



MICHIGAN PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTER

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ELECTION 2008



Special Election Issue

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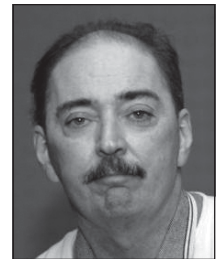
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— FYI —

You too can be a contributor

It's very easy to do. Just send us a story, a picture, or both. It can be about anything that is going on in your local or general information that has something to do with unionism or being a firefighter (union event or of fire, rescue or EMS incidents involving local members) and we will publish it on the web and/or magazine.

Please submit your material ASAP to:

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Email: tchesney@mpffu.org

Note: I also wish to remind you that it is the policy of the MPFF editorial staff to not publish any information that is sent anonymously.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why You Need to Vote on November 4

On November 4th we face another important election for firefighters and working families across this state and nation. Considering the state of the economy, both nationally and in Michigan, it's time to elect worker-friendly candidates to the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Supreme Court, U.S. Congress (both Senate and House) and as President of the United States. We need to elect decision makers who understand the economic, employment, and fire service issues that affect firefighters.

We have a lot a stake in this election. A leading example is Public Act 312. It continues to be attacked by a number of mayors and city managers. Without any factual basis, they persist in their arguments that binding arbitration for contracts is the cause of financial problems faced by some local governments, even though ninety-five percent of firefighter contracts are settled at the bargaining table. Of the few contracts that

are arbitrated, the vast majority of economic issues are awarded in favor of the municipalities, arbitration awards that are based on the local government's ability to pay.

Another example is Revenue Sharing to local governments; it has been reduced by over \$3 billion dollars over the past six years. This caused the loss of hundreds of firefighter jobs and the subsequent reduction in safety for the public and for the firefighters now working understaffed. State government is not living up to its promise of returning tax dollars to local jurisdictions for its taxing authority that was agreed to many years ago.

As we have done in previous elections, your state union prepared a detailed questionnaire and distributed it to all candidates seeking office. We asked them to clarify their position on Right-to-Work laws, Public Act 312, Heart/Lung and Cancer Pre-sumption, State Revenue Sharing, and many other issues that impact the daily lives



of firefighters and the services they deliver.

Individually, we all may use different standards in deciding who we support in an election. As a union though, when making our recommendations, we look at candidates and their positions on firefighter issues such as supporting effective emergency services, collective bargaining rights for public employees, and proper funding from state government for local operations.

The candidates we are recommending in this election are committed to supporting firefighters and the emergency services they deliver. Please take the time to review the list of recommended candidates and remember that it's very important for you to vote on November 4th.

Our Basket of Issues

By Harold Schaitberger
IAFF General President

This union's job is to represent you at the federal, state, provincial and local levels of government on issues dealing with your work and quality of life—your employee rights, the right to be represented by your union and work under a collective bargaining agreement, your safety on the job, your financial and retirement security, and making sure employers pay their fair share in taxes so the tax burden isn't focused squarely on the shoulders of working families.

You pay your dues for us to represent and fight for you on how much you make, the benefits that protect your family's health, whether you have a secure retirement after a career of risking your life for your

community, how many hours you work and spend away from your family, your safety so you make it home to your family after your shift, and making sure your families are taken care of financially if one of our own makes the ultimate sacrifice.

These are what I call the IAFF's "basket of issues" that we use to measure political candidates.

Just as significant is your personal "basket of issues"—issues that are critically important to each and every member, but issues that should be dealt with in your own hearts—decisions on pro-life/pro-choice, Second Amendment rights, gay marriage, prayer in schools—areas I don't think you want your union focusing on or involving itself in. For guidance on those issues, I expect you probably do what I do in my own personal life—look to the teach-

ings of my church and to the values my parents bestowed on me.

But your Executive Board and I take very seriously this union's role in providing you the best guidance possible on issues and candidates when it comes to the IAFF's basket of issues.

That's why this union is taking a strong position in the upcoming election to determine who will be president of the United States.

For us, the decision isn't about Democrats or Republicans. It's about supporting our political allies. We take great pride in being the most bipartisan union in the House of Labor. In this election, your IAFF will support more Republican Senate and House candidates than any other labor

Continued on Page 9

Why we need Judge Hathaway on the Michigan Supreme Court

Michigan voters face an important choice this year. We have the chance to take back the Michigan Supreme Court from the dangerous corporate special interests that currently control it. We're counting on you to help us educate the voters about this critical race.

Getting out the word about Hathaway
When going door-to-door and making phone calls in support of Barack Obama, Senator Carl Levin and your Democratic Congressional candidates, please make sure to share information about Diane Hathaway. We'll provide as much lit and lawn signs as you can distribute.

You can also request Judge Hathaway speak at your local Democratic club or service organization. To request a visit by Diane, visit:
www.judgehathawayforsupremecourt.com

Voting straight-ticket is not enough
Nearly 50 percent of voters fail to vote in the Michigan Supreme Court elections. Please remind voters to vote the entire ballot. Voting straight ticket is not enough—you must complete the nonpartisan section at the bottom of the ballot. Vote all the way—vote Hathaway!

Why we need Judge Hathaway on the Michigan Supreme Court
Diane Hathaway will restore fairness and integrity to Michigan's Supreme Court. The daughter of a Detroit police officer, wife, mother of five children and grandmother of one, Judge Hathaway has a 15-year record as a fair and impartial Circuit Court judge, always putting the law above special interests and those who would endanger our families.

Before becoming a judge on the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan in 1993, as the Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor and Chief of the Drug Forfeiture Program, Diane Hathaway took on drug dealers and put hardened criminals in jail to keep our community safe. She prosecuted drunk drivers, sex predators and scam artists who prey on our parents and grandparents.

By contrast, under the leadership of Clifford Taylor, the Michigan Supreme Court has protected wealthy corporations and special interests at the expense of middle-class families. Taylor has ruled against middle-class families and in favor of big insurance companies and corporate special interests—who have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund his political campaigns—more than 80 percent of the time.

Additionally, a January 21, 2008 Michigan Lawyers Weekly survey of attorneys who argue cases before the Supreme Court rated Taylor lowest in preparedness, lowest in efficiency, lowest in thoroughness and lowest in overall knowledge of the law.

Judge Hathaway believes we need a fair and impartial court that stands up for middleclass families, not one that sides with insurance companies and polluters.

That's why law enforcement officials and firefighters are supporting Diane Hathaway for Supreme Court.

It's time for a change on our Supreme Court. It's time for a Supreme Court Justice who is fair and impartial and looks out for Michiganders, not one who only looks out for his own self-interest.

Vote all the way – vote Hathaway!

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Endorsements for 2008 General Election

The following list of candidates have completed the MPFFU Candidate Questionnaire and the answers each of them gave met the criteria we established to receive the MPFFU endorsement.

Please urge your members to vote for these candidates and to also tell their friends and family members to vote for these candidates in the general election on November 4th.

You if are unsure of what district you are in, go to the following website and enter your zip code:

http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp

Electing these candidates will put us in a much better position to protect PA 312, maintain State Revenue Sharing and to pass Cancer Presumption legislation. **GET OUT THERE and VOTE!!!**

4	Coleman A. Young	32	Jennifer Haase	65	Mike Simpson
6	Fred Durhal	35	Vincent Gregory	67	Barb Byrum
10	Gabe Leland	37	Vicki Barnett	68	Joan Bauer
11	David Nathan	39	Lisa Brown	69	Mark Meadows
12	Rashida Tlaib	42	Harold Haugh	71	Rick Jones (R)
15	Gino Polidori	46	Jim Marleau (R)	73	Bruce Hawley
17	Andy Dillon	47	Scott Lucas	75	Robert Dean
18	Richard LeBlanc	48	Richard Hammel	76	Roy Schmidt
20	Marc Corriveau	49	Lee Gonzales	79	John Proos (R)
23	Deb Kennedy	51	Michael J. Thorp	84	Terry Brown
24	Sarah Roberts	52	Pam Byrnes	91	Mary Valentine
25	Jon Switalski	53	Rebekah Warren	94	Bob Blaine
27	Ellen Cogen Lipton	54	Alma Wheeler Smith	96	Jeff Mayes
28	Lesia Liss	55	Kathy Angerer	101	Dan Scripps
29	Tim Melton	56	Kate Ebli	102	Nate Heffron
30	Tory Rocca (R)	62	Kate Segal	103	Joel Sheltroun
31	Fred Miller	64	Martin J. Griffin	106	Andy Neumann

If your district isn't listed, then the candidates either failed to submit the questionnaire which is required by the MPFFU or the answer he/she gave made it impossible for the MPFFU to endorse them.

OTHER KEY RACES

President of the United States: **Barack Obama**

US Senate: **Carl Levin**

US Congress 7th: **Mark Schauer**

US Congress 9th: **Gary Peters**

Michigan Supreme Court: **Diane Hathaway**

Michigan Court of Appeals 4th District: **Paula Manderfield**

Michigan State Board of Education: **Kathleen Straus & John Austin**

University of Michigan Board of Regents: **Larry Deitch & Denise Ilitch**

Michigan State University Board of Trustees: **Dianne Byrum & Diann Woodard**

Wayne State University Board of Governors: **Paul Massaron & Gary Pollard**

Please copy and distribute to your members and post on your union bulletin boards 9/29/2008

Gary Peters

A STRONG

Voice

FOR

Working Families



Fighting for Michigan Jobs. Gary Peters knows unfair trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA have cost Michigan thousands of good jobs. He says trade deals need to be renegotiated to include stronger protections for workers and the environment, and that we need a stronger Trade Adjustment Assistance program to support workers hurt by international trade. (EPI, "Revisiting NAFTA," 9/28/06; Associated Press, 4/30/08; Candidate website, accessed 5/13/08; Candidate statement, 10/31/07)

Keeping Our Families Healthy. Gary Peters says the health care industry must be reformed to protect people, not drug and insurance companies. He will push an agenda that expands access to quality health care for everyone and protects vital services such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program. (*The Detroit News*, 2/21/08; Candidate website, accessed 5/13/08)

Supporting Our Freedom to Form Unions. Gary Peters supports the Employee Free Choice Act, which would restore workers' freedom to form unions. The act would level the playing field for workers and their employers and help rebuild our middle class. (Michigan State AFL-CIO candidate statement)

SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES



VOTE Nov. 4

GARY PETERS ★ U.S. HOUSE, MICHIGAN, DISTRICT 9

How you vote is your decision. Your union believes Gary Peters is the best choice for working families. For more information, please contact the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union at 800-886-7338 or the Michigan State AFL-CIO at 517-487-5966.

Mark Schauer

A STRONG
Voice FOR
Working Families



Fighting for Michigan Jobs. Mark Schauer knows unfair trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA have cost Michigan thousands of good jobs. He says trade deals need to be renegotiated to include stronger protections for workers and the environment, and that we need a stronger Trade Adjustment Assistance program to support workers hurt by international trade. (*National Journal*, 3/13/08; Candidate website, accessed 5/13/08; Candidate statement 4/11/08)

Keeping Our Families Healthy. Mark Schauer says the health care industry must be reformed to protect people, not drug and insurance companies. He will push an agenda that expands access to quality health care for everyone and protects vital services such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program. (*Battle Creek Enquirer*, 10/16/07; Candidate website, accessed 5/13/08)

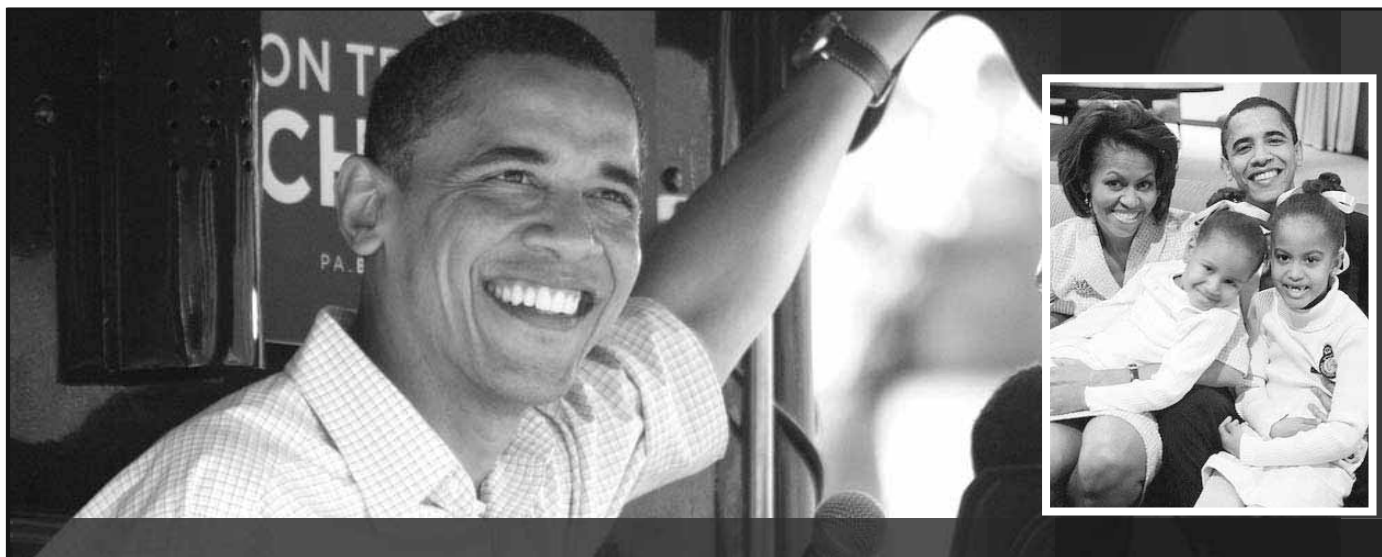
Supporting Our Freedom to Form Unions. Mark Schauer supports the Employee Free Choice Act, which would restore workers' freedom to form unions. The act would level the playing field for workers and their employers and help rebuild our middle class. (Michigan State AFL-CIO candidate statement)

SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES



VOTE Nov. 4
MARK SCHAUER ★ U.S. HOUSE, MICHIGAN, DISTRICT 7

How you vote is your decision. Your union believes Mark Schauer is the best choice for working families. For more information, please contact the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union at 800-886-7338 or the Michigan State AFL-CIO at 517-487-5966.



Meet Barack Obama

“Politics didn’t lead me to working folks; working folks led me to politics.”

*Barack Obama, AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department Conference,
April 15, 2008*

Barack Obama came from humble beginnings and at every turn in his life, when he had the choice between enriching himself and public service, he chose to serve working families.

Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961 to a mother from Kansas and a Kenyan father. He was raised by a working mother—a teacher—and by his maternal grandparents. As a youth, he collected comic books, listened to jazz, sang in the choir and played basketball on a high school team that won the state championship.

Obama attended Columbia University and in 1985, after graduating, he went to work as a community organizer for a church-based group on Chicago’s South Side. He knocked on doors, built coalitions and brought community members together in an area that had been devastated by steel mill closings—all for about \$13,000 a year and a beat-up car to get around in.

“He had no trouble challenging power and challenging people on issues,” Gerald Kellman, who hired Obama for

the Developing Communities Project, told *USA Today*. “When it came to face-to-face situations, he valued civility a great deal...When it came to negotiating conflict, he was very good at that.”

Loretta Augustine-Herron, a member of the project’s board, told *The Nation* she remembered Obama as “someone who always followed the high road. ‘You’ve got to do it right,’ she recalls him insisting. ‘Be open with the issues. Include the community instead of going behind the community’s back’—and he would include people we didn’t like sometimes. You’ve got to bring people together. If you exclude people, you’re only weakening yourself. If you meet behind doors and make decisions for them, they’ll never take ownership of the issue.”

It was there, organizing in Chicago, that the values he gained from his family early in life grew into his commitment to public service. It was also there that his Christian faith grew and combined with his dedication to social and economic justice.

Over time, Obama recognized that in addition to the value of community organizing, creating broad change requires changing our laws and politics. He returned to school and in 1991 earned his law degree from Harvard, where he was the first African American president of the *Harvard Law Review*. He went back to Chicago as a civil rights lawyer and constitutional law professor. In 1996, he was elected overwhelmingly to the Illinois State Senate. There he earned a 90 percent lifetime voting record from the Illinois AFL-CIO (http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/obama_illinoisstatesenate.cfm).

“The first time I went to lobby him, he spent 30 minutes with me—just listening,” recalled Margaret Blackshere, a teacher (AFT) who was president of the Illinois AFL-CIO while Obama was in the state legislature. “And he kept listening. And he stood by workers again and again. He told me one of the things he learned as a community organizer in Chicago is the difference between being union and nonunion. He saw steel mills

closing—and as painful as that was, he saw that if you were in a union, you had somebody to stand up for you.”

Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004 and has a 98 percent lifetime AFL-CIO voting record on working family issues. He has been supporting working people not just on the Senate floor but in the streets, on many occasions joining workers’ struggles in rallies and on picket lines. He rallied in Chicago with Resurrection Health Care workers trying to form a union with AFSCME in March 2007; he refused to cross Writers Guild picket lines to appear on television earlier this year; and most recently he sent a letter of support to Atlantic City casino workers marching because they don’t have contracts more than a year after voting to join the UAW.

Obama and his wife, Michelle, a self-described “working class girl” from the South Side of Chicago, have two children, Malia and Sasha.

(Sources: *USA Today*, 6/3/08; *The Nation*, 4/3/07; “The Obama Record,” Illinois AFL-CIO; Obama website, accessed 6/9/08)

Our Basket of Issues

Continued from page 3

union. And those endorsement decisions will be made on our basket of issues, not on partisanship.

For us, the decision isn’t about appeasing those IAFF members who may align themselves with one political party or another. The decision to support a candidate is about who deserves or has earned the IAFF’s support based on their stand on our issues.

With our trademark “gold and black” campaign effort, we will support candidates who:

- Support and voted for national collective bargaining rights for all professional fire fighters.
- Oppose forcing fire fighters to be covered under Social Security.
- Believe the defined benefit retirement programs that cover our members must be protected.
- Favor a system of health care that is provided through employer-sponsored programs and have a plan to reduce the costs to our members and their employers.

- Support appointing judges who will keep fire fighter overtime laws in place and not overturn the Family Medical Leave Act (FLSA), collective bargaining, OSHA coverage for public workers, ADA and other employment laws that would mean elimination of fire fighter overtime pay and many other workplace rights.

- Support authorization and full funding of the FIRE Act and SAFER grant programs.

- Oppose so-called paycheck protection measures that are scams to limit the power of workers in unions.

- Voted in favor of legislation to expand worker rights, guarantee overtime pay, raise the minimum wage and promote the ability to organize.

We believe we have a responsibility, as your elected union leaders, to take a position only based on these issues. At the same time, this union also celebrates your right and responsibility to weigh those positions against your basket of personal issues when you enter that voting booth.

Ultimately, I hope you understand why and how we choose the candidates we sup-

port. I also hope you understand why we cannot just stand on the sidelines and watch the game be played.

If we did, and if an anti-IAFF candidate was elected president, I would not be able to look you in the eyes if you were forced into mandatory Social Security coverage, or if your employer-paid health care plan got dropped and you were forced to start buying your own health care.

I wouldn’t be able to explain to your families why we supported the candidate who nominated a judge to the Supreme Court who voted to overturn the Garcia decision that protects fire fighters’ overtime pay, because overturning that law would mean tens of thousands of our members would be forced to work extra shifts, away from their families, without receiving a penny extra.

In the end, we build respect on both sides of the aisle and across the political spectrum by being an organization that stands with and supports our friends. Our presidential endorsement will fulfill both that objective and our responsibility.

Thank you and stay safe.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4





BARACK OBAMA ON LABOR

BARACK OBAMA IS COMMITTED TO FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS

Ensure Freedom to Unionize

Barack Obama believes that workers should have the freedom to join a union without harassment or intimidation from their employers. Obama is a cosponsor and strong advocate of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), a bipartisan effort to make the unionization process more transparent and increase penalties on companies that violate employee rights. He will sign EFCA into law as president.

Increase Collective Bargaining Rights across the Economy

Obama believes that employees in many non-unionized sectors should have the right to work together to build stronger and safer workplaces. Obama supports the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, which would provide public safety workers the right to bargain collectively.

Raise the Minimum Wage

Obama believes that people who work full time should not live in poverty. As president, Obama will raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011, index it to inflation, and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to make sure that full-time workers have a fair wage.

Uphold Overtime Pay

Obama opposes efforts to roll back the Fair Labor Standards Act, including proposals that allow employers to force their employees who work longer than 40 hours a week to earn vacation time, instead of overtime pay.

Secure Pensions

Obama supports amending bankruptcy laws to keep companies from avoiding their pension obligations. Obama supported new rules to force companies to properly fund their pension plans so taxpayers don't end up footing the bill and workers aren't left without adequate retirement security.

Fight for Fair Trade

Obama will fight for a trade policy that opens foreign markets to support good American jobs. He will use trade agreements to spread improved labor and environmental standards around the world and stand firm against agreements that fail to live up to those important standards.

BARACK OBAMA ON FIREFIGHTERS

BARACK OBAMA SUPPORTS AMERICA'S FIREFIGHTERS

Fighting Federal Budget Cuts to Firefighters

Barack Obama has fought President Bush's efforts to cut funding for the Assistance for Firefighters Program (FIRE Act grants), which helps fire departments get critically needed equipment and training.

Prioritizing Firefighters within the Department of Homeland Security

Obama believes U.S. Fire Administration programs should receive priority attention within DHS.

Hiring More Firefighters

In 2003, Congress passed legislation to put 75,000 new firefighters in communities around the country, but has since funded only a small fraction of these new hires. Obama also supports greater funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Firefighters Act.

Giving Public Safety Officers Collective Bargaining Rights

Obama believes that firefighters deserve the right to bargain collectively. In too many communities, firefighters, police officers and other public safety officers are unable to bargain over wages and working conditions, and are denied access to outside mediation. Obama supports the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act.

Making it Easier for Firefighters to Get the Benefits They Deserve

More than 40 states have laws that make it easier for firefighters to prove their heart disease, lung disease, or cancer is related to the everyday hazards of their dangerous work. However, federally-hired firefighters have a very high burden of proof to document specific exposures to hazardous substances. Obama wants to reform federal workforce laws so that firefighters who got sick on the job can get the disability pay they deserve.

Tracking First-Responder Health

Firefighters who respond to major disasters are often exposed to hazardous substances and suffer from health effects later. However, the federal government has not set up a comprehensive health monitoring system for emergency workers. Obama supported legislation that became law to track the health of first responders who respond to national emergencies.

IMPORTANT UNION MESSAGE

LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT BARACK OBAMA

A lot of unfair, false rumors are being spread. Here are the answers to some of the honest questions you may have about Barack Obama.

ABOUT BARACK OBAMA

CHECK THE FACTS

DOES HE WEAR A FLAG PIN ON HIS LAPEL?

Yes, but not always. Like many presidential candidates, sometimes he wears a flag pin, sometimes he wears a breast cancer awareness pin, sometimes he wears his U.S. Senate membership pin and other times he wears no pin at all.¹

1. Rutenberg, Jim and Zeleny, Jeff. "The Politics of the Lapel, When It Comes to Obama," *The New York Times*, 5/15/08. Available at: www.nytimes.com/2008/05/15/us/politics/15flag.html.

IS HE A CHRISTIAN?

Yes. He is a committed Christian. In 1985, he began working as a community organizer with a Christian church-based group seeking to improve the living conditions in poor Chicago neighborhoods.²

2. Pulliam, Sarah and Olsen, Ted. "Q&A: Barack Obama," *Christianity Today Magazine*, 1/23/08. Available at: www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/januaryweb-only/104-32.0.html?start=1.

WAS HE SWORN IN ON THE BIBLE?

Yes. Barack Obama took the oath of office on his personal family bible. It was Minnesota Representative Keith Ellison who was sworn in on the Koran.³

3. Fiore, Faye. "He's the Hill's King for a Day, but Senate Has Other Plans," *Los Angeles Times*, 1/5/05. Available at: articles.latimes.com/2005/jan/05/nation/na-obama5.

WAS HE BORN IN AMERICA?

Yes. Barack Obama's birth certificate proves he was born in the United States on August 4, 1961, at 7:24 P.M.⁴

4. Malcolm, Andrew. "Barack Obama's birth certificate revealed here," www.LAtimes.com, 6/16/08. Available at: www.latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/06/obama-birth.html.

DOES HE PLACE HIS HAND OVER HIS HEART WHEN HE SAYS THE PLEDGE?

Yes. Barack Obama always places his hand over his heart during the pledge of allegiance.⁵

5. Dobbs, Michael. "Obama Nabbed by the Patriot Police," www.WashingtonPost.com, 11/2/07. Available at: blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2007/11/obama_nabbed_by_the_patriotic.html.

**Barack Obama Will Fight for Working Families
He'll Build an Economy That Works for All**

www.MeetObama08.com

WE RESPECT JOHN McCAIN'S SERVICE

*When Will He
Respect*

OURS?

Underfunding and understaffing have created a crisis in veterans' health care. More than 400,000 veterans are awaiting decisions on disability claims. Tens of thousands of veterans are waiting months to see a doctor.

We respect John McCain's service to our country, but when given the opportunity to address this crisis, he has failed America's veterans—past, present and future. (FederalTimes.com, 3/26/08)



Voted Against Increased Funding for Veterans' Health Care.

McCain voted against increasing funding for veterans' health care in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. (Senate Vote 40, 3/10/04; Senate Vote 55, 3/16/05; Senate Vote 41, 3/14/06; Senate Vote 126, 3/29/07)

Supported Outsourcing at Walter Reed.

McCain opposed an amendment to the FY 2007 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill that would have prevented the outsourcing of 350 federal employees' jobs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center—outsourcing that contributed to scandalous treatment of veterans at Walter Reed. (Senate Vote 234, 9/6/06)



Opposed an Assured Funding Stream for Veterans' Health Care.

McCain opposed an amendment to provide an assured funding stream for veterans' health care, taking into account annual changes in veterans' population and inflation. (Senate Vote 63, 3/16/06)

Supported Outsourcing VA Jobs.

McCain opposed an amendment that would have prevented the Department of Veterans Affairs from outsourcing jobs, many held by blue-collar veterans, without first giving the workers a chance to compete. (Senate Vote 315, 9/6/07)



As a veteran, I respect John McCain's military service. But as a family man trying to make ends meet, **I'm having a hard time with McCain's record in Washington.**

John McCain wants me to believe he's a "straight-talker," and not part of the Washington political game that puts special interests ahead of working families.

But look at his record:

- **John McCain wants to make Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy permanent**, even though the \$70 billion to pay for them comes from programs like Medicare that help working families.

S. 2020, Vote #26, 11/18/05; Republican Presidential Debate, CNN, 1/30/08.

- **John McCain voted to privatize federal jobs and cut workers' rights**, including their right to overtime pay, while voting in favor of foreign trade deals that outsource American jobs.

HR. 5631, Vote #234, 9/6/06 (on privatization); S. 256, Vote #27, 3/7/05 (on cutting overtime pay).

- **John McCain not only voted for NAFTA**, but for other unfair trade deals that send American jobs overseas and fail to meet fair labor standards.

Central American Free Trade Agreement, S. 1307, Vote #170, 6/30/05; Singapore Free Trade Agreement, H.R. 2739, Vote #318, 7/31/03; Chile Free Trade Agreement, H.R. 2738, Vote #319, 7/31/03.

- **"Economics is something that I've really never understood."** John McCain will even admit it himself — he just doesn't get it.

"The Swamp," *Chicago Tribune*, 12/18/07.

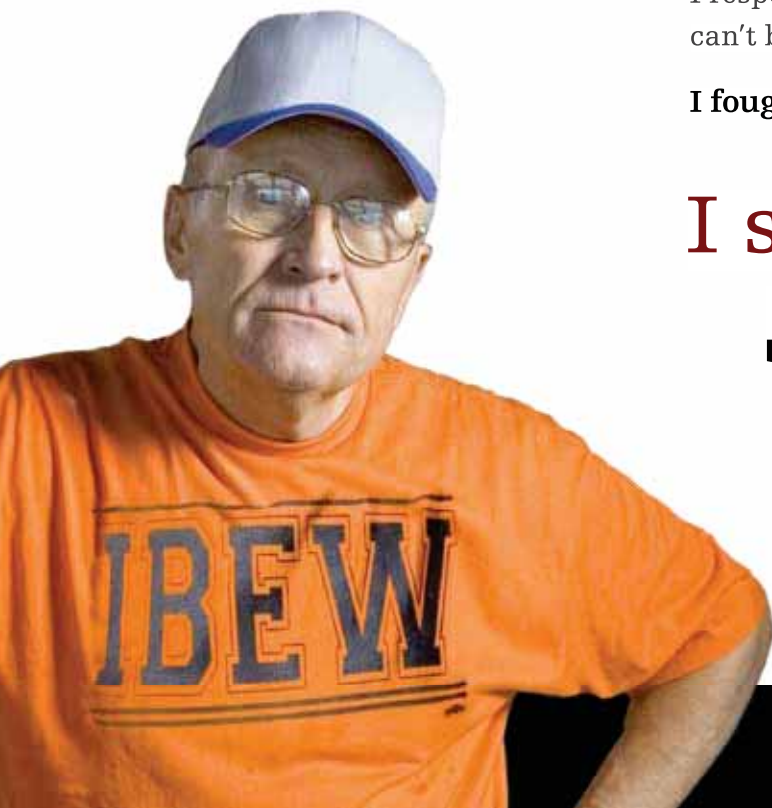
I respect that John McCain fought for our country. But I just can't believe he's going to fight for working Americans like me.

I fought for freedom, too. But I vote for my family.

I simply can't vote for **John McCain.**

Jim Wasser

Jim Wasser served three tours in Vietnam as a member of the United States Navy. He currently lives in Saint Anne, IL, and has been a proud member of IBEW Local 176 since 1970.





BARACK OBAMA: Health Care for All

Barack Obama has a plan to expand coverage, lower costs, improve care and ensure that no one could be denied care because of a pre-existing condition or illness.

HIS PROPOSALS

Time for Affordable Health Care. Obama says, “My plan begins by covering every American. If you already have health insurance, the only thing that will change for you under this plan is that the amount of money you will spend on premiums will be less....If you are one of 45 million Americans who don’t have health insurance, you will after this plan becomes law.” (*Newsday*, 5/29/07; Barack Obama speech in Iowa City, Iowa, 5/29/07)

Obama Says He’ll Improve Care, Lower Costs. Obama’s plans “include tackling medical inflation and spiraling health care costs, developing new mechanisms to extend portable, affordable coverage and reforming health care delivery so that it emphasizes prevention and efficiency.” (Campaign website)

Obama Plans to Cover the Uninsured. Obama proposes to make a public health plan available nationwide for the uninsured, self-employed and small businesses,

giving them access to benefits similar to those available to members of Congress. Key features would be guaranteed eligibility; affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles; and quality care standards. (Obama for America)

HIS RECORD

Obama Supported Reauthorizing SCHIP and Providing Insurance for Millions of Uninsured Children. Obama voted to reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for five years, providing an additional \$35.2 billion for the program. He also voted for the budget resolution that would have authorized \$50 billion to expand the program as well as \$9.5 billion for increases in programs such as No Child Left Behind, Pell Grants, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and essential funding for veterans health care. (H.R. 976, Vote 307, 8/2/07; S.Con.Res. 21, Vote 172, 5/17/07)

Obama Voted to Allow Importation of Affordable Prescription Drugs from Other Countries. Obama voted to allow senior citizens to import less expensive prescription drugs from other countries, specifically Canada. (S.Amdt. 990 to S. 1082, Vote 150, 5/3/07)

Obama Opposed Giving Insurance Companies Authority to Determine Coverage and Costs. Obama voted against giving insurance companies authority to determine health care coverage and costs, including the power to eliminate consumer protections that are now required under existing state laws, such as cancer screenings and well-child visits. The bill would have resulted in higher premiums for people who need health care the most, such as older workers. (S. 1955, Vote 119, 5/11/06)

Obama Voted Against Cutting Medicaid Funding. Obama voted against a \$14 billion, five-year funding cut for Medicaid. The cuts would have resulted in more uninsured and uncompensated care, shifting the

burden to employer-sponsored health plans. (S.Amdt. 204 to S.Con.Res. 18, Vote 58, 3/17/05)

Obama Expanded Health Care Coverage for Low-Income Families. When he was a state senator in Illinois, Obama's bill expanded income eligibility for KidCare and FamilyCare, the state health insurance programs for low-income families. (Public Act 93-0063, 6/30/03)

Obama Opposed Steep Increases in Seniors' Medicare Premiums. Obama voted to protect seniors from steep increases in Medicare Part B premiums. Seniors faced the increase because Congress increased Medicare payments to physicians but failed to enact savings from Medicare payments to private health plans. (S. 1932, Vote 287, 11/3/05)

Obama Voted to Allow Medicare to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices for Senior Citizens. Obama voted to allow Medicare to negotiate with drug makers for lower prices for senior citizens. Republicans filibustered the bill. (S. 3, Vote 132, 4/18/07)

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Are We **BETTER OFF**

Than We Were 8 Years Ago?



605,000 Jobs Lost in 2008

(CNNMoney.com, 9/5/08; Associated Press, 9/5/08)

Unemployment Rate at 5-Year High

(CNNMoney.com, 9/5/08)

2 Million Home Foreclosures

(Brookings Institution, 3/7/08)

46 Million Without Health Care

(Census Bureau, 8/07)

\$4-a-Gallon Gas Energy Crisis

(CNNMoney.com, 6/8/08)

A Global Financial Meltdown With No End in Sight

(Associated Press, 9/16/08)

John McCain Thinks So

“I think we are better off overall if you look at the entire eight-year period, when you look at the millions of jobs that have been created, the improvement in the economy, etc.”

—Republican Presidential Debate, CNN, 1/30/08



John McCain, **FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG**

VOTE

Nov. 4

For more information, contact the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union at 800-886-7338 or visit www.WorkingFamiliesVote08.org.

Barack Obama WON'T Take Away Your Gun...

"I have always believed that the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to bear arms."

—Barack Obama (Washington Times, 6/30/08)



Obama is committed to protecting the habitats of fish and wildlife and expanding access to places where sportsmen and women can hunt and fish. (Obama Campaign Policy Position Paper, accessed 7/8/08)

...But John McCain WILL Take Away Your Union.

'STRONGLY OPPOSED' TO PROTECTING WORKERS TRYING TO FORM UNIONS. McCain said he is "strongly opposed" to the Employee Free Choice Act that protects workers from employer harassment when trying to form unions, and he voted for a national "right to work" for less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. (*Congressional Record*, page S8389, 6/26/07; H.R. 800, Vote 227, 6/26/07; S. 1788, Vote 188, 7/10/96)

REPEATEDLY BLOCKED WORKERS' BARGAINING RIGHTS. McCain voted to block public-sector workers' right to bargain and to allow employers to permanently replace striking workers. (H.R. 3061, Vote 323, 11/6/01; S. 4, Vote 64, 3/7/07; H.R. 3539, Vote 304, 10/3/96; S. 55, Vote 189, 7/13/94)

SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES



VOTE NOV. 4 ★ BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT

How you vote is a personal decision. The Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union believes Barack Obama is the best candidate for working families. For more information, visit www.WorkingFamiliesVote08.org or call 800-886-7338.



Several MPFFU members and their families marched in the annual Labor Day Parade in downtown Detroit on Monday, September 1, 2008. After the parade many members stayed and attended the rally at Hart Plaza. Presidential candidate Barack Obama was the featured speaker. Pictured above are MPFFU members from Harper Woods Local 1188.



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