

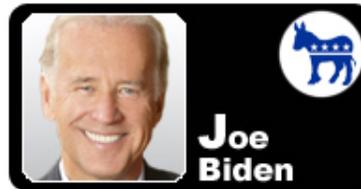


Countdown to the U.S. Presidential Election

:: Meet the 2008 Presidential Candidates



Democratic
Presidential Nominee
[Biography](#)



Democratic Vice
Presidential Nominee
[Biography](#)



Potential First Lady
[Biography](#)

>> [Barack Obama: Breaking New Ground](#)



Republican
Presidential Nominee
[Biography](#)



Republican Vice
Presidential Nominee
[Biography](#)



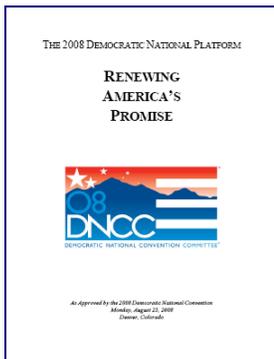
Potential First Lady
[Biography](#)

>> [John McCain: Service to His Country](#)

:: 2008 Presidential Debates

- **Final Presidential Debate**
- **Foreign Policy** (Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, Oxford, **October 15**, 2008) [Transcript](#)
[Final McCain-Obama Debate Most Contentious of the Three](#)
- **Second Presidential Debate**
- **Town Meeting** (Belmont University, Nashville, TN, **October 7**, 2008) [Transcript](#)
[Economic Issues Dominate Second Presidential Debate](#)
- **Vice Presidential Debate** (Washington University, St. Louis, MO, **October 2**, 2008)
[Transcript](#)
[Joe Biden, Sarah Palin Highlight Their Political, Personal Roots](#)
- **First Presidential Debate**
- **Domestic Policy** (University of Mississippi, Oxford, **September 26**, 2008) [Transcript](#)
[No Clear Winner in First Presidential Debate](#)

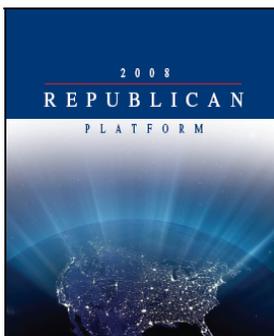
:: 2008 Democratic National Convention (August 25-28)



2008 Democratic Platform (pdf file)

- **Obama Selects Joe Biden as Running Mate**
- **Opening Night of Democratic Convention**
- **Obama's Willingness to Work with Allies**
- **Democrats Nominate Barack Obama for President**
- **Obama Accepts Presidential Nomination**

:: 2008 Republican National Convention (September 1-4)



2008 Republican Platform (pdf file)

- **McCain Chooses Sarah Palin as Running Mate.**
- **Republican Party Quietly Opens National Convention**
- **Republicans Nominate John McCain for President**
- **Republicans Say McCain Will Listen to American Allies**
- **McCain Tells Republican Convention "Change Is Coming"**



BARACK OBAMA **CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES** **JOHN MCCAIN**



International Relations
 Learn More



Iraq
 Learn More



Security
 Learn More



Immigration
 Learn More



Energy and Climate Change
 Learn More



The Economy
 Learn More



Trade
 Learn More



Education
 Learn More



Health Care
 Learn More

- o Both U.S. Presidential Candidates "Profoundly Shaped" by Asia (Free Trade/ North Korea)

:: Photo Gallery



Barack Obama waves to a crowd of more than 76,000 before giving his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention.



Barack Obama is joined on the Democratic National Convention stage by his running mate, Joe Biden.



John McCain accepts the Republican nomination for president on September 4.



John McCain hugs Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin at a campaign rally in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



:: Multimedia

- **Audio**



Immigration Policy (mp3 file)

This podcast examines America's policies on immigration and U.S. presidential candidates' proposals for dealing with illegal immigration.



U.S. Security Policy Debated in Presidential Election (mp3 file)

This podcast examines national security policy as an issue in the 2008 presidential campaign.

[Transcript](#)

- **Video**



Contested Elections
(2:44)



The Electoral College in U.S. Elections (2:19)



Swing States in U.S. Elections (3:13)

:: Publications (By the U.S. Department of State)

- **The Candidates (New!)**



Every presidential campaign is dramatic and historic, but as the fervor surrounding the 2008 election continues to build, U.S. voters and the rest of the world will want to consider the candidates' personal histories more closely. What sort of people rise to the top in the U.S. political system, what are their attributes, their sensibilities, and their strengths? [View PDF \(1.07 MB\)](#)

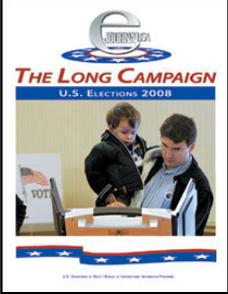
- **The Electoral College (New!)**



More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. It reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers not only to a national government and to the people but also to the states. We hope that this issue of eJournal USA will improve your understanding of the historical reasons for the Electoral College system and how it functions. [View PDF \(1.47 MB\)](#)



- **Previous publications**

<p>USA Elections in Brief</p>  <p>View PDF</p>	<p>The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008</p>  <p>View PDF</p>	<p>Democracy in Brief</p>  <p>View PDF</p>	<p>USA Elections 2008: The Primary Season</p>  <p>View Slide Show</p>
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:: More Coverage

America.gov- Elections 2008

: Guide to the 2008 Elections (U.S. Department of State)



Campaign Trail Talk

: Blogs at America.gov



[IRC Special Feature of the Year]

U.S. Elections 2008

IRC Newsletter #3 (June 2008)

IRC Newsletter #2 (February 2008)

IRC Newsletter #1 (December 2007)

