place in Texas in 2002." According to the Associated Press, "The political director for the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign testified Friday before a grand jury investigating charges that corporate money was used illegally in 2002 state legislative races. A spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee confirmed that political director Terry Nelson testified. ... The grand jury is looking into whether state law was violated when an RNC group gave \$190,000 to seven candidates for the Texas House in 2002. The donations to each candidate were made on the same day two weeks after Texans for a Republican Majority, created by U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land, sent \$190,000 in corporate money to the RNC group." [MyDD.com, [3/18/06](#); Associated Press, 3/20/04]

McCain's New Hampshire State Director Asked For Leniency for Convicted Phone-Jammer James Tobin. Republican lobbyist Mike Dennehy, Senator McCain's New Hampshire State Director, sent a letter to Judge Steven McAuliffe that asked the judge for a lenient sentence and called convicted phone-jammer James Tobin the "the most ethical man I know" despite the fact that Tobin was convicted of multiple felonies over his role in the 2002 phone-jamming crime. The letter was the only such letter from any Granite Stater. Dennehy's appeal on behalf of Tobin came weeks after Senator McCain hired Terry Nelson--Tobin's supervisor at the Republican National Committee and National Republican Senate Committee--as a senior political strategist. Even after learning about

Nelson's possible involvement in the phone jamming scheme, McCain later said that he had "no qualms" about Nelson's ethics and that he considers Nelson to be "a fine man" who was "very helpful to President Bush." [Cox News Service, 4/3/06]

South Carolina Strategist Richard Quinn Was Quoted As McCain's South Carolina Spokesperson In December 2005. As recently as December 23, 2005, Richard Quinn was identified as "McCain's South Carolina spokesman" in providing a response to criticism about McCain's scheduled visit to Spartanburg. A 2004 *Vanity Fair* piece on McCain's fall in the 2000 campaign identified Quinn as "the McCain [2000] campaign's South Carolina strategist." [Spartanburg Herald-Journal, 12/23/05; Vanity Fair, 11/04]

- **Quinn Was Founder and Editor In Chief Of A Magazine "Rabidly Devoted" To Confederate Heritage And Maintained Ownership Of The Magazine In 2001.** Quinn was the editor in chief of *The Southern Partisan* magazine, which was described by *Vanity Fair* as "rabidly devoted to the South's Confederate heritage." Following the 2000 McCain campaign, Quinn "removed his name from the magazine's masthead to avoid further damage to the political candidates that are his clients...but he continues as part owner." [Vanity Fair, 11/04; The State, 2/9/01]

McCain's Campaign Finance Hypocrisy

McCain's Campaign Loan Could Have Violated Donor Privacy. According to Politico.com, John McCain's presidential campaign took out a loan from its bank, using his donor list as collateral. Apparently, "McCain's own privacy policy promises[ed] donors he wouldn't sell their information." McCain's spokeswoman, Jill Hazelbaker said that the campaign pledged all of its assets as collateral, not just the list. She said, "Such a blanket pledging...[was] normal procedure for a bank loan – and does not mean that they can [or] would even be used in any way that violate[ed] our policies." Nonetheless, according to Politico.com, a post on McCain's campaign website stated "John McCain 2008 will not sell your information to third parties or any commercial entities." [Politico.com, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Charged With Soliciting Soft Money From Prohibited Sources And In Excess Of The Federal Contribution Limits. According to the Associated Press, "The California Democratic Party said Friday it will ask government regulators to investigate Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sen. John McCain for allegedly violating campaign-finance law. The allegations center around a scheduled March 20 fundraiser in Beverly Hills, in which donors have been asked to contribute up to \$100,000 for Schwarzenegger and the state Republican Party. McCain, R-Ariz., is the featured speaker. ... At issue is whether McCain's appearance runs afoul of restrictions on federal officeholders taking part in events that solicit political funds. Ironically, McCain is being accused of violating a law he helped write. The complaint, to be filed Monday with the FEC in Washington, charges that McCain and Schwarzenegger 'are soliciting soft money from prohibited sources and in excess of the federal contribution limits.'" [Associated Press, 3/04/06]

McCain Demanded Regulatory Action to Benefit Major Contributor in 2000. According to the *New York Times*, "Senator John McCain, who has made fixing the corrosive influence of money in politics the cornerstone of his campaign, twice demanded in recent weeks that a regulatory agency take action in a matter that ultimately benefited a major contributor to his presidential campaign. Once in November and again last month, Mr. McCain wrote letters to the Federal Communications Commission seeking a speedy vote on a complicated swap of television station licenses in Pittsburgh that would enable the contributor's company, Paxson Communications, to buy one of the stations in the only big market where it lacks one. Mr. McCain sent the letters after he and his aides had met with and received more than \$20,000 in contributions from executives for the company and lobbyists. The head of the company, Lowell Paxson, who also lent Mr. McCain his corporate jet four times last year for campaign travel, had scheduled a fund-raiser for Mr. McCain in Florida for this weekend, but canceled it at the end of the day." [New York Times, 1/06/00]

- **Bush Accused McCain of Being Inconsistent on Reforming Campaign Finance.** According to the *New York Times*, "Gov. George W. Bush, did not use the disclosure to criticize Mr. McCain head-on, although

he suggested that the senator's action did not comport with his views on reforming the campaign finance system. 'I think somebody who makes campaign finance an issue has got to be consistent, and walk the walk,' Mr. Bush said at a New Hampshire campaign appearance." [New York Times, 1/06/00]

McCain Accepted \$61, 650 From Swift Boat Donors And Associates, Though He Once Condemned Their Kerry Smears. According to the *Nation*, Senator John McCain's presidential campaign has accepted as much as \$61,650 from Swift Boat donors and their associates. Also according to the *Nation*, when the Swift Boat ads that criticized John Kerry during the '04 election were first released, "...McCain was alone among his Republican colleagues to condemn them. A fellow Vietnam veteran, a good friend of Kerry's and a former target of smears about his own service, McCain called the ads 'dishonest and dishonorable,' a 'cheap stunt,' and he urged Bush to condemn them." [Nation, [1/2/08](#)]

McCain Crusaded for Campaign Finance Reform, But Now, Pressed for Cash, Benefits From Soft Money Ad. In 2007, an ad was released, which supported the Wounded Warriors Act, but also highlights McCain ran in South Carolina, a state McCain needs to win to keep his campaign going. According to the *New York Times*, "Mr. McCain has crusaded for years against just this sort of unencumbered political spending and has publicly called upon the foundation to stop the advertisement, a request competitors say seems half-hearted and the group's leader has ignored." The Times continued, "The group that paid for the advertisement operates independently of Mr. McCain's campaign, but was set up and financed by his supporters seeking to help him as much as possible up to the limits of the law." [New York Times, 11/12/07]

Desperate For Cash, McCain Takes Lobbyist Tribal Money. According to *The Hill*, McCain "has sworn off taking tribal money in his presidential campaign but continues to accept donations from lobbyists whose firms represent tribal clients." Records show that lobbying firms "who competed with Abramoff for tribal clients prior to the probe," and have subsequently inherited Abramoff's clients, consistently give to McCain's campaign effort. [The Hill, 5/8/07]

- **McCain Accepted \$24,100 from Lobbyist Who Inherited Abramoff Clients.** According to *The Hill*, "But in accepting these contributions, McCain could be making himself vulnerable to some of the very same tribal ties he wants to avoid. Scott Reed, who competed with Abramoff for tribal clients prior to the probe, inherited at least one of Abramoff's clients while McCain was investigating the scandal. Reed's firm, Chesapeake Enterprises, represented the Saginaw Chippewa tribe of Michigan during the committee investigation. Reed and the three other members of his firm consistently have contributed to McCain's presidential campaign, political action committee and reelection committee in the past three election cycles, doling out a total of \$24,100." [The Hill, 5/8/07]
- **Two Firms Representing At Least 21 Tribal Clients Have Cut \$41,000 In Checks To McCain Committees In The Past Three Election Cycles.** According to *The Hill*, "Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, with its affiliate, Ietan Consulting, is another powerful player in the tribal lobbying community. Combined the two firms represent at least 21 tribal clients, and employees of the firm have cut \$41,000 in checks to McCain committees in the past three election cycles. Akin Gump also has a direct link to the Indian Affairs Committee probe. Michael Rossetti, an Akin Gump lobbyist who previously served as counsel to former Interior Secretary Gale Norton, testified before the panel against former Interior Deputy Secretary J. Stephen Griles. Griles, who was convicted of obstruction of justice in the Abramoff probe two months ago, was accused of helping two Abramoff clients - the Louisiana Coushatta tribe and the Saginaw Chippewa - fend off casino proposals from rival tribes. Griles denied the allegations and Rossetti disputed his accounts. Rossetti is now a registered lobbyist for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, another former Abramoff client, and four other tribes. In the wake of the Abramoff scandal, in addition to Chesapeake Enterprises, the Saginaw Chippewa also hired Ietan Consulting as well as Holland & Knight Philip Baker-Shenker, a top tribal lobbyist for Holland & Knight, also has donated consistently to McCain's committees, giving him \$4,300 in the last three election cycles." [The Hill, 5/8/07]

McCain Raised More Than \$1.4M from Bush 2004 Donors. According to the *Arizona Republic*, "Sen. John McCain has tapped into President Bush's vast network of campaign contributors in greater numbers ... But using

an already-organized political action committee as a proxy for his undeclared presidential campaign, McCain over the past 16 months has attracted more than \$1.4 million from about 640 of Bush's 2004 donors throughout 40 states. That is almost triple the \$505,999 collected from former Bush donors by a similar leadership PAC belonging to Giuliani, a former New York City mayor. ... An Arizona Republic analysis of Federal Election Commission records also shows that nearly seven out of 10, or 436, of the donors who gave to Bush in 2004 and have since given money to McCain's Straight Talk America PAC, are new supporters of the Arizona senator. They were not among contributors to McCain's presidential campaign in 2000, when he bucked the GOP establishment by running against then-Texas Gov. Bush for the party's presidential nomination." [Arizona Republic, 12/19/06]

George Will: McCain Prepared To Operate Outside Campaign Finance Laws He Wrote. In 2006, George Will wrote, "McCain's undeclared but ubiquitous presidential campaign will produce a delicious moment when he announces, as he surely will, that he will not participate in the public funding system for presidential primaries... There are two compounded ironies. First, the mantra of campaign 'reformers' is that there is 'too much' money in politics. But McCain will shun public funding because it provides too little money. He can raise much more from private interests. (But not from 'special interests'—interests McCain disapproves of.)" McCain is "the person most responsible for the perverse consequences of the government's multiplying intrusions into what should be a free market for political speech." [Washington Post, 5/28/06]

McCain Indecisive About Whether To Stay In Campaign Finance Limits In 2008. McCain "must decide whether [he] would stay inside the public financing system for the primary season, a decision that would limit the amount of money [McCain] can raise and spend. ... McCain expressed complete indecision, effectively leaving open the door to raising unlimited dollars for the campaign." McCain said, "We haven't gotten to that point of the discussions. If I decide to run, then we would make that decision." [Roll Call, 5/1/06]

McCain Solicits Corporate Dollars Through Unregulated Main Street Partnership. According to the New York Times, McCain is a member of the The Main Street Partnership, which is a group that "Offer[s] special access to lawmakers in exchange for financial contributions." McCain's membership was notable because he "led the calls to tighten lobbying and campaign finance rules." The Main Street Partnership "can seek unlimited and undisclosed corporate donations because it is organized as a nonprofit advocacy group," a tactic which is "well within the law," but "soliciting corporate or unrestricted individual contributions is illegal for political candidates or the national political parties;" campaign finance reforms which "the group helped pass four years ago." The partnership has been called hypocrisy by critics. "It is reformers on parade," said Jan Witold Baran, a Republican campaign finance lawyer. "All of these moderate Republicans who support all this campaign finance reform and lobbying reform have this convoluted organization that basically raises a variety of corporate funding and apparently pays for pajama parties with lobbyists." [New York Times, 4/30/06]

McCain May Accept Corporate Travel In Future

McCain Campaign Decided It No Longer Could Afford Eschewing Corporate Jet Travel. According to the New York Times, "And Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, began by eschewing corporate jet travel, but with his campaign in straitened financial circumstances has decided it can no longer afford such scruples -- even though Mr. McCain sponsored legislation in the Senate that would have required lawmakers to pay the full value of their trips on private planes. 'Senator McCain had hoped that other candidates in the race would follow suit and pay the true cost of chartered planes,' said Jill Hazelbaker, a campaign spokeswoman. 'It's regrettable, but moving forward we cannot continue at such an incredible financial disadvantage.' The McCain campaign spent more than \$1.5 million on air travel during the first half of the year, mostly on chartered planes. Direct comparisons to what other candidates spent are difficult, because candidates have different travel schedules and records filed with the Federal Election Commission do not always make it clear exactly how many flights each campaign took. But it appears that Mr. McCain's air travel bill was hundreds of thousands of dollars higher than some rivals who took corporate flights." [New York Times, 7/26/07]

- **McCain Spend \$850,000 On Private Jets As Of June 2007.** According to the *Arizona Republic*, “To cut travel costs, McCain now flies almost exclusively on commercial airliners. As of June 30, he had spent more than \$850,000 on private jets and nearly \$1.1 million total on travel.” [[Arizona Republic](#), 7/28/07]
- **McCain Called For Ending Low-Cost Private Jet Perk For Congressman.** McCain “endorses the idea of requiring senators to reimburse corporations at the much higher charter rate” for use of private jets, as opposed to the current rule of paying a first class fare. McCain said, “I have no doubt that the average American would love to fly around the country on very comfortable corporate-owned aircraft and only be charged the cost of a first-class ticket. It is a pretty good deal we have got going here. We need to face the fact that the time has come to end this congressional perk.” [[Los Angeles Times](#), 1/9/07]

McCain’s Problematic Contributors

McCain Has Accepted \$61, 650 From Swift Boat Donors And Associates, Though He Once Condemned Their Kerry Smears. According to the *Nation*, Senator John McCain’s presidential campaign has accepted as much as \$61,650 from Swift Boat donors and their associates. Also according to the *Nation*, when the Swift Boat ads that criticized John Kerry during the ‘04 election were first released, “...McCain was alone among his Republican colleagues to condemn them. A fellow Vietnam veteran, a good friend of Kerry’s and a former target of smears about his own service, McCain called the ads ‘dishonest and dishonorable,’ a ‘cheap stunt,’ and he urged Bush to condemn them.” [[Nation](#), [1/2/08](#)]

McCain “Mingled With Hundreds Of Top Corporate Executives Assembled By J.P. Morgan Chase For Its Annual Leadership Conference.” According to the *Washington Post*, “Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) took a break from the presidential campaign trail in March to fly to a posh Utah ski resort, where he mingled with hundreds of top corporate executives assembled by J.P. Morgan Chase for its annual leadership conference. McCain’s appearance at the Deer Valley event, arranged by J.P. Morgan Vice Chairman James B. Lee Jr., a top McCain fundraiser, put him in a room with the chief executives of companies such as General Electric, Xerox and Sony. It was, Lee said, ‘a chance for him to let them see him for who he is and possibly decide to support him.’ The effort paid off: J.P. Morgan executives have donated \$56,250 to McCain’s campaign, two-thirds of which came after his Utah appearance. And his visit there was quickly followed up by dozens of smaller private meetings with corporate executives in New York City arranged by leading Wall Street figures. ‘We tried to get him around to a lot of those kinds of things,’ said McCain campaign manager Rick Davis. ‘We were very much in the friend-making business.’” [[Washington Post](#), 12/31/07]

McCain Raised Money From “Sleazy” Wyl Brothers and Funders of Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. In response to ads run against him in 2000 by “Republicans for Clean Air,” a group funded by Texans Sam and Charles Wyly, McCain called the Wylys Bush’s “sleazy Texas buddies,” called the group “disgraceful” and their money “dirty.” He also attacked Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which ran ads against John Kerry in 2004, as “dishonest” and “dishonorable.” However, McCain’s fundraiser in Dallas on May 15, 2006 for his political action committee had the Wyly brothers and Albert Huddleston and Harold Simmons, who together gave \$3.1 million to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, as members of the host committee. [[UPI](#), 4/24/06; [CBS News](#), 3/7/00; [Dallas Morning News](#), 5/14/06; [Dallas Morning News](#), 4/23/06; [AP](#), 8/5/04; [abcnews.com](#), 4/23/06]

- **McCain’s PAC Returned Contributions From Wylys Who Were Under Federal Investigation.** According to the Hotline, “Sen. John McCain’s Straight Talk America PAC returned \$20K in contributions from Sam and Charles Wyly after the STA finance team learned that the Wylys were under federal investigation for alleged tax evasion. McCain attended a May 15 fundraiser in Austin, TX co-hosted by the Wyly brothers. ‘After the checks were received from Sam and Charles Wyly, it was discovered through the normal vetting process here at Straight Talk America that a federal inquiry is ongoing into the two gentlemen,’ said STA exec. dir. Craig Goldman in a statement. ‘Once that was discovered, we have a policy internally not to accept contributions from people in that situation, so the checks were returned.’ ‘And at our request they did not attend the fundraiser in Dallas.’ You’ll recall that in 2000, the duo spent millions to air ads designed to hurt McCain in early primary states.” [[The Hotline](#), 5/24/06]

- **McCain's Returned Checks To Wylys Was An “Embarrassment” Given The Fact That The Wyly’s Scandal Was National Front Page News.** “The much-hyped detente between Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and big Texas donors to President Bush ran into an embarrassing snag last month, prompting the Senator to return \$20,000 in donations from the Wyly family after realizing they were being investigated by federal tax authorities. McCain, whose active courtship of Bush’s financial network has been widely promoted by his political aides, gave back the checks from Sam and Charles Wyly Jr. and other relatives after his political action committee’s ‘vetting system’ turned up multiple probes into the Wylys regarding their offshore holdings on the Isle of Man. ‘There’s a government probe into some tax shelters they have,’ said Craig Goldman, the executive director of Straight Talk America, McCain’s leadership PAC, explaining the refunded donations. … McCain’s decision to return the Wyly donations is a sign that he is taking his image as a campaign reformer seriously, not wanting to have even the appearance of impropriety for taking donations from businessmen accused of sheltering \$100 million in taxes on the Isle of Man. At the same time, the snafu carries some embarrassment for the Senator, since the Wyly investigation has been widely known for almost a year.” “The Wylys were also disinvited to a May 15 Dallas fundraiser for Straight Talk, Goldman said. McCain’s political operation initially touted the event as a sign of the inroads he had made among donors who worked against him in the 2000 presidential race.” [[Roll Call](#), 5/25/06; [Washington Post](#), 5/25/06]

McCain Took Favorable Action for Cablevision

McCain Conduct As Chairman Of Senate Commerce Committee Raised Questions. According to the *Washington Post*, “Beyond his fundraising, McCain’s conduct as chairman of the powerful Senate Commerce Committee between 1997 and 2004 has occasionally raised questions about whether he took actions to benefit major contributors to his political network, which included his Senate and presidential campaign committees, his Straight Talk political action committee and a foundation that he helped start called the Reform Institute. In 2003 and 2004, for example, McCain took two actions favorable to Cablevision, the cable TV company, while Davis, his chief political strategist at the time, solicited the company for a total of \$200,000 for the Reform Institute, a tax-exempt group that advocated an end to outsize political donations. Davis solicited an initial donation from Cablevision chief Charles Dolan a week after Dolan testified before the Senate Commerce Committee in favor of a position backed by McCain. Davis said there was no connection between the testimony and the solicitation. Less than a year later, McCain wrote to the Federal Communications Commission recommending Cablevision’s position on cable pricing, citing Dolan by name. Cablevision followed soon thereafter with a second \$100,000 donation, the Associated Press reported.” [[Washington Post](#), 12/31/07]

- **FCC Chairman Called McCain’s Intervention “Highly Unusual.”** According to the *Washington Post*, “In 1999, McCain wrote a letter as committee chairman on behalf of longtime political supporter Lowell ‘Bud’ Paxson, urging the FCC to vote on a long-delayed decision whether to approve the sale of a Pittsburgh television station to Paxson’s company. McCain had flown on Paxson’s corporate jet four times to appear at campaign events around that time, and had received \$20,000 from campaign donations from Paxson and its law firm, the Boston Globe reported. The FCC chairman at the time, William Kennard, called McCain’s intervention ‘highly unusual,’ but the senator denied doing any favors.” [[Washington Post](#), 12/31/07]

Birds Of A Feather Flock Together

McCain Attended Fundraiser For Congressman John Sweeney. According to StopJohnMcCain2008.com, “Congressman John Sweeney has been a busy guy. Many folks on the blogosphere know him from his infamous [drunken photo-op](#) at a frat house in New York. Then there’s Sweeney’s [lobbyist skiing trips and defense of Tom DeLay](#). When his opponent, Democrat [Kirsten Gillibrand](#) stood up and called Sweeney on his nonsense, Sweeney responded with [patronizing sexism](#).“ According to the *Business Review*, “U.S. Sen. John McCain will attend a fund-raiser Saturday, May 20, for U.S. Rep. John Sweeney in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The noon event at the

Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center will help raise funds for what is shaping up as a difficult race for Sweeney, a Republican who is finishing up his fourth term as congressman.” [StopJohnMcCain.com, accessed [12/21/07](#); *Business Review*, 5/16/06]

McCain Was Close To AZ House Speaker Jeff Groscost Who Had History Of Ethics Controversies.

According to a 1999 *Washington Post* article, John McCain was close to “controversial” Arizona House Speaker Jeff Groscost, and had even hired him to be a \$7,000 a month consultant to his 1999 presidential campaign. According to the *Post*, Speaker Groscost had “...a long history of ethics controversies, including some in the area of campaign finance, where McCain has been perhaps the most vocal advocate of reform legislation in the Senate.” According to the *Post*, in 1995 Groscost stepped down from his post as majority whip “...under pressure of a threatened investigation because of repeated late filings of his campaign finance reports...” but won the speaker ship at the end of 1997. [[Washington Post](#), 11/28/99]

- **Groscost Had High Contracts With AZ Business & Trade Associations That Had Legislation Before The House.** According to the *Washington Post*, “Groscost had consulting contracts for at least \$ 10,000 each, with Arizona business and trade associations that had legislation pending before the House.” While Groscost denied any conflict of interest, Dennis Burke, the head of Arizona Common Cause, said the arrangements were “wildly inappropriate.” [[Washington Post](#), 11/28/99]
- **McCain Said That Upon Hiring Groscost, He Did Not Know He Had Significant Problems.** According to the *Washington Post*, McCain said, when he hired Groscost, he “...was not aware of any significant problems that [Groscost] had...” [[Washington Post](#), 11/28/99]

Ethics Committee Said McCain Used “Poor Judgment” Regarding Keating Five

McCain’s “Darkest Hour” Was His Involvement With the Infamous Keating Five Scandal. The *Washington Post* referred to Senator McCain’s “darkest hour” as the “Keating Five” scandal. The *Arizona Republic* reported on a recent book released by Ex-Sen. Dennis DeConcini, one of the “Keating Five,” in which he “depicts” McCain as “having backstabbed him” and the other Senators during the investigation by leaking information to the media. He also “asserts that McCain gained leniency” because of the “close relationship” he had with the attorney heading the investigation.” [[Washington Post](#), 6/8/07; [Arizona Republic](#), 1/10/07]

- **The Senate Ethics Committee Investigated McCain, One of the “Keating Five,” in 1991.** Five Senators, including McCain, “were investigated by the Senate ethics committee in 1991. The inquiry centered on whether the five pressured federal regulators on behalf of Charles H Keating Jr., a Phoenix financier, and his Lincoln Savings and Loan Association. Each senator had received campaign contributions from Keating...Lincoln’s collapse cost taxpayers \$3.4 billion, and investors, many who were retirees, lost an estimated \$285 million on high-risk bonds.” McCain had a “long-standing relationship with Keating” which included “use of a Keating vacation home and airplane while McCain was in the House of Representatives.” [[Arizona Republic](#), 1/10/07]

Senate Ethics Committee Said McCain Used “Poor Judgment” With Regard to Charles Keating. According to the Associated Press, McCain and four other senators were accused two decades ago of trying to influence banking regulators on behalf of Charles Keating, a savings and loan financier later convicted of securities fraud. The Senate Ethics Committee said McCain had used “poor judgment” but also said his actions “were not improper” and warranted no penalty. McCain was faced with the favoritism question after the online Web site, the Drudge Report, said his aides and advisers had been trying to dissuade the newspaper from publishing a story. [Associated Press, 12/20/07]

- **McCain Found By Senate Ethics Committee To Be Least Blameworthy Of Keating Five.** According to *Slate Magazine*, the Senate Ethics Committee eventually found Senators McCain and John Glenn to be

“...least blameworthy” of the Keating Five senators, because they attended the meetings but did nothing else to influence regulators. [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

- **McCain Guilty Of Poor Judgment, Contributed Amount Keating Raised For Him To U.S. Treasury.** According to *Slate Magazine* the Senate Ethics committee said, “McCain was guilty of nothing more than ‘poor judgment,’ ...and declared his actions were not ‘improper nor attended with gross negligence.’” Furthermore, “McCain considered the committee’s judgment to be ‘full exoneration,’ and he contributed \$112,000 (the amount raised for him by Keating) to the U.S. Treasury.” [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

Keating Was Longtime Friend, Associate, Major Fundraiser For McCain. According to *Slate Magazine*, Charles Keating was “...was more than a constituent to McCain--he was a longtime friend and associate.” Apparently, McCain met Keating at a Navy League dinner in 1981, and the two became friends, especially since Keating shared a naval background with McCain. Keating fundraised for McCain’s 1982 and 1984 congressional campaigns, as well as his 1986 Senate campaign. According to *Slate*, “By 1987, McCain campaigns had received \$112,000 from Keating, his relatives, and his employees--the most received by any of the Keating Five.” [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

McCain Failed To Disclose That He Made At Least 9 Trips At Keating’s Expense. According to *Slate Magazine*, “After McCain’s election to the House in 1982, he and his family made at least nine trips at Keating’s expense, three of which were to Keating’s Bahamas retreat. McCain did not disclose the trips (as he was required to under House rules) until the [Keating Five] scandal broke in 1989.” After the scandal broke, and the trips were disclosed, McCain paid Keating \$13,433 for the flights. [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

McCain’s Wife And Her Father Invested \$350,100 In Keating Strip Mall. According to *Slate Magazine*, “...in April 1986, one year before the Keating Five’s meeting with federal banking regulators, McCain’s wife, Cindy, and her father invested \$359,100 in a Keating strip mall.” [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

McCain Believed Democrats Blocked Ethics Committee Recommendation That He Be Dropped From Investigation. According to *Slate Magazine*, Senate Ethics Committee special counsel Robert Bennett recommended that Senators McCain and Glenn be dropped from the Keating Five investigation, but were not. McCain believed that Democrats on the Ethics committee blocked the recommendation because he was the sole Republican involved in the scandal. [[Slate Magazine](#), 2/18/00]

Extremism

McCain Has Conservative Voting Record, Has 82% Rating From The American Conservative Union.

According to Foxnews.com, McCain "...has had a very conservative voting record." Apparently, he has a lifetime rating of 82 percent from the American Conservative Union and "...he has generally been a solid and reliable vote for the anti-abortion side, rarely wavering from his pro-life stance." [Foxnews.com, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Struggled With Position On Intelligent Design, Said It Should Be Taught In Classrooms But

Modified His Reasoning. According to *Vanity Fair*, during a speech at the Aspen Institute, McCain "...struggled to articulate his position on the teaching of intelligent design in public schools. At first, according to two people who were present, McCain said he believed that intelligent design, which proponents portray as a more intellectually respectable version of biblical creationism, should be taught in science classes. But then, in the face of intense skepticism from his listeners, he kept modifying his views—going into reverse evolution." [Vanity Fair, February 2007]

2000: McCain Said He Did Not Ascribe Robertson And Falwell's Philosophy That "Money Is Our Message."

According to the *New Yorker*, during his 2000 presidential campaign, McCain gave a speech in Virginia Beach, where he said, "I am a pro-life, pro-family fiscal conservative and advocate of a strong defense...And yet Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and a few Washington leaders of the pro-life movement call me an unacceptable Presidential candidate...Why? Because I don't pander to them, because I don't ascribe to their failed philosophy that money is our message." McCain made the statement shortly after a smear campaign had led to his loss in the South Carolina, primary. [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05]

2000: McCain Called Falwell "Evil Influence" on Republican Party. McCain's 2000 presidential bid tanked in Virginia and South Carolina when he called religious broadcasters Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson "agents of intolerance" who exerted an "evil influence" on the Republican Party. [*Kansas City Star*, 5/28/05]

2005: McCain Met With Falwell To Lay Groundwork for 2008 Run. "Sen. John McCain is taking action to make it hard for conservatives to write him off in the 2008 presidential race. His office confirms that the maverick moderate recently met with the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a conservative icon who is influential with voters on the right." [*US News and World Report*, 11/14/05]

2006: McCain Said The Christian Right Had A Major Role In The GOP. McCain affirmed his support of the Christian right's place in the GOP, saying, "I believe that the Christ--quote, 'Christian right,' has a major role to play in the Republican Party," and reasoned that Falwell was no longer intolerant, answering a question if he still believed his 2000 statement to be true, saying, "No, I don't." [*NBC News*, 4/2/06]

2006: McCain Scheduled To Speak At Falwell's Liberty University Graduation. McCain "will be Liberty University's graduation speaker on May 13. 'I was in Washington with him about three months ago,' Falwell said. 'We dealt with every difference we have. There are no deal breakers now. But I told him, 'You have a lot of fence mending to do.'" Falwell, LU's chancellor, said McCain, an Arizona Republican, is among the presidential candidates he could support in 2008...Falwell said McCain could very well be the Republican Party's best hope in 2008." [*Lynchburg News & Advance*, 3/28/06]

Brownback Called the Escalation in Iraq the "McCain Surge." The *New York Times* reported, "When Senator Sam Brownback, the Kansas Republican who recently ended his own bid for the presidential nomination and who had initially opposed the troop increase, endorsed Mr. McCain in Iowa on Wednesday, he said he had been wrong and Mr. McCain right. He even referred to the stepped-up effort as the 'McCain surge.'" [*New York Times*, 11/10/07]

McCain Wants Massive Military Buildup, But Has No Plan To Obtain the Resources. According to John McCain's essay in Foreign Affairs, his administration would "increase the size of the US Army and the Marine Corps...to 900,000 troops," as well as drastically increasing the amount spent on national defense, "which currently

consumes less than four cents of every dollar that our economy generates -- far less than what we spent during the Cold War." However, McCain's plan is mostly "wishful thinking," as he gives no plan as to where the resources for building up the military will come from; "the country is already in deficit, a deficit McCain's tax policies will deepen." [Foreign Affairs, November/December 2007; TheAtlantic.com, Matthew Yglesias, 10/15/07; DNC Press Release, 10/11/07]

McCain Misrepresented Security On the Ground in Iraq. McCain claimed there were neighborhoods safe enough for him to walk through in Baghdad but then toured a Baghdad market wearing a bulletproof vest while accompanied by "100 American soldiers, with three Blackhawk helicopters, and two Apache gunships overhead." [NBC Nightly News, 4/1/2007; DNC Press Release, 9/13/07]

McCain Would Base Presidential Selection on Judeo Christian Tradition. During an interview on BeliefNet, McCain said, "I think the number one issue people should make [in the] selection of the President of the United States is, 'Will this person carry on in the Judeo Christian principled tradition that has made this nation the greatest experiment in the history of mankind?'" [BeliefNet Interview, 9/28/07]

McCain Called Rev. Jerry Falwell an Agent of Intolerance, But Then Supported Him. "In 2000, the campaign of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was dealt a near-fatal blow in the state after he described the Revs. Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell as 'agents of intolerance.'" But then in 2006, "Senator John McCain earned widespread ridicule for publicly embracing Jerry Falwell, whom he had once described as 'evil.'" [[Washington Post](#), 10/28/07; [New York Times](#), 11/4/07]

McCain Hired Liberty University's Debate Coach, Who Boasted "I'm an Ideologue." On November 16, the Lynchburg News & Advance reported that "Brett O'Donnell, who guided Liberty University's debate team to a consensus No. 1 national ranking earlier this year, is taking a leave of absence to become an adviser to presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain." O'Donnell will officially join McCain's exploratory committee as "communications strategist," beginning on January 8, 2007. O'Donnell indicated that he would "advise McCain on media interviews, help shape policy statements and prepare the senator for candidate forums and debates." O'Donnell described his decision making process for taking on a 2008 presidential client as needing someone who shared his values, especially on Iraq, saying, "I believe in a preemptive strategy, in fighting over there and not over here. I don't want to be just a hired gun. I have an agenda. I'm an ideologue." [Lynchburg News & Advance, 11/16/06; New York Times, 3/19/06]

With An On 2008 McCain And Falwell Joined The Stage In A Marriage Of Convenience. McCain went to Lynchburg as a "symbolic outreach to millions of religious conservatives" in a "public debut of the newfound, and potentially mutually beneficial, relationship between McCain and Falwell." Prior to the speech, "Falwell rolled out the red carpet" for McCain, "assembling about 150 church leaders from around the country" for a reception and private dinner. Arranging the meeting with religious leaders was a goal of Falwell's, who said "I don't think there's any question [that our relationship benefits McCain politically]. There are 80 million evangelicals in this country." [Washington Post, 5/7/06; Arizona Republic, 5/13/06; Atlanta Journal Constitution, 5/14/06; Chicago Tribune, 5/14/06; Washington Post, 5/14/06; Newsday, 5/14/06; Sacramento Bee, 5/13/06]

Despite Liberty University Speech, Conservatives Were Not Convinced. McCain's speech at Liberty "was shorn of religious references and avoided controversial social issues," and was received "politely but hardly enthusiastically" by the conservative crowd. Conservative leaders said that McCain's test includes more than giving a speech. Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Assn. of Michigan, pointed to the upcoming federal marriage amendment vote, saying, "if he is making an attempt to pander to religious conservatives [at Liberty University], he will have missed an opportunity to do so if he fails to vote for the marriage protection amendment." Louis Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said, "John McCain has to get in line behind a number of other people that have already won our respect and admiration and, in some cases, already our support." Gary Bauer, president of American Values, wasn't yet ready to give McCain his support, as he did in 2000, saying "It's one speech, and I think the jury is out as to whether it will lead to anything broader or more lasting." [Washington Post, 5/14/06; Newsday, 5/14/06; Los Angeles Times, 5/14/06; Sacramento Bee, 5/13/06]

McCain Bothered By Criticism About Pandering. “When I asked McCain, in between his speeches to the Brussels Forum here, if the criticism bothered him, he answered quietly, ‘Oh, yeah.’ He says liberals need to understand that he’s not a man of the left, or even the center. ‘I haven’t changed. My record is the same on all issues, which is that of a conservative Republican.’ But in the next breath, he lists all the positions he has taken that have made him the darling of centrist Republicans and Democrats, from torture to ethics reform to climate change.” [Byron York, Washington Post, 5/3/06]

McCain Agreed To Speak At Falwell’s Liberty University And Discounted Previous Statement

That Falwell Was An “Agent Of Intolerance.” McCain will be Liberty University’s graduation speaker on May 13. “I was in Washington with him about three months ago,” LU’s Chancellor Jerry Falwell said. “We dealt with every difference we have. There are no deal breakers now. But I told him, ‘You have a lot of fence mending to do.’” Falwell said McCain is among the presidential candidates he could support in 2008. Speaking on “Meet The Press” on April 2, McCain doubled back on his statement in 2000 that Falwell was an “agent of intolerance.” Asked if he still believed that to be the case, McCain replied, “No, I don’t.” McCain defended his decision to speak at LU, saying of himself and Falwell, “we agreed to disagree on certain issues and we agreed to move forward.” [Lynchburg News & Advance, 3/28/06; NBC News, 4/2/06]

McCain Pledged To Purge “Poison” From American Culture. McCain is “confident his ‘25-year record on pro-life’ will satisfy social conservatives. About culture: ‘I’ve done some terrible things in my life, so I try not to be a judge, but it seems to me there is a poison in our culture that we have to address. Maybe it’s through the bully pulpit, but we can’t pass a bunch of laws to control it all.’” [New York Sun, 3/7/06]

Conservatives Whispers Continue That McCain May Not Be Conservative Enough. “Republican Party activists who dominate the nomination process are increasingly wondering if Sen. John McCain of Arizona, thought to be the early front-runner, is really conservative enough to satisfy them. There is already a whispering campaign underway to revive criticisms that McCain is short-tempered and a loose cannon. Many conservatives are still unhappy with McCain’s past criticisms of Christian conservative leaders and his maverick ways on campaign finance reform and other issues.” [U.S. News and World Report, 3/6/06]

Foreign Policy

John McCain has a deeply held desire to spread American ideals throughout the world and believes violence is the best way to do so. McCain holds that presidents are measured solely by their determination and steadfastness in the face of war, and has methodically positioned himself as a “War President.” His record shows an evident eagerness to use force and an equally apparent disdain for diplomacy. Afraid of seeming weak, McCain will never avoid a potential military conflict, regardless of the consequences. McCain said it best when he announced that his presidency would surely entail “more wars.”

McCain's World Philosophy

Economist: McCain Has a Militaristic Foreign Policy. McCain biographer Matt Welch said McCain offers, “offers a more militaristic foreign policy than any US president in a century.” [[Economist, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain Called An “Unapologetic Hawk.” Gary Kamiya wrote that McCain, “is an unapologetic hawk at a time when only right-wing die-hards cling to that position. His hard-line insistence that U.S. troops must remain there until “victory,” whatever that is, puts him at odds with a clear majority of the American people, who want the troops withdrawn soon.” [[Salon.com, 2/12/08](#)]

McCain: We Allowed Hitler To Come To Power With That Kind Of Attitude Of Isolationism And Appeasement. During the CNN/YouTube debate McCain said, “I just want to also say that Congressman Paul, I've heard him now in many debates talk about bringing our troops home, and about the war in Iraq and how it's failed. And I want to tell you that that kind of isolationism, sir, is what caused World War II. We allowed...We allowed ... We allowed -- we allowed Hitler to come to power with that kind of attitude of isolationism and appeasement. And I want to tell you something, sir. I just finished having Thanksgiving with the troops, and their message to you is -- the message of these brave men and women who are serving over there is, ‘Let us win. Let us....’” [[CNN Transcripts, 11/28/07](#)]

McCains Considered Teddy Roosevelt as the Best President. In his 2002 book *Worth Fighting For*, McCain wrote “For the McCains of the United States Navy as for many of our brother officers, presidents just didn't get much better than Teddy Roosevelt.” [[Reason, 4/1/07](#)]

- **Iraq Surge Followed Teddy Roosevelt’s Doctrine.** Matt Welch wrote in *Reason*, that, “Like the reputation-making actions of his heroes, including his father, his grandfather, and his political idol Teddy Roosevelt, the new Iraq strategy required yet another expansion of American military power to address what is, at least in part, a nonmilitary problem.” [[Reason, 4/1/07](#)]
- **McCain Claimed to Admire Roosevelt’s “Global Projection of Power.”** In his 2002 book *Worth Fighting For*, McCain wrote of Roosevelt that, “He transformed the American navy from a small coastal defense force to an instrument for the global projection of power.” Having formed his world philosophy by studying Teddy Roosevelt, McCain admired projecting American power across the globe. [[Reason, 4/1/07](#)]

McCain “Hopeful” About Becoming Inextricably Involved in the Destiny of Other Nations Where American Ideals Have a Realistic Chance of Becoming a Universal Creed. In his 2002 book *Worth Fighting For*, McCain wrote, “A world where our ideals had a realistic chance of becoming a universal creed was our principal object in the last century. In the process, we became inextricably involved in the destiny of other nations. That is not a cause for concern. It is a cause for hope.” [[Reason, 4/1/07](#)]

McCain Followed in Footsteps of His Father. McCain admires his family tradition of military service and national security involvement. His campaign website states, “He continued the McCain tradition of service to country passed down to him from his father and grandfather.” In his book *Faith of my Fathers*, McCain wrote of his father, “I admired him, and wanted badly to be admired by him.” Additionally he wrote, “I believe he assumed that, like him, I would be absorbed into the traditions of the place whether I wished to or not, and that when the

time arrived for me to face a real test of character, I would not disappoint him." [John McCain for President website, accessed on 1/31/08; Power Line, [1/9/08](#)]

McCain's Father was Involved Questionable, Aggressive Military Actions. "McCain's father headed up the military's Pacific command from 1968 to 1972, convincing President Nixon to illegally attack Cambodia and famously ordering the bombing of Hanoi even though he knew his son was still imprisoned there. He also led the controversial 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic, which he defended by saying, "People may not love you for being strong when you have to be, but they respect you for it and learn to behave themselves when you are." [Reason, [4/1/07](#)]

McCain Said The Republican Party Should Return to the Isolationist Ideals of Arthur Vandenberg. While Appearing on ABC's *This Week*, McCain stated that the Republican Party should return to "our traditional position, which we held beginning with Senator Vandenberg." Vandenberg was a famed Isolationist who supported the Neutrality Acts of the 1930's following World War I. [ABC This Week, [6/6/99](#)]

- **McCain Then Favored Interventionist Policies.** In the same interview, McCain stated, "We have to be engaged in places where it is certainly an unpleasant experience, and entails sacrifice of American blood and treasure. But when we realize what is at stake, as was in this case, that we have to act, obviously, I still believe that one of the lessons is that you must do whatever is necessary as quickly as possible." [ABC This Week, [6/6/99](#)]

George Will Implied McCain Will Use War to Increase Personal Power. George Will wrote, "War especially enhances presidential power, which probably is one reason Theodore Roosevelt, *[sic]* one of McCain's heroes, relished war. "No triumph of peace," Roosevelt said, "is quite so great as the supreme triumphs of war." Roosevelt, who also said, "I don't think that any harm comes from the concentration of power in one man's hands," was the archetype of the modern, hyperkinetic president." He added, "McCain, who sometimes seems to regard his enthusiasms and disgusts as self-legitimizing and grounds for government action, probably would be TR's sort of president." [Washington Post, [2/17/08](#)]

"McCain's Worldview is Undiluted Hubris." The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, "McCain's reasoning is circular: according to him, our government's edicts must be obeyed because they are, by definition, non-negotiable—even by Americans. A certain course, once taken, must be pursued to the bitter end, even if it acts against our long-term interests. McCain's worldview, which admits no possibility of error, is undiluted hubris." [*American Conservative*, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Was "Unleashed" By 9/11. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, "Other politicians were transformed by 9/11. McCain was unleashed. His strategy of "rogue state rollback" was exactly what the neoconservatives in the Bush administration had in mind, and yet, ever mindful to somehow stand out from the pack while still going along with the program, the senator took umbrage at Rumsfeld's apparent unwillingness to chew up the U.S. military in an endless occupation. He publicly dissented from the "light footprint" strategy championed by the Department of Defense. More troops, more force, more of everything—that is McCain's solution to every problem in our newly conquered province." [*American Conservative*, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain - The War President

McCain Has "Positioned Himself as the Most Hawkish" of the Republicans. In addition to lining up Bush's campaign team, McCain has positioned "himself as the most hawkish of all the nomination-chasing Republican hawks. [Reason, [4/1/07](#)]

McCain Was Called A "Relentless Hawk." The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote, "If Americans want to continue the Iraq war, then Sen. John McCain -- the apparent Republican presidential candidate and relentless hawk -- is their man." [*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, [2/15/08](#)]

Conservative Magazine Accused McCain Of Being A War Monger. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, “To hear McCain tell it, there is apparently no crisis anywhere in the world that cannot be resolved by the presence of U.S. armed forces.” [[American Conservative, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain “Out-Demagogued” Giuliani. According to *American Conservative*, “In the warmonger sweepstakes now taking place among the major GOP presidential contenders, John McCain out-demagogued even Rudy Giuliani.” [[American Conservative Magazine, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Best Leader In International Crisis. According to *Politico*, “Benazir Bhutto had been assassinated in Pakistan and the political conversation in America had changed. Which means at least for a little while Republicans here were not thinking about which presidential candidate was tougher on immigration or which had the best Christian conservative credentials. Some were thinking about who might be the best leader in an international crisis, and John McCain says he can fill that bill. ‘My theme has been throughout this campaign that I am the one with the experience, the knowledge and the judgment,’ McCain told reporters after a speech to an overflow crowd at an Elks Lodge here. ‘So, perhaps it (i.e., the turmoil caused by the assassination) may serve to enhance those credentials.’” [[Politico, 12/28/07](#)]

- **McCain: “My Experience And Background For 24 Years In Congress And 22 Years In The Navy Qualifies Me More Than Having Done A Fine Job In A Post-Crisis Situation.”** According to *Politico*, “‘My experience and background for 24 years in Congress and 22 years in the Navy qualifies me more than having done a fine job in a post-crisis situation,’ McCain told me in a phone interview Thursday night. McCain said he liked Giuliani and respected him, but that Giuliani’s ‘post-crisis’ experience in dealing with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York really did not equal McCain’s knowledge and experience. Giuliani’s experience has ‘very little to do with national security issues,’ McCain said after the rally in Urbandale.” [[Politico, 12/28/07](#)]

MCCAIN’S POLITICAL WAR STRATEGY PAID OFF

Telegraph: “McCain Painted Himself As War President.” Alex Spillius of the *Telegraph* pointed out that McCain’s “triumph over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney in New Hampshire...was attributed in part to respect for his consistency on Iraq, his knowledge of international affairs as well as his war record as a naval pilot captured and tortured by the North Vietnamese.” Spillius reported that during a speech at South Carolina’s Citadel College, McCain said that the U.S. must keep its troops in Iraq until al-Qa’eda is defeated. [[Telegraph, 1/11/08](#)]

WSJ: “McCain Victory Built On War Experience.” Monica Langley, columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain’s victory in the New Hampshire primary and his growing support seems to stem from his support for the war, his experience in national defense issues, and his experience as a prisoner of war. Mark Salter, McCain’s senior advisor and confidant said, “Being a POW was a physically arduous and character-building experience which set the course of his life” while columnist Langley pointed out, “Should he secure the nomination, Sen. McCain’s foreign-policy experience could appeal to the electorate concerned about international turmoil.” [[Wall Street Journal, 1/9/08](#)]

Richard Baehr: McCain’s Trump Cards Include Pledged To Serve One Term To Fix Iraq. Richard Baehr, columnist for Real Clear Politics, said that McCain “...may have a trump card or two” if he wins the Republican nomination, and runs against Barak Obama. Baehr said, “One of them might be to pledge to serve only one term -- to get the job done right in Iraq. This would be consistent with a career of calling for sacrifice by Americans to contribute to a greater cause. And most Americans are at heart, patriotic. Unlike defeatists like Harry Reid, they would rather a good outcome than a defeat in Iraq, and that may now seem possible.” [Column, Real Clear Politics, 1/7/08]

McCain Flip-Flops for Political Gain

Conservative Magazine Accused McCain Of Being A Maverick For Political Gain. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, “But what seems to account for his evolution from realism to hopped-up interventionism is nothing more than sheer ambition. This was the case in 1983, when he defied the Reagan administration over sending U.S. soldiers to die at the hands of a Beirut suicide bomber, and in 1999, when the cry went up to take on Slobodan Milosevic. He was positioning himself against his own party, while staking out a distinctive stance independent of the Democrats. It was, in short, an instance of a presidential candidate maneuvering himself to increase his appeal to the electorate—and, most importantly, the media.” [[American Conservative, 2/11/08](#)]

BOSNIA

FLIP: McCain Long Opposed Military Options in Bosnia. McCain was adamantly opposed to U.S. involvement in the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia, and then co-authored a resolution that backed US peacekeepers on the ground. He said, “I have long opposed this action. I am very concerned about the ultimate outcome of the use of air power without a full commitment of the US forces because I do not believe it is a viable military option.” [[Boston Globe, 4/29/99](#)]

FLOP: McCain Changed Position to Support Dole in 1996. Likely presidential nominee, Bob Dole, and John McCain co-sponsored a resolution that called for 20,000 US ground forces to keep the peace in Bosnia. The resolution gives “assent to the operation while insisting on a U.S.-led effort to begin immediate arming and training of the Muslims. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, McCain supported the measure “not because he agrees with the policy and not because he can make a case that Bosnia is vital to America’s national security. “I have no choice,” he said. [[Boston Globe, 4/29/99](#); [Washington Post, 12/12/95](#); [U.S. News & World Report, 12/18/1995](#)]

KOSOVO

FLIP: McCain Accused the Clinton Administration of Misleading Congress on Kosovo. According to *CNN*, McCain accused the President of misleading congress in U.S. involvement in Kosovo. He said, “They have not made the case either to Congress or the American people, and the president has to explain why our interests are there.” [[CNN, 10/7/98](#)]

FLOP: MCCAIN: We are a Superior Power, and We Must Win This Conflict With Whatever It Takes. Speaking about the conflict in Kosovo, McCain stated, “I saw we’re in it, and we have to win it.” He added, “That means that we have to exercise every option,” and, “We are a superior power, and we must win this conflict with whatever it takes.” [[ABC This Week, 3/28/99](#)]

- **McCain’s Kosovo Outspokenness Conveniently Vaulted Him into National Prominence Before 2000 Election.** According to Bill Kristol, McCain’s hawkish views on Kosovo vaulted him ahead of the rest of the GOP contenders for 2000 Republican nomination. Kristol wrote, “I think it could turn out that Kosovo is the first primary, so to speak, among the Republican presidential contenders. And John McCain has won that primary.” [[The Hotline, 4/7/99](#)]

IRAQ

FLIP: In 2003 McCain Expressed Full Faith in Rumsfeld Iraq War Strategy. John McCain supported the initial war plan created by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. “McCain was among the most aggressive proponents of a preemptive strike against Saddam Hussein, cosponsoring the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. He also expressed full faith in the way it would be executed -- a war plan conceived and executed by Rumsfeld.” [[Salon.com, 1/17/08](#)]

- **2004: McCain said Rumsfeld Did a Fine Job.** “In the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal, McCain was asked on ‘Hannity & Colmes’ whether Rumsfeld could still be effective in his job. ‘Yes, today I do and I believe he’s done a fine job,’ McCain responded. ‘He’s an honorable man.’ [[Salon.com, 1/17/08](#)]

- **2004: McCain Refused To Call for Secretary Rumsfeld's Resignation.** In 2004, McCain would not call for Donald Rumsfeld's resignation, saying that the President "can have the team that he wants around him." McCain said that he respected Bush's decision to keep Rumsfeld around. McCain said, "I respect the president. The president of the United States was re-elected by a majority of the American people, and I respect his right. And I will work with the president obviously and with the secretary of defense." [MSNBC.com, 12/15/04; CNN.com, 12/5/04; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]
- **2006: McCain Refused to Join Calls for Rumsfeld's Resignation, Said He Would Work With Rumsfeld.** "But the president has the right and earned the right as the president of the United States to appoint his team," and he has confidence in Secretary Rumsfeld. "I will continue to work with Secretary Rumsfeld as much as I can as long as he is secretary of Defense. We have to, because we need to win this war." [East Valley Tribune, 4/15/2006; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

FLOP: McCain Said Problem With Iraq Was Mishandling by Rumsfeld. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, "The problem was the mishandling of Iraq by nearly four years by Rumsfeld. Again, I railed against that, I was criticized by Republicans." [MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, [1/24/08](#); DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

- **McCain Said He Opposed Rumsfeld's Strategy.** At the Fox News Channel Republican Presidential forum, McCain said, "I know that I have been an agent of change. I'm proud to have been one of those who was—played a key role in bringing about one of the most important changes in recent years and that was the change in strategy from a failing strategy in Iraq pursued by Secretary Rumsfeld, which was needlessly causing sacrifice of our most precious American treasure. [Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, 1/6/08; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain's Consistent Call for Use of Force

AFGHANISTAN: McCain Voted to Authorize Use of Force Against Countries, Organizations, People Who Aided 9/11 Attacks. In 2001, McCain voted for passage of the joint resolution that would authorize the president to use all necessary and appropriate force against the nations, organizations or people that he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or that harbored such organizations or people, to prevent future acts of terrorism against the United States. Passed 98-0: R 47-0; D 50-0 (ND 41-0, SD 9-0); I 1-0. [S J Res 23, Vote #281, 9/14/01]

ARGENTINA: McCain Expressed Desire to Offer "Defense Assistance" to South American Countries. While speaking to the Florida Association of Broadcasters, McCain focused on the need for the U.S. to offer defense assistance in the "ungoverned tri-border region of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay [that] is a haven for smugglers and radical groups. McCain followed by saying, "Hamas, Hezbollah and similar groups are active in the region." He said, "Our security priority in this hemisphere is to ensure that terrorists, their enablers and their business partners, including narcotraffickers, have nowhere to hide." [Targeted News Service, [6/20/07](#)]

- **McCain's Website Featured A "Stop The Dictators of Latin America" Petition.** According to Counterpunch, "McCain's campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to "stop the dictators of Latin America." The petition called for the ouster of Chávez "in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere." [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

BOSNIA: McCain Supported Military Escalation in Bosnia. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, McCain supported "President Clinton's deployment of 20,000 American peacekeepers to Bosnia – not because he agrees with the policy and not because he can make a case that Bosnia is vital to America's national security." McCain said, "I have no choice. The word of the United States has to mean something." [*U.S. News and World Report*, 12/18/95]

BRAZIL: McCain Expressed Desire to Offer “Defense Assistance” to South American Countries. While speaking to the Florida Association of Broadcasters, McCain focused on the need for the U.S. to offer defense assistance in the “ungoverned tri-border region of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay [that] is a haven for smugglers and radical groups. McCain followed by saying, “Hamas, Hezbollah and similar groups are active in the region.” He said, “Our security priority in this hemisphere is to ensure that terrorists, their enablers and their business partners, including narcotraffickers, have nowhere to hide.” [Targeted News Service, [6/20/07](#)]

- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

COLUMBIA: McCain Criticized Democrats for Opposing Military Aid to Colombia. McCain attacked Democrats for endangering success by opposing “military aid to a democracy under siege.” McCain added, “You don’t build strong alliances by turning your back on friends.” [Targeted News Service, [6/20/07](#)]

- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

CUBA: McCain Told Latin Voters He Would Focus On Iraq And Ousting Fidel Castro. According to the *Washington Post*, at a campaign rally with the Latin Builders Association, McCain told latin voters “...that he will focus on pursuing the war in Iraq as well as pushing to oust Cuba’s leader, Fidel Castro.” Also according to the *Post*, “He recalled how decades ago he stood on the deck of the U.S.S. Enterprise during the Cuban missile crisis, knowing that he and others might have to risk their lives ‘for other people’s freedom.’” McCain told the crowd, ““My friends, many years ago I was committed to the freedom of the people of Cuba. I am just as committed today. I will pursue the cause of freedom in Cuba.’, adding that he is hoping to prosecute a Cuban who tortured and killed some of his fellow prisoners in Vietnam. ‘We’ll get him and bring him to justice as well.’” [*Washington Post*, The Trail, [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Would Not “Passively Await” Castro’s Demise.** Speaking to the Florida Association of Broadcasters, McCain stated, “I will not passively await the long-overdue demise of the Castro dictatorship.” Targeted News Service, [6/20/07](#)
- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

IRAN: McCain: “Bomb, Bomb, Bomb Iran.” In April 2007, McCain, speaking to voters in South Carolina, responded to a question about Iran by singing “Bomb, bomb Iran” to the tune of the Beach Boys’ “Barbara Ann.” A man had asked McCain about sending “an air mail message to Tehran.” McCain answered by singing, “Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran.” He then added: “Iran is dedicated to the destruction of Israel. That alone should concern us, but now they are trying for nuclear capabilities. I totally support (President George W. Bush) when he says we will not allow Iran to destroy Israel.” [UPI, 4/19/07]

- **McCain Threatened to Return to Iran with the “Full Force of Desert Storm.”** In a 1995 press release, McCain wrote of Iraq and Iran, “[a]ggressors in the region should know that, if we must, we will return to the Persian Gulf with the full force of Operation Desert Storm. At the same time, our friends and adversaries elsewhere in the world should understand that the United States will do everything in its legislation will serve as an indication of just how serious we are.” [McCain Press Release, 4/28/95]

- **Pat Buchanan: You Get John McCain in the White House, and I Do Believe We Will Be At War With Iran.** Former Republican Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan said, “That is straight talk... You get John McCain in the White House, and I do believe we will be at war with Iran. That’s one of the things that makes me very nervous about him” He added, “There’s no doubt John McCain is going to be a war president... His entire career is wrapped up in the military, national security. He’s in Putin’s face, he’s threatening the Iranians, we’re going to be in Iraq a hundred years.” [[National Interest, 2/4/08](#); [Huffington Post, 2/4/08](#)]

IRAQ: McCain Promised to Overthrow Iraqi Government in 2000. During a 2000 presidential primary debate, McCain discussed his “Rogue State Rollback” policy. He mentioned Iraq, Libya, and North Korea and added, “I’d institute a policy that I call “rogue state rollback.” I would arm, train, equip, both from without and from within forces that would eventually overthrow the governments and install free and democratically elected governments.” [[Washington Transcript Service, 2/15/00](#)]

KOSOVO: McCain Voted for Use of Force in Yugoslavia. In 1999, McCain voted against motion to table (kill) the joint resolution that would authorize the president to “use all necessary force and other means,” in concert with U.S. allies, to accomplish U.S. and NATO objectives in Yugoslavia. Motion agreed to 78-22: R 46-9; D 32-13 (ND 28-9, SD 4-4); I 0-0. [S J Res 20, Vote #98, 5/04/99]

- **McCain Routinely Prefers Ground Troops To Air Strikes.** McCain referred to air strikes as a “military half-measure.” The *Arizona Republic* wrote, “. The campaign needed ground troops, not just air power and military “half-measures,” he wrote. McCain, the former Navy pilot, seldom wants to rely solely on air power. It’s a fundamental tenet of how McCain believes America should make war. Most presidents generally resist deploying ground troops because they inevitably mean more U.S. casualties. Time and again, McCain has argued that they are needed. In 1999, he urged President Clinton to consider ground forces in Kosovo. Later, he would criticize Bush for not sending adequate ground forces to Iraq.” [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]
- **McCain Voted for Deployment of US Ground Troops in Yugoslavia.** In 1999, McCain voted for a motion to table (kill) the Specter, R-Pa., amendment that would prohibit the use of Defense Department funds for deployment of U.S. ground troops in Yugoslavia, except for peacekeeping personnel, unless Congress declares war or enacts a joint resolution authorizing the use of military force. Motion agreed to 52-48: R 17-38; D 35-10 (ND 29-8, SD 6-2); I 0-0. [S 105, Vote #145, 5/25/99]
- **Senate Rejected McCain’s Resolution to “Use All Necessary Force.”** The Senate rejected, 78-22, the McCain resolution to use “all necessary force” to defeat Milosevic. [[Miami Herald, 5/5/99](#)]

McCain Supported Military Action in Kosovo. According the *American Conservative*, McCain repeatedly said “We’re in it, and we’ve gotta win it!” [[American Conservative Magazine, 2/11/08](#)]

- **McCain: Victory Will Not Be Hastened by Pretending That Things Have Just Gone Swimmingly.** While speaking to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, McCain said, “ I think it is safe to assume that no one, including me, anticipated the speed with which Serbia would defeat our objectives in Kosovo, and the scope of that defeat. After stating that NATO would eventually prevail, he said, “victory will not be hastened by pretending that things have just gone swimmingly.” [[American Conservative Magazine, 2/11/08](#)]

KUWAIT: McCain Voted Against Continuing Sanctions and Diplomatic Efforts to Pressure Iraq to Withdraw from Kuwait. In 1991, McCain voted against passage of the joint resolution to express the sense of Congress that the wisest course of action at the time was to continue international sanctions and diplomatic efforts to pressure Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The resolution declared that the president must obtain congressional approval before undertaking an offensive action against Iraq and provides for expedited procedures for a presidential request for the use of such force. Rejected 46-53: R 1-43; D 45-10; I 0-0. [Vote #1, 1/12/91]

- **McCain Voted for Use of Force in Iraq in 1991.** In 1991, McCain voted for the passage of the joint resolution to authorize the use of military force if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait and complied with U.N. Security Council resolutions by January 15. The resolution authorizes the use of force and the expenditure of funds under the War Powers act and requires the president to report to Congress every 60 days on the efforts to obtain Iraqi compliance with the U.N. resolutions. Passed 52-47: R 42-2; D 10-45 (ND 3-35, SD 7-10); I 0-0. [Vote #2, 1/12/91]

LIBYA: McCain Promised to Overthrow Libyan Government. During a 2000 presidential primary debate, McCain discussed his “Rogue State Rollback” policy. He mentioned Iraq, Libya, and North Korea and added, “I’d institute a policy that I call “rogue state rollback.” I would arm, train, equip, both from without and from within forces that would eventually overthrow the governments and install free and democratically elected governments.” [Washington Transcript Service, [2/15/00](#)]

NICARAGUA: McCain Was “One of Few” Who Called For Tougher Action Against Ortega in Nicaragua. According to the *Washington Post*, McCain opposed the lackadaisical manner in which Congress and President Bush were handling the crisis in Nicaragua. McCain said, “the United States must make clear that, this time, their broken promises, infidelity and brazen lies will not go unanswered.” [*Washington Post*, [11/2/89](#)]

- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

NORTH KOREA: McCain Promised to Overthrow North Korean Government. During a 2000 presidential primary debate, McCain discussed his “Rogue State Rollback” policy. He mentioned Iraq, Libya, and North Korea and added, “I’d institute a policy that I call “rogue state rollback.” I would arm, train, equip, both from without and from within forces that would eventually overthrow the governments and install free and democratically elected governments.” [Washington Transcript Service, [2/15/00](#)]

PARAGUAY: McCain Expressed Desire to Offer “Defense Assistance” to South American Countries. While speaking to the Florida Association of Broadcasters, McCain focused on the need for the U.S. to offer defense assistance in the “ungoverned tri-border region of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay [that] is a haven for smugglers and radical groups. McCain followed by saying, “Hamas, Hezbollah and similar groups are active in the region.” He said, “Our security priority in this hemisphere is to ensure that terrorists, their enablers and their business partners, including narcotraffickers, have nowhere to hide.” [Targeted News Service, [6/20/07](#)]

- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

VENEZUELA: Since 1998, McCain’s Think Tank Has Funded Groups That Are “Militantly Opposed” to Hugo Chavez. The International Republican Institute, chaired by John McCain, has “generously funded anti-Chávez civil society groups that were militantly opposed to the regime. Starting in 1998, the year Chávez was elected, IRI worked with Venezuelan organizations to produce anti-Chávez media campaigns, including newspaper, television and radio ads. Additionally, when politicians, union and civil society leaders went to Washington to meet with U.S. officials just one month before the April 2002 coup, IRI picked up the bill. The IRI also helped to fund the corrupt Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (which played a major role in the anti-Chávez destabilization campaign leading up to the coup) and Súmate, an organization involved in a signature-gathering campaign to present a petition calling for Chávez’s recall.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

- **McCain’s Website Featured A “Stop The Dictators of Latin America” Petition.** According to Counterpunch, “McCain’s campaign Web site even featured an online petition calling for support in his

quest to “stop the dictators of Latin America.” The petition called for the ouster of Chávez “in the name of democracy and freedom throughout our hemisphere.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]

- **McCain Protested The Removal Of U.S. Radio Station In Venezuela.** “Dismantling an agency dedicated to promoting America and the American message amounted to unilateral disarmament in the struggle of ideas,” McCain has said. “We need to re-create an independent agency with the sole purpose of getting America’s message to the world. This would aid our efforts to communicate accurately with the people of Latin America.” [Counterpunch, [2/13/08](#)]
- **McCain’s Think Tank Sent RNC Staffers To Help Chavez’s Opposition.** According to the Fall 2002 Newsletter of The International Republican Institute, the IRI sent Michael Collins, former RNC spokesman to Venezuela to train Chavez’s opposition. [IRI [Fall 2002](#) Newsletter]

Iraq

IRAQ: McCain Voted to Authorize Use of Force in Iraq. In 2002, McCain voted for passage of the joint resolution that would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, or within 48 hours after military action has begun. The president also would be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Passed (thus cleared for the president) 77-23: R 48-1; D 29-21 (ND 21-20, SD 8-1); I 0-1. [H J Res 114, Vote #237, 10/11/02]

- **McCain Voted Against Termination of Congressional Authorization of the Use of Force.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Byrd, D-W.Va., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Byrd amendment would provide for the termination of Congressional authorization of the use of force by one year after the resolution’s enactment unless the president certifies that extension is necessary or Congress enacts into law a one-year extension of the authorization. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 31-66: R 1-47; D 29-19 (ND 28-12, SD 1-7); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #232, 10/10/02]
- **McCain Voted to Proceed to Authorize Use of Force Against Iraq.** In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution that would authorize the use of force against Iraq. Motion agreed to 95-1: R 47-0; D 47-1 (ND 38-1, SD 9-0); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #230, 10/03/02]
- **McCain Voted Against Amendment to Clarify Authorization Would Not Alter Constitutional Authority of Congress to Declare War.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Byrd, D-W.Va., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Byrd amendment would clarify that any authorization of the use of force against Iraq would not alter the constitutional authority of Congress to declare war. It also would clarify that no additional authority not directly related to a clear threat of imminent, sudden and direct attack on the United States be granted to the president unless Congress authorizes it. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 14-86: R 1-48; D 12-38 (ND 12-29, SD 0-9); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote 234, 10/10/02]

AND VOTED AGAINST EFFORTS TO LIMIT AUTHORIZATION

McCain Voted Against Authorizing War Pursuant to Adoption to UN Resolution. In 2002, McCain voted against the Levin, D-Mich., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Levin amendment would authorize of the use of force against Iraq pursuant to the adoption of a United Nations resolution that

demands that Iraq allow unrestricted access to U.N. weapons inspectors and authorizes the use of military force by U.N. members to enforce the resolution, as well as Iraq's failure to comply with such a resolution. It also would provide that Congress not adjourn sine die and return to session at any time to promptly consider proposals related to Iraq if the United Nations fails to adopt such a resolution. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 24-75: R 1-47; D 22-28; I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #235, 10/10/02]

McCain Voted Against Authorization to Cover “Imminent Threat” by Iraq’s WMDs. In 2002, McCain voted against Durbin, D-Ill., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Durbin amendment would provide for the authorization for the use of military force to cover an “imminent threat” by Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction rather than a “continuing threat” by Iraq. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 30-70: R 0-49; D 29-21 (ND 29-12, SD 0-9); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #236, 10/10/02]

McCain Doesn’t Withdraw

McCain: Maybe A Hundred [Years in Iraq]. According to Salon.com, “McCain responded that U.S. casualties are continuing, but insisted ‘they are much less and we will eventually eliminate them.’ … [McCain said] ‘Maybe a hundred. We’ve been in South Korea, we’ve been in Japan for 60 years. We’ve been in South Korea for 50 years or so. That’d be fine with me as long as Americans are not being injured or harmed or wounded or killed. Then it’s fine with me, I hope it would be fine with you if we maintain a presence in a very volatile part of the world where al-Qaida is training, recruiting, equipping and motivating people every single day.’ When his questioner asked, ‘What if American soldiers are being killed one per day four years from now?’ McCain conceded his point. The senator admitted, ‘I understand that American public opinion will not sustain a conflict where Americans continued to be sacrificed without showing them that we can succeed.’” [Salon.com, 1/15/08]

McCain: “I Don’t Think Americans Are Concerned If We’re There For 100 Years Or 1,000 Years Or 10,000 Years.” In an interview on “Face the Nation,” host Bob Schieffer asked McCain about staying in Iraq for 100 year. McCain responded, “We’ve got to get Americans off the front line, have the Iraqis as part of the strategy, take over more and more of the responsibilities. And then I don’t think Americans are concerned if we’re there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years. What they care about is a sacrifice of our most precious treasure, and that’s American blood. So what I’m saying is look, if Americans are there in a support role, but they’re not taking casualties, that’s fine. We’re in Kuwait now. As you well recall, we had a war, we stayed in Kuwait. We didn’t stay in Saudi Arabia. So it’s going to be up to the relationship between the Iraqi government and the United States of America.” [CBS, “Face the Nation,” 1/06/08]

McCain He Was Fine Keep Troops In Iraq For Decades. According to the Associated Press, “McCain insisting that what matters most is ending American casualties, not their presence in Iraq. He said he would be fine with keeping troops in Iraq for decades as long as they weren’t being harmed, similar to the arrangements that exist in South Korea, Japan and other countries. ‘A thousand years. A million years. Ten million years,’ McCain said. ‘It depends on the arrangement we have with the Iraqi government.’” [AP, 1/04/08]

McCain: Anyone Who Worries About How Long We’re In Iraq Does Not Understand War. Speaking to reporters in Richmond, McCain attacked “anyone” who points out that he is “fine” with keeping U.S. troops in Iraq for 100 or more years. “Anyone who worries about how long we’re in Iraq does not understand the military and does not understand war,” said McCain. He then added that it is “really almost insulting to one’s intelligence” to question “how long we’re in Iraq” because he believes the current “strategy” is “succeeding.” [CNN, 2/11/08; Think Progress, [2/12/08](#)]

- **Top Military Commanders Have ‘Worried About’ Length Of War.** Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen has said, “No amount of troops and no amount of time will make much of a difference” and that “a protracted deployment of U.S. troops to Iraq...risks further emboldening Iranian hegemonic ambitions.” Additionally, in October 2007, Army Chief of Staff George Casey said, “It’s going to take us three or four years and a substantial amount of resources to put” the Army “back in balance” and that time frame depends on when “the conflict end[s].” [Think Progress, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Voted Against Terminating Funding for Continued Deployment in Kosovo. In 2000, McCain voted for an amendment that would strike the provision in the bill that would terminate funding for continued deployment of U.S. ground troops in Kosovo after July 1, 2001, unless Congress authorizes the deployment. The provision also would state that not more than 75 percent of the fiscal 2000 supplemental spending for Kosovo could be obligated until the president certifies that European allies are paying 33 percent of reconstruction assistance, 75 percent of humanitarian assistance, 75 percent of general administrative costs, and 75 percent of the civilian police force. If the administration did not certify those requirements by July 15, the remaining money could be used only to withdraw troops from Kosovo. Adopted 53-47: R 15-40; D 38-7 (ND 32-5, SD 6-2); I 0-0. [S 2521, Vote #105, 5/18/00]

- **McCain: We are a Superior Power, and We Must Win This Conflict With Whatever It Takes.** Speaking about the conflict in Kosovo, McCain stated, “I saw we’re in it, and we have to win it.” He added, “That means that we have to exercise every option,” and, “We are a superior power, and we must win this conflict with whatever it takes.” [ABC This Week, [3/28/99](#)]
- **McCain Opposed Setting Date For Withdrawal of Peacekeeping Forces in Kosovo.** McCain praised the Clinton administration for not setting an “artificial date for withdrawal.” [ABC This Week, [6/6/99](#)]

McCain Willing to Sacrifice Others

McCain Was “Relieved” When America Went to War. In his memoir, McCain wrote that he was relieved when the United States invaded Kuwait because it would take the focus off of his wife’s drug problems. McCain wrote in *Worth the Fighting For*, “As self-interested as this sounds, I was relieved when Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in August of that year gave reporters some other reason to talk to me and something else to report.” [American Conservative, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Was Willing to Sacrifice South Korea and Japan as Allies. Responding to South Korean President Roh’s statement that a war with North Korea would be catastrophic for South Korea, McCain said, “While they may risk their populations, the United States will do whatever it must to guarantee the security of the American people. And spare us the usual lectures about American unilateralism. We would prefer the company of North Korea’s neighbors, but we will make do without it if we must.” [Weekly Standard, [1/20/03](#)]

McCain Said Strategy in Kosovo Was a Higher Priority Than Keeping Troops Safe. Appearing on ABC’s *This Week*, McCain stated, “...all of us would grieve at the loss of a single American, but when you go into these things, your primary purpose cannot be the safety of our forces, it has to be the achievement of your strategic and tactical goals.” [ABC This Week, [3/28/99](#)]

McCain Unwilling to Negotiate

IRAN: McCain Would Not Enter Into Unconditional Dialogues With Iran And/Or Syria, Like Bush.

According to Michael Shank of the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, unlike his opponent Mike Huckabee, “...McCain would not, in his words, ‘enter into unconditional dialogues with these two dictatorships [Iran and/or Syria]’ but rather ensure that the United States ‘bolster its regional military posture to make clear to Iran our determination.’” Shank said that McCain’s remarks were “...straight up President Bush speaking.” [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

- **McCain Vowed to Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons.** Senator McCain stated, “At the end of the day, we cannot allow the Iranians to acquire nuclear weapons. And as president of the United States, I will not allow it to happen!” McCain also pledged to, at minimum, consult members of Congress before resorting to military options. [MSNBC, 10/16/007]
- **McCain Called Iran Dangerous and Possibly Deranged.** While speaking to a pro-Israel group in New York, McCain said that Iran is a “possibly deranged and surely dangerous regime.” He went on to say that while war with Iran will remain a last resort, a nuclear-armed Iran would be a worse outcome than war. [New York Daily News, 12/11/06]

IRAQ: McCain Sponsored Motion to Kill Amendment to Require Administration to Report That Diplomatic Options Have Been Exhausted Before Action Would Begin. In 2002, McCain sponsored a motion to kill an Graham, D-Fla., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Graham amendment would substitute the underlying amendment with language that would authorize the use of force against the threat posed by Iraq and five terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hizbullah, and the Palestine Islamic Jihad. It also would require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president also would be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Motion agreed to 88-10: R 48-0; D 39-10 (ND 35-6, SD 4-4); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #231, 10/09/02]

- **McCain Voted to Invoke Cloture on Amendment that Required Administration to Report All Diplomatic Options Have been Exhausted.** In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment that would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president also would be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Motion agreed to 75-25: R 47-2; D 28-22 (ND 20-21, SD 8-1); I 0-1. [S J Res 45, Vote #233, 10/10/02]

KUWAIT: McCain Voted Against Continuing Sanctions and Diplomatic Efforts to Pressure Iraq to Withdraw from Kuwait. In 1991, McCain voted against passage of the joint resolution to express the sense of Congress that the wisest course of action at the time was to continue international sanctions and diplomatic efforts to pressure Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The resolution declared that the president must obtain congressional approval before undertaking an offensive action against Iraq and provides for expedited procedures for a presidential request for the use of such force. Rejected 46-53: R 1-43; D 45-10; I 0-0. [Vote #1, 1/12/91]

NORTH KOREA: McCain Said Clinton’s Bilateral Negotiation With North Korea Was Responsible For Allowing Them To Develop Nuclear Arms. McCain blamed Clinton’s policy for creating the existing crisis with North Korea. McCain said, “the negotiations that took place in 1994, which many of us opposed, resulted in North Korea being vastly more dangerous and a greater threat than they were then.” McCain noted that North Korea went back on their word from the 1994 agreement, saying, “resulting from an agreement we never should have made back in 1994 when we agreed to give them, over time, over \$1 billion in aid while they promised not to develop these weapons. And clearly they have done something.” [NBC News, 1/7/03; NPR, 8/29/03]

- **McCain Criticized The Fuss Over Multi Party Talks With North Korea.** McCain said, “We’ve had the, quote, ‘six-party talks.’ [The North Koreans] want two-party talks and some people talk about four party. It -- look, what it’s all about, Norah, is whether people want to sit down and seriously negotiate. That’s like the shape of the table in the Paris peace talks during the Vietnam War.” McCain reiterated his problem with talks, saying, “I don’t know why we should reward bad behavior by making concessions. It’s not whether it’s six party, four party, two party, whatever. That’s not the problem … The problem is will the North Koreans comply with the commitments that they made in the past?” [MSNBC, 6/21/06; CBS News, 7/9/06]

- **McCain Called A Nuclear Armed North Korea “Unacceptable,” Ruled Out Negotiations.** McCain said, “[F]irst of all, I think you make it very clear that--that it's unacceptable [for North Korea to develop nuclear weapons]. Two, we will not negotiate. Three, the Chinese, in particular, but also the Russians, the South Koreans and the Japanese, can play a very key role; the Chinese, in particular, who have been less than helpful so far.” [CBS News, 1/5/03]

RUSSIA: McCain Undermined U.S. Talks with Russia. According to *National Interest*, ‘When the administration was trying to reach an understanding with the Kremlin on missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, McCain undermined the talks by saying, “the first thing I would do is make sure that we have a missile defense system in place in Czechoslovakia and Poland, and I don’t care what his [Putin’s] objections are to it.”’ [National Interest, 2/4/08]

- **McCain’s Has Been ‘Uncompromising and Confrontational’ Towards Russia.** According to *National Interest*, “While Washington should address mounting concerns about Russian domestic issues with Moscow, McCain’s stance has been so uncompromising and confrontational that as president he would fatally undermine any effort to rally consensus at the Council on Iran and other matters. [National Interest, 2/4/08]

MCCAIN FLIP FLOPPED ON INCENTIVES FOR NORTH KOREA

NO INCENTIVES: McCain Called Kim Jong Il A “Sociopath” Who Governed Over An “Orwellian” Nation Who Couldn’t Be Rewarded With “Leverage.” McCain suggested that the U.S. “go after [Kim Jong Il’s] estimated \$4 billion that he has around the world. We could go after him directly.” McCain added, “But we are facing a nation that is Orwellian and--and most oppressive nation in the world, which we’ve been propping up indirectly by our hundreds of millions of dollars of oil and food support. By the way, that is in direct contradiction of what the United States is supposed to be all about.” McCain said that any rewards for North Korea would only empower other nations to follow the same path, saying, “if you allow the North Koreans to gain some sort of leverage or agreement that would be beneficial to them, that will be a lesson to all other nations--do the same thing. So there’s a great deal at--at stake here. We have to address it directly.” [CBS News, 1/5/03]

NO INCENTIVES: McCain Slammed Bush For Lacking A “Coherent Message” On North Korea And Wanted To Reimpose Sanctions And Cut All Aid. McCain and other lawmakers “pushed the Bush administration to take a tougher line on North Korea, calling for a cut in all aid to Pyongyang, including food. Slamming President George W. Bush’s stance toward North Korea as lacking ‘a coherent message,’ Republican John McCain joined with Democrat Evan Bayh and other Republicans to introduce legislation.” The bill introduced, the North Korea Democracy Act of 2003, sought to prohibit U.S. assistance to North Korea and authorized the president to impose full economic sanctions. The bill also prohibited nuclear cooperation without full access by inspectors. [Agence France Presse, 1/15/03, S.145, introduced and referred to committee 1/13/03]

INCENTIVES: McCain Called For Incentives To Get North Korea To Disarm. McCain believed it was necessary to entice North Korea to disarm, saying, “I think that the leader, and I don’t know if he’s crazy or not, he’s smart enough to stay in power and have a large place in the world’s attention. But I think it’s very obvious that he would have all the relevance of a very small country with very little GNP, if they didn’t have this missile and nuclear card, to play all the time. We’ve got to find incentives... We’ve got to find incentives, particularly through the Chinese, to make them stop this.” [MSNBC, 6/21/06]

McCain’s Rare Dove Moments

HAITI: McCain Opposed U.S. Intervention in Haiti. McCain spoke out against Clinton’s decision to send troops to Haiti. He remarked, “The situation in Haiti, as deplorable as it is, as distasteful and odious as those people who are running that country are, is not worth the sacrifice of any American lives.” He then added, arguably Haiti now is as bad or worse off.” [Boston Globe, 4/29/99]

- **McCain: We Cannot Involve Ourselves Militarily Without the Support of the American People.** While speaking about the situation in Haiti, McCain said, “It’s a lesson of the Vietnam War we cannot forget, which is: we cannot involve ourselves militarily without the support of the American people.” [[New York Times, 9/16/94](#)]

KUWAIT: McCain Criticized Clinton for Sending U.S. Troops to Enforce No-Fly Zone in Kuwait. In September of 1996, McCain criticized President Clinton for sending 3,500 troops in an effort to “put Saddam Hussein on notice.” McCain questioned how ‘meaningful sending several thousand troops to Kuwait was.’ McCain even defended Hussein by insisting that he was behaving much better than in previous weeks, and “we have done nothing but launch 44 cruise missiles.” [[Agence France Presse, 11/17/96](#)]

LEBANON: McCain: I am Prepared to Accept the Consequences of Our Withdrawal. In 1983, McCain opposed a resolution allowing President Reagan to keep troops deployed in Lebanon for an additional 18 months. McCain stated, “I do not foresee obtainable objectives in Lebanon. I believe the longer we stay, the more difficult it will be to leave, and I am prepared to accept the consequences of our withdrawal.” [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]

McCain Opposed Reagan’s Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon. On the floor of the House, McCain stood up as one of 27 Republicans to oppose Reagan’s mission in Lebanon. McCain stated, “The longer we stay in Lebanon, the harder it will be for us to leave. We will be trapped by the case we make for having troops there in the first place.” Additionally McCain said, “What can we expect if we withdraw from Lebanon? The same as will happen if we stay. I acknowledge that the level of fighting will increase if we leave. I regretfully acknowledge that many innocent civilians will be hurt. But I firmly believe this will happen in any event.” [[America Conservative Magazine, 2/11/08](#)]

- **Lebanon Vote Gained McCain National Spotlight By Bucking GOP.** In 1983, McCain opposed a resolution allowing President Reagan to keep troops deployed in Lebanon for an additional 18 months. McCain stated, “I do not foresee obtainable objectives in Lebanon. I believe the longer we stay, the more difficult it will be to leave, and I am prepared to accept the consequences of our withdrawal.” [[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]
- **McCain “Eager” to Become Maverick After Vote Gained Attention.** The Lebanon vote “caught the attention of the Washington press corps, who tend to notice acts of political independence from unexpected quarters,” wrote McCain. “Now I was debating Lebanon on programs like the *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour* and in the pages of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. I was gratified by the attention and was eager for more. [[[Arizona Republic, 3/1/07](#)]]

SOMALIA: McCain Opposed ‘Nation Building’ in Somalia. While speaking against keeping troops in Somalia, McCain said, “What are we supposed to accomplish by staying there until [March 31st]? Will five months be enough for whatever it is when 200 years hasn’t been?” [[Chicago Sun-Times, 10/17/93](#)]

United Nations

McCain Opposed Increasing U.S. Share of UN Peacekeeping Operations. McCain opposed the Biden amendment would have raised the U.S. share of assessments for U.N. Peacekeeping operations from 25 percent to 27.1 percent for calendar years 2005 to 2007, which is the amount the U.S. had agreed to pay. [[Citizens for Global Solutions, accessed on 1/30/08](#)]

McCain Supported the Nomination of John Bolton as Ambassador to the United Nations. McCain vote to end debate and restrict the amount of information Senators were able to have access to before voting to confirm. [[Citizens for Global Solutions, accessed on 1/30/08](#)]

McCain Called On U.N. To Condemn Palestinian Rocket Attacks Against Israel. According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, McCain has called on the United Nations to

condemn Palestinian rocket attacks against Israel. McCain wrote, “The United States should oppose any U.N. statement or resolution that fails to condemn vociferously the terrorist tactics employed by Hamas, including its rocket attacks against Israeli civilians...For the Security Council to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza without reference to the Israeli security situation would constitute a failure of responsibility.” [JTA, [2/25/08](#)]

Nuclear Proliferation

McCain Voted to Appropriate \$ 4 Million to Study a New Nuclear Earth Penetrator Rather Than Reduce Federal Debt. McCain opposed the Feinstein amendment to set aside \$4 million for federal debt reduction rather than the study and development of a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator. [[Citizens for Global Solutions](#), accessed on 1/30/08]

GLBT

McCain Said Gay Marriage Ceremonies Should Be Allowed, But Not Legal. According to an article in *Vanity Fair*, during a taping of MSNBC's *Hardball* in Iowa, McCain explained his stance on gay marriage. He said, "I think that gay marriage should be allowed, if there's a ceremony kind of thing, if you want to call it that...I don't have any problem with that, but I do believe in preserving the sanctity of the union between a man and a women." Several minutes later, McCain reverted back to the gay marriage subject and added, "I believe if people want to have private ceremonies, that's fine, I do not believe that gay marriages should be legal." [[Vanity Fair](#), February 2007]

- **McCain Opposed Constitutional Amendment To Ban Gay Marriage, But Supported Ballot Measure To Do So In AZ.** According to *Vanity Fair*, McCain has said that he opposes a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, but supports a ballot measure to do so in his home state of Arizona. [[Vanity Fair](#), February 2007]

McCain Wants to Have it Both Ways on Gay Marriage. According to *Vanity Fair*, "McCain opposes a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, but supports a ballot measure that would do just that in his home state of Arizona. (It would fail in the midterm elections.)" [[Vanity Fair](#), 02/2007]

McCain: Supported Civil Union; Opposed Gay Marriages. McCain in 2006: "'I think that gay marriage should be allowed, if there's a ceremony kind of thing, if you want to call it that,' McCain answers, searching in vain for the less loaded phrases he knows are out there somewhere, such as 'commitment ceremony' or 'civil union.' 'I don't have any problem with that, but I do believe in preserving the sanctity of the union between man and woman.'" Later the same day: "'Could I just mention one other thing? On the issue of the gay marriage, I believe if people want to have private ceremonies, that's fine. I do not believe that gay marriages should be legal.'" [[Vanity Fair](#), 02/2007]

2004: McCain Opposed The Federal Marriage Amendment And Reasoned State's Individual Decisions Wouldn't Impact Other States. Though John McCain believed that "marriage should be limited to a man and a woman," he did not support a constitutional amendment to achieve that end. In fact, McCain said the Federal Marriage Amendment proposed in 2004 was "antithetical in every way to the core philosophy of Republicans" because it "usurps from the states a fundamental authority they have always possessed." In taking his stance against the amendment, McCain was "once again a burr in Bush's saddle" while "handing President Bush a big election-year defeat." [[Tucson Citizen](#), 2/25/04; Senate floor statement, 7/13/04; [Boston Herald](#), 4/1/04; [Washington Post](#), 7/15/04]

2006: Falwell Announced McCain Supported A Marriage Amendment. "Falwell said McCain has expressed a willingness to support a Federal Marriage Amendment, an issue dear to conservative Christians. The amendment would define marriage as a union between one man and one woman... McCain previously has said the matter of defining marriage should be handled by state legislatures, but now concedes that a federal statute may be necessary, Falwell said." [[Lynchburg News & Advance](#), 3/28/06]

McCain Voted Against GOP On Gay Marriage Amendment; Falwell Called It "Political Suicide" And Buchanan Called McCain "Out Of Step" With The GOP. McCain was one of seven Republicans who voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment, which would have sought to define marriage as being between one man and one woman, in opposition to all but six other Republicans. Speaking about the vote, Jerry Falwell said, "it's my opinion that anyone in the Senate running on the national level will be committing political suicide by voting against it." Patrick Buchanan, in writing that McCain was "out of step with his party and country," said that "to the Christian base of the party, protection of marriage is an imperative if we are to slow America's slide into decadence." [AP, 6/7/06; Senate vote #163, S.J.Res.1, 6/7/06, failed 49-48, McCain "Nay;" Richmond Times Dispatch, 6/6/06; San Jose Mercury News, 6/11/06]

Guns

McCain Called for Further Gun Control After Columbine. After the Columbine massacre, Senator McCain “reversed himself on a top-tier gun control issue,” sponsoring a bill “to require criminal background checks on all public firearms sales, including those at gun shows.” At the time McCain said “Clearly, there were people who were taking advantage of this loophole, and obviously, Columbine had an effect on me.” [[Congressional Quarterly Weekly](#), 9/6/02]

After Virginia Tech Massacre, McCain Said There Should Be No Gun Control. Republican presidential candidate John McCain declared Wednesday he believes in “no gun control,” making the strongest affirmation of support for gun rights in the GOP field since the Virginia Tech massacre. And “when asked whether ammunition clips sold to the public should be limited in size, said, ‘I don’t think that’s necessary at all.’” [AP, 4/19/07]

McCain Said People Should Be Subject To Background Checks At Gun Shows. During an interview with *Salon.com* reporter, Jake Tapper, McCain said, “It’s obvious that at a gun show people should be subject to background checks. I don’t get it why in stores you get a background check, but you go three blocks down, there’s no background checks.” McCain said that a loophole which existed to exempt gun shows from background checks “...should be closed.” [Salon.com, 5/14/99]

- **But McCain Voted Against Closing Loophole To Exempt Gun Shows From Background Checks.** Despite his statement in a *Salon.com* article, that a loophole exempting gun shows from conducting background checks should be closed, McCain voted, a day after his interview, to kill an amendment offered by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, which would have closed that very loophole. [Salon.com, 5/14/99]

McCain Changed His Mind Again, “Signaled” He Support Closing Gun Show Background Check Exemption Loophole. McCain changed his mind three times about whether or not to support actions to close a loophole that exempted gun shows from requiring background checks for gun buyers. First McCain said he thought the loophole should be closed, then he voted to kill legislation that would have closed the loop hole, and then he signaled that “...he’d support legislation to close the loophole...” [Salon.com, 5/14/99]

Health Care

McCain Says He Would Treat Employer Sponsored Healthcare as Taxable Income. The Tax Policy Center wrote that McCain “He says he would treat employer sponsored health benefits as taxable income, while giving individuals a tax credit for the insurance they buy. On its own, taxing employer insurance just like wages would be a huge tax increase—OMB estimates in the neighborhood of \$1 trillion from 2009–2013. To many on the right, that alone would violate the no-tax pledge.” [Tax Policy Center, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Has Received \$1 Million+ From the Health Care and Insurance Industries. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, since 1989, McCain has received \$1.3 million in contributions from the health care industry. [Center for Responsive Politics, accessed 6/1/07; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]

- **2005: McCain Voted to Cut Billions From Medicare and Medicaid.** McCain voted for the budget reconciliation bill that cut \$3.9 billion from the amount Medicaid pays for prescription drugs, and cut \$3.2 billion by allowing states to reduce benefits and increasing the amount beneficiaries pay. The bill also reduced spending on Medicare by \$6.4 billion by requiring that beneficiaries purchase medical equipment and cutting payments to home health care providers. [Senate CQ Vote #363, 12/21/05; CQ, 12/26/05; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]
- **1999: McCain Voted for a Tax Cut That Benefited Insurance Industry.** McCain voted to include a \$950 million provision to allow insurance companies to write off losses accrued by their affiliates. Insurance companies gave more than \$31 million to Republicans in the 1997-1998 election cycle – or 70 percent of their total political contributions. [Senate Roll Call #261, 08/5/99, HR 2488, Center for Responsive Politics Money in Politics Alert, “The Big Winners: A Look at Tax Breaks Won by Special Interests,” 8/2/99; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]
- **1996: McCain Voted for Medical Savings Accounts.** McCain voted against an amendment to take the Medical Savings Accounts provisions from the underlying Kennedy-Kassebaum bill that would have increased health care portability. Medical Savings Accounts help the healthy and wealthy while driving up costs for others. [RPC, web page, Vote #72, 4/18/96; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]
- **1995: McCain Voted to Drastically Cut Health Care for Children.** McCain voted for the 1995 GOP budget that would have repealed guaranteed coverage of preventative, primary care and hospital services for about 18 million children. The \$170 billion Medicaid cut proposed by the GOP would have drastically reduced the availability of preventive, primary, and hospital care for poor children. In addition, the GOP proposal in the 1995 budget to block grant Medicaid would have left states at risk for 100 percent of unanticipated increases in the need for health care due to economic downturns, inflation, population changes, communicable disease outbreaks, or other circumstances. [Senate CQ Vote #584, 11/17/95; DPC Legislative Bulletin, H.R. 2491, 11/17/95; Congressional Quarterly, 11/18/95, p. 3540; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]

John McCain Does Not Have a Plan For the Uninsured. According to the Wall Street Journal, McCain’s plan does not focus on “reducing the ranks of the uninsured,” of which there are about 47 million, or one in seven Americans. [Wall Street Journal, 10/11/07; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

- **Concord Monitor: Just Like Bush Plan Criticized By Experts.** “Critics of the idea say a free-market approach won’t work for health insurance the way it does for car insurance. The elderly, the poor and the sickest may find themselves priced out of the market.” [Concord Monitor, 8/1/07; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]
- **Experts: McCain’s Plan Would Make It Hard For Those Who Need It Most To Find Coverage.** In a plan like McCain’s for individual coverage, it would be “difficult for older, sicker people to find

affordable coverage or, in some cases, any coverage at all.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 6/7/07; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

McCain: “I Offer A Genuinely Conservative Vision For Health Care Reform.” In 2007, McCain wrote, “We have an approaching perfect storm in health care, and no one seems to be watching the clouds gather. … I offer a genuinely conservative vision for health care reform, which preserves the most essential value of American lives -- freedom. We should not attempt to substitute government coercion for the right of individuals to decide what is best for them. Our citizens should not pay for the collective sins of a failed health care system. We must use the tools that have served us so well in the past -- competition, American ingenuity and personal responsibility. My reforms will make the entire health care system responsive to the needs of the American family and are built on the pursuit of three goals: paying only for quality medical care, having insurance choices that are diverse and responsive to individual needs, and restoring our sense of personal responsibility. American families know quality when they see it, and the private sector is the proven source of innovation and quality. We must promote competition and give Americans the information and tools to make better health care decisions. Patients need more treatment choices in the health care system to build better value for them and their families.” [Op-Ed, John McCain, [Union Leader](#), 12/28/07; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

McCain Said His Health Care Plan Focused On ‘Containing Spending,’ But It Could Actually Increase Spending. While unveiling his health care plan, McCain said, “that any health care proposal must first focus on containing spending. To accomplish that, he said, the emphasis should be on better treating chronic diseases, like diabetes and heart disease, which account for 75 percent of all health care costs…Mr. McCain’s plan could drive up spending, for instance to add clinics or pay more to doctors who are deemed effective in treating their patients. But the campaign said it had not done a full analysis.” [[New York Times](#), 10/12/07]

McCain’s Health Care Plan Does Not Address the Declining Level of Coverage and Gives No Help for 47 Million Without Insurance. “John McCain focuses on the rising costs of treating chronic diseases rather than the declining level of coverage.” McCain’s plan does not focus on “reducing the ranks of the uninsured,” of which there are about 47 million, or one in seven Americans. [[Washington Post](#), 10/17/07; [Wall Street Journal](#), 10/11/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]

- **Experts: McCain’s Health Care Plan Would Make It Hard for Those Who Need It Most To Find Coverage.** In a plan like McCain’s for individual coverage, it would be “difficult for older, sicker people to find affordable coverage or, in some cases, any coverage at all.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 6/7/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]
- **NY Times: Danger of Cherry-Picking.** Among the central criticisms of moving away from an employer-based system “is the concern that insurance companies would “cherry pick” by insuring only healthier people, or by charging much higher rates to more vulnerable people -- like those with chronic diseases.” [[New York Times](#), 8/1/07; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]

Health Care Is Not a Priority for Senator McCain. “John McCain, running largely on Iraq and national security, has not said anything substantial about health care, nor has he even included it among issues listed on his campaign Web site.” [[New York Times](#), 9/23/07]

2005: McCain Voted to Cut Billions from Medicare and Medicaid. McCain voted for the budget reconciliation bill that cut \$3.9 billion from the amount Medicaid pays for prescription drugs, and cut \$3.2 billion by allowing states to reduce benefits and increasing the amount beneficiaries pay. The bill also reduced spending on Medicare by \$6.4 billion by requiring that beneficiaries purchase medical equipment and cutting payments to home health care providers. [Senate CQ Vote #363, 12/21/05; CQ, 12/26/05; DNC Press Release, 11/1/07]

McCain Co-Sponsored Patients’ Bill Of Rights With Kennedy And Edwards. According to the *New Yorker*, McCain co-sponsored the Patients Bill of Rights in 2001 with Senators Edward Kennedy and John Edwards. The legislation was intended to regulate the managed-care industry. [[New Yorker](#), 5/30/05]

Medicare 2003 Prescription Drug Bill

McCain Opposed 2003 Prescription Drug Bill. According to the *Des Moines Register*, only Arizona Sen. John McCain opposed the prescription drug bill. The 2003 Medicare prescription drug bill was written and championed by Iowa's popular Republican Sen. Charles Grassley. A report by the U.S. Social Security and Medicare Trustees showed an estimated shortfall of \$72 trillion in the nation's entitlement programs. According to the report, \$61 trillion of that involves Medicare spending. In May, the Bush administration projected that the prescription drug program would cost \$734 billion over the next 10 years, billions less than previously estimated. [[Des Moines Register](#), 10/02/07]

As President McCain Would Repeal The 2003 RX Plan If He Couldn't Fix It. Asked if he would repeal the 2003 Medicare prescription drug plan if he were President, McCain said, "I would - if I couldn't fix it I would repeal it. I, you know, but at first I'd try to fix it." McCain detailed that he would "structurally reform it," noting that, "certain prescription drugs now are having dramatic inflation associated with it, because we put in a provision prohibiting, prohibiting the government to say that these pharmaceutical companies should compete with each other." [Bloomberg.com, 6/23/06]

McCain Voted Against 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug Bill. In 2003, McCain was one of nine Republican senators to vote against adoption of the conference report on the bill that would create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. Beginning in 2006, prescription coverage would be available through private insurers to seniors paying a monthly premium estimated at \$35 in 2006. Those enrolled in the plan would cover the first \$250 of annual drug costs themselves and 25 percent of all drug costs up to \$2,250. Benefits would then stop until out-of-pocket drug costs exceeded \$3,600, after which a beneficiary would cover 5 percent of all costs. Low-income seniors would be eligible for discounts on premiums, deductibles and co-payments. If no private plans bid in a region, the government would offer a fallback prescription drug plan. In 2004 and 2005, beneficiaries would be able to use drug discount cards to reduce prices by up to 25 percent. Medicare payments to managed care plans would increase by \$14.2 billion over 10 years. A pilot project would begin in 2010 in which Medicare would compete with private insurers to provide coverage for hospital and doctor costs in six metropolitan areas for six years. Drugs from Canada would be eligible for importation only if the Health and Human Services Department determines there is no safety risk and the move would save consumers money. Beginning in 2007, Part B premiums would increase for some higher-income recipients. Certain individuals under 65 years of age, as well as Medicare recipients, would be able to establish health-savings accounts to pay for health care services not covered by their insurance policy. Note: A 'yea' was a vote in support of the president's position. The conference report was adopted 54-44. [HR1, Vote #459, 11/25/03]

SCHIP

McCain Opposed Reauthorizing of the SCHIP and Providing Insurance For Millions of Uninsured Children. McCain voted against reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program for five years, expanding the program by \$35.2 billion. It would cover children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. [Senate Vote #307, 8/2/07; DNC Press Release, 9/25/07]

- **McCain Claimed the Reauthorization Covered Too Many Children.** In a speech on the Senate floor regarding the authorization of SCHIP, McCain claimed "the program has expanded beyond what Congress first intended. In some cases, SCHIP coverage has been extended to middle-income children and to certain adult populations." [Congressional Record, 8/2/07; DNC Press Release, 9/25/07]
- **McCain's Biggest Concern with SCHIP Was How It Would Be Paid For: An Added Tax On Cigarettes.** "Like the other Republican presidential candidates, Senator John McCain opposes the so-called S-Chip bill to expand children's health care coverage, in part because it widely expands the eligibility criteria and would cost some \$35 billion...But what really sets him off is the way Congress proposes to finance the measure, which

President Bush vetoed and is facing a veto override vote: an added tax on cigarettes.” [[New York Times](#), 10/16/07]

McCain Voted Against Reauthorizing SCHIP. In 2007, McCain voted against passage of the bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at \$60.2 billion for five years, expanding the program by \$35.2 billion. To offset the cost of the expansion, it would increase the tax on cigarettes by 61 cents to \$1 per pack and raise taxes on other tobacco products. It also would cover children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. For a single parent with two children, that would be \$51,510 a year, and for a family of four it would be \$61,950. It also would phase out coverage of adults under SCHIP by Oct. 1, 2009. The bill would provide \$100 million in new grants to fund state outreach and enrollment efforts and allocate \$49 million for a demonstration project to streamline the enrollment process for low-income children already eligible for coverage. The bill passed 68-31. [HR 976, Vote # 307, 8/02/07]

- **McCain Opposed Reauthorizing SCHIP.** In 2007, McCain voted against a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program at nearly \$60 billion over five years. The motion passed 62-33. [HR 3963, Vote # 401, 10/31/07]

Immigration

McCain Said America Is A Judeo-Christian Nation, U.S. Cannot Leave Laid Off Workers Behind. While in Michigan, McCain said that federal programs for displaced workers were not working and outdated. McCain also said, “We can’t leave people behind. That’s not America...We’re a Judeo-Christian valued nation. We’re not going to leave these people behind. We’re going to give them the kind of education and training to re-enter the workforce.” [Baltimore Sun, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said America Is A Judeo-Christian Nation, U.S. Could Leave Illegal Immigrants Behind. While at a rally in Michigan, McCain answered a question about illegal immigration from his audience. According to the Swamp in the *Baltimore Sun*, “McCain [answered] that of those undocumented immigrants in the country who do not have a criminal record, none ‘will be rewarded or have any advantage over anyone else because they broke our laws.’” McCain continued, “There are situations where we have to look at this issue from a humane and compassionate fashion. We are a Judeo-Christian valued nation. These are God’s children. But also, our first priority has to be our nation’s security and that will be my first and foremost priority.” When asked by reporters about his religious references, McCain denied he was making a special appeal to religious conservatives, and said he had a consistent message in every town hall meeting. [Baltimore Sun, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said He Had Never Supported Amnesty. At the ABC News/Facebook/WMUR New Hampshire Republican debate, McCain Said, “I have never supported amnesty.” [ABC News/Facebook/WMUR N.H. GOP Debate, 1/5/08; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]

- **2003: McCain Said “Amnesty Has To Be A Component” Of Immigration Reform.** [The Politico](#) reported that “McCain himself embraced the term [“amnesty”] during a news conference a few years ago in his office in Tucson, Arizona. “McCain Pushes Amnesty, Guest-Worker Program,” reported the [Tucson Citizen](#) of May 29, 2003. The senator is quoted as saying: ‘Amnesty has to be an important part because there are people who have lived in this country for 20, 30 or 40 years, who have raised children here and pay taxes here and are not citizens. That has to be a component of it.’ The newspaper also quoted McCain as saying: ‘I think we can set up a program where amnesty is extended to a certain number of people who are eligible and at the same time make sure that we have some control over people who come in and out of this country.’” [[The Politico](#), 6/4/07; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08; [Tucson Citizen](#), 5/29/03]

McCain’s Immigration Stance Not A Problem In N.H., Said Columnist. According to Bennett Roth, of the *Houston Chronicle*, McCain’s moderate views on immigration “...no longer appear[ed] to be a major liability in the final days before...” the New Hampshire Primary. Although McCain had been harshly criticized for his support of a comprehensive immigration plan, McCain stressed, in the days before New Hampshire’s primary, that he would first secure the country’s borders, then create a temporary workers program for illegal immigrants. [Column, *Houston Chronicle*, [1/4/08](#)]

McCain Was Encouraged By Negotiations With The House On Immigration And Emphasized An Enforcement First Approach. Speaking about the progress of immigration reform in Congress, McCain said, “I’m encouraged by the dialogue that’s been going on. We’ve had several meetings. I’m appreciative of Congressman Panses’ proposal. Look, as long as we agree it’s a comprehensive approach we need to take, I think it’s very negotiable and I’m optimistic.” McCain noted that reforms would take years to implement which would allow time to improve security. McCain said, “If tomorrow we adopted the comprehensive approach setting up a temporary guest worker program and a path to earned citizenship, it would take years before - or certainly a long period of time before we could get those in operation,” adding, “we all know that border enforcement is the first and foremost requirement because it’s a national security issue.” [ABC News, 7/2/06]

McCain Dismissed The House Immigration Proposal As “Anti-Hispanic.” McCain said the country couldn’t move forward with the “anti-Hispanic” immigration bill that was passed by the House of Representatives. McCain said, “I believe that it’s very important that however we approach this [immigration reform] issue, that it cannot, it should not be viewed as anti-Hispanic for a broad variety of reasons ... [the House bill] certainly is viewed that

way that if you have felony penalties for someone who, the young woman who is in this country illegally and is raped and goes to a rape counseling center, the people that run the rape counseling center are guilty of a felony.” [Bloomberg.com, 6/23/06]

McCain Told Big Donors That The GOP Was Being “Nativist” On The Issue Of Immigration And Blamed Limbaugh, Dobbs And Savage For Fueling The Problem; Denied Comments On CNN. At a private meeting with some of New York’s “wealthiest and most influential political donors,” McCain “cautioned against ghettoizing immigrants, which he noted has brought about disastrous results in France, and criticized elements in his own party as ‘nativist’ before lambasting the punditry of Rush Limbaugh, Lou Dobbs and Michael Savage for helping to ‘fuel the problem,’ according to two of the sources.” When asked about the statement on CNN, McCain denied it, saying, “I criticize elements that take an impractical view of this. I don’t know if -- I don’t think -- that was not from somebody who was there, but somebody who heard from -- I don’t think I used that word” [New York Observer, 5/29/06]

LA Times: McCain’s Push To The House Immigration Proposal Is Troubling. The Los Angeles Times editorialized that because McCain seconded Arlen Specter’s motion “to stagger reform measures so that all enforcement issues were enacted first,” and because McCain “emphasized that the border was being strengthened,” “the chasm between the Senate’s recent comprehensive immigration bill and the House of Representatives’ punitive enforcement-only package from December” was narrowing, but according to the Times, “Trouble is, the overtures are all going in the House’s direction.” [Editorial, Los Angeles Times, 7/3/06]

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McCain-Kennedy: The Backlash

Anti-Immigration Groups Attempted Anti-McCain GOTV Efforts. Anti-Immigration groups, such as NumbersUSA sent out massive e-mails in a last minute effort to rally voters before Super Tuesday. Roy Beck, president of NumbersUSA warned of “political illiteracy” among Republican primary voters could lead to “disastrous consequences.” [New York Times, 2/4/08]

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Bilbray Said McCain Was “Dead Wrong” On Immigration And Told Him Not To Come To A Scheduled Fundraiser At The Request Of The NRCC. Prior to McCain’s scheduled fundraising appearance with Bilbray, Bilbray “told McCain’s staff that McCain is ‘dead wrong on the amnesty issue,’ and a number of the people who attended the Wednesday breakfast were prepared to tell the senator the same thing, Bilbray said. Had McCain come, Bilbray said, it would have put him in the position of ‘maybe having to protect the senator from reaction here in San Diego.’” McCain “had planned to fulfill his commitment” to appear at the fundraiser, and the idea to disinvite McCain came from the NRCC, which “suggested McCain’s presence would not be helpful” in winning the campaign. [North County Times, 5/31/06; Chicago Sun Times, 6/11/06]

Dobbs: “Senator John McCain, A Strong Supporter Of Course Of Amnesty For Illegal Aliens. After All, It Is The McCain-Kennedy Bill.” According to Lou Dobbs, “Senator John McCain, a strong supporter of course of

amnesty for illegal aliens. After all, it is the McCain-Kennedy bill. Well, he's urging Hispanic officials to show support for that amnesty legislation that passed the Senate two weeks ago. McCain spoke last week to a group of Hispanic and civic leaders in Orange County, California, where the Senator said, quote, 'This is a call to arms for you to rise up and speak for people who can't speak up very well for themselves.' Senator McCain, by the way, though it more important to speak to that group of Hispanic activist leaders than he did to show his support for fellow Republican Brian Bilbray, who is running in tomorrow's special election in California's 50th congressional district. He says there should be no amnesty for illegal aliens. Senator McCain cancels an appearance with Brian Bilbray, although he does support his candidacy." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 6/05/06]

McCain Voted Against The Majority Of Republicans On Immigration Reforms And In Favor Of A Plan Labeled "Amnesty" By The Media.

John McCain voted against the majority of Republican senators on 21 of the 33 votes he cast on the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act and its amendments, including the final passage of the bill. McCain's vote was the deciding vote against majority Republicans on two of the amendments. The immigration reform supported by McCain "amounts to an amnesty for undocumented immigrants," according to Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post, and Charles Gibson of ABC News said the bill "effectively does grant amnesty to millions of immigrants who are now here illegally." [109th Congress, S. 2611, Vote #'s 121-157, 5/16/06 – 5/25/06; Washington Post, 3/28/06; ABC News, 3/28/06]

McCain Failed Immigration Litmus Test Among Conservative Reagan Republicans. Jerome Corsi, who co-authored a book attacking John Kerry's war record during the 2004 election, wrote that McCain's stance in the immigration debate failed a litmus-test for conservative Republicans. Corsi wrote, "[w]hen McCain put his name on the immigration bill sponsored by Sen. Teddy Kennedy, many conservatives felt he virtually embraced the concept of amnesty for the approximately 12 million illegal aliens the Bush Administration admits are now in the United States...[M]any on the right felt his alignment with the Democratic left on the immigration issue was the last straw ... Immigration for the Reagan conservative movement is quickly becoming a litmus test issue, every bit as much as the issue of abortion already is. McCain fails on both accounts." [Jerome Corsi, www.humaneventsonline.com, 5/9/06]

Arizona Governor Criticized McCain's Immigration Plan. Janet Napolitano criticized McCain's plan to halt illegal immigration, particularly his claim that he was force governors to certify that their borders are secure. Napolitano said, "It certainly sounds good, but it is a snapshot not a sustained presence, and a snapshot could vary greatly within any given state within any given year." [ABC News, [2/3/08](#)]

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Joe Scarborough: No, No, I Say No, John McCain is not a Conservative. Speaking on *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough said, "No, no I say no, John McCain is not a conservative." He adds, "A conservative is not a man that calls tax cuts that George Bush passed, that revived the economy, tax cuts for the rich, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that is one of two Republicans standing alone in Washington, DC voting against those tax cuts that every other Republican supported in Washington DC that is not a conservative. A conservative is not a man that teams up with Teddy Kennedy to produce a bill that is nothing short of amnesty that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to gain legal status the day after John McCain's bill and Teddy Kennedy's bill becomes law, that is not a conservative. A conservative is not somebody that goes on Tim Russert's show, a couple of weeks ago, and says that if that amnesty bill, that would allow 12 million illegal immigrants to becomes citizens the next day, he does not go on that show and say, "Yes, I would sign that bill," but don't worry, it's not going to come to my desk. That is not a conservative." A conservative is not a man that says who he wants to increase taxes, maybe 50 cents per gallon, on the American people, trying to pass through a bill that the rest of the world won't sign on to." [MSNBC, 1/31/08; Townhall.com, [2/1/08](#)]

Roy Beck: "Every Single Immigration Activist And Organization Is Terrified By [McCain's] N.H. Results." According to the *Washington Post*, executive director of the group NumbersUSA said of McCain, "I can tell you

every single immigration activist and organization is terrified by the New Hampshire results...My day starts in the morning with a call from a talk radio station, and that's how the day ends. We're getting our message across, and I am taking McCain to task. It's no holds barred." [Washington Post, 1/14/08]

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Dobbs: McCain Booed By Construction Workers. According to Lou Dobbs, "A room full of construction workers gave Senator John McCain a little straight talk of their own yesterday. And it was almost more than he could bear. The AFL-CIO's construction and building trades booed Senator McCain when he said illegal aliens fill jobs that Americans won't do. ... Senator McCain getting some straight talk of his own. Senator McCain offering to leave when the crowd jeered him earlier, but he decided to stay. And in general, at least in my opinion, handled it with pretty good humor. Supporters of the amnesty agenda say illegal aliens fill jobs that Americans won't do. They also say paying farm workers decent wages would just drastically raise the price of groceries that we have to buy in this country. But guess what? Like so many arguments in this illegal alien discussion, this illegal immigration crisis, it's just an argument that is totally refuted by the facts." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 4/05/06]

- **McCain: "I'll Offer Anybody Here \$50 An Hour If You'll Go Pick Lettuce In Yuma This Season And Pick For The Whole Season."** According to CNN, McCain said, "Now, my friends, I'll offer anybody here \$50 an hour if you'll go pick lettuce in Yuma this season and pick for the whole season. So -- OK? Sign up. OK. You sign up. You sign up, and you'll be there for the whole season, the whole season. OK? Not just one day. Because you can't do it, my friend." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 4/05/06]

Dobbs Said McCain Should Be Embarrassed For Either For Immigration Or Isolationist Argument. On CNN, Michael Goodwin said, "I do think there's a false choice being put here by people like John McCain, which is that we are either for immigration or we are isolationists...." According to Lou Dobbs, "...that the idea that the issue here is whether you're for immigration or not for immigration, is the kind of thing that Senator McCain ought

to really -- he should be embarrassed. Because, Michael, your point is exactly right. We're going to have immigration in this country -- welcomes warmly legal immigrations to this country. The idea that the president, his U.S. -- the U.S. trade representative Rob Portman today finally brings a blast against China. And my goodness, even Mexico and Canada. And you know, I've been called by this administration an economic isolationist because I want them to open markets, because I want fair, reciprocal and mutual trade. Is the Bush administration -- Michael, do you think they're turning into economic isolationists right before our eyes? Protectionists?" [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 3/31/06]

Dobbs Characterized McCain-Kennedy Bill As Opportunity to Buy Citizenship. According to Lou Dobbs, "Let's sort some things out here, if we may, Dana. The McCain-Kennedy legislation basically providing a pathway. You're saying the guest worker program as envisioned by that legislation has passed the Judiciary Committee through amendment? ... Closest to the one that -- in the House, and as Dana Bash reported, the Kennedy-McCain bill is moving through, apparently, at least the Judiciary Committee, which is basically a pay for citizenship, pay as you -- as you go or come, as the saying goes. ... It gives them a chance to buy citizenship, the McCain -- and that's simply what it is. It is a guest worker program. This president talking about a guest worker program. There is no security for the borders. And just help me out with this, Janet. Explain to me something just as simple as I can, because what you're talking about are conservatives and liberals at the far end of this debate, both as liberals and conservatives, and frankly I think there is wrong-head at both ends because they merge on this. They're both owned by the corporate interests and the special interests in this country. The Democrats looking for votes. The Republicans looking to exploit cheap labor. There's no significant fine against illegal employers and you and I both know it. There's not another element of border security." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Tonight," 3/27/06]

Carol Platt Liebau: Republicans Who Support McCain Should Know They Risk Driving Conservatism To The Sidelines At Home. Political commentator Carol Platt Libau wrote an article entitled, "The Unique Threat of John McCain." Libau said, "Although there is much to praise in McCain's defense record (most notably, his support for the surge in Iraq), when it comes to a domestic agenda, he's about the most "civil" Republican a Democrat could hope for. Indeed, in a McCain presidency with a Democratic Congress, conservatives risk becoming irrelevant." Libau compared the possibility of a McCain presidency to that of a Schwarzenegger presidency, and said that "McCain's history is littered with examples of his eagerness to work across the aisle; the McCain-Kennedy immigration bill, McCain-Feingold campaign finance 'reform,' and McCain-Lieberman environmental legislation come instantly to mind. There's no doubt that John McCain has earned the praise of Democrats and *The New York Times* by being willing to support their pet causes." [Op-Ed, Townall.com, [1/28/08](#)]

Securing The Border

McCain Staffer: US & Mexico Are Not Two Countries, But "Just a Region." According to Tom Tancredo, McCain's National Director of Hispanic Outreach, Juan Hernandez, said of the United States and Mexico, "it's not two countries; it's just a region." [Wizbang.com, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Staffer Favors Open Borders. McCain's National Director of Hispanic Outreach once said, "I never knew the border as a limitation. I'd be delighted if all of us could come and go between these two marvelous countries." [Associated Press, 7/14/01]

McCain Hired "Open Border Zealot" as Hispanic Outreach Director. Juan Hernandez, McCain's National Director of Hispanic Outreach, is loathed by many conservatives because he is "one of the most open borders zealots on the scene." When asked about Mr. Hernandez, McCain answered, "He's on my staff because he supports my policies and my proposals and my legislative proposal to secure the borders first, that no one will receive Social Security benefits who is in the country illegally." [Killbuck Creek Politics, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Staffer: "We're Never Going To Have A Secure Border." McCain's National Director of Hispanic Outreach has said, "I don't think that we need to build walls to control immigration. We are the 21st century now and we're a country that has always broken down walls. Once again with regard to securing the borders, we need to work with Mexico. We're never going to have a secure border. We're not going to put a wall up for these hundreds

and hundreds thousands of miles. We have to work with our neighbors. We need to think now for the future. Canada, the United States and Mexico as a block.” [Killbuck Creek Politics, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Claimed That, “We Will Secure the Borders First.” During the California Republican debate, McCain said, “We will secure the borders first.” [CNN, 1/30/08; DNC Rapid Response]

- **McCain Criticized Federal Funding For Border Security Earmarks In Arizona.** In 2001 and 2002, Senator McCain criticized federal funding for projects that would be used by border and law enforcement agencies to increase security measures. McCain listed opposition to earmarks for several projects in Arizona that included a detainee facility in Prescott, a border guard service processing center in Florence, a sector headquarters in Tucson, and border patrol stations in Yuma and Douglas. [McCain Release, 9/13/01; 2001 & 2002 Congressional Pig Book; DNC Rapid Response]
- **McCain Criticized Federal Funding For Border Patrol And Border Fence Earmarks In Arizona.** In 2003, Senator McCain criticized \$25.6 million for construction of a U.S. Border Patrol station in Tucson, Arizona. A Republican congressman from Tucson said White House officials requested money for it in their budget, but McCain deemed the project as wasteful spending because it didn’t go through proper legislative channels. In addition, McCain’s 2005 Congressional Pig Book criticized \$500,000 in federal funding for the construction of a border fence in Nogales, Arizona. [Gannett, 4/10/03; 2003 & 2005 Congressional Pig Book; DNC Rapid Response]
- **McCain Said Border Couldn’t Be Fully Protected Because Good Jobs Would Continue To Drive Illegal Immigration.** “We’re not going to have a secure border as long as there’s this kind of attraction of jobs into the United States of America. Our border between Arizona and Mexico is long, it’s desolate and it cannot be fully protected 24 hours a day.” [McCain Press Conference, 7/25/03; DNC Rapid Response]
- **John McCain Voted Opposite 35 Republicans To Force The United States To Consult With Mexico Before Securing The Border.** John McCain voted for Arlen Specter’s amendment to force consultation with Mexican officials before acting to protect the U.S. border with Mexico. The amendment required that the U.S. Secretary of State, and federal, state and local law enforcement “shall work with the appropriate officials from the Government of Mexico” on “improved border security.” Additionally, “federal, state and local representatives in the United States shall consult with their counterparts in Mexico concerning the construction of additional fencing and related border security structures along the international border … before the commencement of any such construction[.]” The amendment passed by a vote of 56-41; McCain voted “yea” in support of the amendment and against 35 of his Republican colleagues who voted against the amendment. [S.Amdt. 4188, Vote #156, 5/25/06; CR S5259, 5/25/06; DNC Rapid Response]

McCain Said He Would Secure Borders First. At the 2008 Fox News Channel G.O.P. debate in South Carolina, McCain said, “I come from a border state where our borders are broken. More people come across our border illegally every year than most any other state. I will secure the borders first. And I will have the border states’ governors certify that those borders are secured.” [Fox News Channel G.O.P. Debate, [1/10/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Funds to Build Border Fence with Mexico.** McCain voted against a Sessions amendment (No. 4659) to provide an additional \$1.83 billion to construct 370 miles of double-layered fencing and at least 461 miles of vehicle barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border. It would be offset by an across-the-board cut in the bill’s other discretionary spending. [H.R. 5441, S.V.200, 7/13/06, failed 29-71; DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]
- **McCain Voted Against Funding to Hire More Border Agents.** McCain voted against the Sessions amendment (No. 4660) that would provide an additional \$85.7 million for the Homeland Security Department to hire 800 additional full-time Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. It would be offset by an across-the-board cut in the bill’s other discretionary spending. [H.R. 5441, S.V. 201, 7/13/06, failed 34-66; DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]

McCain Said, “We Will Secure Borders First.” At the ABC News/Facebook/WMUR New Hampshire Republican Debate, McCain said, “We will secure the borders first.” [ABC News/Facebook/WMUR N.H. GOP Debate, 1/5/08; DNC Public Information, 1/5/08]

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McCain Said He “Got The Message” On Immigration; “I Will Secure The Border.” According to ABC News, “These days, when questions about immigration are asked, McCain says he ‘got the message.’ ‘The message is the American people want the border secured,’ McCain told the woman who asked him at the event in Weare, N.H., about his stand on ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘I will secure the border and I would have the border state governors certify that their border are secure,’ he said, ‘Then, we would move onto other issues,’ such as what to do about those illegal immigrants already in the country.” [ABC News, 12/26/07]

- **ABC News: “He Hasn’t Exactly Renounced The Bill He Championed In The Spring, But He Has Fine-Tuned His Position...”** According to ABC News, “He hasn’t exactly renounced the bill he championed in the spring, but he has fine-tuned his position and changed the emphasis to assure the skeptics and critics — and there are many — that dealing with the fate of those already in the country only occurs after the borders are secured. ‘I still believe we have to have a temporary worker program that works and addresses the issues of the 12 million people that are here illegally,’ McCain said in Weare, racing through this part of his answer in much the same way announcers do with the disclaimers at the end of pharmaceutical commercials. Then, more slowly, more emphatically, he added: ‘But we’ve got to first secure the borders to assure the American people that if you address the other parts of the issue we will not have another 12 million illegal immigrant come into our country.’” [ABC News, 12/26/07]

McCain Said The President’s Plan To Deploy National Guard To The Border Was For “PR” And Said They Couldn’t Be Effective At Guarding The Border Without Training. McCain said that the National Guard deployment to the border will “provide some comfort to some of our citizens who feel we don’t have enough people down there,” and they will also “play support and administrative roles and some labor work,” but noted that “in order to be an effective border patrol … it requires training, just like it requires training to do other specialties.”

McCain went on to call the deployment “partially PR,” to help heal the fact that “Americans are so upset about broken borders in a time when we’re in a war on terror and we are not enforcing our borders.” [CNN, 5/24/06]

McCain: The President and I Share Exactly The Same Views on the Issue [of Immigration]

McCain Said He And Bush Shared Same Views On Immigration. During an interview with the *New Yorker*, McCain told reporter Connie Bruck, “The President and I share exactly the same views on the issue [of immigration]...He believes there are willing workers and willing employers and we ought to match them up. He recognizes that our borders are broken and we need to protect them, but we can only do it in a dual approach.” Bruck pointed out that despite McCain’s assertion that he agreed with Bush on immigration, McCain and Senator Kennedy had introduced comprehensive immigration legislation that many of McCain Republican colleagues “...deride[d] as ‘amnesty’” and for which Bush had not indicated his support. [*New Yorker*, 5/30/05] 2

McCain “Applauded” Bush’s Leadership. In presenting the views of the Arizona delegation on immigration, the *Arizona Republic* reported Senator McCain said, “I applaud President Bush for his leadership on this critical issue and urge Congress to take action now on immigration reform.” [*Arizona Republic*, 1/9/04]

McCain's War In Iraq

Senator John McCain was an extremely vocal advocate of invading Iraq almost immediately after the invasion of Afghanistan. He often repeated the Administration's rosy view of progress in the area, but in 2006 he began advocating for more troops to bring the violence under control. The troop "surge" was announced 6 months later and McCain has subsequently taken credit for its perceived successes and will likely see his political ambitions rest on the future conditions on the ground in Iraq. While McCain is highly respected for his military service, there are legitimate concerns regarding his reliance on overwhelming military force in times of international crisis.

McCain: A Champion For War, A Champion For Bush

McCain Voted to Authorize Use of Force Against Countries, Organizations, People Who Aided 9/11 Attacks.

In 2001, McCain voted for passage of the joint resolution that would authorize the president to use all necessary and appropriate force against the nations, organizations or people that he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or that harbored such organizations or people, to prevent future acts of terrorism against the United States. Passed 98-0: R 47-0; D 50-0 (ND 41-0, SD 9-0); I 1-0. [S J Res 23, Vote #281, 9/14/01]

McCain Was 1 Of 10 Members Of Congress To Advocate Iraq Invasion In 2001. In an open letter sent to President Bush, Sen. McCain and others urged the administration to act swiftly in creating alliances and funding local opposition movements to Hussein's regime. The authors stated: "The threat from Iraq is real, and it cannot be permanently contained. For as long as Saddam Hussein is in power in Baghdad, he will seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. We have no doubt that these deadly weapons are intended for use against the United States and its allies. Consequently, we believe we must directly confront Saddam, sooner rather than later." [Washington Post, 12/01/01]

McCain Advocated An Invasion Of Iraq In Early 2002. McCain favored the ousting of Saddam Hussein in 2002. While speaking aboard the USS Roosevelt in January 2002, McCain called for an invasion of Baghdad which presented "a clear and present danger" to the United States. [AP, [1/9/02](#)]

McCain Predicted "Jubilant Iraqis" Would Diminish Anti-American Sentiment In The Middle East. In the build up to the Iraq War, McCain reportedly said that it is "more likely that antipathy toward the United States in the Islamic world might diminish amid the demonstrations of jubilant Iraqis celebrating the end of a regime that has few equals in its ruthlessness." [American Conservative Magazine, [2/11/08](#)]

The Votes For Bush's War...

McCain Cosponsored The Joint Resolution To Authorize The Use Of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq. Sen. McCain was one of 16 Senators to cosponsor the Use of Forces Authorization that paved the way for President George W Bush to invade Iraq. [S.J.RES.46, [10/3/02](#)]

McCain Voted to Proceed to Authorize Use of Force Against Iraq. In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution that would authorize the use of force against Iraq. Motion agreed to 95-1: R 47-0; D 47-1 (ND 38-1, SD 9-0); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #230, 10/03/02]

McCain Voted For Iraq War And Called For Rush To Invasion. On October 11, 2002, McCain voted for H.J.Res. 114, authorizing President Bush to use military force against Iraq, and said the U.S. should invade quickly. At the time of the vote, McCain said: "Giving peace a chance only gives Saddam Hussein more time to prepare for war on his terms, at a time of his choosing, in pursuit of ambitions that will only grow as his power to achieve them grows." [H.J.Res. 114, thomas.loc.gov; CNN, 10/11/02]

- **McCain Asserted He Would Again Vote For An Invasion Of Iraq.** Even if it was clear at the time that Iraq had no functioning weapons program, McCain asserted to Tim Russert he still would have voted to invade the country. According to the transcripts, McCain said “The problem in Iraq, my friend, was not whether we went in or not, it’s the way it was mishandled after the initial invasion.” [Meet the Press, [1/06/08](#)]

The Votes Against Diplomacy, Accountability, and Congress' Constitutional Authority...

- **McCain Sponsored Motion to Kill Amendment to Require Administration to Report That Diplomatic Options Have Been Exhausted Before Action Would Begin.** In 2002, McCain sponsored a motion to kill an Graham, D-Fla., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Graham amendment would substitute the underlying amendment with language that would authorize the use of force against the threat posed by Iraq and five terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hizbullah, and the Palestine Islamic Jihad. It also would require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president also would be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Motion agreed to 88-10: R 48-0; D 39-10 (ND 35-6, SD 4-4); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #231, 10/09/02]
- **McCain Voted Against Termination of Congressional Authorization of the Use of Force.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Byrd, D-W.Va., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Byrd amendment would provide for the termination of Congressional authorization of the use of force by one year after the resolution's enactment unless the president certifies that extension is necessary or Congress enacts into law a one-year extension of the authorization. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 31-66: R 1-47; D 29-19 (ND 28-12, SD 1-7); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #232, 10/10/02]
- **McCain Voted to Invoke Cloture on Amendment that Required Administration to Report All Diplomatic Options Have been Exhausted.** In 2002, McCain voted for a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment that would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president also would be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Motion agreed to 75-25: R 47-2; D 28-22 (ND 20-21, SD 8-1); I 0-1. [S J Res 45, Vote #233, 10/10/02]
- **McCain Voted Against Amendment to Clarify Authorization Would Not Alter Constitutional Authority of Congress to Declare War.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Byrd, D-W.Va., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Byrd amendment would clarify that any authorization of the use of force against Iraq would not alter the constitutional authority of Congress to declare war. It also would clarify that no additional authority not directly related to a clear threat of imminent, sudden and direct attack on the United States be granted to the president unless Congress authorizes it. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 14-86: R 1-48; D 12-38 (ND 12-29, SD 0-9); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote 234, 10/10/02]

- **McCain Voted Against Authorizing War Pursuant to Adoption to UN Resolution.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Levin, D-Mich., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Levin amendment would authorize of the use of force against Iraq pursuant to the adoption of a United Nations resolution that demands that Iraq allow unrestricted access to U.N. weapons inspectors and authorizes the use of military force by U.N. members to enforce the resolution, as well as Iraq's failure to comply with such a resolution. It also would provide that Congress not adjourn sine die and return to session at any time to promptly consider proposals related to Iraq if the United Nations fails to adopt such a resolution. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 24-75: R 1-47; D 22-28; I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #235, 10/10/02]
- **McCain Voted Against Authorization to Cover “Imminent Threat” by Iraq’s WMDs.** In 2002, McCain voted against Durbin, D-Ill., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Durbin amendment would provide for the authorization for the use of military force to cover an “imminent threat” by Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction rather than a “continuing threat” by Iraq. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours, after action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 30-70: R 0-49; D 29-21 (ND 29-12, SD 0-9); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote #236, 10/10/02]

Standing By His Man...

McCain Wrapped His Arms Around Bush's War Strategy. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, "Now that the presidential campaign of 2008 is underway and the Republican Party is rallying around a candidate, Sen. John McCain, who has wrapped his arms around the war-strategy of President Bush, wags at the Democratic Party are reminding us of that 2000 campaign when McCain and Bush stood not so much at arm's length, but rather at each other's throats." [[Baltimore Sun, 2/8/08](#)]

McCain Voted For Resolution Supporting The President And Troops In War Against Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted for a resolution supporting the president and members of the armed forces in the conflict against Iraq. The resolution "commands and supports the efforts and leadership of the president, as commander in chief, in the conflict against Iraq." The resolution passed 99-0. [S.Res.95, Vote #61, [3/20/03](#); [AP, 3/20/03](#)]

McCain Expressed Explicit Faith In Rumsfeld’s Strategic Plans For Iraq. "I have no qualms about our strategic plans," McCain told the Hartford Courant in a March 5, 2003 article, just before the invasion. "I thought we were very successful in Afghanistan." [[Salon.com, 1/17/08](#)]

- **McCain Claimed He Opposed the Iraq Strategy From The Beginning.** Appearing on *Larry King Live*, McCain said he was "absolutely" a critic of the strategy from the start. He added, "I was criticized by Republicans at the time, because I said we had to have this new strategy." [CNN, [2/14/08](#)]

Like Bush & Co, McCain Underestimated Amount Of Troops Needed In Iraq. While appearing on *Larry King Live* on December 9, 2002, McCain mitigated the need for large numbers of ground forces in Iraq. McCain said, "Our technology, particularly air-to-ground technology is vastly improved." He added, "I don't think you're going to have to see the scale of numbers of troops that we saw, nor the length of the buildup, obviously, that we had back in 1991." [[National Interest, 2/4/08](#)]

- **McCain Would Have Tripled Troops In 2003 Iraq Invasion.** According to the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, McCain "...has diligently stood by President George W. Bush's troop surge from the onset. In fact, had McCain been the American commander, troop numbers would have tripled in the 2003 invasion." [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

Before the War, McCain Claimed The United States Would Win Easily In Iraq. In 2002 and 2003, before the invasion, McCain repeatedly claimed success in Iraq would be easy and minimized potential risks. According to CNN, McCain stated “Because I know that as successful as I believe we will be, and I believe that the success will be fairly easy, we will still lose some American young men or women.” Two days later he was quoted again by CNN: “We’re not going to get into house-to-house fighting in Baghdad. We may have to take out buildings, but we’re not going to have a bloodletting of trading American bodies for Iraqi bodies.” In 2003, MSNBC quoted McCain as saying, “But the point is that, one, we will win this conflict. We will win it easily.” [CNN, 9/24/02, 9/29/02; MSNBC, 1/22/03; Think Progress, [1/4/07](#)]

- **McCain: Take A Look At My Judgment On Iraq.** When asked about his age being an issue in the upcoming campaign, McCain said, “Well just watch me campaign. As I said at the beginning of this I can out-campaign anybody, and I can, and I will. Take a look at the vigor, and take a look at my vision for the future of this country. And also, take a look at my judgment; take a look at my judgment on Iraq.” [Good Morning America, [2/20/08](#)]

McCain: “I Think The Initial Phases Of It Were So Spectacularly Successful.” During an interview on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” McCain was asked about the strategy in Iraq and whether enough troops were sent. McCain responded, “Well, I think the initial phases of it were so spectacularly successful that it took us all by surprise. Obviously, some mistakes were made, to say the least, in allowing some of the looting. We have more troops there now. We probably should have had more troops. But the fundamental point is whether we’re going to move forward and have the elections and have a government that the Iraqi people can support, which I believe that we will. The problems that we encountered are serious, but I also believe that we can and will--and they have to fit into the overall vision of the future of the Middle East. And I believe that it will have also a positive impact on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.” [CBS, “Face the Nation,” 10/31/04]

McCain Said Capture Of Saddam Hussein Was A “Mission Accomplished.” During an interview on ABC News’ “This Week” McCain was asked about the capture of Saddam Hussein and the effect on US Forces. McCain said, “Their morale could not be higher. This is a mission accomplished. They know how much influence Saddam Hussein had on the Iraqi people, how much more difficult it made to get their cooperation. Every member of the military and civilian over there are rejoicing today. It was interesting to see Ambassador Bremer’s emotion. It was well- deserved.” [ABC, “This Week,” 12/14/03]

- **In 2007, McCain Said Mission Was Not Accomplished; Said Strategy Was Failing.** McCain said, “Of course not because I said that the mission was not accomplished. I came back after an early visit there and said the strategy was failing. I’m the only one that’s running, only one, ask the other candidates, I said this strategy will fail, we gotta fix it, and I said the strategy that is, uh, that we needed to succeed is the one we’ve adopted. So I’m the only one that knew that. So I’m not only..., I’m saddened by the way we misled the American people, but I certainly wasn’t part of it. And there’s a clear record to prove that, both on television and in speeches I gave, and in positions I took. Uh, when other candidates who say they want to lead this country were looking at their shoes or criticizing me for being quote disloyal to Rumsfeld, I think that all of us are responsible for our record.” [Town Hall; Newport, NH 12/30/07]

McCain: “I Said The Military Operation Would Be Easy. It Was Easy. We Were Greeted As Liberators.” In early 2007 McCain defended his original rhetoric regarding the invasion of Iraq: “It was. ... It was easy. I said the military operation would be easy. It was easy. We were greeted as liberators. Look at the films when we rolled into Baghdad. And then there was a period of time where we allowed looting, when the whole country literally evolved into chaos. I went over there. I saw what was happening. I came back and I made a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations. And it said exactly—tragically—what was going to happen, unless we got control of the situation. It was easy, by the way.” [Federal News Service, MSNBC Interview by Tim Russert Transcript, 1/10/07; Hotline, 1/11/07]

- **McCain Claimed Anyone Who Thought the War Would Be Won Easily Was Mistaken.** During an interview on MSNBC, McCain asserted he always knew a war in Iraq would be very difficult. “When I

voted to support this war, I knew it was probably going to be long and hard and tough, and those that voted for it and thought that somehow it was going to be some kind of an easy task, then I'm sorry they were mistaken. Maybe they didn't know what they were voting for." [MSNBC, 1/4/07; ThinkProgress, [1/4/07](#)]

McCain Said Bush Led With “Clarity” and Did Not Exaggerate the Case for War. In 2003, McCain praised Bush’s leadership on the Iraq war saying, “I think the president has led with great clarity and I think he’s done a great job leading the country, don’t you all?” And asked if he thought the president exaggerated the case for war, McCain said, “I don’t think so.” [MSNBC, Hardball, 4/23/03; Fox News, 7/31/03; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

McCain Deviates Little From Bush On Iraq. According to Michael Shank of the Foreign Policy in Focus think tank, McCain was at times Bush’s “most solid support in the Senate” on Iraq. [Foreign Policy in Focus, [1/15/08](#)]

In 2003 McCain Said The End Was “Very Much In Sight.” Senator McCain was asked “At what point will America be able to say the war was won?” McCain said there were oil fields to secure and “die-hards” to take care of but “it’s clear that the end is very much in sight, and today I think Americans should be very proud of their leadership, their technology...There are still some foreigners, Syrians and others hanging around. But it won’t be long. It will be a fairly short period of time, but this happens in wars. I’m confident that once they are confident the area is no longer a threat to the Marines and to our army troops that they’ll start imposing discipline. In the meantime, we’ll have a short period of chaos.” [ABC News, Good Morning America, 4/9/03; DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]

Chicago Tribune: McCain’s “Unswerving Commitment to Victory in Iraq” Indicative of Presidency. In its endorsement of John McCain, the Chicago Tribune editorial board cited McCain’s willingness to follow his convictions no matter what the costs. It stated, “A President McCain would engage challenges domestic and foreign with the candid conviction that doing what’s right may cost us. Maybe plenty. His unswerving commitment to victory in Iraq is the likely template. He has never brooked defeatism because the consequences of defeat are so severe. McCain instead urged a troop surge to calm Iraq and, now that it’s working, he deflects the credit to the general who executed it.”[Editorial, [Chicago Tribune, 1/27/08](#)]

New York Times: McCain Is “Steadfast” and “Outspoken” in His Support For the Iraq War. In November 2007, the *New York Times* reported “More than any Republican candidate, Mr. McCain has been an outspoken supporter of the war.” In October 2007, the Times reported, “he is steadfast in his support for the present course in Iraq.” [[New York Times, 11/10/07, 10/7/07](#)]

- **McCain Has Made Many Statements Alluding To U.S. Success In Iraq War.** According to Think Progress, McCain has made several statements throughout the years the U.S. has been in Iraq, alluding to an end of the war and the U.S.’s success there. According to Think Progress, in March 2007, McCain said, “This is our last shot, my friends.” In February 2007, he said, “We can know fairly well in a few months [if the escalation strategy is succeeding],” and then in November 2006 he apparently said, “We’re either going to lose this thing or win this thing within the next several months.” Almost a year before that, McCain Said, “Overall, I think a year from now, we will have a fair amount of progress if we stay the course.” [[Think Progress, 10/23/07](#)]

McCain: I Will Never Surrender. At a campaign stop in Wichita, Kansas McCain said, "I guarantee you this: If we had announced a date for withdrawal from Iraq and withdrawn troops the way that Senator Obama and Senator Clinton want to do, Al Qaeda would be celebrating that they had defeated the United States of America and that we surrendered," Mr. McCain said at a rally in Wichita. "I will never surrender." [[New York Times, 2/9/08](#)]

McCain Said “I Will Never Allow This Nation To Surrender.” According to the *Telegraph*, during a speech at South Carolina’s Citadel College, McCain told the crowd that he once met with the mother of a young soldier who had been killed near Baghdad, and she pleaded with him not to allow her son’s death to be in vain. McCain told the crowd that he told her, “I will never, ever allow this nation to surrender. We will never surrender, they will.” [[Telegraph, 1/11/08](#)]

- **McCain: We Cannot Involve Ourselves Militarily Without the Support of the American People.** While speaking about the situation in Haiti, McCain said, "It's a lesson of the Vietnam War we cannot forget, which is: we cannot involve ourselves militarily without the support of the American people." [[New York Times, 9/16/94](#)]

McCain Said His Democratic Friends Were “Wrong” When They Declared Iraq War Was Lost. At a rally in Michigan, McCain said, "My Democratic friends who declared the war lost, who said we couldn't make progress politically in Iraq, were wrong...I'm not going to ask them to apologize. But I am going to ask them to recognize our success and go back to the old American tradition that says partisanship stops at the water's edge, so we can join together to beat Al Qaeda, gain victory in Iraq and bring our troops home with honor." [[MLive.com, 1/15/08](#)]

- **McCain said “Bring Our Troops Home” Call Akin to Appeasement of Hitler.** At the GOP/YouTube Debate in November, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) attacked Rep. Ron Paul’s (R-TX) call to bring “our troops home” as the “kind of attitude of isolationism and appeasement” that “allowed Hitler to come to power.” [[Think Progress, 1/22/08](#)]

McCain Said Democrats Were Wrong About Success In Iraq. According to CBS News, McCain said Democrats were wrong about success in Iraq. As news was released that the Iraqi government passed a law allowing Saddam Hussein's ex-officials to return to public life, John McCain said, "I'm sure you noticed in the last few days there was a law passed that's important to re-integrate people into Iraqi society. My Democrat friends were wrong. I'm not going to ask them to apologize. I am going to ask them to recognize that success, reach across the aisle go back to the old American tradition that partisanship stops at the water's edge." [[CBS News, 1/14/08](#)]

- **McCain Draws Support From War Skeptics And Boosters By Supporting War But Criticizing Bush War Management And Dems For Withdrawal.** According to the *Boston Globe*, while campaigning throughout the 2008 Republican primaries, McCain has drawn both Iraq war supporters and skeptics by "...criticizing both the Bush administration's wartime management and Democratic opponents he said wanted to 'set a date for surrender.'" In this way the Globe points out that "McCain [has been] able to present himself as a candidate who both supported the war and best understood the costs of what he calls 'our failure in Iraq.'" [[Boston Globe, 1/25/08](#)]

McCain Said Withdrawing Was “The White Flag of Surrender.” During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, "If we do what Senator Clinton said that she wanted to do night before last, and that's wave the white flag of surrender and set a date for withdrawal, then we will have expenses, my friends, in American blood and treasure, because Al Qaida will then have won. ... Anybody who doesn't understand that it's not American presence, it's American casualties. We have American troops all over the world today, and nobody complains about it, because we're defending freedom.... I'm so proud that the jobs that the men and women in the military are doing there. ... And they don't want us to raise the white flag of surrender like senator Clinton does. They know they can win. And the message to you and to me is let us win." [[MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, 1/24/08](#); [DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08](#)]

McCain Said Hillary’s Withdrawal Plan Would Wave the Flag of Surrender. At the MSNBC Republican Debate in Boca Raton, Florida, McCain criticized Hillary Clinton’s plan to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq within 60 days of taking office. McCain warned, "If we do what Sen. Clinton said that she wanted to do the night before last, and that's wave the white flag of surrender and set a date for withdrawal, then we will have expenses my friends in American blood." [[Reuters, 1/25/08](#)]

McCain Accused Clinton and Obama of "Wanting to Surrender." In a recent campaign stop in Atlanta, McCain said "Senator Obama and Senator Clinton want to surrender." [[Newsday, 2/3/08](#)]

- **1994: McCain Argued For Withdrawing From Haiti Even If the Situation Was Not Stable.** In arguing in favor of a resolution to withdraw from Haiti, McCain said, the “resolution offers support for the

withdrawal of United States Armed Forces as soon as possible. In my view that does not mean as soon as order is restored to Haiti. It does not mean as soon as democracy is flourishing in Haiti. It does not mean as soon as we have established a viable nation in Haiti. As soon as possible means as soon we can get out of Haiti without losing any American lives." [Congressional Record, 10/6/94; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

- **1993: McCain: "Can Anyone Seriously Argue That Another 6 Months of United States Forces in Harm's Way Means the Difference Between Peace and Prosperity in Somalia."** Speaking on the floor of the Senate in October 1993 McCain said, "Mr. President, our mission in Somalia is over. It is time to come home. Our mission in Somalia was to feed a million starving Somali who needed to be fed. It was not an open-ended commitment. It was not a commission of nation building, not warlord hunting, or any of the other extraneous activities which we seem to have been engaged in... Mr. President, can anyone seriously argue that another 6 months of United States forces in harm's way means the difference between peace and prosperity in Somalia and war and starvation there? Is that very dim prospect worth one more American life? No, it is not." [Senate Record, 139 Cong Rec S 13480; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

President McCain Would Brief Americans Weekly on War in Iraq. According to the AP, "McCain spoke at a town hall meeting at the College of Charleston, promising if he was elected president he would brief the public each week on the war in Iraq." [AP, 10/4/07]

McCain Offers More Militaristic Foreign Policy Than Last 17 Presidents. McCain biographer Matt Welch said McCain "offers a more militaristic foreign policy than any US president in a century." [[Economist, 2/7/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was "Proud of This President's Strategy In Iraq." McCain said he was proud of George W. Bush's strategy in Iraq. After being endorsed by former President George H.W. Bush, McCain was asked if "he would be in effect carrying out a third Bush term." McCain replied, "I'd be honored to have President George Bush's support, his endorsement," McCain responded. "And I'd be honored to be anywhere with him under any circumstances." He added, "I am proud of this president's strategy in Iraq." [[Think Progress, 2/18/08](#)]

McCain Was Called A "Relentless Hawk." The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote, "If Americans want to continue the Iraq war, then Sen. John McCain -- the apparent Republican presidential candidate and relentless hawk -- is their man." [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/15/08](#)]

- **George Will Implied McCain Will Use War to Increase Personal Power.** George Will wrote, "War especially enhances presidential power, which probably is one reason Theodore Roosevelt, *[sic]* one of McCain's heroes, relished war. "No triumph of peace," Roosevelt said, "is quite so great as the supreme triumphs of war." Roosevelt, who also said, "I don't think that any harm comes from the concentration of power in one man's hands," was the archetype of the modern, hyperkinetic president." He added, "McCain, who sometimes seems to regard his enthusiasms and disgusts as self-legitimizing and grounds for government action, probably would be TR's sort of president." [[Washington Post, 2/17/08](#)]

Conservative Magazine Accused McCain Of Being A War Monger. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, "To hear McCain tell it, there is apparently no crisis anywhere in the world that cannot be resolved by the presence of U.S. armed forces." [[American Conservative, 2/11/08](#)]

McCain: Take A Look At My Judgment On Iraq. When asked about his age being an issue in the upcoming campaign, McCain said, "Well just watch me campaign. As I said at the beginning of this I can out-campaign anybody, and I can, and I will. Take a look at the vigor, and take a look at my vision for the future of this country. And also, take a look at my judgment; take a look at my judgment on Iraq." [[Good Morning America, 2/20/08](#)]

McCain's Greatest Hit, '04-'06: "Stay The Course"

In 2004, McCain Said “I’m Confident We’re On the Right Course.” During an interview on ABC News’ “This Week,” McCain was asked if we were on the right course in Iraq. McCain responded, “I’m confident we’re on the right course. I’m confident that this is a very difficult and imperfect process, bringing democracy to countries that have never known democracy, fraught with secular differences as well as ethnic differences. It’s very, very difficult. But I am confident that an imperfect democracy is what we’ll get out of Iraq will be vastly superior to what the people of Iraq had prior to this.” [ABC News, “This Week,” 3/07/04]

- **McCain: “We’ve Got to Stay the Course.”** In an interview with ABC News, McCain said, “Is Afghanistan perfect, no, we’ve got opium, we’ve got warlords but by God, it’s a heck of a lot better off than it was. And we can do the same thing in Iraq, we’ve got to stay the course.” [ABC News, 10/24/04]

In 2005, McCain Still Wanted to “Stay the Course.” In a discussion about the Iraq war with CBS News, when asked how to get the American public to “believe in this fight,” McCain said, “We need some successes. But, also, I am heartened by the fact that 58 percent of the American people, according to a...Washington Post poll, yesterday, said that we’ve got to stay the course.” [CBS News, 6/29/05]

- **McCain: We Have to “Stay the Course” Regardless of Statements From the Pentagon.** In an interview with Fox News, McCain said that criticism of the Iraq war coming from the Pentagon was probably due to “political considerations of the ‘06 election amongst some” but that he knew that “we have to stay the course” in Iraq. [Fox, 8/14/05]
- **McCain: “I Think We’ve Got to Stay the Course” in Iraq.** In an interview with ABC News, McCain said flatly that despite the fact that “some serious mistakes were made, but...I think we’ve got to stay the course here.” [ABC News, 9/25/05]
- **Another Year Would Prove “Stay the Course” Was Working.** “McCain believed that the U.S., and the cause of Iraqi independence, was moving forward in Iraq, a little bit at a time. ‘I think the situation on the ground is going to improve,’ he said. ‘Overall, I think a year from now, we will have made a fair amount of progress if we stay the course.’” [The Hill, 12/8/05; DNC Public Information, 1/10/08]

In 2006, McCain Still Wanted to “Stay the Course.” In an interview with CBS, McCain said that “I think there’ll be a lot of hand-wringing, and a lot of it understandable, but I think we’ll stay the course [in Iraq].” [CBS News, 1/31/06]

- **McCain’s Top Political Advisor Said McCain Support for the War is “Stay the Course, No Matter What.”** John Weaver, John McCain’s explained McCain’s support for the war and the impact it would have on McCain’s future aspirations saying, “It is stay-the-course, no matter what. And if it dooms McCain, so be it.” [Bloomberg News, 4/20/06]
- **McCain: Death of Zarqawi Is Another Reason Why We Have to “Stay the Course” in Iraq.** In an interview on MSNBC, McCain said that the death of Zarqawi was “ample reason why we have to stay the course.” [MSNBC, 6/8/06]
- **McCain: He Hates to Say it, But We Should “Stay the Course.”** In an interview with CBS, McCain said that Bush had “laid out recently a pretty cogent argument why we must, quote – I hate to use the phrase – ‘stay the course’ [in Iraq.]” [CBS News, 9/24/06]

HOWEVER...

McCain Claimed He Did Not Support a “Stay the Course” Strategy. “McCain acknowledged that “many, many mistakes” had been made in Iraq” and that he “was not an advocate for a ‘stay the course’ policy in Iraq.” [Charleston Gazette, 10/17/06]

On the Stump in 2007 McCain Said Iraq Strategy Was “Doomed to Failure” From the Beginning. In 2007, John McCain said that “he was right from the start about the war strategy in Iraq.” McCain, at an opening rally for his “No Surrender” tour in Sioux City, IA: “For almost four years we pursued a failed policy in Iraq. ... I condemned it, I was criticized by Republicans and others for doing so, and I saw it was doomed to failure and I argued for the strategy that is now succeeding. ... This strategy is working. It is succeeding, and it must be given a chance to succeed.” [AP, 9/11/07; [The Hotline](#), 9/12/07]

McCain Endorsed Escalation Despite Suggesting 20,000 Additional Troops Were Too Few To Win The War. When asked prior to Bush’s announced escalation if 20,000 troops were enough to control the situation in Iraq, McCain suggested it was not enough. Matt Lauer of NBC News asked McCain, “You have long called for more troops ... Will 20,000 do the job in your opinion?” to which McCain replied, “I’m not sure. ... But to make it of a short duration and a small size would be the worst of all options to exercise in my view.” Despite that assessment, 6 days later, on January 10, McCain agreed that Bush’s plan to send just over 21,000 additional forces to Iraq was enough forces to provide an adequate surge. When asked if it was enough, McCain said, “I think so...I think it meets our criteria.” [NBC News, 1/4/07; CNN.com, 1/10/07; AP, 1/12/07]

McCain Advised Bush Behind Closed Doors On How to Make the Case for War in Iraq. According to the *New York Times*, Bush invited “McCain to the White House three times in one week recently to talk about how Mr. Bush should make the case for the war in Iraq.” [[New York Times](#), 7/3/06]

- **McCain: War Was Badly Mismanaged.** McCain said, “I think the American people have shown a, an amazing amount of patience. People talk about the impatience of Americans, for nearly four years, it was badly mismanaged. And we were saying things like ‘mission accomplished,’ and ‘a few dead-enders,’ and ‘last throes,’ and all that while the facts on the ground directly contradicted that. So I, I, I think the American people get it.” [House Party; Lebanon, NH 12/30/07]

WMDS: The Rationale That Really Didn’t Matter

McCain: “The War, The Invasion Was Not A Mistake.” In 2008, Tim Russert quoted Bush who said that he would have gone into Iraq even if there were no weapons and asked McCain if he would have gone into Iraq. McCain said, “I--yes, but the point is that if we had done it right, it’s been well chronicled in many, in many books, you and I wouldn’t be even discussing that now. The mishandling after the war. ... The war, the invasion was not a mistake. The handling of the war was a terrible mistake.” [NBC, Meet the Press, 1/06/08]

McCain Defended Bush Administration Claims of Iraqi WMD as Rationale for War. While introducing Dick Cheney at a 2004 campaign event in New Hampshire, McCain discounted concerns of war critics who said the Bush administration misled the public when it accused Hussein of stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. Said McCain: “The president could count on the experience and wisdom of his vice president when he made the difficult decision to liberate Iraq from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. Whether Saddam then possessed the terrible weapons that every intelligence service on Earth believed he possessed, he had used them before and, I have no doubt, was firmly determined to acquire them again for what terrible purpose we can only anticipate with dread. That was a risk George Bush and Dick Cheney knew we just couldn’t afford in this new, violent age of terrorism.” [[Los Angeles Times](#), 7/17/04; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

McCain Said Military Force Should be Authorized to Destroy Iraq’s WMD. Prior to a vote to authorize President Bush’s use of force in against Iraq in September 2002, McCain stated that any resolution should simply “authorize the president to take action to bring about regime change and destroy [Iraq’s] weapons of mass destruction.” [[Washington Post](#), 9/18/02; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

In 2001, McCain Claimed Saddam Hussein Intended to Acquire and Use WMD Against U.S. On December 5, 2001, McCain, along with Senators Trent Lott, Joe Lieberman and others, sent a letter to President Bush citing Saddam Hussein’s intent to acquire WMD and use them against the United States as justification for attacking Hussein. According to their letter: “For as long as Saddam Hussein is in power in Baghdad, he will seek to acquire

weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. We have no doubt that these deadly weapons are intended for use against the United States and its allies. Consequently, we believe we must directly confront Saddam, sooner rather than later.” [New York Times, 12/18/01; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

McCain Focused On The “Bright Side”; Denied Civil War

McCain Focused On the “Bright Side” Of the Iraq War; Said “We’re On the Right Track.” In 2006, McCain played down the increasing civil violence in Iraq. When host Don Imus remarked that Iraq “already looks like a civil war,” McCain responded, “I keep trying to look at the bright side of this because we have to because the consequences of failure are catastrophic.” McCain added, “I think, at least we’re on the right track here.” [MSNBC, 3/1/06; ABC News, 2/26/06]

- **But To Donors, McCain Admitted the Administration’s Line Did Not Speak to the Reality In Iraq.** Speaking to a meeting of New York’s “wealthiest and most influential political donors,” McCain “criticized the Bush administration’s lack of candor about the current situation there [in Iraq].” [New York Observer, 5/29/06]

McCain Denied That There Was A Civil War In Iraq Despite Increasing Sectarian Violence. After returning from Iraq, McCain was asked if he saw “evidence of civil war,” to which he responded, “No.” According to a report by the *New York Times*, published just a few days before, “in the last month, hundreds of men have been kidnapped, tortured and executed in Baghdad. As Iraqi and American leaders struggle to avert a civil war, the bodies keep piling up.” [White House Press Conference, 3/28/06; *New York Times*, 3/26/06]

- **During Debate, McCain Claimed the “Know the Situation in Iraq.”** During the final scheduled GOP presidential debate, McCain said, “I know the situation in Iraq.” [CNN, 1/30/08; DNC Rapid Response]

McCain Remained Loyal To The President And Voted Against Iraq Civil War Reports. Senator McCain voted to table an amendment that would require the Defense Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide Congress with an assessment of whether civil war has broken out in Iraq and a strategy to protect U.S. troops. McCain voted yea. [S.Amdt. 4885 to H.R. 5631, [Vote # 233](#), 9/6/06, passed 54-44]

“Neverland” McCain Claimed He Could Safely Walk Around Certain Baghdad Neighborhoods. “McCain’s latest problem began before he left for the region, when he told Bill Bennett on the radio that ‘there are neighborhoods in Baghdad where you and I could walk today.’ After Michael Ware of CNN’s Baghdad bureau accused the senator of living in ‘Neverland,’ McCain charged that it’s reporters who are living in a ‘time warp of three months ago.’” [Newsweek, Alter, 4/16/07 edition; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

- **McCAIN: Victory Will Not Be Hastened by Pretending That Things Have Just Gone Swimmingly.** While speaking to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, McCain said, “I think it is safe to assume that no one, including me, anticipated the speed with which Serbia would defeat our objectives in Kosovo, and the scope of that defeat. After stating that NATO would eventually prevail, he said, “victory will not be hastened by pretending that things have just gone swimmingly.” [American Conservative Magazine, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Misrepresented Security on the Ground in Iraq. In 2007, McCain claimed there were neighborhoods safe enough for him to walk through in Baghdad, but then toured a Baghdad market wearing a bulletproof vest while accompanied by “100 American soldiers, with three Blackhawk helicopters, and two Apache gunships overhead.” [NBC Nightly News, 4/1/2007; DNC Press Release, 9/13/07]

- **Then McCain Was Forced to Admit He “Misspoke” When He Failed to Mention His Massive Security During Baghdad Market Trip.** “Wearing a bulletproof vest and surrounded by 100 soldiers in Baghdad’s central market, McCain said: ‘Never have I been able to go out into the city as I was today.’ Headlines soon after called his statements ‘propaganda’ and a ‘magic-carpet ride.’ The Statesman Journal

in Salem, Oregon, declared: ‘Brainwashed McCain is a straight-talker no more.’” An op-ed in the Rocky Mountain News called McCain’s staged walk through a Baghdad market “a truly Orwellian publicity stunt,” that was turned into a “desperate attempt to give some sliver of credence to claims that the dreaded ‘liberal media’ are failing to report on all the wonderful things happening in Iraq...Chastened, McCain issued a half-hearted apology a few days later, saying he ‘mis-spoke’ when he pointed to his little walk under the protection of several platoons from the world’s most powerful military as evidence of Baghdad’s excellent shopping opportunities.” [Washington Post, 4/7/07; Rocky Mountain News, 4/10/07; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

McCain “Fine” With Long Term Presence In Iraq

McCain: '100 Years' Quote Was Taken Out of Context. After seeing video clips of Senators Obama and Clinton criticizing him for saying he would be fine with staying in Iraq for one hundred years, McCain said, “Look, people who cover this campaign and know me know that that’s completely out of context.” [CNN, [2/14/08](#)]

McCain: Anyone Who Worries About How Long We're In Iraq Does Not Understand War. Speaking to reporters in Richmond, McCain attacked “anyone” who points out that he is “fine” with keeping U.S. troops in Iraq for 100 or more years. “Anyone who worries about how long we’re in Iraq does not understand the military and does not understand war,” said McCain. He then added that it is “really almost insulting to one’s intelligence” to question “how long we’re in Iraq” because he believes the current “strategy” is “succeeding.” [CNN, 2/11/08; Think Progress, [2/12/08](#)]

- **Top Military Commanders Have ‘Worried About’ Length Of War.** Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen has said, “No amount of troops and no amount of time will make much of a difference” and that “a protracted deployment of U.S. troops to Iraq...risks further emboldening Iranian hegemonic ambitions.” Additionally, in October 2007, Army Chief of Staff George Casey said, “It’s going to take us three or four years and a substantial amount of resources to put” the Army “back in balance” and that time frame depends on when “the conflict end[s].” [Think Progress, [2/12/08](#)]

McCain Said American's Do Not Care About Length of Occupation in Iraq. When asked if he regretted saying that the U.S. involvement in Iraq could last “1,000 years or a million years,” McCain replied, “That’s just foolishness. It’s foolishness to use that quote, because the question was how long are we going to be in Iraq. And that’s not the question the American people care about.” [Hartford Courant, 2/4/08]

- **Defense Secretary Gates: Bush, His Administration and Iraqis Don't Want Permanent US Bases in Iraq.** According to the Boston Globe, “The Iraqis have ‘got a vote in this, and they don’t want permanent bases, either. And they are interested in asserting their sovereignty,’ Gates said. ‘The fact is, in every meeting that I’ve taken part in, it has been affirmed from the president on down that we do not want permanent bases in Iraq.’” [Boston Globe, 2/7/08]
- **Defense Secretary Gates Said Bush Administration Won't Seek Permanent Occupation of Iraq.** According to the Washington Post, “Pressed in hearings before the House and Senate Armed Services committees, Gates reiterated that the administration will not ‘seek permanent bases in Iraq.’” [Washington Post, 2/7/08]
- **Larry King Challenged McCain’s Position On Withdrawal From Iraq.** While appearing on *Larry King Live*, McCain described his change of heart of immigration by stating, “Look, the American people want the borders secured first. That’s what we have to do...” King then said, “But they also want us out of Iraq.” [CNN, [2/14/08](#)]

McCain Said US Could Stay In Iraq for “Maybe A Hundred Years” and He Was “Fine” With It. In January 2008, McCain said the U.S. military could stay in Iraq for “maybe a hundred years” and that “would be fine with me.” Noting that the U.S. still maintains troops in South Korea and Japan, McCain said he had no objection to U.S.

soldiers staying in Iraq for decades, as long as they were not being injured or killed. Asked about the comment by *Mother Jones* writer David Corn, McCain reaffirmed it, saying that U.S. troops could be in Iraq for “a thousand years” or “a million years” as far as he was concerned, according to Corn. [*Mother Jones*, [1/3/08](#); McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

- **McCain Previously Rejected South Korea As Model For Iraq.** According to Think Progress, “McCain’s latest comments complete a full flip-flop-flip. He previously said that the Korea model was ‘exactly’ the right idea for Iraq. But in late November, he abandoned it on PBS’ Charlie Rose Show.” McCain said on Charlie Rose, “I don’t think so” when asked if South Korea was an analogy to Iraq. When Rose asked “even if there are no casualties,” McCain responded, “No. But I can see an American presence for a while. But eventually I think because of the nature of the society in Iraq and the religious aspects of it that America eventually withdraws.” [Think Progress, [1/04/08](#)]

McCain Suggested He Supports Permanent Bases In Iraq, Said Americans Would Support Them. The *Progress Report* reported that McCain “...suggested that he supports “permanent bases” in Iraq and he also said that Americans would endorse such an occupation plan. He had said further, “I don’t think Americans are concerned if we’re there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years,” as long as troop deaths are minimal. [The Progress Report, 1/7/08]

McCain: “I Don’t Think Americans Are Concerned If We’re There For 100 Years or 1,000 Years or 10,000 Years.” In an interview on “Face the Nation,” host Bob Schieffer asked McCain about staying in Iraq for 100 year. McCain responded, “We’ve got to get Americans off the front line, have the Iraqis as part of the strategy, take over more and more of the responsibilities. And then I don’t think Americans are concerned if we’re there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years. What they care about is a sacrifice of our most precious treasure, and that’s American blood. So what I’m saying is look, if Americans are there in a support role, but they’re not taking casualties, that’s fine. We’re in Kuwait now. As you well recall, we had a war, we stayed in Kuwait. We didn’t stay in Saudi Arabia. So it’s going to be up to the relationship between the Iraqi government and the United States of America.” [CBS, “Face the Nation,” [1/06/08](#)]

- **McCain Didn’t Want Permanent Military Presence in Iraq Before He Wanted Million Year Troop Commitment.** During a discussion of the Administration’s Iraq War failures, McCain stated neither he nor the American Public would support keeping troops in Iraq for an indefinite amount of time. Said McCain: “I’m not for keeping troops there forever. I hope--I wish we could take them out tomorrow. It’s not a question of whether we want to withdraw or not. We all want that.” [Meet the Press, [12/5/05](#)]

Bush Staked Out a More Moderate Position Than McCain on Long Term Troop Presence. In 2008, Bush was asked about recent comments by Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain that it would be fine with him to have a U.S. military presence in Iraq for 100 years. “That’s a long time,” Bush replied, adding that there “could very well be” a long-term U.S. presence in Iraq at the invitation of the government in Baghdad. When asked if it could be 10 years, Bush replied: “It could easily be that, absolutely.” [*Reuters*, [1/11/08](#)]

McCain Said Length Of Time In Iraq Doesn’t Matter, American Casualties Matter. At the 2008 Fox News Channel G.O.P. debate, McCain said, “Anybody who thinks it’s think length of time we’re there [in Iraq] that matters, it’s American casualties that matter.” [*Fox News Channel G.O.P. Debate*, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain: Troops Presence “Depends on the Arrangement We Have With the Iraqi Government.” According to the Associated Press, “McCain insisting that what matters most is ending American casualties, not their presence in Iraq. He said he would be fine with keeping troops in Iraq for decades as long as they weren’t being harmed, similar to the arrangements that exist in South Korea, Japan and other countries. ‘A thousand years. A million years. Ten million years,’ McCain said. ‘It depends on the arrangement we have with the Iraqi government.’” [AP, 1/04/08]

McCain Said Idea Of U.S. Withdrawal To Bases Outside Iraq Was “Almost Nonsensical.” According to *Vanity Fair*, McCain discussed his views on Iraq – U.S. policy and stated, “A withdrawal to bases outside of Iraq,

and go in if needed? How do we get in? You fly in helicopters? Is that how you do it? Right now, a good portion of the military over there is used up or committed to just maintaining the supply train. So, suppose there's an outbreak in Ramadi, and we're supposed to go get it under control? How do you do that? It's just almost nonsensical. Look what it took to get our initial invasion going." [Vanity Fair, 2007]

"I Was Right"; Said Bush Escalation "Has Been Effective"

In 2008, McCain Inaccurately Claimed "Casualties are Coming Down." While appearing on *Fox News Sunday*, McCain claimed that, "it's not a matter of how long American's stay, it's a matter of American casualties, and those casualties are coming down." However, the amount of casualties in Iraq actually increased during the month of January. [Think Progress, [2/3/08](#)]

- **McCain: More And More Americans Agree That The Surge Is Succeeding.** Appearing On ABC's *Good Morning America*, McCain said that, "I was glad to see that the polls show that more and more Americans agree that he surge is working because those are the facts on the ground." [Good Morning America, [2/20/08](#)]

McCain Said The Troop Surge In Iraq Was Working. At the 2008 Fox News Channel G.O.P debate, McCain said, "Today is the day that the president of the United States announced the change in strategy, the so-called surge. I supported that, I argued for it. I'm the only one on this stage that did. I condemn[ed] the Rumsfeld strategy before that I'm telling you, it's succeeding." [Fox News Channel G.O.P Debate, [1/10/08](#)]

- **LA Times: The Surge Has Not Succeeded.** According to President Bush, the logic behind the surge was, "If we increase our support at this crucial moment and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home." The number of troops in Iraq has increased to nearly 160,000, and they will not be coming home soon. The *Los Angeles Times* wrote, "The deal was: Just let me have a few more soldiers to get Baghdad under control, and then everybody, or almost everybody, can pack up and come home." [Los Angeles Times, [2/22/08](#)]

McCain: "I Was Right" According to *USA Today*, "Arizona Sen. John McCain, whose support of the Iraq war was once a drag on his presidential ambitions, now cites military progress there as evidence he has the judgment and experience to serve as commander in chief over rivals who wavered or were silent about the conflict. 'I was right,' he said in an interview with USA TODAY, saying he had been vindicated by reduced violence in Iraq after U.S. troop levels were increased in 2007. 'I said I would much rather lose a campaign than lose a war, and I was right when all these other Republicans were criticizing me for being loyal, or (were) saying nothing.'" [USA Today, 12/30/07]

McCain Said the Troop Escalation in Iraq "Has Been Effective," There Is "Significant Political Progress" and "Real Results" in Iraq. When asked in October 2007 by an undecided voter if he would "follow President Bush's path and stay in the war, or reduce the number of U.S. troops" in Iraq, McCain answered by stating "that he believes the troop escalation over the past year has been effective." In August 2007, Senator McCain said, "there is significant political progress at the local areas and on the ground" and that "the success will then breed political, economic, and social progress, in my view." In October 2007, on the Senate floor, McCain said, "It is inconceivable that we...would end this strategy just as it is beginning to show real results." [AP, 10/22/07; DNC Press Release, 10/31/07; ABC News, This Week, 9/9/07; Washington Post, 9/22/07]

- **A Year Before, McCain Said That Pre-Surge Military Involvement in Iraq Was "On The Right Track."** Speaking on the "Imus in the Morning" radio show on March 1, 2006, McCain said, "I keep trying to look at the bright side of this...I think, at least we're on the right track here." [MSNBC, Imus in the Morning, 3/1/06]

McCain Failed to Vote on Debate on Bush's Escalation Plan in Senate, Used Filibuster. On February 5, 2007, Senator McCain failed to vote on debate on a resolution opposing Bush's escalation of the Iraq war by sending over

21,000 additional troops there. The resolution which the Republicans blocked debate on was a bipartisan one authored mostly by Republican Senator John Warner. [S.470, [Vote #44](#), 2/5/07; [New York Times](#), 2/6/07]

McCain Said Deploying More Troops To Iraq Was “Only Viable Option.” According to *Vanity Fair*, after the 2006 election McCain “...maintained that deploying more American troops was ‘the only viable option,’ but added, ‘There are no good options from where we are today.’” McCain basically said those who believe the U.S. should threaten Iraq so that they do more, was assuming that Iraq could or would do more. McCain also said, “And there’s no way that you’re going to have any kind of stability without security. Political progress cannot take place unless you have the fundamental elements of a security situation. So, do I know it would be a tremendous strain on the army and Marine Corps? Absolutely. But I saw the kind of impact of a broken army, a defeated army and Marine Corps, after Vietnam. And I’d much rather have ‘em take a strain and have some success than be defeated.” [Vanity Fair, 2007]

PREVIOUSLY CALLED FOR EVEN MORE TROOPS—UP TO 35,000 MORE

McCain Said He Wouldn’t Support An Escalation In Iraq That Wasn’t Big Enough, Called For Up To 35,000 Troops; Later Claimed Couldn’t Cite Specific Numbers. “McCain said Thursday he’s concerned Bush won’t send enough troops to reinforce Iraq. He said experts he has consulted have told him as many as 35,000 additional troops should be sent. ‘I need to know whether it’s enough,’ McCain said. ‘I cannot support an insufficient injection of troops.’” Despite that claim, after a speaking at an Iraq policy forum at the American Enterprise Institute, McCain wouldn’t cite specific troop numbers needed, saying, “We are not specific on numbers, we don’t have - we are talking about 3 or 4 combat brigades, in Baghdad, and one or two more in Anbar province. We are not that much detailed oriented,” and adding that the troop increase had to be “sustained until we win, until we’ve got it under control and the Iraqi government can assume those responsibilities.” [CNN.com, 1/5/07; McCain, AEI “Future of Iraq” Conference, 1/5/07]

McCain Called For Large Sustained Troop Increase In Iraq, Called Short Surge “Worst Of All Worlds.” Speaking before the American Enterprise Institute, John McCain emphasized the importance of a sustained troop increase in Iraq, as opposed to a short term surge in forces. McCain noted that “there are two keys” to a troops surge, saying, “To be a value the surge must be substantial and it must be sustained.” McCain called for a “large number of troops,” calling for an additional 3-5 brigades in Baghdad and one brigade in Anbar province as the “minimum” necessary. McCain added that the increase in troops can only be reduced with mission completion, not a timetable, criticizing a short surge, saying, “The presence of additional brigades should be tied to completion of their mission rather than to some arbitrary deadline. The worst of all worlds would be a small, short surge of U.S. Forces.” McCain believes a sustained force increase is necessary to reach an end in Iraq, noting that “by controlling the violence we can pave the way for a political settlement.” [McCain, AEI Speech, 1/5/07]

McCain Said It Was “Immoral” To Keep Troops In Iraq “Fighting and Dying for a Failed Policy,” While, Contrary to Military Commanders’ Opinions, There Weren’t Enough Troops to Win the War. In twin speeches to the Federalist Society and to GOPAC, McCain declared, “what I cannot do is ask [a soldier] to return to Iraq, to risk life and limb, so that we might delay our defeat for a few months or a year.” When asked afterwards, “by your own standards, isn’t it currently immoral to keep marines and soldiers, other service people in Iraq,” McCain said, “Yes, it is, and we’ve got to ask some question, one, are we winning and I think the answer is no.” McCain added that American soldiers in Iraq are “fighting and dying for a failed policy.” [McCain Federalist Society speech, 11/16/06; McCain GOPAC speech, 11/16/06; ABC News, 11/19/06]

McCain Said in 2006 U.S. Wasn’t Winning in Iraq; Called for Troop Level Increase. In November 2006, McCain called for the U.S. to send an overwhelming number of troops to stabilize Iraq. McCain: “You’ve got to ask yourself some questions. One, are we winning? And I think the answer is no. The other is, what are the consequences of defeat? Can we still win? Yes, I believe we can. It’ll be tough, but we need to do it.” [AP, 11/19/06]

McCain Said Iraq Was Out Of Control And Troop Levels Weren't Enough To Stop The Violence. Speaking about troop levels in Iraq, McCain said, “The danger [of withdrawing troops] is one that we have faced all along. That is that we haven’t been able to control the country. The latest, of course, is that we have to send troops into Ramadi. I was over there two or three months ago. It was clear to me that Ramadi was not under control and that we were going to have to send troops in there. And guess where the troops came from. They came from Kuwait, but they also had to divert some of the marines from Falluja. We are like the little Dutch boy with his thumb in the dike.” [[Financial Times](#), 6/19/06]

Opposing Rumsfeld: All Talk, No Action

McCain Said, “I’m the Only One that Said Rumsfeld Had to Go.” During the final scheduled GOP presidential debate, McCain claimed that among the republican candidates, he was the, “only one that said Rumsfeld had to go.” [[CNN](#), 1/30/08; [DNC Daily Flipper](#)]

McCain Said Problem With Iraq Was Mishandling by Rumsfeld. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, “The problem was the mishandling of Iraq by nearly four years by Rumsfeld. Again, I railed against that, I was criticized by Republicans.” [[MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate](#), [1/24/08](#); [DNC Debate Rapid Response](#), 1/24/08]

McCain Said He Opposed Rumsfeld’s Strategy. At the Fox News Channel Republican Presidential forum, McCain said, “I know that I have been an agent of change. I’m proud to have been one of those who was—played a key role in bringing about one of the most important changes in recent years and that was the change in strategy from a failing strategy in Iraq pursued by Secretary Rumsfeld, which was needlessly causing sacrifice of our most precious American treasure. [[Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum](#), 1/6/08; [DNC Public Information](#), 1/6/08]

- **McCain Has Been Criticized for “Revisionist History” On Rumsfeld Criticism.** In November 2007, Tim Grieve of Salon.com criticized McCain for allegedly presenting a “revisionist history” of his criticism of Rumsfeld. Grieve noted that, while McCain has claimed to be the “only one” who “spoke strongly” against Rumsfeld’s Iraq strategy, McCain also defended the administration’s handling of Iraq in 2004 and 2005, and that Democrats had criticized Rumsfeld more forcefully. [[Salon.com](#), 11/28/07; [McCain Military Issues Research Memo](#), 1/06/08]

McCain’s Criticisms of Rumsfeld Began in 2003 but Became More Forceful as Time Passed. McCain has criticized Rumsfeld’s handling of the war in Iraq since 2003, alleging that Rumsfeld failed to put enough U.S. troops on the ground. McCain’s criticism of Rumsfeld escalated in subsequent years. In 2005, McCain said he had lost faith in Rumsfeld. In February 2007, months after Rumsfeld’s resignation, McCain said Rumsfeld would “go down in history as one of the worst secretaries of defense in history.” [[Arizona Republic](#), 11/9/03; [Associated Press](#), 11/8/06; [Associated Press](#), 2/19/07; [McCain Military Issues Research Memo](#), 1/06/08]

- **2003: McCain Expressed Full Faith in Rumsfeld Iraq War Strategy.** Despite his rhetoric while campaigning for president, Salon reported John McCain supported the initial war plan created by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. “McCain was among the most aggressive proponents of a preemptive strike against Saddam Hussein, cosponsoring the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. He also expressed full faith in the way it would be executed -- a war plan conceived and executed by Rumsfeld.” [[Salon.com](#), [1/17/08](#)]
- **2004: McCain said Rumsfeld Did a Fine Job.** “In the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal, McCain was asked on ‘Hannity & Colmes’ whether Rumsfeld could still be effective in his job. ‘Yes, today I do and I believe he’s done a fine job,’ McCain responded. ‘He’s an honorable man.’ [[Salon.com](#), [1/17/08](#)]
- **2004: McCain Refused To Call for Secretary Rumsfeld’s Resignation.** In 2004, McCain would not call for Donald Rumsfeld’s resignation, saying that the President “can have the team that he wants around him.”

McCain said that he respected Bush's decision to keep Rumsfeld around. McCain said, "I respect the president. The president of the United States was re-elected by a majority of the American people, and I respect his right. And I will work with the president obviously and with the secretary of defense." [MSNBC.com, 12/15/04; CNN.com, 12/5/04; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

- **2006: McCain Refused to Join Calls for Rumsfeld's Resignation, Said He Would Work With Rumsfeld.** "But the president has the right and earned the right as the president of the United States to appoint his team," and he has confidence in Secretary Rumsfeld. "I will continue to work with Secretary Rumsfeld as much as I can as long as he is secretary of Defense. We have to, because we need to win this war." [[East Valley Tribune, 4/15/2006](#); DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain Said Rumsfeld Should Have Resigned Long Before He Did. During an interview on Meet the Press, McCain said, "...George Bush with a lot of help from a lot of people, and one of them was Donald Rumsfeld, who I said I had no confidence in, and I believe that he should be--should have resigned long before he did." [NBC, Meet the Press, 1/06/08]

Claimed Significant Progress In Iraq Due To Surge

McCain: We Are Succeeding In Iraq. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, "We are succeeding in Iraq, and every indicator is that. And we will reduce casualties and gradually eliminate them." [MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, [1/24/08](#); DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

In Late 2007, McCain Said That "Next Eight Months" Would Determine If Iraq War Could Be Won. According to Think Progress, in an October 2007 interview with the editorial board of the *Nashua Telegraph*, McCain said, that the "next eight months" would determine whether the Iraq war could be "won." He said that if the U.S. continued to see progress in Iraq, he thought "Americans [would] be generally accepting that we are withdrawing and ceding more authority over to the Iraqi military and that we are achieving quote 'success.'" [Think Progress, [10/23/07](#)]

McCain Said He Expected Iraq To Have Reduction In Casualties, More Government Control, More Success Against Al-Qaeda By General Election in 2008. During an interview with *Time Magazine*, McCain was asked what kind of success in Iraq he expected to happen by the general election. McCain answered, "Well, I think a gradual progression in reducing casualties [will occur]. More and more government control. More success against al-Qaeda. Slow, but receivable (*sic*) progress in the government functioning —... the usual indications and benchmarks of a successful counter-insurgency [will occur]." [[Time Magazine, 1/9/08](#)]

McCain Said Conditions In Iraq Have Been "Utterly Transformed" As A Consequence Of Surge. In an opinion editorial he co-wrote with Joe Lieberman for the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain and Lieberman said, "...conditions in [Iraq] have been utterly transformed from those of a year ago, as a consequence of the surge." They continued, "Whereas, a year ago, al Qaeda in Iraq was entrenched in Anbar province and Baghdad, now the forces of Islamist extremism are facing their single greatest and most humiliating defeat since the loss of Afghanistan in 2001. Thanks to the surge, the Sunni Arabs who once constituted the insurgency's core of support in Iraq have been empowered to rise up against the suicide bombers and fanatics in their midst -- prompting Osama bin Laden to call them 'traitors.'" [Op-ed, [Wall Street Journal, 1/10/08](#)]

McCain Pointed Out That Violence Across Iraq Has Dropped Dramatically After Surge. In an opinion editorial he co-wrote with Joe Lieberman for the *Wall Street Journal*, McCain and Lieberman said, "As al Qaeda has been beaten back, violence across the country has dropped dramatically. The number of car bombings, sectarian murders and suicide attacks has been slashed. American casualties have also fallen sharply, decreasing in each of the past four months." [Op-ed, [Wall Street Journal, 1/10/08](#)]

HOWEVER...

The Surge Has Failed By Bush's Own Metrics. According to Washington Post columnist Michael Kinsley, the surge's strategic goal of eventually reducing American troops on the ground in Iraq has not been accomplished and even optimistic assessments by the current administration don't foresee a sizeable downturn in troop presence. According to Kinsley, "The surge has not worked yet. The test is simple, and built into the concept of a surge: Has it allowed us to reduce troop levels to below where they were when it started? And the answer is no. In fact, President Bush laid down the standard of success when he announced the surge more than a year ago: 'If we increase our support at this crucial moment, and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home.' At the time, there were about 130,000 American soldiers in Iraq. Bush proposed to add up to 20,000 more troops. Although Bush never made any official promises about a timetable, the surge was generally described as lasting six to eight months. By last summer the surge had actually added closer to 30,000 troops, making the total American troop count about 160,000. Today, there are still more than 150,000 American troops in Iraq. The official plan has been to get that number back down to 130,000 by July, and then to keep on going so that there would be about 100,000 American troops in Iraq by the time Bush leaves office." [Washington Post, [2/21/08](#)]

Despite Endorsing McCain, New York Times Called Surge Unsustainable, Has Not Led to Political Progress. *New York Times* endorsed McCain in the Republican presidential primary. The editorial board pointed out that McCain "...was one of the first prominent Republicans to point out how badly the war in Iraq was being managed." The board continued, "We wish he could now see as clearly past the temporary victories produced by Mr. Bush's unsustainable escalation, which have not led to any change in Iraq's murderous political calculus. At the least, he owes Americans a real idea of how he would win this war, which he says he can do..." [Editorial, *New York Times*, [1/25/08](#)]

Surge Strategy Makes 2008 More Difficult than 2007, Successes May Not Be Sustainable. According to the Inter Press Service, the top Middle East aide at the Pentagon, Mark Kimmitt, told the Heritage Foundation that 2008 would likely be "far more difficult" than 2007 (the bloodiest year of the war since it began in 2003) since so much will depend on "the Iraqis themselves to achieve reconciliation." Also, ret. General Barry McCaffrey, a consultant to the Pentagon, "expressed doubt as to whether the surge's gains on the security front are sustainable in the face of the U.S. drawdown and absence of progress on the political front." [Inter Press Service, [1/11/08](#)]

Surge Strategy In Iraq Could Actually Increase Violence Within The Country. Despite rhetoric from war supporters, concerns linger that a lull in violence might actually lead to bloodier confrontations. The Inter Press Service said, "Some even argue that the surge... may actually have enhanced prospects for a bloodier civil war by effectively permitting the warring sides – now more demographically separated than ever – to re-group and re-arm in anticipation of a new round of bloodletting as U.S. troops withdraw." The service quotes ret. Army General Douglas MacGregor as saying, "The thing that worries me most of all is what happens over the next 12 to 24 months in Iraq. Could we have actually made matters worse in the long term?" [Inter Press Service, [1/11/08](#)]

Some Doubt Surge is Responsible for the Decrease in Violence seen in Iraq. An article by the Inter Press Service cites numerous factors that have contributed to the lower death toll seen in Iraq since the summer. "By the time the surge got underway, the process of 'sectarian cleansing' in formerly mixed Shi'a-Sunni neighborhoods in and around Baghdad had been mostly completed, thus reducing the a major catalyst for sectarian violence. Many analysts also point to the pre-surge decision by key Sunni tribal groups, initially in al Anbar province, to turn against al Qaeda in Iraq... effectively pacifying the region where U.S. forces had suffered the highest casualty rates in the war." [Inter Press Service, [1/11/08](#)]

McCain Opposed Establishing Three States In Iraq

McCain Expressed His Opposition To Dividing Iraq Into Three States. According to *Vanity Fair*, McCain discussed his views on Iraq – U.S. policy and stated, "I know of no expert who believes there'd be anything but an enormous amount of bloodshed if you tried to divide them up into three states...Every partition in history has been a bloody mess." [Vanity Fair, 2007]

McCain Missed 11 Iraq War Votes In 2007 Because Of Campaign

McCain Called Iraq the “Premier Issue” of Our Time. According to the *Washington Post*, Senator McCain said, “Look, this is the issue. This is the premier issue of my time and the next generation.” [[Washington Post](#), 4/7/07; DNC Press Release, 10/3/07]

- **But Then Missed Iraq War Votes Because He Was Campaigning.** Senator McCain was campaigning while he missed each of the first three crucial votes on the Iraq war this year. The first time, on February 5, “McCain admitted he was mending fences with conservatives in Texas when the Republicans in the Senate blocked a debate on the war.” The second time, on February 17, McCain chose “to spend the day courting conservative voters for his presidential campaign in Iowa,” and then immediately headed to Orlando, Florida for the National Religious Broadcasters convention. And finally, McCain missed the third Iraq war vote on March 15, because he was “campaigning in Iowa.” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 2/5/07; AP, 2/16/07; [MSNBC.com](#), 2/14/07; [Los Angeles Times](#), 3/16/07; DNC Press Release, 10/3/07]

February 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Sense of Congress Proposal Regarding the President's Surge Strategy in Iraq. [S 574, [Vote #51](#), 2/17/07]

- **McCain Skipped Vote on Surge, Called Debate Over Strategy “Insulting.”** According to Deseret News, McCain dismissed vital discussions regarding the direction of the Iraq war in order to assure primary voters in Iowa he favored waging war in Iraq at all costs. “To be here, McCain skipped the debate in the Senate -- he called the rare Saturday session in the Capitol ‘insulting to the public and our soldiers’ -- but the war was as omnipresent in Des Moines as it was in Washington. It brought to life what has become a central strategic gamble for the McCain campaign: that his support of the war in Iraq would help him among the select groups of Iowa Republicans who will caucus here next January.” [[Deseret News](#), 2/18/07]

March 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Mandating a Withdrawal of Troops from Iraq. [SJRes 9, [Vote #75](#), 3/15/07]

- **John McCain “Skipped the Vote to Campaign in Iowa.”** Congressional Quarterly reported on the vote to withdraw troops, stating “Republicans probably would have received 51 votes if John McCain of Arizona had not skipped the vote to campaign in Iowa.” [CQ, 3/16/07]

March 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill to Express the Sense of Congress that Funds for U.S. Troops in the Field Should Not be Cut Off. [SConRes 20, [Vote #77](#), 3/15/07]

- **McCain Campaigned Throughout Iowa on the Day of the Vote.** The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported McCain was campaigning in Iowa on the day of the vote. “(Minnesota) Gov. Tim Pawlenty stumped across Iowa on Thursday to lend a hand to U.S. Sen. John McCain’s presidential bid, with both men repeatedly swatting away speculation that Pawlenty might become McCain’s running mate. At stops in Des Moines, Ames and Mason City, the two men repeatedly heaped praise on each other but danced around a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer.” [Star Tribune, 3/16/07]
 - **Pawlenty Criticized for Leaving Minnesota to Campaign with McCain.** “Even before Pawlenty hit the stage in Ames, Brian Melendez, Minnesota DFL Party chair, issued a statement criticizing Pawlenty for politicking instead of focusing on floods in western Minnesota. ‘The governor is once again putting his national ambitions ahead of Minnesotans’ interests,’ Melendez said. ‘Western Minnesota is flooding and local officials are seeking disaster relief, but Governor Pawlenty is spending his time campaigning for a struggling presidential candidate in Iowa.’” [Star Tribune, 3/16/07]
- **McCain Used the Term “Tar Baby” During the Iowa Campaign Swing.** According to the Des Moines Register, McCain used the slur “Tar Baby” while campaigning in for three days in Iowa. “Republican

presidential candidate John McCain used the term "tar baby," which is sometimes associated with racist connotations, during a campaign stop in northern Iowa on Friday and immediately expressed regret." [Des Moines Register, 3/17/07]

April 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on the Fiscal 2007 Intelligence Authorization Bill. [S 372, Vote [#131](#), 4/17/07]

- **McCain Planned Multiple Campaign Appearances and Fundraisers for the Day of the Vote.** According to the Arizona Republic, McCain had scheduled events in South Carolina and Georgia on April 17th but cancelled the appearances in the wake of the Virginia Tech Shootings. "He canceled all scheduled events for Tuesday, 'including meetings and fundraisers in Atlanta and a town-hall meeting in SC.'" [Arizona Republic, 4/17/07; Hotline, 4/17/17]
- **McCain Reiterated His Support for Gun Ownership In the Wake of the Virginia Tech Tragedy.** According to the AP, just a day after the shootings at Virginia Tech, McCain expressed his support for the right to bare arms. "McCain also defended his support for gun rights. McCain: 'It doesn't change my views on the Second Amendment, except to make sure that these kinds of weapons don't fall into the hands of bad people.'" [AP, 4/16; Hotline, 4/17/07]

April 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for Military Operations in Iraq and Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Programs. [HR 1591, [Vote #147](#), 4/26/07; CQ Floor Votes, [4/26/07](#)]

- **McCain Played the Beach Boy's 'Barbara Ann' at a Campaign Stop in South Carolina on the Day of the Vote.** According to CNN, after enduring criticism for adapting a Beach Boy's tune into a call for war on Iran, McCain's campaign continued to play the original song at campaign appearances. "Senator McCain, by the way, is making it clear today he will keep joking and keep pushing the envelope. Kathleen Koch just mentioned how McCain got flak for changing the words of the 'Beach Boys' hit 'Barbara Ann' into 'bomb Iran.' Guess what song the McCain played at the end of an event in South Carolina today? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ('BARBARA ANN' PLAYS) BLITZER: A McCain aide tells CNN the campaign played 'Barbara Ann' to add a little bit of levity to the campaign, to show the senator isn't -- is not going to be pushed around." [CNN's The Situation Room, 4/26/07]
- **McCain Issued a Statement From South Carolina Rather Than a Vote in the Senate.** According to Fox News, despite not being in the Senate to vote on the bill, McCain issued a statement indicating he expected the President to veto the bill. "Senator John McCain wasn't there for the vote because he was campaigning in South Carolina where he issued a statement saying he was looking forward to the president's prompt veto." [Fox News Special Report, 4/26/07]

May 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Setting a Timetable for Withdrawing Troops from Iraq. [HR 1495, Vote [#167](#), 5/16/07]

- **McCain Attended the GOP debate in South Carolina the Day Before the Vote.** "A feud that has been brewing quietly for months burst into the open Tuesday night as former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and Sen. John McCain of Arizona clashed sharply in a Republican presidential debate in South Carolina. [Washington Post, 5/17/07]

May 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Concerning Accountability for the President's Iraq Policy. [HR 1495, [Vote #168](#), 5/16/07]

- **McCain Held A Breakfast In New York City Which Required Individuals To Fundraise \$9,200 To Attend.** [JohnMcCain.com, accessed [02/05/08](#)]
- **McCain Was In New York City For His Daughter's Graduation On The Day Of The Vote.** "(McCain) then was scheduled to arrive in New York early Wednesday morning to attend the graduation of his

daughter, Meghan, at Columbia University.” [East Valley Tribune, 5/16/07]

- **McCain Gave The Keynote Speech At A “Much-Needed” New York State Republican Party Fundraiser The Day After The Vote.** “It’s his hometown, but Rudolph Giuliani of Arizona, deliver the keynote address at tonight’s annual fundraising dinner for the New York State Republican Committee... The dinner is expected to attract more than 1,000 people to the Sheraton New York Hotel on Seventh Avenue in Manhattan and provide much-needed revenue to the struggling state GOP.” [Journal News, 5/17/07]

September 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill Concerning Federalism in Iraq. [HR 1585, [Vote #349](#), 9/26/07]

- **McCain Had Diner with Actor James Gandolfini on the Day of the Vote.** “Republican John McCain shared a meal Wednesday night with more than the typical political colleague. He dined with Tony Soprano. In New York to give a speech on the military, the Arizona senator held a private dinner with James Gandolfini, the actor who played the New Jersey mob boss on HBO’s ‘The Sopranos.’” [AP, 9/27/07]

October 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on a Bill to Withdraw Troops from Iraq. [HR3222, [Vote #362](#), 10/03/07]

- **McCain Appeared at Multiple Campaign Events on the Day of the Vote.** “The senator decided to talk to students at Camden Military Academy, a grade 7-12 military prep school, about service and sacrifice. Later Wednesday, McCain spoke at a town hall meeting at the College of Charleston, promising if he was elected president he would brief the public each week on the war in Iraq.” [AP, 10/4/07]

Nov 2007: McCain Failed to Vote on Two Measures Providing Funding for the War in Iraq. [S 2340, [Vote #410](#); HR 4156, [Vote #411](#); 11/16/07]

- **A Day Before the Vote, McCain Attended Fundraiser in Sacramento.** “McCain, who held a fundraiser Thursday at the Sacramento Sheraton, said he has already told Schwarzenegger to count him in.” [[Sacramento Bee](#), 11/15/07]
- **McCain Campaigned in Colorado on the Day of the Vote.** “McCain made the announcement during a campaign stop in the Denver suburb of Centennial, where he accepted an endorsement from former interior secretary and Colorado Lt. Gov. Jane Norton.” [AP, 11/16/07]

While the Iraq War Raged, McCain held hearings on Steroids. In 2004, a time when Americans were at war in Iraq, John McCain decided to hold hearings investigating steroid use in Major League Baseball. He called on MLB to “tighten its testing program” because the sport was “about to become a fraud.” [[Washington Post](#), 12/4/04]

McCain’s Votes Against Our Troops

McCain Voted Against More Rest Time For Troops. In 2007, McCain voted against cloture on an amendment by Senator Jim Webb that would have required that soldiers receive more rest time between deployments to Iraq. McCain, who called the proposal unconstitutional, then offered an alternative amendment that would have expressed the “sense of the congress” that soldiers receive more rest time but would not have been legally binding. [NPR Morning Edition, 9/20/07; H.R. 1585, McCain Amdt. No. 2918, 9/19/07; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

McCain Voted Against Bill to Fund Troops, Set Timeline for Withdrawal. In March 2007, McCain voted against H.R. 1591, legislation to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and require that troops begin withdrawing from Iraq by October 2007. He failed to vote on the conference report. President Bush vetoed the bill. The bill

would have: Provided \$91.5 billion for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as requested by the president, \$1.2 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles, \$2.1 billion for soldier and veteran health care, \$1 billion for Guard and Reserve units to purchase equipment, \$7 billion for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and \$2 billion for port security, mass transit security, airport security and several initiatives to address the shortcomings identified by the 9/11 Commission. [H.R. 1591, thomas.loc.gov; US Fed News, 4/26/07; McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

McCain Voted Against Mandating Minimum Intervals Between Deployments for Troops. In 2007, McCain voted against an amendment that would mandate minimum intervals between deployments for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would require active duty forces to be guaranteed as much time at home as they served while deployed. National Guard and reservists would be guaranteed three years at home between deployments. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 56-44. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 1585, [Vote #341](#), 9/19/07]

McCain Voted Against Requiring Mandatory Downtime Between Tours Of Duty In Iraq. Senator McCain voted against requiring mandatory minimum downtime between tours of duty for troops serving in Iraq. The bill would provide active duty forces to be given as much time home as they were deployed. National Guard and reservists would be guaranteed three times the amount home as they served. [HR 1585, [Vote #241](#), 7/11/07]

McCain Stood Out in Opposing Veterans’ Funding. McCain was one of only 13 Republicans to vote against an amendment that added over \$400 million for inpatient and outpatient care for veterans. [Senate Roll Call Vote #98, 4/26/06; DNC Release 1/9/08]

McCain Voted To Slash \$2 Billion From U.S. Troops. McCain voted to cut \$2 billion in crucial funding for Pennsylvania soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, including funding for military pay and benefits, operations and maintenance, Iraqi security force training programs and even medical care. Senator Harry Reid argued that the Santorum-backed amendment would “rob Peter to pay Paul.” [HR 4939, Vote 94, 4/26/06; Reid Statement, 4/26/06]

McCain Voted Against Funding for Body Armor: In 2003, McCain voted to table an amendment by Senator Mary Landrieu to the fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations bill for the Iraq war. Her amendment would have added more than \$1 billion to the bill for the procurement of “National Guard and Reserve Equipment.” According to Landrieu, the amendment targeted “shortfalls identified by the National Guard and Reserve in their Unfunded Requirement lists,” including the “shortage of helmets, tents, bullet-proof inserts, and tactical vests.” Later in 2003, McCain voted to table an amendment by Senator Chris Dodd to an emergency supplemental war funding bill. The amendment would have added \$322 million for small arms protection inserts (SAPI) body armor and battlefield cleanup. [Media Matters, [9/21/06](#); McCain Military Issues Research Memo, 1/06/08]

Consistently Voted To Spend More And More On Defense Spending...

McCain Voted for \$70B for Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq With No Conditions. In 2007, McCain voted for a amendment to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill to provide \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with no conditions. A “yea” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion passed 70-25. [Council for a Livable World; CQ Floor Votes; HR 2764, [Vote #439](#), 12/18/07]

McCain Failed to Vote to Proceed on \$50B Funding for Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would appropriate \$50 billion in emergency supplemental funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for fiscal 2008. The bill would require troops to begin withdrawing from Iraq within 30 days of enactment, with a goal of withdrawing most troops by Dec. 15, 2008. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 53-45. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 4156, Vote [#411](#), 11/16/07]

McCain Failed to Vote on Motion to Proceed to Appropriate Funds for Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., motion to proceed to the bill that would appropriate \$70 billion in emergency supplemental funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for fiscal 2008. A “yea” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 45-53. [CQ Floor Votes; S 2340, [Vote #410](#), 11/16/07]

McCain Voted Against The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill. Senator McCain voted against the emergency supplemental appropriations bill that provided funding for the troops in Iraq as well as a plan for withdrawal. McCain voted nay. [H.R.1591, [Vote # 126](#), 3/29/07, passed 51-47]

McCain Voted For \$82 Billion In Emergency Supplemental Spending For FY '05. In 2005, McCain voted for \$82 billion in emergency supplemental spending for FY05, including funding for military operations, reconstruction and security in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill passed 100-0. [HR 1268, [Vote #117](#), 5/10/05]

McCain Voted To Authorize An Additional \$25 Billion For Military Operations In Iraq And Afghanistan. In 2004, McCain voted for the Warner Amendment that would authorize an additional \$25 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amendment passed 95-0. [S 2400, [Vote #106](#), 6/2/04]

McCain Voted For Passage Of \$86.5 Billion In Emergency Spending For Military Operations And Reconstruction In Iraq And Afghanistan. In 2003, McCain voted for passage of the bill that would appropriate \$86.5 billion in fiscal 2004 supplemental spending for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill passed 87-12. [S 1689, [Vote #400](#), 10/17/03]

...WHILE REJECTING PROPOSALS TO MONITOR SPENDING OR GENERATE REVENUE

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Submit A Budget For Military Operations In Iraq and Afghanistan for the Following Year. In 2003, McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table the Dorgan amendment which requires the President to submit a budget amendment for FY 2004, which sets forth the cost of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The motion passed 53-41. [HR 2658, [Vote #278](#), 7/16/03]

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Seek Congressional Approval To Spend \$20 Billion On Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted to kill an amendment that would require the President to seek Congressional approval through the appropriations process to spend \$20 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq. The motion passed 49-46. [S 1689, [Vote #398](#), 10/17/03; Congressional Record, 10/17/03]

McCain Voted Against Forcing Bush To Offset Spending for the War In Iraq By Increasing Revenues. In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would express the sense of the Senate that the President should, within 60 days of enactment, submit a proposal to the Senate Finance Committee to raise sufficient revenues to offset the funds spent in this bill for the war in Iraq; and if the President does not submit such a proposal, the Finance Committee should put forward its own proposal. The motion to table the amendment passed 79-18. [S.Amdt. 479 to S. 762, [Vote #121](#), 4/03/03; Hollings Floor Statement, CR page, S4781, 4/3/03]

McCain Voted Against Reducing Top Tax Cuts To Pay For \$87 Billion Request for Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table Biden, et al., amendment, which reduces tax cuts for top income tax rates from 2005-2010 in order to fund \$87 billion requested for Iraq. The motion passed 57-42. [S 1689, [Vote #373](#), 10/2/03]

Consistently Voted Against Withdrawing Troops

McCain Voted Against Urging U.S. Forces In Iraq To Transition To More Limited Operations. In 2007, McCain voted against an amendment that would express the sense of Congress that the U.S. armed forces in Iraq should be transitioned to a more limited set of missions, including counterterrorism operations, force protection,

and training, equipping and supporting Iraqi forces, with the goal of completing that transition by the end of 2008. The amendment failed 50-45. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 2764, [Vote #438](#), 12/18/07]

McCain Voted Against Requiring President to Begin Phased Redeployment of Troops in Iraq. In 2007, McCain voted against an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Bill to require all U.S. troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by nine months after the date of enactment except for counterterrorism, training and protection of U.S. infrastructure and personnel. The amendment failed 24-71. [Council for a Livable World; CQ Floor Votes; HR 2764, [Vote #437](#), 12/18/07]

McCain Failed to Vote On Withdrawal of Troops In Iraq. In 2007, McCain failed to vote on an amendment that mandated the beginning of the withdrawal of most American forces from Iraq 90 days after enactment of the bill, with funds cut off for any American forces remaining in Iraq after June 30, 2008 except for counterterrorism, training and protection of U.S. infrastructure and personnel. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The Senate also passed the bill, as amended, by voice vote. The amendment failed 28-68. [Council for a Livable World; CQ Floor Votes; HR 3222, [Vote #362](#), 10/03/07]

McCain Opposed Requiring Reduction of Forces in Iraq. In 2007, McCain voted against an amendment that would require the Defense secretary to begin the reduction of U.S. forces in Iraq within 90 days of enactment. It also would require the secretary to complete within nine months of enactment the transition of forces in Iraq to a limited presence for missions like protecting U.S. and coalition personnel and infrastructure; training, equipping and providing logistic support to the Iraqi security forces; and engaging in counterterrorism operations against al Qaeda and other international terrorist organizations. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The amendment failed 47-47. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 1585, [Vote #346](#), 9/21/07]

McCain Opposed Redeployment of US Troop From Iraq. In 2007, McCain voted against an amendment that would require the redeployment of most U.S. troops from Iraq to begin within 90 days of enactment. It also would bar the use of funds for deployment in Iraq of members of the U.S. armed forces after June 30, 2008, with limited exceptions, including troops providing security for U.S. government personnel and infrastructure, training the Iraqi security forces and conducting limited targeted operations against members of al Qaeda and other affiliated international terrorist organizations. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The amendment failed 28-70. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 1585, [Vote #345](#), 9/20/07]

McCain Voted Against Mandating a Drawdown and Redeployment of US Forces in Iraq. In 2007, McCain voted against a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on an amendment that would mandate a drawdown and redeployment of U.S. forces in Iraq, with certain exceptions, by the end of April 2008. Redeployment would begin within 120 days of enactment. Troop activity in Iraq would be limited to protecting U.S. personnel, training Iraqi security forces and conducting counterterrorism operations against al Qaeda and other international terrorist organizations. A “nay” was a vote in support of the president’s position. The motion failed 52-47. [CQ Floor Votes; HR 1585, [Vote #252](#), 7/18/07]

McCain Failed To Vote On Debate Of A Bill Requiring Redeployment Of Troops. Senator McCain failed to vote on debate of an amendment that would require the withdrawal U.S. troops from Iraq except for limited missions by March 31, 2008. The Levin amendment would commence redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq by October 1, 2007, and require full withdrawal within 180 days, but allow the president to waive the second requirement. [HR 1495, [Vote #167](#), 5/16/07]

McCain Stood With The President And Voted Against Bringing The Troops In Iraq Home. Senator McCain voted to strike language that would impose a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. McCain voted yea. [S.Amdt. 643 to H.R. 1591, [Vote # 116](#), 3/27/07, failed 48-50]

McCain Failed to Vote to Bring Our Troops Home. Senator McCain failed to vote on the passage of the joint resolution that would establish a more limited mission for U.S. forces in Iraq and set a non-binding goal of withdrawing most combat troops by March 2008. McCain did not vote. [S.J.Res. 9, [Vote # 75](#), 3/15/07, failed 48-50]

McCain Voted Against Redeployment Of American Troops Out Of Iraq In 2006. Senator McCain voted against the Levin-Reed Amendment, which urged the Administration to begin a phased redeployment of American troops out of Iraq in 2006. McCain voted nay. [S. Amdt. 4320 to C.R. 6090-6091, [Vote #182](#), 6/22/06, failed 39-60]

McCain Voted Against Redeploying Troops Out Of Iraq. Senator McCain voted against an amendment that would require the president to begin redeploying U.S. troops from Iraq this year and to complete the withdrawal by July 1, 2007, according to a schedule coordinated with the Iraqi government. It would stipulate that only the minimal number of forces needed to train Iraqi security forces, launch targeted counterterrorism attacks and protect the forces could remain in Iraq. [S 2766, S Amdt 4442, [Vote #181](#), 6/22/06]

McCain Voted Against Holding The President Accountable For A Plan To Bring Troops Safely Out of Iraq. Senator McCain voted against an amendment which would have held the Bush Administration accountable by requiring it to submit a plan for Iraq estimated withdrawal dates for U.S. troops. McCain voted nay. [S. Amdt. 2519 to S. 1042, [Vote #322](#), 11/15/2005, failed 40-58]

Opposed Holding Iraq Government Accountable

McCain Failed To Vote To Allow The President To Get Around Benchmark Requirements. Senator McCain failed to vote to require the president to withhold funding for military operations in Iraq if the Iraqi government fails to meet certain benchmarks. The president could waive the requirement if he submits in writing to Congress a justification for the waiver. [HR 1495, [Vote #168](#), 5/16/07]

McCain Failed To Vote To Require The Iraq Government To Meet Benchmarks. Senator McCain failed to vote on a conference report on the bill that provided \$124.2 billion in fiscal 2007 emergency funding, it also set a goal for redeployment of troops in Iraq by the end of March 2008. If the president can not verify that the Iraq government is meeting benchmarks then the troops would redeploy by the end of 2007. The legislation also provides \$95.9 billion for military operations, \$6.9 for hurricane recovery and \$3.5 billion for crop programs. [HR 1591, [Vote #147](#), 4/26/07]

Opposed Holding Bush Accountable

McCain Voted Against Requiring President To Report To Congress With Timetable And Campaign Plan. In 2005, Frist voted against the Levin amendment that stated that U.S. military forces should not stay in Iraq “indefinitely” and required the president to report to Congress with a timetable for withdrawal and a campaign plan, including dates, outlining phased redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq. The amendment failed 40-58. [S 1042, [Vote #322](#), [11/15/05](#)]

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Seek Congressional Approval To Spend \$20 Billion On Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted to kill an amendment that would require the President to seek Congressional approval through the appropriations process to spend \$20 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq. The motion passed 49-46. [S 1689, [Vote #398](#), 10/17/2003; Congressional Record, 10/17/03]

McCain Voted Against Creating Iraqi Intelligence Commission. Senator McCain voted to table the Corzine Amendment, which would have created a 12-member independent commission to investigate the development and use of intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq. McCain voted yea. [S. Amdt. 1275 to H.R. 2658, [Vote # 284](#), 7/16/03, passed 51-45]

McCain Voted Against Requiring The President To Submit A Report On The US Strategy Related To Post-Conflict Iraq. In 2003, McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table the Kennedy-Leahy-Durbin amendment which requires the President to submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, within 30 days after enactment, on the United States strategy regarding activities related to post-conflict security, humanitarian

assistance, governance, and reconstruction in Iraq that are undertaken as a result of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The motion passed 52-43. [HR 2658, [Vote #283](#), 7/16/03]

McCain Voted Against Requiring the President To Submit A Budget For Military Operations In Iraq and Afghanistan for the Following Year. McCain voted for the Stevens motion to table the Dorgan amendment which requires the President to submit a budget amendment for FY 2004, which sets forth the cost of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The motion passed 53-41. [HR 2658, [Vote #278](#), 7/16/03]

McCain Voted To Give Blank Check To President For War In Iraq. Senator McCain voted for the first pre-emptive military strike in United States history against a foreign nation (Iraq Use of Force Resolution). This vote gave Bush what critics call a “blank check” in the war on Iraq. McCain voted yea. [H.J. Res. 114, [Vote # 237](#), 10/11/02]

- **McCain Voted Against Amendment to Clarify Authorization Would Not Alter Constitutional Authority of Congress to Declare War.** In 2002, McCain voted against the Byrd, D-W.Va., amendment to the Lieberman, D-Conn., substitute amendment. The Byrd amendment would clarify that any authorization of the use of force against Iraq would not alter the constitutional authority of Congress to declare war. It also would clarify that no additional authority not directly related to a clear threat of imminent, sudden and direct attack on the United States be granted to the president unless Congress authorizes it. The substitute amendment would authorize the use of force against Iraq and require the administration to report to Congress that diplomatic options have been exhausted before, but not more than 48 hours after, action would begin. The president would also be required to submit a progress report to Congress at least every 60 days. Rejected 14-86: R 1-48; D 12-38 (ND 12-29, SD 0-9); I 1-0. [S J Res 45, Vote 234, 10/10/02]

Public Perception Of McCain Intrinsically Tied To War

McCain Signaled He Would Make National Security His Main Issue In 2008. According to the *Washington Post* the speeches made by John McCain and his supporters and the Conservative Political Action Conference hinted that national security would once again be the GOP's biggest campaign issue. [[Washington Post, 2/8/08](#)]

McCain Wins Helped By Anti-war Independents: Bizarre. According to an op-ed in the LA Times, McCain is winning primaries thanks to anti-war voters, despite being fervently pro-war. The Op-Ed stated, ‘But there's a bizarre disconnect in the warm embrace between McCain and the electorate's mavericks. They hate the Iraq war, while he's willing to fight it for another century. The most pro-war presidential candidate in a decade is winning the 2008 GOP nomination thanks to the antiwar vote. A full 66% of independents think that the U.S. should completely withdraw from Iraq no later than 12 months from now, according to a Jan. 18-22 L.A. Times/Bloomberg poll. McCain, meanwhile, said last month that the U.S. might stay in Baghdad for another 100 years. He continually expresses bafflement at the idea that that might not be such a good thing. ‘It's not the point! It's not the point!’ he snarled at reporters recently. ‘How long are we going to be in Korea?’ And yet he dominated the antiwar vote in New Hampshire, with 44% to Romney's 19%, according to CNN exit polls. Ron Paul, the only actual antiwar Republican running, drew just 16% of voters who said they were against the war. The three finished in the same order among antiwar voters in Michigan, even though Romney won the state overall’’ [LA Times, [2/1/08](#)]

New York Times: McCain Owes Americans Explanation of How He Would Win War. *New York Times* endorsed McCain in the Republican presidential primary. The editorial board stated “We wish he could now see as clearly past the temporary victories produced by Mr. Bush’s unsustainable escalation (in Iraq), which have not led to any change in Iraq’s murderous political calculus. At the least, he owes Americans a real idea of how he would win this war, which he says he can do...” [Editorial, [New York Times, 1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain: Wars Must Be Explainable in "One or Two Sentences."** When asked the single most important lesson of Vietnam, McCain responded, “I think it's very difficult to encapsulate in one, but I would certainly agree with what was said before, but I would add to that that whatever commitment we

make must be readily explainable to the man in the street in one or two sentences, because without -- even if our national security interests have been involved, which we're having trouble defining, obviously, it's got to be explainable to the American public if we expect any sustained support for that effort. So I'd say that that is, in addition to what was said before, is also a major part of the lesson." [The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, [4/30/85](#)]

McCain Has Become Favored Primary G.O.P. Candidate Of Antiwar Voters. According to the *Boston Globe*, "In New Hampshire, McCain overwhelmingly won the votes of the one-third of Republican-primary voters who told exit pollsters they "strongly" or "somewhat" oppose the war, and trailed Mitt Romney by over 20 points among those who strongly support it. In Michigan, where McCain lost to Romney, the Arizona senator also carried antiwar voters while losing among those backing the conflict... The unlikely base of support for McCain, who once summarized his unyielding resistance to the antiwar cause with the slogan 'No Surrender,' has been central to his campaign's resurgence." [*Boston Globe*, [1/25/08](#)]

- **McCain Draws Support From War Skeptics And Boosters By Supporting War But Criticizing Bush War Management And Dems For Withdrawal.** According to the *Boston Globe*, while campaigning throughout the 2008 Republican primaries, McCain has drawn both Iraq war supporters and skeptics by "...criticizing both the Bush administration's wartime management and Democratic opponents he said wanted to 'set a date for surrender.'" In this way the *Globe* points out that "McCain [has been] able to present himself as a candidate who both supported the war and best understood the costs of what he calls 'our failure in Iraq.'" [*Boston Globe*, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Did Best In S.C. Among Voters Concerned With Experience And Iraq War And Veterans.

According to the *New York Times*, among South Carolina voters, McCain "...did best among voters who said experience was the most important quality in a candidate, among those who said the Iraq war and terrorism were their top concerns and among the state's veterans, who made up a quarter of the vote." Also according to the *Times*, McCain drew strong support from independents. [*New York Times*, [1/20/08](#)]

Real Clear Politics Editorial Stated the War Is McCain's Only "Right" Position. According to Robert Tracinski, columnist for *Real Clear Politics*, John McCain must be stopped to "save Republicans." Tracinski pointed out that while McCain may have widespread appeal as a winnable G.O.P. frontrunner, and a staunch advocate of the War on Terrorism, McCain would be "...a suicidal choice for Republicans, because on every issues other than the war, he stands for capitulation to the left." Tracinski said, "There are three big domestic issues that will be decided by the 2008 election: socialized medicine, higher taxes, and global warming regulations. The Democrats are in favor of all three--and John McCain won't stop them." Tracinski asserted that "...the best hope to save Republicans from McCain is the one candidate who hasn't yet fully entered the race--but who will finally have his chance against McCain in Florida: Rudy Giuliani." [Column, *Real Clear Politics*, [1/22/08](#)]

Peter Canellos: McCain's Reputation Tied to Bush's Handling Of Iraq. Peter Canellos, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, wrote that McCain, "a frank neoconservative who envisions Iraq as part of a global war on terrorism that is at least as expansive as Bush's," may start to be "linked in the public mind with Bush's failures" on the war. Canellos theorized that "once more troops head into the war zone, McCain's credibility will be on the line. A year from now, barring an unexpected decision to forgo the presidential race, McCain will face Republican primary voters. If the situation on the ground hasn't improved, his rivals are certain to hold him at least partially responsible for the flawed strategy." [*Boston Globe*, [1/9/07](#)]

Los Angeles Times: If Troop Surge Fails, McCain's Prospects Dim. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that McCain's credibility is on the line with his support for escalation in Iraq. "As a Vietnam POW and decorated Navy officer, Sen. John McCain has based much of his political persona on his support for the military and his credibility on national security. But as the Arizona Republican prepares to mount a White House campaign, he is putting those military bona fides on the line - aggressively backing an unpopular plan to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq at a time when other presidential hopefuls are steering clear of the war or calling for troop reductions. ... Beyond Bush, no politician has more to lose than McCain, the presumed GOP front-runner in 2008 and the plan's biggest backer in Congress." [*Los Angeles Times*, [1/8/07](#)]

McCain Leveraged Possible Short Term Military Success at the Peril of Long Term Political Success.

Richard Cohen wrote in the *Washington Post* that on Iraq, "McCain leads a charge whose mission cannot be defined and whose sound is increasingly grating to the American people." Noting that "if additional troops could succeed in tamping down the level of violence in Baghdad, we have learned enough about Iraq to suggest that it would be only a temporary reprieve," Cohen concluded that "to secure Baghdad for a brief time, McCain risks losing Washington forever." Cohen also wrote that McCain's continued calls to escalate forces in Iraq showed a pattern from his thoughts on the Vietnam War, writing, "If this were McCain's only example of looking to solve a problem by force or additional force, it might not loom so large ... But his position regarding Iraq is really no different from the one he once held, and still does, about Vietnam – 'a noble cause,' he has called that misbegotten war. There, too, he felt that a greater U.S. effort would have resulted in an American victory. Not likely."

[Washington Post, 12/19/06]

CFR Fellow: McCain's Slide on Iraq Policy Could "Eclipse" Maverick Image. Peter Beinart, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote that Iraq was causing a sharp decline in McCain's support. Beinart wrote, McCain's "lead in a hypothetical face-off against Hillary Clinton, which once regularly topped ten points, has dwindled to nothing. That has a lot to do with his stance on Iraq, and, with the war about to escalate, his slide may well continue. By next year, McCain's government-reforming, straight-talking image could be largely eclipsed by his role as cheerleader-in-chief for an Iraq policy Americans can't stand. Give McCain his due: He's acting from conviction. He's doing exactly what pundits always demand of politicians--ignoring the consultants, ignoring the polls, and doing what he thinks is right. At this point, McCain's position probably hurts him even in the Republican primary. It's one of the more remarkable episodes in recent political memory." [The New Republic, 1/22/07]

McCain's Calls for More Troops Are "Suicidal," Out Of the GOP Mainstream, And Driven By a "Weakness" That Could Cost Him the Presidency. While other Republicans began suggesting course corrections in Iraq including fewer troops, McCain has called for the opposite, and in doing so "has distanced him from the mainstream of his party." The New York Times reported that McCain "is virtually an army of one ... in calling for an increase in American forces in Iraq[.]" The Times went on to note that "his position on Iraq could be a major complication" to his White House aspirations. Alan Wolfe, a political scientist at Boston College called McCain's continued support of the war "suicidal," adding that McCain was "hurting himself with many independent voters, and many Republicans." A military analyst with the Brookings Institute, Michael E. O'Hanlon, said McCain's refusal to acknowledge the reality of the war in Iraq "may be exposing a weakness in his thinking that ultimately deprives him of the presidency." [Boston Globe, 10/24/06; New York Times, 11/14/06]

McCain Has Universal Respect, Will Be Honest, Even If Many Disagree With His Iraq Policy. William Arkin, of the *Washington Post*, said that although many people disagree with John McCain's views on Iraq, they do have almost universal respect for him. He also said that McCain made a "plausible argument" when he pointed out that he had been involved in every national security issue over the past 20 years and was the only candidate with the experience needed to lead in these difficult times. [Washington Post, 1/4/08]

McCain's Pre-2001 Military Perspective

McCain Was "Unleashed" By 9/11. The February 11, 2008 issue of *American Conservative* wrote, "Other politicians were transformed by 9/11. McCain was unleashed. His strategy of "rogue state rollback" was exactly what the neoconservatives in the Bush administration had in mind, and yet, ever mindful to somehow stand out from the pack while still going along with the program, the senator took umbrage at Rumsfeld's apparent unwillingness to chew up the U.S. military in an endless occupation. He publicly dissented from the "light footprint" strategy championed by the Department of Defense. More troops, more force, more of everything—that is McCain's solution to every problem in our newly conquered province." [American Conservative, 2/11/08]

McCain Opposed Reagan's Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon. On the floor of the House, McCain stood up as one of 27 Republicans to oppose Reagan's mission in Lebanon. McCain stated, "The longer we stay in Lebanon, the harder it will be for us to leave. We will be trapped by the case we make for having troops there in the first place." Additionally McCain said, "What can we expect if we withdraw from Lebanon? The same as will happen

if we stay. I acknowledge that the level of fighting will increase if we leave. I regretfully acknowledge that many innocent civilians will be hurt. But I firmly believe this will happen in any event." [[America Conservative Magazine](#), 2/11/08]

- **Lebanon Vote Gained McCain National Spotlight By Bucking GOP.** In 1983, McCain opposed a resolution allowing President Reagan to keep troops deployed in Lebanon for an additional 18 months. McCain stated, "I do not foresee obtainable objectives in Lebanon. I believe the longer we stay, the more difficult it will be to leave, and I am prepared to accept the consequences of our withdrawal." [[Arizona Republic](#), [3/1/07](#)]
- **McCain "Eager" to Become Maverick After Vote Gained Attention.** The Lebanon vote "caught the attention of the Washington press corps, who tend to notice acts of political independence from unexpected quarters," wrote McCain. "Now I was debating Lebanon on programs like the *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour* and in the pages of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. I was gratified by the attention and was eager for more. [[[Arizona Republic](#), [3/1/07](#)]]

1990: McCain Opposed Ground War With Iraqis. *The New York Times* quoted McCain as saying, "If you get involved in a major ground war in the Saudi desert, I think support will erode significantly. Nor should it be supported. We cannot even contemplate, in my view, trading American blood for Iraqi blood." [[New York Times](#), 8/19/90; [American Conservative Magazine](#), 2/11/08]

1991: McCain Voted for Use of Force in Iraq. In 1991, McCain voted for the passage of the joint resolution to authorize the use of military force if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait and complied with U.N. Security Council resolutions by January 15. The resolution authorizes the use of force and the expenditure of funds under the War Powers act and requires the president to report to Congress every 60 days on the efforts to obtain Iraqi compliance with the U.N. resolutions. Passed 52-47: R 42-2; D 10-45 (ND 3-35, SD 7-10); I 0-0. [Vote #2, 1/12/91]

- **McCain Voted Against Continuing Sanctions and Diplomatic Efforts to Pressure Iraq to Withdraw from Kuwait.** In 1991, McCain voted against passage of the joint resolution to express the sense of Congress that the wisest course of action at the time was to continue international sanctions and diplomatic efforts to pressure Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The resolution declared that the president must obtain congressional approval before undertaking an offensive action against Iraq and provides for expedited procedures for a presidential request for the use of such force. Rejected 46-53: R 1-43; D 45-10; I 0-0. [Vote #1, 1/12/91]

McCain: We Cannot Involve Ourselves Militarily Without the Support of the American People. While speaking about the situation in Haiti, McCain said, "It's a lesson of the Vietnam War we cannot forget, which is: we cannot involve ourselves militarily without the support of the American people." [[New York Times](#), [9/16/94](#)]

McCain Voted for Use of Force in Yugoslavia. In 1999, McCain voted against motion to table (kill) the joint resolution that would authorize the president to "use all necessary force and other means," in concert with U.S. allies, to accomplish U.S. and NATO objectives in Yugoslavia. Motion agreed to 78-22: R 46-9; D 32-13 (ND 28-9, SD 4-4); I 0-0. [S J Res 20, Vote #98, 5/04/99]

- **McCain Voted for Deployment of US Ground Troops in Yugoslavia.** In 1999, McCain voted for a motion to table (kill) the Specter, R-Pa., amendment that would prohibit the use of Defense Department funds for deployment of U.S. ground troops in Yugoslavia, except for peacekeeping personnel, unless Congress declares war or enacts a joint resolution authorizing the use of military force. Motion agreed to 52-48: R 17-38; D 35-10 (ND 29-8, SD 6-2); I 0-0. [S 105, Vote #145, 5/25/99]

McCain Supported Military Action in Kosovo. According the *American Conservative*, McCain repeatedly said "We're in it, and we've gotta win it!" [[American Conservative Magazine](#), 2/11/08]

McCain Voted Against Terminating Funding for Continued Deployment in Kosovo. In 2000, McCain voted for an amendment that would strike the provision in the bill that would terminate funding for continued deployment of U.S. ground troops in Kosovo after July 1, 2001, unless Congress authorizes the deployment. The provision also would state that not more than 75 percent of the fiscal 2000 supplemental spending for Kosovo could be obligated until the president certifies that European allies are paying 33 percent of reconstruction assistance, 75 percent of humanitarian assistance, 75 percent of general administrative costs, and 75 percent of the civilian police force. If the administration did not certify those requirements by July 15, the remaining money could be used only to withdraw troops from Kosovo. Adopted 53-47: R 15-40; D 38-7 (ND 32-5, SD 6-2); I 0-0. [S 2521, Vote #105, 5/18/00]

- **McCAIN: Victory Will Not Be Hastened by Pretending That Things Have Just Gone Swimmingly.** While speaking to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, McCain said, "I think it is safe to assume that no one, including me, anticipated the speed with which Serbia would defeat our objectives in Kosovo, and the scope of that defeat. After stating that NATO would eventually prevail, he said, "victory will not be hastened by pretending that things have just gone swimmingly." [[American Conservative Magazine, 2/11/08](#)]

1994: McCain Argued For Withdrawing From Haiti Even If the Situation Was Not Stable. In arguing in favor of a resolution to withdraw from Haiti, McCain said, the "resolution offers support for the withdrawal of United States Armed Forces as soon as possible. In my view that does not mean as soon as order is restored to Haiti. It does not mean as soon as democracy is flourishing in Haiti. It does not mean as soon as we have established a viable nation in Haiti. As soon as possible means as soon we can get out of Haiti without losing any American lives." [Congressional Record, 10/6/94; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

1993: McCain: "Can Anyone Seriously Argue That Another 6 Months of United States Forces in Harm's Way Means the Difference Between Peace and Prosperity in Somalia." Speaking on the floor of the Senate in October 1993 McCain said, "Mr. President, our mission in Somalia is over. It is time to come home. Our mission in Somalia was to feed a million starving Somali who needed to be fed. It was not an open-ended commitment. It was not a commission of nation building, not warlord hunting, or any of the other extraneous activities which we seem to have been engaged in... Mr. President, can anyone seriously argue that another 6 months of United States forces in harm's way means the difference between peace and prosperity in Somalia and war and starvation there? Is that very dim prospect worth one more American life? No, it is not." [Senate Record, 139 Cong Rec S 13480; DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08]

Judiciary

McCain Vowed To Follow In Bush's Footsteps With Judges. While speaking at CPAC, McCain said, ““I intend to nominate judges who have proven themselves worthy of our trust [in] that they take as their sole responsibility the enforcement of laws made by the people’s elected representatives, judges of the character and quality of Justices Roberts and Alito.”” [Politico, [2/11/08](#)]

McCain Promised to Appoint “Clones” of Roberts and Alito. While visiting Atlanta, McCain promised to appoint “clones” of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. [[Los Angeles Times, 2/3/08](#)]

Novak: McCain Likely Called Alito “Too Conservative.” Robert Novak refuted McCain’s claim that he would appoint “clones” of Roberts and Alito. McCain apparently told a group of conservative lawyers that he supported John Roberts, but thought Alito was “too conservative” and “wore conservatism on his sleeve.” Novak also challenged McCain to deliver ‘straight talk’ about Alito and taxes at the upcoming CPAC event. [[Washington Post, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain Denied John Fund’s Allegations That He Would Appoint Supreme Court Nominees In Mold Of Roberts But Not Alito. According to the *Baltimore Sun*’s “The Swamp”, columnist John Fund of the *Wall Street Journal* apparently reported that McCain “...has told ‘conservatives’ that he would support Supreme Court nominees in the mold of John Roberts, but not Samuel Alito.” [[Baltimore Sun via The Swamp, 1/28/08](#)]

- **McCain Responded “I Want To Find Clones Of Alito And Roberts.”** According to the *Baltimore Sun*’s “The Swamp” the *National Review*’s Byron York asked McCain about a report, by columnist John Fund, that McCain would support Supreme Court nominees in the mold of John Roberts but not Alito. McCain responded, “Let me just look you in the eye. I’ve said a thousand times on this campaign trail, I’ve said as often as I can, that I want to find clones of Alito and Roberts. I worked as hard as anybody to get them confirmed. I look you in the eye and tell you I’ve said a thousand times that I wanted Alito and Roberts. I have told anybody who will listen. I flat-out tell you I will have people as close to Roberts and Alito [as possible], and I am proud of my record of working to get them confirmed, and people who worked to get them confirmed will tell you how hard I worked.” [[Baltimore Sun via The Swamp, 1/28/08](#)]

McCain Said He Supports Judges That Strictly Interpret Constitution, Don’t Legislate From Bench.

According to CNN, while McCain was campaigning in the “conservative Florida Panhandle” on the Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, “...McCain cited Chief Justice John Roberts as a model jurist.” He said, “I’m proud of my support for those judges to the bench that strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States and do not legislate from the bench.” [CNN, [1/23/08](#)]

GOP Strategist: McCain Could Have Trouble Winning Over Conservatives On Supreme Court Judge Issue.

According to CBS News, “McCain and his surrogates have made some overtures to skeptical conservatives by stressing that McCain will pick strict constructionist judges as president.” GOP Strategist Greg Mueller commented on the issue, “It’s a huge issue for Republicans, a party crossing issue...The next president could appoint two, three, even four Supreme Court judges. If McCain goes out and talks about that, it’s going to be a reminder to the conservative base of the party – ‘who do you want picking your judges?’” [CBS News, [1/23/08](#)]

Labor

McCain Promised Compensation For Displaced Workers

McCain Promised to Overhaul Unemployment Insurance. According to McCain's economic plan, "John McCain will overhaul unemployment insurance and make it a program for retraining, relocating and assisting workers who have lost a job. The unemployment insurance system needs to be modernized to meet the goals of helping displaced workers make ends meet between jobs and moving people quickly on to the next opportunity. John McCain will reform the half-dozen training programs to approaches that can be used to meet the bills, pay for training, and get back to work. John McCain believes that we can strengthen community colleges and technical training, and give displaced workers more choices to find their way back to productive and prosperous lives."

[John McCain 2008 web site, accessed [1/22/08](#)]

McCain: "If Someone Has to Work at McDonald's, I Will Compensate Them for the Loss of Income for Some Period of Time." According to the *Detroit Free Press*, "McCain said that a displaced worker who ends up at a fast-food restaurant or other lower-paying job shouldn't be penalized because the economy is changing. ... The concept could be costly in Michigan. Thousands of autoworkers, who are paid an average of \$28 per hour, have lost jobs in recent years, and national surveys have shown that fast-food workers make an average of \$7.50 to \$8 per hour. ... 'If someone has to work at McDonald's, I will compensate them for the loss of income for some period of time,' McCain said. 'We need to compensate them for the difference as an incentive to stay in the workforce.' ... McCain said he would reallocate money spent on existing retraining programs to help pay for his proposal, although he had no estimate on how much it would cost." [Detroit Free Press, [12/20/07](#)]

MCCAIN PLAN COULD COST \$400 TO \$500 BILLION

Danish-Style "Flexicurity" System Could Cost Some \$400 to \$500 Billion. According to the *U.S. News & World Report*, "This is an idea [McCain's plan to compensate displaced workers] that Democrats have been inching toward: a move to a Danish-style 'flexicurity' system. In that country, workers who lose their jobs have almost their entire salary replaced by the government but are also required by the government to aggressively look for new employment or accept retraining in a new field. It's very expensive. For the United States, completely copying the Danish model—lauded by many as a response to globalization-inspired worker angst—could cost some \$400 billion to \$500 billion a year if it is as expensive for us as it is for the Danes. Now what McCain seems to be proposing is a more modest 'wage insurance' idea. Under a plan originally put forward by Brookings Institution economist Robert Litan and University of California-Santa Cruz economics Prof. Lori Kletzer, a laid-off worker who once earned \$40,000 and found a new job paying just \$30,000 would receive \$5,000 a year--broken down into quarterly payments--for two years after the initial layoff. Such a plan might cost \$4 billion a year." [*U.S. News & World Report*, [12/24/07](#)]

U.S. News & World Report: "This Is McCain's Response To Globalization Or, More Accurately, His Response To Worker Concerns About Globalization." According to the *U.S. News & World Report*, "My take: Clearly, this is McCain's version of his hero Teddy Roosevelt's Square Deal. Just as that plan was TR's governmental pushback against unfettered capitalism, this is McCain's response to globalization or, more accurately, his response to worker concerns about globalization. And maybe it would be a smart move. By reducing worker worry, wage insurance makes it more likely that America will continue to embrace free trade. Of course, there are downsides here. First, it could make U.S. labor markets less mobile and dynamic as there would be less incentive for workers to get back into the workforce or start a new business because of Uncle Sam's largess—especially if the carrot isn't accompanied by a stick. Second, the program might grow ever bigger, becoming a massive new entitlement. The McCain brand has two big components: tough on defense, tough on spending. Not sure how proposing something that could become pricier than the Great Society or New Deal fits into that." [*U.S. News & World Report*, [12/24/07](#)]

Previously Opposed Unemployment Compensation

McCain Voted Against Increasing Spending On Unemployment Insurance By Reducing The Bush Tax Cuts.

In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would increase spending on unemployment insurance by \$16.3 billion in 2003 and 2004, offset by a reduction in tax cuts. The amendment would double the program's length to 26 weeks and expand it to include part-time and low-wage workers. [SCR23, [Vote #85](#), 3/25/03]

McCain Voted Against Amendment to Benefit Laid-Off Airline Workers. In 2001, McCain was one of 44 Republicans to kill an amendment to the Aviation Security bill that would have provided 20 weeks of unemployment and 12 months of health care benefits to laid-off airline workers after 9-11 terrorist attacks. Sen. Jean Carnahan (D-MO), the sponsor of the measure, withdrew her proposal after Democrats fell four votes shy of the 60 votes needed to defeat this GOP filibuster. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/12/01; [Vote #293](#), 10/11/01]

McCain Voted Against Unemployment Compensation. In 1991, McCain voted against an estimated \$6.4 billion for up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits based on a state's unemployment rate. McCain voted against the adoption of a conference report on a bill that established a temporary emergency unemployment compensation program, fully funded from the Unemployment Trust Fund, to provide unemployment benefits to long-term unemployed workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits during the effective period of the program. The bill made unemployed workers in States with unemployment rates of six percent or higher, who exhausted their normal unemployment benefits on or after March 1, 1991, eligible for benefits. In addition, the bill established an Advisory Council on Unemployment Insurance to evaluate the unemployment compensation program and make recommendations for improvement. The report passed 65-35. [S. 1722, [Vote #213](#), 10/01/91]

HOWEVER...

McCain Voted To Extend Unemployment Benefits. In 2004, McCain voted for a proposal to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits for people who have exhausted their state jobless benefits. [S. 1805, [Vote #18](#), 2/26/04]

Family & Medical Leave

McCain Voted for Passage of Family & Medical Leave. In 1993, McCain voted for passage of the bill that required employers, with 50 or more employees, to provide their employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave annually to care for a new child or seriously ill child, parent, or spouse, or to use as medical leave if an employee is seriously ill. [H.R. 1, [Vote #11](#), 2/04/93]

HOWEVER...

McCain Voted Against Applying Family and Medical Leave Act to Qualified Volunteers in Qualified Programs. In 1993, McCain voted against a motion to table an amendment, which strikes the provisions of the Committee substitute which apply the Family and Medical Leave Act to qualified volunteers in qualified programs. [S 919, [Vote #209](#), 7/22/93]

McCain Voted to Suspend Family and Medical Leave. In 1993, McCain voted against a motion to table an amendment, which suspends application of the Family and Medical Leave until the Federal government certifies that compliance will not increase the operating expenses of a business or provides financial assistance, or provides Federal financial assistance or a reduction in the Federal tax obligations sufficient to pay for the cost to the employer for compliance. The motion passed 67-31. [S 5, [Vote #7](#), 2/04/93]

McCain Voted to Require Written Notice of Intended Leave from Employees. In 1993, McCain voted against a motion to table an amendment, which required an employee to give written notice of intended leave that includes

the dates of the leave or a schedule for intermittent or reduced leave; and required the employee to comply with the dates in the notice unless: (1) birth was premature (2) the employee must care for a child because the mother was incapacitated during delivery, (3) there is an unanticipated date of adoption, or (4) the employer and employee agree to alter the dates listed in the written notice. The motion passed 60-40. [S 5, [Vote #2](#), 2/03/93]

McCain Voted for 20% Tax Credit to Businesses With Fewer than 500 Employees to Provide Leave. In 1993, McCain voted against a motion to table an amendment to allow businesses with fewer than 500 employees to take a 20 percent tax credit in return for providing employees with 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child or to attend to family emergencies. The motion passed 67-33. [S 5, [Vote #1](#), 2/03/93]

Jobs

McCain Said He Supported Education Programs At Community Colleges To Help Restore Jobs. According to the *New York Times*, at the Fox News Channel G.O.P. Debate in South Carolina, McCain said, “Let’s have a little straight talk...There are some jobs that aren’t coming back to Michigan. There are some jobs that won’t come back here to South Carolina. But we’re going to take care of them. That’s our goal. That’s our obligation. We need to go to the community colleges and design education and training programs so that these workers get a second chance. That’s our obligation as a nation.” [New York Times, [1/11/08](#)]

Minimum Wage

McCain Voted Against Raising The Minimum Wage To \$7.25. McCain voted against an amendment to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 over 26 months. The amendment would have provided minimum wage workers their first pay increase in over seven years. Since the last increase, the value of the minimum wage has dropped by over 20%. But the Senate has voted to increase its own pay seven times. [S. 256, [Vote #26](#), 3/7/05]

McCain Voted Against A Clean Minimum Wage Bill. McCain voted against a bill that would increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour over two years. Motion rejected 54-43: R 5-43; D 47-0; I 2-0. [Senate [Vote #23](#), HR 2, 1/24/07]

McCain Defended His Opposition To A Higher Minimum Wage By Saying Forgoing His Senate Pay Raises Hurt His Multi Million Dollar Family That Claimed At Least \$27 Million In Assets. Speaking about the debate in the Senate on raising the minimum wage and Senate pay raises, McCain claimed his family was hurt because he had forgone past Senate pay raises. McCain said he would not support a raise in the minimum wage, which he called “a very clever ploy,” and defended his opposition to the \$1,500 a year minimum wage increase saying, “Listen, I’ve foregone the pay raise for many, many years, sometimes to the dismay of my family.” In his most recent personal financial disclosure, McCain reported that his family held assets worth between \$27 million and \$42 million, though his wife held potentially much larger assets, which generated income between \$1.8 million and \$4.6 million. Additionally, McCain earned over \$270,000 in book royalties and honoraria, all of which he donated to charity. [ABC News, 7/2/06; McCain 2005 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement]

Unions

McCain and Giuliani Cross Writers Guild Picket Line to Appear on The Tonight Show. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani crossed the picket line of the Writers Guild of America in order to appear on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. [Think Progress, [1/31/08](#)]

McCain Voted Against Bill to Fix Broken System for Forming Unions. McCain voted against allowing a vote on the Employee Free Choice Act – a bill that would help fix a broken system for forming unions and bargaining for better pay, improved benefits and retirement security. The bill would have amended the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to

provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes. Motion Rejected 51-48. [Senate [Vote #227](#), HR 800, 6/26/07]

Trade And Globalization

McCain Supports Commitment To Innovation And New Technologies To Sustain Global Competitiveness.

According to a post of John McCain's technology platform in *Information Week*, McCain's platform stated that he, "...believes we must make a farsighted, robust, and fervent commitment to innovation and new technologies to sustain our global competitiveness, meet our national security challenges, achieve less costly and more effective health care, reduce dangerous dependence on foreign sources of oil, and raise the quality of education in the United States." [Information Week, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Believes Globalization Provides Opportunity For American Workers Today And In The Future.

According to a post of John McCain's technology platform in *Information Week*, "John McCain believes that globalization is an opportunity for American workers today and in the future. Ninety-five percent of the world's customers lie outside our borders and we need to be at the table when the rules for access to those markets are written. To do so, the U.S. should engage in multilateral, regional, and bilateral efforts to reduce barriers to trade, level the global playing field, and build effective enforcement of global trading rules." [Information Week, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Has Been "A Strong Proponent Of Free Trade." According to Club for Growth, "John McCain has been a strong proponent of free trade in the U.S. Senate. He has voted for many bills that broke down trade barriers and increased competition and choice for consumers. These include:

- The Oman Free Trade Act
- The Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Africa Free Trade Act
- U.S.-Australian Trade Act
- U.S.-Chile Trade Act
- U.S.-Singapore Trade Act
- Voted to grant normal trade relations with Vietnam
- Voted to grant normal trade relations with China

Senator McCain also voted to kill the Schumer-Graham bill, which would have imposed an onerous tariff on China if it refused to revalue its currency, and voted to give the President trade promotion authority. The Cato Institute aptly sums up his record on trade by designating him a 'free trader' for the 105th Congress through the 108th Congress, a top accolade given out to those who 'consistently vote against both trade barriers and international economic subsidies.'" [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

McCain Voted Against Requiring U.S. Companies To Invest Foreign Profits In United States. McCain voted against S. Amendment 3117 to SB 1637, which would have "Republicans also defeated an amendment by Senator John Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana, that would have forced companies to actually invest in the United States any of the foreign profits they bring back into the country during the tax holiday. To encourage companies to reinvest that money in the United States, the Senate bill would give them one year to bring back those profits, which would be taxed at a rate of only 5 percent rather than the standard 35 percent corporate rate." [New York Times, Andrews, 5/6/04; [Vote #81](#), 5/5/04]

McCain on Medicare

McCain Voted Seven Times to Cut Billions from Medicare

McCain Voted For GOP Budget That Cut \$10 Billion From Medicare And Medicaid. In 2005, McCain voted for passage of a bill that would make changes to programs for a net savings of approximately \$35 billion over five years. It provided \$2.6 billion in education aid, also \$1.66 billion for Hurricane Katrina victims and prohibited any oil or gas produced from leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from being exported. It also partially restructured Amtrak and authorized \$12 billion through fiscal 2011 for operations capital improvements and rail security. In addition it would garner \$4.26 billion in savings by cutting Medicaid and \$5.78 billion from Medicare cuts and extended prescription drug rebates to Medicaid recipients enrolled in HMOs or PPOs. Note: A "yea" vote was a vote in support of the president's position. [S 1932, Vote #303, 11/3/2005; Passed 52-47; R 50-5; D 2-41; I 0-1]

McCain Voted To Cut An Estimated \$158.1 Billion In Medicare And \$72 Billion From Medicaid As Part Of The FY 1997 Budget Resolution. In 1996, McCain voted for adoption of the conference report on the concurrent resolution to establish a six-year plan to balance the federal budget by 2002 by cutting projected spending by \$702.5 billion and cutting taxes by \$122.4 billion, for a net deficit reduction of \$580.1 billion. Projected spending cuts over six years include \$158.1 billion in Medicare, \$72 billion from Medicaid, \$53 billion from welfare and \$297.9 billion from discretionary spending. The resolution sets binding budget levels for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1997: budget authority, \$1.633 trillion; outlays, \$1.622 trillion; revenues, \$1.469 trillion; and deficit, \$153.4 billion. [HCR 178, Vote #159, 6/13/1996; Passed 53-46; R 53-0; D 0-46; I 0-0]

McCain Voted To Cut Medicare By \$158 Billion And Medicaid By \$72 Billion As Part Of The FY 1997 Budget Resolution. In 1996, McCain voted for adoption of the concurrent resolution to adopt a six-year budget plan that would balance the budget by 2002 by cutting projected spending by \$698 billion and cutting taxes by \$122 billion, for a net deficit reduction of \$576 billion. Projected spending cuts would come from reductions of \$158 billion to Medicare, \$72 billion to Medicaid, \$53 billion to Welfare and \$296 billion to discretionary spending. The resolution sets binding budget levels for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1997: budget authority, \$1,637.0 billion; outlays, \$1,626.0 billion; revenues, \$1,471.2 billion; and deficit, \$154.8 billion. [HCR 178, Vote #156, 5/23/1996; Passed 53-46; R 53-0; D 0-46; I 0-0]

McCain Voted For Cutting Medicare by \$270 billion. In 1995, McCain voted for motion to recede and concur in the conference agreement to the bill with a further amendment to strike provisions, favored by doctors, that would relax antitrust rules for provider service networks and exempt physician office laboratories from the 1988 amendments to the Clinical Lab Improvement Act. The conference agreement would reduce projected spending by \$894 billion and taxes by \$245 billion over seven years to provide for a balanced budget by fiscal 2002. Over seven years, the conference report would reduce projected spending on Medicare by \$270 billion, Medicaid by \$163 billion, welfare programs by \$82 billion, the earned-income tax credit by \$32 billion, agriculture programs by \$12 billion and federal employee retirement programs by \$10 billion. The bill would grant a \$500 per-child tax credit for families with incomes up to \$110,000, reduce taxes on capital gains income, and expand eligibility for Individual Retirement Accounts. The bill would allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska; impose royalties for hardrock mining on federal lands; cap the federal direct student loan program; and increase the federal debt limit from \$4.9 trillion to \$5.5 trillion. [HR 2491, Vote #584, 11/17/1995; Passed 52-47; R 52-1; D 0-46; I 0-0]

McCain Voted For A Budget Bill That Would Cut Medicare By \$270 Billion And Education By \$10 Billion. In 1995, McCain voted for passage of the bill to cut spending by about \$900 billion and taxes by \$245 billion in order to balance the budget by 2002. The bill would reduce spending on Medicare by \$270 billion, Medicaid by \$182 billion, Welfare by \$65 billion, the earned-income tax credit by \$43.2 billion and agriculture programs by \$13.6 billion. The bill allows for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, scales back the capital gains tax and expands Individual Retirement Accounts. [HR 2491, Vote #556, 10/27/1995; Passed 52-47; R 52-1; D 0-46; I 0-0]

McCain Voted To Cut Education And Medicaid/Medicare Funding To Balance The Budget By 2002. In 1995, McCain voted for adoption of the conference report on the fiscal 1996 budget resolution to put in place a seven-year plan to balance the budget by 2002 by cutting projected spending by \$894 billion, including cuts of \$270 billion from Medicare, \$182 billion from Medicaid, \$190 billion in non-defense spending, and \$175 billion from various entitlement programs such as welfare. The resolution would allow for an increase in defense outlays of \$58 billion above the administration-proposed level and tax cuts of \$245 billion. The resolution sets binding budget levels for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1996: budget authority, \$1.5917 trillion; outlays, \$1.5875 trillion; revenues, \$1.4172 trillion; deficit, \$170.3 billion. [HCR 67, Vote #296, 6/29/1995; Passed 54-46; R 54-0; D 0-46; I 0-0]

McCain Voted To Cut Medicare By \$256 Billion In Order To Pay For Tax Cuts For The Rich. In 1995, McCain voted for adoption of the resolution to adopt a seven-year budget plan that would balance the budget by 2002 by cutting projected spending by \$961 billion of which \$256 billion would come from Medicare, \$175 billion from Medicaid, \$190 billion from non-defense discretionary spending, and \$209 billion from various entitlement programs. The resolution would hold defense spending at the level proposed by the president and not cut taxes but potentially allow \$170 billion to be allocated for tax cuts if a reconciliation bill is enacted and certified by the Congressional Budget Office to balance the budget by 2002. The resolution suggests abolishing the Commerce Department and terminating the Interstate Commerce Commission, as well as phasing out operating subsidies for Amtrak, and terminating more than 100 federal programs, including President Clinton's National Service initiative. The resolution sets binding levels for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1996: budget authority, \$1.574 trillion; outlays, \$1.574 trillion; revenues, \$1.417 trillion; deficit, \$157.1 billion. [SCR 13, Vote #232, 5/25/1995; Passed 57-42; R 54-0; D 3-42; I 0-0]

Opposed Restoring Medicare Cuts

McCain Voted Against Restoring \$50 Billion Of The Proposed \$158 Billion Cuts To Medicaid Under The FY 1997 Budget Resolution. In 1996, McCain voted for a Abraham, R-Mich., motion to table (kill) the Rockefeller, D-W.Va., amendment to restore over six years \$50 billion of the \$158 billion in cuts in projected Medicare spending proposed in the budget resolution by ending various corporate tax preferences and reinstating expired taxes. [SCR 57, Vote #117, 5/16/1996; Passed 55-43; R 52-0; D 3-43; I 0-0]

McCain Voted Against Reducing Cuts In Medicare And Medicaid By Eliminating Tax Breaks For The Rich. In 1995, McCain voted for the Domenici, R-N.M., motion to table (kill) the Lautenberg, D-N.J., amendment to eliminate tax breaks in the bill for taxpayers who earn more than \$1 million per year and to use the savings to reduce proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. [S 1357, Vote #529, 10/27/1995; Passed 55-44; R 52-1; D 3-43; I 0-0]

McCain Voted Against Protecting Medicare From Cuts. In 1995, McCain voted for the Domenici, R-N.M., motion to table (kill) the Kennedy, D-Mass., amendment to express the sense of the Senate that

reductions in Medicare spending should not increase medical costs for recipients or diminish access to health care and that major reductions should not be enacted except in the context of broad bipartisan health care reform. [SCR 13, Vote #218, 5/25/1995; Passed 58-41; R 52-2; D 6-39; I 0-0]

McCain Voted Against Restoring \$100 Billion Of \$270 Billion In GOP Proposed Medicare Cuts. In 1995, McCain voted against Rockefeller, D-W.Va., amendment to restore \$100 billion of the \$256 billion in Medicare cuts proposed by the resolution. [S 13, Vote #173, 5/22/1995; Failed 46-52; R 1-51; D 45-1; I 0-0]

Minorities

1983: McCain Voted Against Creating Martin Luther King Holiday. McCain voted against the Hall (D-IN) motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill to designate the third Monday of every January as a federal holiday in honor of the late civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. [DNC Public Information; Vote 289, HR 3706, Motion agreed to 89-77, D 249-13, 8/2/83; CQ 1983]

McCain's Racial Slurs

MCCAIN: “I Hate the Gooks.” During the 2000 presidential campaign, McCain refused to apologize for saying, “I hate the gooks, I will hate them as long as I live.” [[San Francisco Chronicle, 2/18/00](#)]

McCain Referred to His Vietnamese Wartime Captors as “Gooks.” According to *Asian Week*, “Less than 24 hours after stories ran about Sen. John McCain’s statement to reporters that he would continue to refer to his Vietnamese wartime captors as ‘gooks,’ his campaign announced Feb. 18 that he would no longer use that term. Three days later McCain issued an official apology. Several stories that ran last Friday quoted McCain as saying ‘I hate the gooks. I will hate them as long as I live... I was referring to my prison guards and I will continue to refer to them in language that might offend.’ ... ‘I will continue to condemn those who unfairly mistreated us,’” McCain said in a statement released Feb. 21. ‘But out of respect to a great number of people for whom I hold in very high regard, I will no longer use the term that has caused such discomfort... I apologize and renounce all language that is bigoted and offensive, which is contrary to all that I represent and believe.’ [[Asian Week, 1/24/00](#); U.S. News & World Report, [1/28/08](#)]

McCain Used “Tar Baby” In Response to Question at Town Hall Meeting. According to CNN, “Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, issued an apology for his use of the phrase ‘tar baby’ in response to a question he received at his mid-day town hall meeting in Cedar Falls, Iowa on Friday. A questioner asked McCain whether as president he ‘would be bold enough to address the issue of equal access to children for fathers that have gone through divorce.’ The Republican presidential candidate responded, ‘I’m sorry to disappoint you, I am not going to overturn divorce court decisions. That’s why we have courts and that’s why people go to court and get a divorce. If I as President of the United States said this decision has to be overturned without the proper appeals process then I would be disturbing our entire system of government... But for me to stand here before all these people and say that I’m going declare divorces invalid because someone feels that they weren’t treated fairly in court, we are getting into a, uh, uh, tar baby of enormous proportions. For me to stand here before all these people and say that I’m going declare divorces invalid because someone feels that they weren’t treated fairly in court, we are getting into a, uh, uh, tar baby of enormous proportions.’ Later at a press conference, CNN’s Senior Political Correspondent Candy Crowley asked McCain about his use of the phrase ‘tar baby,’ viewed by some as having racist overtones. ‘I hope that it’s not viewed that way,’ McCain said. ‘It was a situation where if I kept going on that I would then be overturning court decisions. I don’t think I should have used that word and it was wrong to do so.’” [CNN, [3/16/07](#)]

McCain Used Racist “Tar Baby” Phrase to Explain His View On Bosnia. When describing his skepticism of air strikes in Bosnia, McCain rhetorically asked, “The question is do air strikes help, do they exacerbate, or do they put our fist in the tar baby that would inevitably lead us to military intervention on the ground?” Apparently McCain made the phrase a part of his vocabulary long before his gaffe in Iowa. [[All Things Considered, NPR, 4/28/93](#),

Social Security

McCain Willing to Privatize Social Security and Possibly Increase Payroll Taxes. According to the *Sioux City Journal*, “McCain... said raising the payroll tax that goes into Social Security is a last resort, and... agreed that voluntary private accounts within the program should be an option.” [[Sioux City Journal, 10/26/07](#)]

McCain Evaded Social Security Question; Refused to Take Position on Social Security Without Negotiating. In 2007, McCain was asked if he would be willing to cut benefits or increase age of eligibility to keep Social Security from going bankrupt. McCain said, “Before we get into any of those specifics, you have to know that anyone who gets out front on this issue without sitting down and negotiating with everything on the table will get nowhere. ... If I take a position on any of those issues right now, one, it doesn’t work. And second of all, it’s got to be the product of bipartisan negotiations where people sit down across a table from one another.” [FOX News, 4/30/07]

- **McCain Said He Could Accept “Almost Anything” As Part Of A Compromise; Said 2005 Quote Taken Out of Context.** In 2007, McCain was asked about his 2005 support of increasing Social Security taxes and was pressed about it as a part of a compromise. McCain said, “Oh. Well, I mean, as part of a compromise, if you come up with a benefit, I can accept almost anything, but it’s got to be part of a compromise. Am I for raising anybody’s taxes? No, I am not. I am unalterably opposed to doing so. But we have to save it, and come together the way that Tip O’Neill and Ronald Reagan did. I will not support any specific remedy, no matter what I said in 2005, and I believe you’re taking that quote out of context, because I never said it before.” [FOX News, 4/30/07]
- **McCain Said Lifting Cap on Payroll and Social Security Tax “Should Be Something That’s On The Table.”** In 2005, when asked about the possibility of lifting the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher, McCain answered, “As part of a compromise I could, and other sacrifices, because we all know that it doesn’t add up until we make some very serious and fundamental changes. ... So my answer is, if everything’s on the table, certainly that should be something that’s on the table because, according to polls I’ve seen, that’s the one thing that most Americans agree is probably a viable option, but not by itself but with other changes that need to be made. And if we don’t, then we might as well say, ‘Look, it’s not going to change.’” [[NBC, 2/20/05](#)]

Club for Growth: McCain “A Consistent Supporter Of Personal Social Security Accounts.” According to the Club for Growth, “He [McCain] has also been a consistent supporter of personal Social Security accounts, calling for ‘bold, genuine reform that allows workers to invest some of their Social Security savings, privately, in higher yielding accounts’ in a 1999 press release. During his 2000 presidential campaign, Senator McCain’s plan for Social Security reform included a pledge to incorporate personal retirement accounts within his first year in office, and correctly criticized the inherent unfairness of the current program which forces ‘workers to give a portion of their hard-earned money to finance a system with low or negative returns for themselves.’” [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

Club for Growth: Stance On Personal Accounts Though, Is Marred By His Willingness To Raise Social Security Taxes. According to the Club for Growth, “This positive stance on personal accounts though, is marred by his willingness to raise Social Security taxes as part of a package that would include personal accounts. On a February, 23, 2005 edition of Meet the Press, Tim Russert asked Senator McCain if he would support ‘as part of the solution to Social Security’s solvency problem, that you lift the cap so that you would pay payroll tax, Social Security tax, not just on the first \$90,000 of your income, but perhaps even higher?’ Senator McCain answered, ‘As part of a compromise I could . . . I’m proud of the job that Senator Lindsey Graham has been doing in his leadership position on this issue and showing some courage.’ Raising Social Security taxes in this manner is not a sign of courage. It could constitute a massive tax increase and prove devastating to economic growth in this country. Furthermore, Senator McCain’s support for Lindsey Graham’s proposal to raise Social Security taxes contradicts his own observation about the woefully poor return workers receive. Raising taxes would only make

that return worse. As Senator McCain hinted in 2000, it is not Social Security taxes that are too low, but the below-market return on those taxes that should most concern policy makers and taxpayers alike.” [Club for Growth white paper, 3/13/07]

John McCain Promises “Hard Choices;” Previously Chose Privatization. “If I’m President, I’ll submit a plan to save Social Security and Medicare, and I’ll ask Democrats in Congress to do the same. We’ll listen to what people outside government suggest as well. I’ll work on a bipartisan basis to make the hard choices... and if Congress is afraid to make those choices, then they can just let me do it. I’ll take the heat. I’ll ask Congress to let me submit a comprehensive proposal. I’ll prepare it carefully, fairly and honestly” [McCain Economic Speech, 4/16/2007; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

- **1998: McCain Voted To Create Personal Retirement Accounts.** In 1998, McCain voted for legislation expressing that the budget surplus can be used to establish a program of personal retirement accounts for working Americans to reduce unfunded liabilities of Social Security program. [Vote #56, SCR 86, 4/1/1998; DNC Caucus Day Memo, 1/03/07]

McCain “Too Easily Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush’s Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security.” According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “At least President Bush didn’t kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn’t faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush’s misguided bid to privatize Social Security. By diverting a portion of payroll taxes from Social Security into the stock market, Bush would add risk to retirement income and burden the program with trillions of dollars of debt. Bush’s real purpose is to cut traditional retirement benefits, which could be necessary to control costs, but he won’t provide any details on that part of his plan. Instead, Bush launched one last effort to sell skeptical Americans on private accounts. By his side at several stops was McCain, resorting to the kind of questionable tactics that once had been used against him.” [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

- **St. Petersburg Times: “Shame On McCain For Being A Part Of This Effort ... He Even Resorted To Misinformation.”** According to a *St. Petersburg Times* editorial, “Shame on McCain for being a part of this effort to divide the generations. Usually noted for candid speech, he even resorted to misinformation when he said in 2002 ‘we stop paying people Social Security.’ McCain knows that isn’t true. That is the date (actually it was changed to 2041 the other day) when Social Security reserves are expected to be used up. Even then, with no change in the program, recipients would continue to get about 75 percent of what was promised them.” [Editorial, *St. Petersburg Times*, “Shame on John McCain,” [3/25/05](#)]

McCain Accompanied Bush to Help Sell Bush Social Security Overhaul. According to the Associated Press, “There’s another showing Tuesday of the good-cop, bad-cop routine featuring President Bush and Sen. John McCain, Bush’s one-time presidential rival who has become a big booster of the president’s Social Security plan. The Arizona Republican accompanied Bush on Monday to the senator’s home state and Colorado to try to help sell the public and Congress on the president’s proposal for a major Social Security overhaul.” [AP, 3/22/05]

McCain: “AARP, If You Don’t Like Our Solutions, Give Us One.” According to the Associated Press, “He [McCain] also had what he called a ‘little straight talk’ for AARP, the powerful lobby for older citizens that opposes Bush’s plan to allow younger workers to divert a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes into personal accounts that could be invested in the stock market in trade for reduced guaranteed benefits. The group is running television and radio ads during the two-week Easter break while members of Congress are back in their home districts. ‘My dear friends at ... AARP, if you don’t like our solutions, give us one,’ McCain said. ‘Sit down and join us in this debate. Don’t block it.’” [AP, 3/22/05]

McCain Joined Bush at “Social Security campaign” in Tuscan. In 2005, McCain appeared with Bush in Tuscan during the Administration’s “Social Security campaign.” According to the Associated Press, McCain “accused Democrats of not working toward a bipartisan solution. ‘We must do this together,’ he said, his voice growing louder with each word. ‘We know how much money is coming in. We know how much money is going out. Does

anybody believe we should wait — we should wait until there's no money that we have to cut off people's Social Security checks?"” [AP, [3/21/05](#)]

McCain: “Personal Savings Accounts Are Workable And Have Worked In Other Countries.” In 2005, McCain defended Bush Social Security privatization plan. McCain said, “Well, I think the president wants to take a comprehensive approach to start with, but, second of all, these personal savings accounts are workable and have worked in other countries. They could pay a much greater return than the present 1.8 to 2 percent. We members of Congress and federal employees can invest our money into these five different -- and we're doing fine, between seven and nine percent return. The president is willing to look at a comprehensive fix. [CNN, “Inside Politics,” [3/03/05](#)]

McCain On Stem Cell Research

Opposed Federal Funding For Research In 2000

McCain Opposed Any Federal Funding for Research on Live Human Embryos in 2000 Campaign.

According to *Newsweek*, “One of those signatories is McCain, who in the 2000 presidential campaign opposed any federal funding for research on live human embryos. McCain said that he had changed his mind because of the advocacy of Nancy Reagan, and because he now better understands the possible medical benefits. He’s also making a political diagnosis, said Frank Luntz, a Republican polltaker. ‘McCain has decided to go for the secular voters in the next presidential race,’ he said.” [[Newsweek](#), 6/06/05]

2000: McCain Wrote A Letter To NIH Against Funding Stem Cell Research. McCain was one of twenty republican senators who in a letter “asked the National Institutes of Health to withdraw proposed rules that would allow scientists to use stem cells in biomedical research.” In the letter, the senators said, “Clearly, the destruction of human embryos is an integral part of the contemplated research, in violation of the law.” [[The Chronicle Of Higher Education](#), 2/25/00]

South Carolina Citizens For Life Accused McCain Of Flip-Flopping

South Carolina Citizens for Life Accused McCain Flip-Flopped on Promise to Maintain Ban on Federal Funds for Research “That Uses The Body Parts Of Aborted Babies.”

According to the *Boston Globe*, “...McCain’s votes to allow research on fetal-tissue transplants have come under fire in his presidential campaign. South Carolina Citizens for Life aired radio ads urging voters to oppose McCain in the primary on Saturday because, the ads said, the Arizona Republican had ‘flip-flopped’ on a promise to maintain the ban on federal funds for research ‘that uses the body parts of aborted babies.’ ... There’s no disputing that McCain was inconsistent on the fetal-tissue issue, and that the candidate who rails against special interests listened to a lobbyist who championed fetal-tissue therapies. The lobbyist was Anne Udall. Her father, former Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona was in a Veterans Administration medical center, wasting away from the Parkinson’s disease that would kill him in December 1998 at age 76.” [[Boston Globe](#), 2/13/00]

- **McCain Said He Would Not Support Use of Fetal Tissue; Voted to Lift Moratorium on Fetal-Tissue Transplants.** According to the *Boston Globe*, “In a January 1992 letter to the director of Arizona Right to Life, McCain said the group could count on his being ‘steadfast’ against abortion. ‘I have no intention of supporting the use of fetal tissue’ from abortions, McCain wrote. Three months later, McCain voted in favor of a Senate bill authorizing funds for the National Institutes of Health that included a provision to lift the federal-research moratorium that presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush had imposed on fetal-tissue transplants. ‘I have lost sleep struggling with this,’ McCain wrote to a constituent in May 1992. ‘My abhorrence for the practice of abortion is unquestionable. Yet my abhorrence’ for Parkinson’s and juvenile diabetes ‘and the suffering they cause is just as strong.’” [[Boston Globe](#), 2/13/00]
- **McCain Opposed Amendment that Banned Research on Fetal-Tissue Transplants.** According to the *Boston Globe*, McCain “was the chief sponsor of a bill, enacted in 1997 and bearing Udall’s name, that provides \$100 million a year for finding a cure for Parkinson’s disease, a progressive neurological disorder that afflicts about 1 million Americans. He opposed an amendment that would have banned research on fetal-tissue transplants.” [[Boston Globe](#), 2/13/00]

McCain Asked NIH to Withdraw Proposals to Fund Federal Embryonic-Cell Research. According to the *Boston Globe*, “Because harvesting stem cells usually requires destruction of embryos left over from in vitro fertilization procedures, antiabortion groups oppose it vigorously. Earlier this month, McCain joined 19 other senators in asking the National Institutes of Health to withdraw its new proposals to fund federal embryonic-cell research. Cyndi Mosteller of Charleston, S.C., a McCain adviser on family issues and a longtime antiabortion

activist, said the senator's positions are consistent: He would support nonembryo stem-cell research, just as he supports fetal-tissue research, which does not 'destroy a human being.' Mosteller said the antiabortion group's ads against McCain are 'disingenuous' and aimed less at his voting record than at his push to overhaul the campaign-finance laws." [Boston Globe, 2/13/00]

Began To Change Position On Stem Cells In 2001

McCain Said Stem Cell Research Was "Good For America." McCain said, "I'm leaning towards supporting [stem cell research] very strongly because of the information that I have received. There is one individual that a lot of us respect, Orrin Hatch, who has been one of the leaders in the pro-life effort, and he has come out in favor of stem cell research, as many others have...overall, I think it is probably something that is good for America, good for medical research, and could save lives, as you mentioned, because of diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other terrible diseases that afflict our society." [CNN, 6/24/01]

2001: McCain Supports Stem Cell Research, Called It A "Mistake" To Not Pursue The Research. Asked why he flipped his position on stem cell research in support of the science, McCain said, "For a large number of reasons, ranging from getting briefed by very smart people on this issue and including discussing this with Nancy Reagan who, as you know, is a very strong advocate for stem cell research. I want to make it clear that those of us who support this do not believe that it has anything to do with human cloning and all of us are against human cloning. I look forward to the debate. It's a very complex scientific issue. But for us to throw away opportunities to cure diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and many others I think would be a mistake. I look forward to the debate. It's interesting that more than two-thirds of the American people support stem cell research." [NBC News, 7/15/01; NBC News, 6/19/05]

Supported Increasing Federal Funding

McCain Supported Three Bills to Increase Federal Funding. According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, "McCain opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos, but supports research using human embryos left over from fertility treatments. In 2006, McCain supported a trio of Senate bills designed to increase federal funding for adult stem cell research, ban the creation of embryos for research and offer federal support for research using embryos slated for destruction by fertility clinics." [Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, accessed [1/11/08](#)]

McCain Announced Supported for Federal Funding of Stem Cell Research. According to an editorial by *National Review Online*, "He [McCain] announced his support for federal funding of embryo-destructive stem-cell research when it looked like alternative types of research were not as promising. Now they are, and he should acknowledge that the case for that funding is weaker." [Editorial, *National Review Online*, 1/09/08]

McCain Reaffirmed His Support for Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research. In 2007, McCain reaffirmed his support for federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. "It's very tough for us in the pro-life community," he said. "I've prayed a lot on it, but I've come down on the side of embryonic stem cell research." [*The State*, 9/18/07]

McCain Broke With Bush and Voted to Expand Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research. In 2006, according to the *Washington Post*, "[Sen. Bill] Frist and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., abortion opponents who are considering presidential bids, broke with Bush and the social conservatives who are crucial to the GOP when they voted Tuesday for a bill that would expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. ... 'I always just do what I think is right,' McCain said explaining his vote and brushing aside suggestions that his position could hurt his standing with conservatives." [*Washington Post*, 7/18/06]

McCain Reversed His Position And Supported Expansion of Stem Cell Research. According to *The Hill*, "Like Frist, John McCain, the Republican senator with the highest national profile, has reversed his position on the issue and now supports an expansion of the research. 'It's a very complex scientific issue,' McCain (Ariz.) told

NBC's Tim Russert earlier this year. 'But for us to throw away opportunities to cure diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and many others I think would be a mistake.'" [The Hill, 10/25/05]

McCain Signed Letter to Bush; Called For Expansion of Federal Policy on Stem Cell Research. In 2004, McCain signed a letter to President Bush, signed by 58 senators, calling on him "to expand the current federal policy concerning embryonic stem cell research." [Genome News Network, [6/08/04](#)]

- **McCain Signed Letter to Bush Allowing Federal Funding of Stem Cell Research.** In 2001, McCain signed letter to President Bush to allow federal funding of stem cell research. The letter sent by Sen. Arlen Specter and other Republican senators said, "Stem cell research has demonstrated a remarkable capacity of these cells to transform into any type of cell in the human body. If scientists are correct, stem cells could be used to treat and cure a multitude of maladies..." [Associated Press, [7/20/01](#)]

McCain No Longer A Straight Talker

McCain's Reconciliation With Christian Community Turned Off Old Admirers, Conservatives Still Distrust Him. According to Dan Nowicki of the *Arizona Republic*, McCain's "...attempts to patch up old feuds with the evangelical Christian community turned off many old admirers" and "at the same time, many social conservatives continue to distrust him." [Column, *The Arizona Republic*, [1/2/08](#)]

Rennie: "Irreconcilable Differences Replaced Straight Talk." According to an op-ed by Kevin Rennie published in the *Hartford Courant*, "McCain's stand on Iraq has been disjointed. He was a fierce critic of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's conduct of the war, but refused to attribute any of Rumsfeld's mistakes to the decider, Bush. McCain sounded like he was embellishing progress in Baghdad in a '60 Minutes' profile this year. Irreconcilable differences replaced straight talk. McCain's been in a fast fade for months. Supporters from the past have moved on to fresher candidates. He's weary, often looking like he's on a forced march instead of a presidential race." [Op-Ed, Kevin Rennie, *Hartford Courant*, 7/22/07]

Hartford Courant: "The Senator Is A Salty, Reformist, Provocative And Classy Presence In Our Politics. At Least The Straight-Talking Mr. McCain Of The 2000 Campaign Was." According to a *Hartford Courant* editorial, "If you were speculating just a few months ago about the most likely major candidate to drop out of the 2008 presidential race first, chances are you wouldn't have named John McCain. But today the Arizona Republican -- the presumed front-runner for his party's nomination a year ago -- is teetering and may indeed fall, despite his protestations to the contrary. ... Mr. McCain's campaign has made serious mistakes -- among them, pandering to the religious right (which calls his authenticity into question) and spending too much money. The result has been plummeting donations and poll numbers, a nearly empty treasury and campaign workers heading for the exits. Mr. McCain slogs on, but pundits are saying ``dead man walking.' ... The senator is a salty, reformist, provocative and classy presence in our politics. At least the straight-talking Mr. McCain of the 2000 campaign was." [Editorial, *Hartford Courant*, 7/13/07]

Alter: He Repressed The Maverick Spirit Of The 2000 Campaign. According to an op-ed by Jonathan Alter published in the *Charleston Gazette*, "On the surface, McCain's strategy for becoming president makes perfect sense. He repressed the maverick spirit of the 2000 campaign (it didn't get him elected last time, he's said), hired a bunch of Bushies and signed off on a strategy of kissing up to the hard-core conservatives who dominate the Republican primaries. The fact that many liberals and independents fell out of love with him didn't seem relevant; they don't vote in those contests. Under the GOP's system of primogeniture, the nomination traditionally goes to the guy whose turn it is. It's McCain's turn, so he figured all he had to do was sound a few conservative themes and line up the right endorsements. He'd lock it up early, then tack to the center for the general election. But something's gone terribly wrong. The political positioning is too transparent to be convincing. ... McCain remains an endearing, sometimes provocative campaigner, but the magic is on the wane. ... John McCain may be playing the political angles on various social issues, but not on Iraq. Henry Clay, the great 19th-century senator, once said, 'I'd rather be right than be president.' Sadly for McCain, the odds are growing that he'll be neither." [Op-Ed, Jonathan Alter, *Charleston Gazette*, 4/10/07]

Roanoke Times: "McCain Has Sacrificed The Last Drop Of Credibility In What Was Once A Rather Deep Well." According to an editorial in the *Roanoke Times*, "And so the presidential candidate who once boasted of riding the 'Straight Talk Express' has been exposed as a ridiculous Pollyanna, desperate to prove that some Baghdad neighborhoods are safe and blind to the actual truth exposed by his visit. For some inexplicable reason, McCain is staking his political career on his unwavering support for President Bush's invasion and occupation of Iraq. And so he has joined the president and others in the administration in making ridiculously overconfident and optimistic statements that defy the reality of the situation in Iraq. Perhaps it is only possible to wholeheartedly support what is happening in Iraq through the dark tint of rose-colored glasses. But in so doing, McCain has sacrificed the last drop of credibility in what was once a rather deep well." [Editorial, *Roanoke Times*, 4/05/07]

Concord Monitor: "Some Left-Leaning Voters Feel McCain Has Dispensed With The 'Straight Talk' To Pander To His Party's Base." According to a *Concord Monitor* editorial, "In 2000 New Hampshire was ready to

elect John McCain president even if the rest of the country wasn't. Tomorrow he makes his first visit this year as a candidate for president in 2008. He's unlikely to be able to pick up exactly where he left off. ... Has McCain changed as well? He was well served here in 2000 by his image as the candidate who bucked the party establishment, rebuked the fringes of the religious right and spoke movingly of causes larger than self-interest. Now some left-leaning voters feel McCain has dispensed with the 'straight talk' to pander to his party's base. Of course, the politics of positioning cuts both ways. Some right-leaning voters remember deciding McCain was not one of them in 2000. Persuading people to change their minds can be harder than winning them over to start with. ... Seven years ago, no one knew better than New Hampshire voters that there was a world of difference between John McCain and George W. Bush. Fairly or not, McCain returns as the candidate most entwined in Bush's defining endeavor. As he makes the case for why the war must be seen through to fruition, can McCain remind us why he would have been the better president after all?" [Editorial, Concord Monitor, 3/15/07]

Dowd: "But There's One Huge Group That He's Not Pandering To: Americans." According to Maureen Dowd, "Certainly, the senator has tried to worm his way into the affections of W. and the religious right: The Discovery Institute, a group that tries to derail Darwinism and promote the teaching of Intelligent Design, helped present the lunch, dismaying liberal bloggers who have tracked Sen. McCain's devolution on evolution. ... But there's one huge group that he's not pandering to: Americans. Most Americans are sick and tired of watching things go hideously backward in Iraq and Afghanistan, and want someone to show them the way out. Mr. McCain is stuck on the bridge of a sinking policy with W. and Dick Cheney, who showed again last week that there is no bottom to his lunacy. The senator supported a war that didn't need to be fought and is a cheerleader for a surge that won't work. It has left Sen. McCain, the Arizona Republican, once the most spontaneous of campaigners, off balance. He's like a cat without its whiskers. ... Sometimes I miss John McCain, even when I'm with him." [Op-Ed, Maureen Dowd, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2/26/07]

Krugman: "Senator John McCain, Whose Reputation For Straight Talk Is Quickly Getting Bent Out Of Shape..." According to Paul Krugman, "Senator John McCain, whose reputation for straight talk is quickly getting bent out of shape, appears to share the Bush administration's habit of rewriting history to preserve an appearance of infallibility. Last month Senator McCain asserted that he knew full well what we were getting into by invading Iraq: 'When I voted to support this war,' Mr. McCain said on MSNBC, 'I knew it was probably going to be long and hard and tough, and those that voted for it and thought that somehow it was going to be some kind of an easy task, then I'm sorry they were mistaken.' But back in September 2002, he told Larry King, 'I believe that the operation will be relatively short,' and 'I believe that the success will be fairly easy.'" [Op-Ed, Paul Krugman, New York Times, 2/19/07]

"In The Past, McCain Presented Himself As 'Senator Straight Talk.' That Image May Not Work In The 2008 Political Battles." According to the *Charleston Gazette*, "With Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., McCain sponsored the bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 to regulate campaign financing. He's generally deemed a politician of honor. But recently, McCain has backpedaled to endorse President Bush's escalation of the Iraq war and to solidify relations with the fundamentalist Religious Right. In the past, McCain presented himself as 'Senator Straight Talk.' That image may not work in the 2008 political battles." [Editorial, Charleston Gazette, 2/12/07]

McCain 2008 Campaign A "Far Cry" From His 2000 Bus, Which May Exact An "Awful Price" And He Knows It. Todd Purdum wrote in *Vanity Fair* that McCain is not the same candidate he was in 2000. "But the plain truth is that the Straight Talk Express, Version 2.008, is often a far cry from the Magic Bus of 2000." Discussing comments McCain made on the campaign trail in 2004, Purdum wrote, "That's not straight talk. That's partisan pap," adding, "Nor, presumably, was it straight talk last summer at an Aspen Institute discussion when McCain struggled to articulate his position on the teaching of intelligent design in public schools." Overall, Purdum found, "McCain's own compromises in pursuit of the presidency may be necessary, even justified. And they may, in fact, pave his way to victory in the Republican primaries, and perhaps to the White House itself. But even if no one calls him out, and the public plays along, McCain may pay an awful price. Because, whatever happens, he will know. He will know. He will know." [Vanity Fair, February 2007]

Richard Cohen: "The Straight Talk Express Is In A Ditch." According to Richard Cohen of the *Washington Post*, "McCain's virtue is his virtue - those aspects of his character that mirror his physical courage. He has been

the politician who would not play politics, the presidential candidate who would sweep out the White House, put K Street in its place, rein in Congress and, always, talk plainly and candidly to the American people. In short, he was the man who could restore faith in government. But he cannot do that if, at the same time, he defends a war fought for nonexistent reasons, preceded by fibs, lies and exaggerations, draining America of blood and treasure and leaving us worse off now than before those bombs were dropped where - as it symbolically turned out - Saddam Hussein was not. Times have changed. The Straight Talk Express is in a ditch." [Op-Ed, Richard Cohen, Washington Post, 5/16/06]

Tom Edsall: McCain Trying To Maintain Straight Talker Credibility While Doubletalking To Win GOP Nomination.

Tom Edsall said, "McCain is trying to do two contradictory things...he wants to retain the appeal he had in 2000 as a straight talker who will not adjust his words and positions for political gain, and he is trying to win the Republican nomination. The nomination will be determine by voters and activists, many of whom do not like McCain because 1) he has voted against some of the Bush tax cuts, 2) he is the prime sponsor of campaign finance legislation seen by libertarians as an attack on free speech, and 3) he pointedly attacked Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson in a highly publicized speech in 2000. McCain is now trying to thread about three needles as once, a tough task for anyone." [washingtonpost.com, 5/15/06]

McCain "Damaged His Reputation For Principled Straight Talk To Join Bush's Misguided Bid To Privatize Social Security." According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, "At least President Bush didn't kiss John McCain again. Last year during his re-election campaign, Bush planted one on McCain as the Arizona senator pretended to like his old nemesis. Maybe McCain isn't faking it anymore, because he too easily damaged his reputation for principled straight talk to join Bush's misguided bid to privatize Social Security." [Editorial, St. Petersburg Times, 2/25/05]

"The Straight Talk Express Has Blown A Tire." According to Marie Cocco, "The Straight Talk Express has blown a tire. Sen. John McCain speaks before the Republican National Convention tonight and drapes the mantle of his moral stature around George W. Bush. As men, the two could not differ more. The president believes in his own righteousness. McCain believes in the righteous act of speaking truth to power. As politicians, the two share a deep conviction. They are dedicated to the art of the mutual use. ... The Arizona Republican made his reputation in 2000 as the candidate willing to challenge his party orthodoxy on both policy and smash-mouth politics. Above all, he presented himself as the principled foe of the special interests and the slick tacticians that have hijacked politics. 'Straight talk,' he called it. McCain now asks us to forgive his own superficial maneuver. He wants us still to believe he is above the cynicism of contemporary politics, while he simultaneously indulges in it. ... Tonight McCain maintains his political viability within the system. It is a perfect gambit. But it is out of sync with the premise of McCain's appeal. McCain's great strength is that he offers us the hint there is something at his core that is special, and true. We already have enough politicians with something at the core that is ambition. He wants us still to believe he is above the cynicism of politics while he indulges in it." [Op-Ed, Marie Cocco, Newsday, 8/30/04]

Taxes

McCain Says He Would Treat Employer Sponsored Healthcare as Taxable Income. The Tax Policy Center wrote that McCain “He says he would treat employer sponsored health benefits as taxable income, while giving individuals a tax credit for the insurance they buy. On its own, taxing employer insurance just like wages would be a huge tax increase—OMB estimates in the neighborhood of \$1 trillion from 2009–2013. To many on the right, that alone would violate the no-tax pledge.” [Tax Policy Center, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain Pledged “No New Taxes.” Echoing the disastrous phrase of George H.W. Bush, McCain said, “No new taxes. To impose on the American people what essentially would be a tax increase of thousands of dollars per family in America ... would be bad for the economy of this country,” he explained. [ABC This Week, [2/17/08](#)]

McCain Said His Tax Proposals Were Better

McCain Said If Congress Had Adapted Tax Cuts He Proposed Earlier, He’d Be Talking Further Tax Cuts. On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, McCain said, “...I believe to this day if we’d adopted the tax cuts that I proposed, and I did have a strong tax cut proposal, today we’d be talking about further tax cuts instead of alienated our base by letting spending get completely out of control, and then we then are facing--and it’s one of the major contributors to the fiscal difficulties that we have in America today.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Said He Never Changed Position On Bush Tax Cuts, Would Have Done Them Differently.

On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain if he had changed his mind on the Bush tax cuts, after he voted against them and later in favor of them. McCain answered, “No, I have not changed my mind in that I want restraint of spending. I would have had a different set of tax cuts. We’ve got to make these tax cuts permanent. We have to, otherwise I think it’ll have a negative impact on our economy.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Now Supports Bush Tax Policies

McCain Flip-Flopped on Reason For Opposing Bush Tax Cuts. McCain has changed his justification for voting against the Bush tax cuts. Along the campaign trail McCain defended his opposition to the Bush tax cuts by saying, “I disagreed when we had tax cuts without spending restraint.” In 2001 and 2003, however, McCain said he opposed the cuts because they favored the wealthiest Americans. [Associated Press, [1/31/08](#)]

- **McCain: “I Cannot In Good Conscience Support A Tax Cut In Which So Many Of The Benefits Go To The Most Fortunate Among Us...”** According to Club for Growth, “Second, Senator McCain’s stated reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts rhetorically allied him with the most radical anti-growth elements of national politics. Senator McCain argued, “I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who need tax relief.” [Club for Growth White Paper, [3/12/07](#)]

Russert Reminded McCain That He Said He Could Not Support Bush Tax Cuts That Hurt Middle-Class.

On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert reminded McCain that he had once said, “I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who most need tax relief.” Russert also played video tape showing the McCain once said, “I voted against the tax cuts because of the disproportional amount that went to the wealthiest Americans. I would clearly support not extending those tax cuts in order to help address the, the deficit.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

Russert Asked McCain Why He Has Changed His Position On Extending Bush’s Tax Cuts, From Non Support To Making Them Permanent. On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert asked McCain why he was formerly against extending Bush’s tax cuts, while he recently has supported them. Russert even played an

audiotape wherein McCain said, “I’ll make Bush tax cuts permanent.” Russert said that McCain’s different statements were “...a direct contradiction.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

- **McCain Said He Wanted Set Of Tax Cuts For Middle, Lower Income Families When Against Bush’s Tax Cuts.** On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, McCain responded to questions from Tim Russert about his changing positions on Bush’s tax cuts. Explaining why he had previously been against tax cuts, McCain said, “Well, at the time I still wanted to do two things. One was a different set of tax cuts that also had more emphasis on middle and lower income Americans. But most importantly, most importantly, we are now facing a situation with a shaky economy with tax cuts not being permanent, then the people experience an increase in their taxes.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

McCain Said Bush’s Tax Cuts Must Be Permanent Or It Would Negatively Impact Economy. On MSNBC’s *Meet the Press*, McCain said, about Bush’s tax cuts, “We’ve got to make these tax cuts permanent. We have to, otherwise I think it’ll have a negative impact on our economy.” [Meet The Press, [1/27/08](#)]

Bush Tax Cuts Benefit the Wealthy At The Expense Of The Middle Class. In 2001, McCain was one of only two Senate Republicans to vote against President Bush’s \$1.35 trillion tax cut, according to the AP. He said the measure cut tax rates for the wealthy “at the expense of middle-class Americans.” [AP, 5/26/01; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

- **McCain Has Vowed To Make Bush’s Tax Cuts Permanent.** In his quest for the 2008 Republican nomination, McCain has promised, “I will not let the Democrats roll back the Bush tax cuts.” McCain’s economic plan would “make the Bush income and investment tax cuts permanent.” [AP, 10/10/07; John McCain For President Campaign Press Release, “John McCain Unveils Economic Plan: Bold Solutions For American Prosperity,” 12/18/07; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

Tax Cuts Would “Lower the National Income” and Worsen the Deficit. When Senator McCain opposed the Bush tax cuts in 2003, he wrote a letter to the President saying “We should be concerned about deficits, Mr. President. They limit economic expansion by reducing the amount of national savings available for investment. This raises both interest rates and interest payments on the national debt. Deficits constrain our ability to respond effectively to unanticipated fiscal events. If we do not reduce them, projected long term deficits will reach dangerous levels, lowering the national income and standards of living for future American generations. That said, Mr. President, I would still be open, at some point, to proposals to stimulate the economy with tax cuts. But not now. We should, Mr. President, take a pause in our efforts to increase spending on non-defense needs and to reduce taxes.” [McCain Release, March 18, 2003; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]

- **McCain Now Says Tax Cuts Increase Revenue.** Asked if he might consider a tax increase as part of a compromise for entitlements or tax simplification, Senator McCain responded “No. None. None. Tax cuts, starting with Kennedy, as we all know, increase revenues. So what’s the argument for increasing taxes? If you get the opposite effect out of tax cuts?” [[The National Review](#), 3/5/07; DNC Pre-Debate Memo, 1/24/08]
- **McCain Said He Opposed Some Bush Tax Cuts To Cut Federal Spending, Is Proud Of His Record.** According to Reuters, at the MSNBC Republican Debate in Boca Raton, Florida, McCain “...said he had opposed the tax cuts because he wanted to cut federal spending simultaneously. He said that if spending had been cut, “we would be talking about more tax cuts today.” At the debate, McCain also said, “I’m very proud of my record,” McCain said, calling it “a consistent record of being a fiscal conservative.” [Reuters, [1/25/08](#)]

McCain Said He Wanted To Require 3/5th Vote To Raise Taxes. According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, McCain “...told an Americans for Prosperity Summit in Michigan...that he wants to require a three-fifths vote, rather than a simple majority, in Congress to raise taxes.” Apparently, McCain “...also said he wants to preserve Bush administration and business-backed tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003.” [[Phoenix Business Journal](#), [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Not Let Democrats Roll Back Bush Tax Cuts. According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, at an Americans for Prosperity Summit in Michigan, McCain said he would not "...let the Democrats roll back the Bush tax cuts." He added, "I believe we should protect the American family against tax increases by requiring a three-fifths majority in Congress to raise taxes...But I will cut middle class taxes and keep them low the right way – by also cutting spending so we don't add to the debt we leave to our children." [[Phoenix Business Journal, 1/14/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Some Bush Tax Cuts, Does Not Support Repeal Of Federal Estate Tax.** According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, despite a speech McCain made wherein he said he would not let Democrats roll back Bush tax cuts, McCain has voted for some Bush tax reductions and generally has record of supporting low taxes, but he has also voted against some tax cut packages during President Bush's first term citing fiscal concerns. He also does not back a repeal of the federal estate tax. [[Phoenix Business Journal, 1/14/08](#)]

McCain Voted For Bush Tax Cuts And Defended The Flip-Flop As A Legislative Gimmick. John McCain voted to extend tax cuts supported by the president that were set to expire between 2005 and 2010. "The Senate voted 53-47...in favor of extending the president's investor tax cuts on dividends and capital gains. Joining in this breakthrough vote was John McCain, the senator who voted against these tax cuts when they were introduced in 2003. This is an important shift for the GOP presidential frontrunner[.]" McCain's vote was described as "a sharp reversal of his anti-tax-cut posture," though he defended the shift, saying, "it was a gimmick," reasoning that "the tax cuts were temporary and then had to be made permanent." [[Senate vote #10, H.R. 4297, 2/2/06, passed 66-31; New York Times, 2/21/06; Washington Times, 3/6/06; NBC News, 4/2/06](#)]

- **McCain Said He Would Continue To Support Making Tax Cuts Permanent.** During an interview on Meet the Press, McCain said, "I will continue to support making the tax cuts permanent, which I've voted already twice. ... I thought that we ought to keep the tax cuts permanent because if we had increased taxes, which that would have had the effect of, if I had voted in the other way. So, look, we need to have spending cuts. I know that, everybody knows that, and if we had done what I wanted to do in 2000, we would now be talking about more tax cuts because we would have had spending cuts to go along with it. And it's just facts." [[NBC, "Meet the Press," 1/06/08](#)]

McCain "Vigorously" Opposed Bush Tax Cuts. According to Club for Growth, "When the most important pro-growth tax cuts in a generation were proposed by President Bush in 2001 and 2003, Senator McCain vigorously opposed them. The depth of this opposition goes a long way towards tarnishing the Senator's fiscal credentials. First, it is notable that Senator McCain stood so astride the Republican anti-tax position that he was one of only two Republican senators to oppose the 2001 tax cuts and one of only three GOP senators to oppose the 2003 reductions. [[Club for Growth White Paper, 3/12/07](#)]

- **McCain: "I Cannot In Good Conscience Support A Tax Cut In Which So Many Of The Benefits Go To The Most Fortunate Among Us..."** According to Club for Growth, "Second, Senator McCain's stated reason for opposing the Bush tax cuts rhetorically allied him with the most radical anti-growth elements of national politics. Senator McCain argued, "I cannot in good conscience support a tax cut in which so many of the benefits go to the most fortunate among us at the expense of middle-class Americans who need tax relief." [[Club for Growth White Paper, 3/12/07](#)]

Voted For Repeal Estate Tax Even Though He Said It Would Expand The Deficit Too Much

McCain Voted With His Republican Colleagues To Move Forward The Permanent Repeal Of The Estate Tax. McCain voted with all but one of his Republican colleagues for cloture on the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act, which failed in the Senate, 57-41. [Vote #164, H.R. 8, 6/8/06, 57-41]

- **McCain Said Repealing Estate Tax Would Expand Deficit Too Much.** McCain and other moderate Senators “argued that, given domestic spending demands and need to fund military operations in Iraq, the repeal [of the estate tax] sought by Frist and President Bush would expand the deficit by too much.” [[Roll Call](#), 6/5/06]
- **Krugman: If McCain Votes For Cloture Or Compromise On Estate Tax, He’s A Hypocrite Trying To Have It Both Ways.** “Any senator who votes to repeal the estate tax, or votes for a ‘compromise’ that goes most of the way toward repeal, is in effect saying that increasing the wealth of people who are already in line to inherit millions or tens of millions is more important than taking care of fellow citizens who need a helping hand … Any senator who votes for cloture but against estate tax repeal -- which I’m told is what John McCain may do -- is simply a hypocrite, trying to have it both ways.” [[Krugman Op-Ed, New York Times](#), 6/5/06]

HOWEVER...

2003: McCain Voted Against Accelerating The Repeal Of The Estate Tax. In 2003, McCain voted against Senator Kyl’s amendment to S.Con.Res. 23 that would have accelerated the repeal of the estate tax from 2010 to 2009. McCain was one of four Republicans to vote against the amendment, which passed 51-48. [Vote #62, S.Amdt 288 to S.Con.Res. 23, 3/20/03, 51-48]

2002: McCain Voted Against A Permanent Repeal Of The Estate Tax. In 2002, McCain was one of two Republicans to vote against a permanent extension of the estate tax repeal. The motion failed, with a vote of 54-44. [Vote #151, S. Amdt 3833 to H.R. 8, 6/12/02, 54-44]

2001: McCain Voted Against Phasing Out The Estate Tax. In 2001, McCain was one of two Republicans to vote against the tax cut package that included an elimination of the estate tax over 10 years. The bill passed, 58-33. [Vote #170, H.R. 1836, 5/26/01, 58-33]

Taxes

McCain Critical of Fair Tax. During the Republican presidential debate, sponsored by MSNBC, McCain said, “How do you answer the criticism that a flat-out just sales tax wouldn’t cause lower-income Americans more of the pain and the burden of running our government and paying for its operations? How do you respond to that particular criticism of it? And also, how do you account for the resonance that this proposal has gotten throughout the nation?” [[MSNBC GOP Presidential Debate, 1/24/08](#); [DNC Debate Rapid Response, 1/24/08](#)]

- **McCain Supported Fair Tax Plan on Campaign Trail in Michigan.** Senator John McCain was asked as a town hall meeting about the so-called “fair tax” plan touted proudly on the campaign trail by Mike Huckabee, and the Wall Street Journal reported that “he’d sign a fair-tax bill if it ‘came across my desk.’ A national sales tax would be ‘better than the current tax system,’ he said, but added that he has ‘significant problems with it’ and ‘can not support it in its present form.’” [[The Wall Street Journal Capital Bureau, “WashingtonWire” 1/14/2008](#)]

McCain Said He Believed That Cutting Taxes Increases Government Revenue By Spurring Economic Growth. According to the *New York Times*, while he was campaigning in South Carolina McCain “…proclaimed himself a believer in the notion that cutting taxes increases revenue for the government by spurring economic growth.” Apparently, McCain told supporters in the state, “Don’t listen to this siren song about cutting taxes…Every time in history we have raised taxes it has cut revenues. And is there anybody here that needs to have their taxes increased?” [[New York Times, 1/18/08](#)]

McCain Proposed Long-Term Economic Plan To Lower Corporate Income Tax Rates And Business Tax Breaks. According to the Associated Press, John McCain proposed a long-term economic plan that would lower the corporate income tax rate and provide several other tax breaks for businesses. McCain proposed cutting the

corporate tax rate to 25 percent from 35 percent. McCain said that his plan was “pro growth, less taxes and less spending” versus “the Democrats’ tired ideas of tax and spend.” [Associated Press, 1/17/08]

- **McCain Resisted Temporary Economic Relief, Unlike Bush And Reserve Chairman Bernanke.** According to the Associated Press, McCain proposed an economic plan that seemed to resist “...temporary economic relief for individuals, even as President Bush indicated support for a short-term boost and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke called explicitly for it.” [Associated Press, 1/17/08]
- **McCain Would Finance Tax Reductions With Deep Cuts In Pork-Barrel Spending.** According to the Associated Press, “McCain told reporters he would help finance the reductions with deep cuts in what he considers wasteful pork-barrel spending, starting with nearly 10,000 local projects, or ‘earmarks,’ totaling over \$10 billion in spending legislation recently signed by President Bush.” [Associated Press, 1/17/08]
- **McCain Would Establish Permanent Research And Development And Technology Investment.** According to the Associated Press, McCain’s economic plan would “...establish a permanent research and development tax credit and allow tax breaks for equipment and technology investment.” [Associated Press, 1/17/08]

McCain Said National Sales Tax Plan Would Be Better Than Current Tax System, But It Needed Significant Changes. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, at a town hall meeting in Michigan, McCain said that he would sign a fair tax bill if it “came across [his] desk.” According to the *Journal*, McCain also said that a national sales tax would be “better than the current tax system” but that he still had “significant problems with it...[and could] not support it in its present form.” McCain said that his hesitation with the fair tax plan, in its current form, was whether or not the plan’s 23% rate was high enough to create sufficient revenue. [*Wall Street Journal*, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said He Wants To Require 3/5th Vote To Raise Taxes. According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, McCain “...told an Americans for Prosperity Summit in Michigan...that he wants to require a three-fifths vote, rather than a simple majority, in Congress to raise taxes.” Apparently, McCain “...also said he wants to preserve Bush administration and business-backed tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003.” [*Phoenix Business Journal*, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Not Let Democrats Roll Back Bush Tax Cuts. According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, at an Americans for Prosperity Summit in Michigan, McCain said he would not “...let the Democrats roll back the Bush tax cuts.” He added, “I believe we should protect the American family against tax increases by requiring a three-fifths majority in Congress to raise taxes...But I will cut middle class taxes and keep them low the right way – by also cutting spending so we don’t add to the debt we leave to our children.” [*Phoenix Business Journal*, [1/14/08](#)]

- **McCain Voted Against Some Bush Tax Cuts, Does Not Support Repeal Of Federal Estate Tax.** According to the *Phoenix Business Journal*, despite a speech McCain made wherein he said he would not let Democrats roll back Bush tax cuts, McCain has voted for some Bush tax reductions and generally has record of supporting low taxes, but he has also voted against some tax cut packages during President Bush’s first term citing fiscal concerns. He also does not back a repeal of the federal estate tax. [*Phoenix Business Journal*, [1/14/08](#)]

McCain Would Seek Permanent Ban On Internet Taxes And New Cell Phone Taxes. According to a post of John McCain’s technology platform in *Information Week*, McCain “...has been a leader in keeping the Internet free of taxes. As president, he will seek a permanent ban on taxes that threaten this engine of economic growth and prosperity.” McCain “...also said he would ban new cell phone taxes...” [*Information Week*, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Proud To Be Part Of Reagan Revolution. At the 2008 Fox News Channel G.O.P. debate in South Carolina, McCain said, “I’m proud to have been a member of the Reagan revolution, a foot soldier. We cut taxes, but Ronald Reagan knew we had to cut spending at the same time. That was our failure as a party.” [Fox News Channel G.O.P. Debate, [1/10/08](#)]

McCain Said He Was Proud To Be Part Of Reagan Tax Cut “Revolution.” At the Fox News Channel Republican presidential forum, McCain said “Well, now when I first came to Congress we were in the middle of the Reagan revolution and I was proud to be a foot soldier in that revolution and we cut taxes. But we cut spending and Ronald Reagan insisted that we cut spending because he knew that it was vital if we’re going to keep the deficit down and not have the fiscal difficulties we have today, we had to cut spending.” [Fox News Channel Republican Presidential Forum, 1/6/08; DNC Public Information, 1/6/08]

- **The Reagan Spending Legacy: Only Good When Compared to Bush.** From 1981 to 1990 government spending increased from \$678 billion to nearly \$1.3 billion per year. From 1981 to 1990 the federal deficit increased from \$79 billion to \$221 billion per year. White House Office of Management and Budget, Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2007
[<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/pdf/hist.pdf>; Table 1/1; GOP Public Information, 1/6/08]
- **The Debt Gap: Republican Administrations’ Red Ink Nearly 10 Times As High As Democratic Administrations.** “The U.S. government has borrowed over \$5 trillion from the public in the past thirty years. In 2007, American taxpayers will pay \$235 billion in net interest payments to service this debt, or 9.1 cents on every dollar of government revenues. Over the past thirty years, public borrowing has averaged \$233 billion per year under Republican administrations compared to \$26 billion per year under Democratic ones – nine times as high.” [Report of the Senate Joint Economic Committee and the House Budget Committee, 9/12/2007,
<http://jec.senate.gov/Documents/Releases/08.28.07%20Poverty%20Report%20Release.pdf>; GOP Public Information, 1/6/08]

McCain on Technology

McCain Has Been Strong Supporter Of NASA And Space Program. According to the Spaceref..com, McCain has posted his platform on the U.S. space program and NASA on his website. The platform states, “John McCain has been a strong supporter of NASA and the space program. He is proud to have sponsored legislation authorizing funding consistent with the President’s vision for the space program, which includes a return of astronauts to the Moon in preparation for a manned mission to Mars. He believes support for a continued US presence in space is of major importance to America’s future innovation and security. He has also been a staunch advocate for ensuring that NASA funding is accompanied by proper management and oversight to ensure that the taxpayers receive the maximum return on their investment. John McCain believes curiosity and a drive to explore have always been quintessential American traits. This has been most evident in the space program, for which he will continue his strong support.” [John McCain.com via Spaceref.com, [1/27/08](#)]

Terrorism And Homeland Security

McCain Chose To Abandon Principles And Prop Up A Failed President. In regards to McCain's flip-flop on torture, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote that, "John McCain last week had a choice between his principles and propping up a failed president. He chose the latter." [Seattle Post-Intelligencer, [2/19/08](#)]

McCain's Waterboarding Flip-Flop Criticized By Leading Human Rights Group. The Washington Director of Human Rights First criticized McCain's flip-flop on torture. "Elissa Massamino called McCain's vote this week "devastating" because the senator has been "the person with the highest profile and the greatest standing on this issue in the Senate." She added, "His argument seems to be that we've told the administration that it needs to obey the law and what needs to happen here is a good-faith interpretation of the law, but all evidence suggests that that has not happened from day one and there is no reason to believe it will happen now." [Boston Globe, [2/16/08](#)]

McCain Voted Against Allowing Warrantless Wiretapping. In 1996, McCain voted against a motion allowing law enforcement agencies to get short-term emergency wire-taps without a court order in cases involving terrorist conspiracies. Motion to Table agreed to 56-43. [S 735, [Vote #69](#), 4/17/96]

McCain Signaled He Would Make National Security His Main Issue In 2008. According to the *Washington Post* the speeches made by John McCain and his supporters and the Conservative Political Action Conference hinted that national security would once again be the GOP's biggest campaign issue. [[Washington Post, 2/8/08](#)]

McCain: Wars Must Be Explainable in "One or Two Sentences." When asked the single most important lesson of Vietnam, McCain responded, "I think it's very difficult to encapsulate in one, but I would certainly agree with what was said before, but I would add to that that whatever commitment we make must be readily explainable to the man in the street in one or two sentences, because without -- even if our national security interests have been involved, which we're having trouble defining, obviously, it's got to be explainable to the American public if we expect any sustained support for that effort. So I'd say that that is, in addition to what was said before, is also a major part of the lesson." [The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, [4/30/85](#)]

McCain Dodged Questions Over Tactics to Fight al-Qaeda. When asked how he would go about capturing Osama bin Laden and delivering him to the 'Gates of Hell,' McCain dodged the question. "One thing I will not do is telegraph my punches." McCain also said that he would not share his ideas with Bush. [[The Atlantic, 1/31/08](#)]

McCain Said He Would Lead U.S. Against Islamic Extremism And Never Surrender. At a rally in South Carolina, McCain told supporters, "I promise you I will lead America in the 21st century and make you proud..." "I will restore your trust and confidence in government, and I will lead this nation in the challenge against radical Islamic extremism, and we will never surrender — they will. I promise you that — they will." [All Things Considered, [1/17/08](#)]

McCain Strongly Disagreed With Allowing Waterboarding As An American Interrogation Technique. According to an opinion article in the *Nation*, after McCain won the New Hampshire primary, the *National Review* continued attacks on him for his stance against waterboarding. McCain disagrees with Mitt Romney on waterboarding, as was discussed at a past G.O.P. debate. McCain said, "Governor, I'm astonished that you haven't found out what waterboarding is," after Romney was asked about the technique and said he would have to check with his advisers, "How in the world anybody could think that that kind of thing could be inflicted by Americans on people who are held in our custody is absolutely beyond me." [[The Nation, 1/10/08](#)]

McCain Said He Knew How To Get Osama Bin Laden, And Would If President. According to *Guardian Unlimited*, at the Fox News Channel Republican Forum, "McCain boasted that he knew how to get Osama bin Laden and, if he became president, he would get him." [[Guardian Unlimited, 1/7/08](#)]

McCain's Opposition to Bush on Torture Could Run Presidential Ambitions "Aground." The

Washington Post reported that “McCain’s bid to position himself as the natural heir to President Bush as a wartime commander in chief and to court conservative leaders in advance of his likely 2008 presidential campaign has threatened to run aground in recent days, as the two men clash over how to detain and try terrorism suspects.” The Post went on to note that “some prominent conservatives are branding him a disloyal Republican and an unreliable conservative because of his assertiveness on the detainee issue,” including Rush Limbaugh who said that McCain’s opposition to Bush “is going to go down as the event that will result in us getting hit again, and if we do, and if McCain, et al., prevail, I can tell you where fingers are going to be pointed.” [[Washington Post](#), 9/19/06]

Union Leader President Joseph McQuaid: McCain Fighting Wrong War With Torture Vote. Joseph McQuaid wrote in the Union Leader questioning McCain’s opposition to Bush in the debate on torture. McQuaid wrote, “in the midst of the most difficult and challenging war we have ever faced, can the nation afford a President McCain? No doubt his motives are pure, but McCain’s current actions are blocking our ability to gain from terrorist captives the vital information we need to fight a war in which the enemy strikes us here at home from multiple locations around the world.” McQuaid reasoned that if McCain didn’t understand the consequences of his opposition, “New Hampshire citizens must question why they should support him for President.” [[Union Leader](#), 9/16/06]

SC GOP Chair: South Carolinians Say McCain Wrong to Oppose Bush on Torture. Katon Dawson, the Republican Party chairman in South Carolina said McCain’s stance was opposite that of the voters he would need to win the South Carolina primary. Dawson said, “South Carolina is certainly Bush country. Overwhelmingly, the communications we’re getting are supporting the president. Obviously, the president is right on this issue. I think John McCain thinks he’s right - McCain and Warner and Graham. I think people on the ground think they’re wrong.” [[The Myrtle Beach Sun-News](#), 9/16/06]

McCain Said Scrutiny Of The Dubai Port Deal Was Not A Priority. McCain, speaking to ABC News on February 26, 2006, said that national security concerns surrounding the proposed port sale to Dubai should not be a priority, and he commented that his colleagues had reached a unwarranted level of “near hysteria” about the sale. McCain said, “I think that our priorities this week have been misplaced... We’ve got some very, very big issues that I think are perhaps more important than whether a country that’s freer than China is should have control of some of our terminals.” McCain added, “I think that the near hysteria about this is not warranted particularly in light of the other major crises that we are facing throughout the world.” The Los Angeles Times reported that McCain, often “a staunch critic” of Bush, was “one of a few senior Republicans who stood” with the president in an effort to “strengthen ties to the president’s allies” in preparation for 2008. [[ABC News](#), 2/26/06; [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/26/06]

McCain Joined With Warner To Criticize Bush Signing Statement On Torture Law, Pledged To Monitor Law’s Administration. “John W. Warner...and Senator John McCain...issued a joint statement rejecting Bush’s assertion that he can waive the restrictions on the use of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment against detainees to protect national security. ‘We believe the president understands Congress’s intent in passing, by very large majorities, legislation governing the treatment of detainees,’ the senators said. ‘The Congress declined when asked by administration officials to include a presidential waiver of the restrictions included in our legislation. Our committee intends through strict oversight to monitor the administration’s implementation of the new law.’” [[Boston Globe](#), 1/5/06]

McCain Flip-Flops On Torture Shows He's Pandering To The Right

This afternoon, Senator John McCain cast a vote that contradicts what many thought was his principled position against torture. Though he has repeatedly spoken out against torture as an interrogation technique in the war on terror, he today voted against the Intelligence Authorization bill, which would require all intelligence professionals to adhere to the interrogation standards included in the Army Field Manual. Inexplicably, when it came time for action, McCain abandoned his principled rhetoric and voted in favor of torture. Clearly, McCain is worried that his principled and progressive stance against torture will cause outrage among far right pundits like Rush Limbaugh who are out of touch with the American people.

FLIP: McCain Strongly Disagreed With Allowing Waterboarding As An American Interrogation Technique.

According to an opinion article in the *Nation*, after McCain won the New Hampshire primary, the *National Review* continued attacks on him for his stance against waterboarding. McCain disagrees with Mitt Romney on waterboarding, as was discussed at a past G.O.P. debate. McCain said, "Governor, I'm astonished that you haven't found out what waterboarding is," after Romney was asked about the technique and said he would have to check with his advisers, "How in the world anybody could think that that kind of thing could be inflicted by Americans on people who are held in our custody is absolutely beyond me." [[The Nation, 1/10/08](#)]

- **FLOP: McCain Voted Against Waterboarding Ban.** Although McCain once appeared as a passionate advocate of the ban on waterboarding, he voted against the bill. In a statement, McCain said, "I believe that our energies are better directed at ensuring that all techniques, whether used by the military or the CIA, are in full compliance with our international obligations and in accordance with our deepest values." [[Los Angeles Times, 2/14/08](#)]
- **McCain Encouraged Bush To Veto Waterboarding Bill.** According to the *Baltimore Sun*, "Sen. John McCain, a former prisoner of war who suffered torture at the hands of his North Vietnamese captors, said today that President Bush should veto a bill that would prohibit the CIA from using waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques on prisoners." McCain said, "I was on the record as saying that they could use additional techniques as long as they were not cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. So the vote was in keeping with my clear record of saying that they could have additional techniques, but those techniques could not violate international rules against torture." [[Baltimore Sun, 2/20/08](#)]

McCain Says He Opposes Torture

McCain Said U.S. Will Not Torture. "Today we see, on the front page of the New York Times and other newspapers, that the CIA decided to erase some interrogation tapes of interrogations of some al Qaeda people... bad people, bad, bad people. But they decided against the recommendation of members of Congress, and, uh, a lot of other people and organizations not to erase those tapes. What does that do? That confirms suspicions of people who are our enemies that, that we, that we engage in interrogation techniques which are illegal, it causes, uh, others to be encouraged, and it erodes the credibility and confidence of the American people in their government. **And I'll tell ya, as president of the United States, we will never torture another person in the custody of the United States of America. That's not what America is supposed to do.** [applause]" [Town Hall; Nashua, NH, 12/08/07]

McCain Spoke Denounced Torture; Praised Army Field Manual Standards During GOP Debate. At the November 28 Republican debate on CNN, McCain responded to Gov. Romney's refusal to address what constitutes torture. He even praised the Army Field Manual Standards, which he today voted against.

McCain: "Well, then you would have to advocate that we withdraw from the Geneva Conventions, which were for the treatment of people who are held prisoner, whether they be illegal combatants or regular prisoners of war, because it's clearly the definition of torture. It's in violation of laws we have passed."

And again, I would hope that we would understand, my friends, that life is not 24 and Jack Bauer. Life is interrogation techniques which are humane and yet effective. And I just came back from visiting a prison in Iraq. They army general there

said that the techniques under the Army Field Manual are working and working effectively, and he didn't think they need to do anything else.

My friends, this is what America is all about. This is a defining issue, and clearly, we should be able if we want to be commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces to take a definite and positive position on, and that is we will never allow torture to take place in the United States of America -- (off mike) -- (cheers, applause.)'

See the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqCxq6NFMEY>

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McCain's Opposition To Torture Was In The Name Of Fundamental Conservative Principles. According to columnist Adrian Wooldridge of the *New York Times*, McCain's opposition to torture was in the name of fundamental conservative principles. Wooldridge pointed out that, "He opposed torture because he thought it was a violation of the American tradition of respect for human life and human rights." [Op-Ed, *New York Times*, 1/17/08]

McCain Met With Bush At White House To Discuss Interrogation. During a meeting with Senators McCain and Warner to discuss interrogation, the President remarked, "Senator McCain has been a leader to make sure that the United States of America upholds the values of America as we fight and win this war on terror. And we've been happy to work with him to achieve a common objective, and that is to make it clear to the world that this government does not torture and that we adhere to the international convention of torture, whether it be here at home or abroad. And so we have worked very closely with the Senator and others to achieve that objective, as well as to provide

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Limbaugh Criticized McCain's Stance on Torture. When speaking about McCain, Rush Limbaugh said, "See, but this is one of the things about Senator McCain that troubles me, and it goes beyond the obvious conclusion here that if you're not going to do what you can in the nuclear ticking time bomb situation, if you're not going to cast it all aside to save your own country, you know, fine. The question I have is, why does Senator McCain want to sound like the liberals on this? I mean, here's a guy who's promoting his national security foreign policy military expertise and experience and yet offered the ticking time bomb scenario, he says there's no way we shall ever torture anybody to get what we want because it would diminish us in the rest of the world. Well, so would a nuclear bomb diminish us and kill a bunch of us, by the way." [RushLimbaugh.com, 1/25/08]

McCain Joined With Warner To Criticize Bush Signing Statement On Torture Law, Pledged To Monitor Law's Administration. "John W. Warner...and Senator John McCain...issued a joint statement rejecting Bush's assertion that he can waive the restrictions on the use of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment against detainees to protect national security. 'We believe the president understands Congress's intent in passing, by very large majorities, legislation governing the treatment of detainees,' the senators said. 'The Congress declined when asked by administration officials to include a presidential waiver of the restrictions included in our legislation. Our committee intends through strict oversight to monitor the administration's implementation of the new law.'"
[Boston Globe, 1/5/06]

Transportation

McCain Dubbed “The Amtrak Candidate” for East Coast Sweep: MSNBC reported, “It’s too close to call in Connecticut, so we’ve got that housekeeping done. But on the Republican side, it looks like John McCain has become the Amtrak candidate for president, having swept right down the coast from New York. The Metroliner candidate, better said, the Metroliner candidate, John McCain, has won in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, all the way down the line, and also Connecticut, if you go a little further north.” [MSNBC, 2/5/08]

- **FACT: McCain Not a Fan of Amtrak.** “The loudest call came from Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) who called the tax credit for Amtrak ‘the greatest train robbery since the James Brothers,’ except that the roles were reversed. ‘Instead of someone robbing the train, the train is robbing the treasury,’ he said last week.” [Newsday (New York), 8/5/97; DNC Rapid Response]

Veterans

The Real McCain: Opposed Veterans Funding Campaign McCain claims that veteran's health care would be his "top domestic priority," but the real John McCain has consistently voted against increased funding for military and veteran's health care. In fact—in the last Congress alone—McCain Chose Tax Cuts for the Wealthy Over Funding Military Health Care Facilities SIX TIMES.

McCain Voted Against \$19 Billion for Military Hospitals. In February 2006, McCain voted against a Senate amendment that would have provided for at least \$19 billion for these military health facilities, paid for by eliminating tax cuts for the wealthiest earners. [Senate Roll Call Vote 7, 2/2/06]

McCain Voted Against Amendment to Provide \$2.8 Billion For Veterans' Medical Care. McCain joined his Republican colleagues in voting against a 2006 Democratic amendment that would have provided \$2.8 billion to increase veterans' medical care. [S.Amdt. 149 to S.Con.Res. 18]

McCain Voted Against 2005 Amendment to Provide Guaranteed Funding Stream for Veterans' Health Care. McCain joined other Republicans in voting against a Democratic amendment that would have guaranteed funding for Veterans' health care from both discretionary and mandatory funding sources; provided an annual discretionary amount that is locked in for future years at the FY 2005 funding level; and stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs shall receive mandatory funding that is adjusted year-to-year based on changes in demand from the VA health care system and the rate of health care inflation. [S.Amdt. 1937 to H.R. 2863]

McCain Voted Against Establishing \$1 Billion Trust Fund to Provide Improvements to Military and Veterans' Health Facilities. McCain voted against an Amendment to establish a \$1 billion trust fund to provide improvements to health facilities that treat military personnel and veterans by allowing dividends and capital gains tax breaks, for those with incomes greater than \$1 million to lapse on December 31, 2006. [S.Amdt. 2735 to S.Amdt. 2707 to H.R. 4297]

McCain Voted Against Adding \$1.5 billion to Veterans' Medical Services in FY 2007 by Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes. McCain Voted Against a Democratic Amendment to increase Veterans' medical services funding by \$1.5 billion in FY 2007 to be paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes. [S.Amdt. 3007 to S.Con.Res. 83]

McCain Voted Against Mandatory Funding of \$6.9 Billion in FY 2007 and \$104 Billion Over Five Years for Veterans' Health Care. McCain voted against a Democratic amendment to provide a mandatory stream of funding of \$6.9 billion in FY 2007 and \$104 billion over five years for veterans' health care; and offsets by restoring the pre-2001 top rate for incomes over \$1 million and closing various corporate tax loopholes. [S.Amdt. 3141 to S.Con.Res. 83]

Women And Children

McCain Voted Against Reauthorizing SCHIP. In 2007, McCain voted against passage of the bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at \$60.2 billion for five years, expanding the program by \$35.2 billion. To offset the cost of the expansion, it would increase the tax on cigarettes by 61 cents to \$1 per pack and raise taxes on other tobacco products. It also would cover children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. For a single parent with two children, that would be \$51,510 a year, and for a family of four it would be \$61,950. It also would phase out coverage of adults under SCHIP by Oct. 1, 2009. The bill would provide \$100 million in new grants to fund state outreach and enrollment efforts and allocate \$49 million for a demonstration project to streamline the enrollment process for low-income children already eligible for coverage. The bill passed 68-31. [HR 976, Vote # 307, 8/02/07]

- **McCain Opposed Reauthorizing SCHIP.** In 2007, McCain voted against a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program at nearly \$60 billion over five years. The motion passed 62-33. [HR 3963, Vote # 401, 10/31/07]

McCain Voted Against Budget Plan That Increased Benefits for Children. In 2007, McCain voted against a responsible FY08 budget resolution. In a mostly party line vote the Senate passed a Budget Plan that would increase benefits for veterans and healthcare for low-income children. While Republicans argued that the plan would lead to higher taxes the Los Angles Times reported that, "...four nonpartisan budget watchdog organizations, including the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and the Concord Coalition, issued a statement supporting reserve funds as a step toward fiscal responsibility." Robert L. Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, said the plan was a useful way of tamping down pent-up demand for more spending "without breaking the bank." The budget plan includes pay-go provisions requiring Congress to offset any increased spending with savings or tax-increases. [Vote #114, 3/23/07; Los Angeles Times, 3/27/07; New York Times, 3/24/07]

McCain Voted Against Increasing Eligibility For Refundable Child Tax Credit. In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would have lowered the eligibility threshold for a refundable child tax credit from \$10,500 to \$5,000. Eight million children from working families at the very bottom of the income scale would receive no benefit from the child tax credit. This amendment would extend the credit to families of 4.4 million children. It would be offset by delaying until 2011 the 20 percent dividend tax exclusion originally scheduled for 2008 in Bush's 2003 tax cut legislation. [Vote 153, 5/15/03; Congressional Record, 5/15/03]

McCain Voted Against Increasing Head Start. In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would increase spending on Head Start programs by \$24 billion and increase spending on after-school programs by \$18 billion, both over 10 years. The increases would be offset by a reduction in tax cuts. The amendment failed 48-51. [SCR 23, Vote #86, 3/25/03]

McCain Opposed Expressing Sense of Senate That Programs for Low-Income Families Should Not Be Further Cut. McCain voted to table motion that expresses sense of the Senate that programs for low-income families should not be further cut. McCain voted against expressing the sense of the Senate that the FY 04 Budget Resolution Conference Report should not include a funding reduction of programs for low-income families below the current baseline levels and that the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits can be repealed without harming the solvency of the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust fund. [S Con Res 23, Vote #101, 3/25/03]

McCain Voted Against Increasing Child Care Spending. In 2003, McCain voted against an amendment that would increase Mandatory Child Care Spending by \$4.7 billion over five years and \$9.1 billion over the next ten years. Instead of providing this vital child care funding to people who desperately need it, Specter allowed that money to be spent giving the wealthiest Americans a tax cut. [S. Amdt. 417, Vote #90, 3/25/03]

McCain Voted Against Expanding Health Care For Pregnant Women. In 2003, McCain voted against allowing states to expand the States' Children's Health Insurance Program to include low-income pregnant women.

He also voted against authorizing \$10 million for a program to educate public health organizations, providers and the public about the availability and effectiveness of emergency contraceptives; allow state public health agencies to apply for grants for further programs; require private health plans to cover prescription contraceptives and related medical services; and require hospitals to make emergency contraceptives and information about them available to rape victims. [S. Amdt 258, [Vote #45](#), 3/11/03]

McCain Voted Against \$123.4 Billion Discretionary Spending, Including \$12.3B for Title 1 Program. In 2001, McCain was one of seven senators to vote against adoption of the conference report on the bill that would appropriate \$123.4 billion in discretionary spending for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education departments and related agencies. The agreement would include \$12.3 billion for the disadvantaged children's Title 1 program. It also would fund the education overhaul bill (HR 1), including money for teacher improvement, annual state testing and the Reader First program. The bill passed 90-7. [HR 3061, Vote #378, 12/20/01]

McCain Voted Against a Measure Providing Unlimited Compensatory and Punitive Damage Awards in Gender Discrimination Lawsuits. In 2000, McCain voted against waiving the Budget Act to consider an amendment to the Marriage Tax Reconciliation Act of 2000 by Sens. Harkin and Daschle that would have amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to permit unlimited compensatory and punitive damages to be awarded in gender discrimination lawsuits regarding pay rates, including in class-action lawsuits, and would increase the burden on employers to prove that any pay rate differentials between jobs primarily held by men and jobs primarily held by women were based on bona fide factors, such as education or experience. The amendment would also require the Labor Department to educate employers on the requirements of the law. [[Vote #203](#), Amendment Rejected 45-53, 106th Congress, 2nd Session, 7/17/00]

McCain Voted Against Increased Patient Protections For Breast Cancer and Obstetrical/Gynecological Patients and Self-Employed Health Care Tax Deductions. In 1999, McCain voted against an amendment that would have imposed mandates on the length of hospitalization after breast cancer surgery, and imposed mandates on obstetrical/gynecological care (all health insurance plans would be required to provide hospital care after any mastectomy, lumpectomy, or lymph node dissection for as long as the attending physician and patient thought such care was "medically appropriate" and such care was "consistent with generally accepted medical standards"). The amendment would have also made the health insurance costs of self-employed Americans fully deductible (the cost of that tax benefit would be paid for over 5 years not by cutting other spending out of the \$1.7 trillion Federal budget but by increasing Superfund (environmental waste cleanup) taxes by \$6.7 billion). [[Vote #198](#), Amendment Rejected 48-52, 106th Congress, 1st Session, 7/13/99]

McCain Opposed a Measure Cracking Down on Child Labor. In 1998, McCain voted against an amendment to the FY '99 Treasury-Postal Appropriations by Sen. Harkin that would have required the Labor Department to list items which it found had been mined, produced, or manufactured with forced or indentured child labor and it would have required contractors to submit to unlimited searches from heads of Federal agencies and inspector generals of such agencies. [[Vote #244](#), Amendment Rejected 46-53, 105th Congress, 2nd Session, 7/29/98]

- **Voted To Make It More Difficult To End Child Labor.** In 1995, McCain supported regulatory reform legislation that would make it more difficult to design new federal regulations to stop child labor in sweatshops. [S. 343, [Vote #315](#), 7/20/95]