

THE NORSEMAN SCROLL

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ELECTION EDITION

Know the issues, know the candidates, make your voice heard!

Information obtained from official websites of John McCain and Barack Obama and the Oklahoman

BIOGRAPHIES OF BARACK OBAMA AND JOHN MCCAIN

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on August 4th, 1961. His father, Barack Obama Sr., was born and raised in a small village in Kenya, where he grew up herding goats with his own father, who was a domestic servant to the British.

Barack's mother, Ann Dunham, grew up in small-town Kansas. Her father worked on oil rigs during the Depression, and then signed up for World War II after Pearl Harbor, where he marched across Europe in Patton's army. Her mother went to work on a bomber assembly line, and after the war, they studied on the G.I. Bill, bought a house through the Federal Housing Program, and moved west to Hawaii. It was there, at the University of Hawaii, where Barack's parents met. His mother was a student there, and his father had won a scholarship that allowed him to leave Kenya and pursue his dreams in America.

Barack's father eventually returned to Kenya, and Barack grew up with his mother in Hawaii, and for a few years in Indonesia. Later, he moved to New York, where he graduated from Columbia University in 1983.

Remembering the values of empathy and service that his mother taught him, Barack put law school and corporate life on hold after college and moved to Chicago in 1985, where he became a community organizer with a church-based group seeking to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods plagued with crime and high unemployment. all capital cases.



John McCain has a remarkable record of leadership and experience that embodies his unwavering



lifetime commitment to service. First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona in 1982, John has led the fight for reforming Washington, eliminating wasteful government spending, and strengthening our nation's armed forces.

John McCain's reform agenda to reduce federal spending and lower taxes quickly elevated him to statewide office and he was elected to the United States Senate in 1986, after serving two terms in the U.S. House.

In the Senate, John continued to demand that Congress put an end to loopholes for special interests and fix the broken system in Washington that too often allows lobbyists to write legislation and members of Congress to waste taxpayer money. In November 2004, Senator McCain was overwhelmingly reelected with nearly 77 percent of the vote.

As the son and grandson of distinguished Navy admirals, John McCain deeply values duty, honor and service of country. John attended college at the United States Naval Academy, and launched a 22-year career as a naval aviator upon his graduation. 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.

On July 29 1967, John narrowly survived the first of many near-death experiences during his lifetime while preparing to take off on a bombing mission over North Vietnam from

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In the U.S. Senate, he has focused on tackling the challenges of a globalized, 21st century world with fresh thinking and a politics that no longer settles for the lowest common denominator. His first law was passed with Republican Tom Coburn, a measure to rebuild trust in government by allowing every American to go online and see how and where every dime of their tax dollars is spent. He has also been the lead voice in championing ethics reform that would root out Jack Abramoff-style corruption in Congress.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Obama has fought to help Illinois veterans get the disability pay they were promised, while working to prepare the VA for the return of the thousands of veterans who will need care after Iraq and Afghanistan. Recognizing the terrorist threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, he traveled to Russia with Republican Dick Lugar to begin a new generation of non-proliferation efforts designed to find and secure deadly weapons around the world. And knowing the threat we face to our economy and our security from America's addiction to oil, he's working to bring auto companies, unions, farmers, businesses and politicians of both parties together to promote the greater use of alternative fuels and higher fuel standards in our cars.

But above all his accomplishments and experiences, he is most proud and grateful for his family. His wife, Michelle, and his two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, live on Chicago's South Side.

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his ship, the USS Forrestal. 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. When he was finally released and able to return home years later, John continued his service by regaining his naval flight status.

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.

Senator McCain has seven children and four grandchildren, and currently lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Cindy.

A WAY TO GET INVOLVED

There are many opportunities to get active and involved in your community, even in your own school. There are organizational and class offices. There is also, the Northeast Academy High School and Middle School PTSA. They are always looking for students to provide opinions. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Student membership fee is \$3 and parent or adult is \$5. If you have questions regarding this meeting Katie Alsup, PTSA President Elect would be more than happy to answer them. Thanks and hope to see you there.

NORTHEAST VIKINGS ROCK THE VOTE*Chaniqua Crook*

There is no doubt that the upcoming elections have been in everyone's minds, though more so in the minds of those who are actually able to vote. Lindsay Williams, U.S. History and Government teacher, felt that it was necessary to allow students to have an opinion. With the help of her Government students, she organized a mock election that mirrors that of actual election procedure. In her October interview with me and Whitney Lane, she revealed her inspiration and the procedure of the election.

Whitney Lane [**WL**]

Lindsay Williams [**LW**]

WL: Tell us about the mock election.

LW: Since it's election year, we wanted to do something proactive. It's a small class so we decided to have a mock election. Students actually register students to vote. We have real registration ballots, they say Northeast Academy on them. On different days, different students would go down to help register other students. We went down to the county election board and they showed us how voter registration works.

WL: How many people registered?

LW: We have about 100 students, which is okay. We hope to get more. We're still trying to get more participation.

WL: When is the election?

LW: On November 4, just like the real election. We'll have it in either the cafeteria or gym. We got a voting ballot booth and we're going to allow those who registered to cast their votes.

WL: What do you think the results will be?

LW: It's hard to say. Since the school is primarily minority, I would propose that the winner would probably be Obama, but you never really know. I'm excited to see what the results will be.

I think that there is no doubt that the regular and Mock election results will be quite exciting. I encourage all students to not only register, but to vote. Registration open until November 4, in Ms. William's room.

THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

As Governor, Palin is chair of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, a multi-state government agency that promotes the conservation and efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety and the environment. She also serves as chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) Natural Resources Committee, which is charged with pursuing legislation to ensure state needs are considered as federal policy is formulated in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental protection and natural resource management.

Palin is married to high school sweet heart Todd, and is the proud mother of five.



Biden became ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee in 1997 and served as chairman of the committee from 2001 to 2003 and from January 2007 to the present. He has served as chairman or ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for sixteen years. He is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on foreign policy, as well as one of its most influential voices on terrorism, drug policy, crime, and issues important to women. He has been a tireless advocate for working families and has reached across the aisle to work with Republicans on tackling some of the greatest challenges facing Americans.

Husband of Jill Jacobs; father to three.

THE CANDIDATES STANCES ON THE "BIG" ISSUES

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| <u>Taxes</u> | John McCain believes we must keep taxes low to reward hard work and create jobs for all Americans. | Barack Obama wants to "spread the wealth around" and is more interested in controlling who gets your piece of the pie than he is in growing the pie. |
| <u>Economic Plan</u> | John McCain has a comprehensive economic plan that will create millions of good American jobs, ensure our nation's energy security, get the government's budget and spending practices in order, and bring relief to American consumers | The Obama tax increase would come at the worst possible time for America, and especially for small businesses like the one Joe the Plumber dreams of owning. The small businesses Senator Obama would tax provide 16 million jobs in America. And a sudden tax hike for those businesses will kill jobs at a time when we need to be creating more jobs. |
| <u>Energy</u> | John McCain will break from the past to lead a great national campaign to put us on a course for energy independence. No problem is more urgent today than our dependence on foreign oil. | Barack Obama voted for the same policies that created the problem. He voted for the energy bill promoted by President Bush and Vice President Cheney, which gave even more breaks to the oil industry. |
| <u>Health Care</u> | John McCain will make health care more available, affordable and responsive to patients and he will give families more choices over their care. | Barack Obama's plan will harm employer coverage, continues the push toward government-run health care and will damage private coverage. |
| <u>Education</u> | John McCain will shake up failed school bureaucracies with competition, empower parents with choice, remove barriers to qualified instructors, attract and reward good teachers. | Barack Obama wants our schools to answer to unions and entrenched bureaucracies. |
| <u>Iraq</u> | John McCain had the judgment to understand that America's strategy in Iraq was failing and the courage to call for a dramatic change. That strategy is now working, and America is succeeding in Iraq | Barack Obama opposed the new strategy and predicted wrongly that it would fail. He voted to deny critical funds to our men and women fighting in Iraq. |

For more information on each candidate and their stances on certain issues visit their websites
Barackobama.com or johnmccain.com