

THE JOURNEYMAN ROOFER & WATERPROOFER

COVER STORY

COVER STORY FOR ROOFERS AND WATERPROOFERS

A Comparison of How the Presidential Candidates Stand on Issues That Affect America's Workers

From AFL-CIO's "Working Families Vote 2008"



Barack Obama



John McCain

Issue		
<p>Economy <i>Our current economy is in an abysmal state. Lower- and middle-class families continue to bear the brunt of this burden, while wealthy citizens and corporations continue to receive tax breaks. Homeowners are losing equity. Unemployment is rising across the country. Many of our citizens are deeply in debt. We need to make a clean break from the direction in which President Bush has been taking us for the last eight years.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama has proposed a tax plan that rewards working families, not just the very wealthiest ▶ Pledged to create a new mortgage tax credit and offer \$10 billion in aid to struggling homeowners ▶ Voted to strengthen vital programs for working families like Medicare and student aid ▶ Supported extending unemployment insurance and giving rebates to families, seniors and veterans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain says we're better off now than eight years ago and calls our economical problems "psychological" ▶ Proposed a tax plan that would give billions to corporations and would cut key working family programs ▶ Did not attend Senate vote on a stimulus package that failed by one vote
<p>Employee Free Choice Act <i>America's working families are struggling to make ends meet. The best opportunity workers have to get ahead economically is forming unions to bargain for better wages. But the current system is broken. Employers routinely intimidate, harass and even fire workers who try to form unions. The Employee Free Choice Act would level the playing field for workers and employers and restore our freedom to choose a union.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama co-sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act and has pledged to sign it into law ▶ Voted for collective bargaining rights for public employees ▶ Left his campaign trail in order to vote in favor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act ▶ Obama has rallied with striking workers and supported union organizing campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain voted to block the Employee Free Choice Act ▶ Voted against bargaining rights for federal employees ▶ Supports national law to make it harder to get a voice on the job ▶ Opposes the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which would have enabled women who are paid less than their co-workers doing the same job to challenge the inequity
<p>Good Jobs <i>America's workforce is under pressure, facing stagnant wages, rapidly rising health care costs, disappearing retirement benefits and an overall lack of job security. It's taken 10 years for America's minimum-wage workers to get a raise, and families are still struggling to get by on what they earn. The next president must put a high priority on ensuring that the U.S. economy is creating good jobs at good wages.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama voted to raise the minimum wage ▶ Voted to support overtime pay, equal pay, prevailing wages and family and medical leave ▶ Voted against privatizing federal jobs ▶ Will invest in the renewable energy sector and in America's infrastructure to create new jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain has voted against raising the federal minimum wage and also voted to allow states to opt out of future federal minimum wage increases ▶ Blocked a bill to protect overtime rights ▶ Opposed extending unemployment benefits ▶ Voted to allow privatization and outsourcing of government jobs



Comparison continued



Barack Obama



John McCain

Issue	Barack Obama	John McCain
<p>Health Care <i>America has a health care crisis. Forty-seven million Americans have no health insurance, while millions more are feeling the pressure of skyrocketing costs and inadequate coverage. Our health care system needs serious, comprehensive reform that will provide guaranteed affordable health care for all.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama's health care plan would give everyone access to the same quality coverage members of Congress get ▶ His plan will cut costs while protecting current benefits ▶ His plan will make sure consumers get fair treatment from insurers ▶ Voted to protect Medicare and children's health benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ John McCain's health care proposal would: ▶ Tax your health care benefits ▶ Lead employers to eliminate benefits ▶ Leave working families at the mercy of big insurance companies ▶ Fail to cut costs or cover more people
<p>Trade & Manufacturing <i>U.S. trade deals in recent years have cost America's workers millions of jobs and lowered living and working standards for workers globally. The next president must fight for a trade policy that supports, rather than hurts, working families here and abroad.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama voted against the Central American Free Trade Agreement ▶ Opposes a free trade deal with Colombia, where workers and their rights are under attack ▶ Pledges to include enforceable labor standards in any trade deal ▶ Expand assistance to workers displaced by trade and invest in industries that create jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain voted for NAFTA, CAFTA and other bad trade agreements ▶ Voted to outsource federal contracts overseas ▶ Strongly supports the Colombia Free Trade Agreement ▶ Voted to give Bush "Fast Track" authority to pass more bad trade deals
<p>Retirement Security <i>After a lifetime of work, retirees deserve a basic level of security. But employer-provided pensions are disappearing and Social Security is under threat. The next president must strengthen Social Security, rather than allow dangerous privatization schemes, and protect workers' pensions and retirement savings.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama voted to protect Social Security and Medicare ▶ Pledged not to cut benefits or raise the retirement age ▶ Strongly opposes privatizing Social Security ▶ Will cut income taxes for low- and middle-income seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain supports replacing Social Security with privatized accounts ▶ Voted to raise the Medicare age ▶ Voted to raid Social Security funds ▶ Voted against protecting seniors from higher Medicare premiums
<p>Education <i>Every child deserves a world-class public education and access to affordable higher education. America's future—our ability to compete globally and grow economically—depends on what we're willing to provide to our children.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obama supports helping public schools, not abandoning them with private school vouchers ▶ Will work to expand Head Start funding and Early Head Start ▶ Plans for tax credit to help middle class families pay for college 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ McCain would divert public school funds to private schools through voucher programs ▶ Voted against funding for Head Start and after-school programs ▶ Voted against the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which would help more families afford college

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ENDORSES BARACK OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT

After careful deliberation, the International Executive Board has voted to endorse Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States of America. The decision came only after months of discussion with members and local leaders, a thorough examination of each candidate's record and their vision for putting America back on the road to peace and prosperity.