



Comparing the 2008 Presidential Candidates' Health Care Plans

Democratic Candidate	Summary of Plan	Comment
 <p>Barack Obama</p>	<p>Requires all children have health insurance; aims for universal health coverage. Plan requires most employers to provide insurance or contribute to the cost. Smallest businesses are exempt. Plan also reimburses employers for catastrophic health costs and provides subsidies for low-income people. Plan calls for the creation of purchasing pool with choice of competing private plans and one public plan like Medicare.</p>	<p>Doesn't require adults to be covered. Obama's plan is helped paid for by rolling back Bush tax cuts for households earning over \$250,000.</p>
Republican Candidate	Summary of Plan	Comment
 <p>John McCain</p>	<p>Plan calls for a free-market, consumer-based system; has pledged affordable health care for every American without a mandate. Would make insurance plans portable and accessible across state lines. Plan provides \$2,500 tax credits (\$5,000 for families). McCain wants to eliminate the tax deductibility of employer-sponsored health insurance. Plan would also compensate medical providers based on the quality of their work.</p>	<p>McCain argues universal health coverage is possible without raising taxes.</p>