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**Women of Color  
UNITED**

**A GUIDE TO THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL  
CANDIDATES' POSITIONS ON  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND  
HIV&AIDS**

A voter guide developed by  
ActionAid International USA and  
Women of Color United's 41 Million Strong Campaign  
*March 2008*

## ABOUT ACTIONAID

**ActionAid** is an international anti-poverty agency working in 49 countries, taking sides with poor people to end poverty and injustice together. ActionAid's rights-based approach to development places a priority on the full realization of women's economic, social and political rights. **ActionAid USA**, the U.S. affiliate of ActionAid, works to bridge the gap between activist networks and organizations in the developing world and their counterparts in the United States. ActionAid sees both the need and the opportunity to bring together U.S. domestic constituencies and international women's organizations around a common international agenda to address the connection between Violence Against Women (VAW) and the spread of HIV&AIDS. As a result, ActionAid has supported the convening of Women of Color United to generate a research and advocacy agenda to make U.S. domestic and foreign policies more effective in addressing VAW and HIV&AIDS.

## ABOUT THE 41 MILLION STRONG CAMPAIGN

**Women of Color United (WOCU)** is a network of individuals and organizations that brings together a constituency of over 50,000 women voters nationwide. WOCU member organizations include Violence Against Women (VAW) survivor groups, HIV&AIDS advocacy organizations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, African American sororities, immigrant and diaspora groups, and women's groups. WOCU is implementing the **41 Million Strong Campaign**, a strictly non-partisan project that does not endorse candidates for public office. The 41 Million Strong Campaign is a national awareness-raising and education initiative designed to inform candidates and voters about issues related to Violence Against Women (VAW) and HIV&AIDS, twin pandemics that disproportionately affect women of color in the United States and women in the global south. ActionAid provides technical support to the campaign and draws on its partner networks to include the voices of women from the global south.

For more information, email [41millionstrong@actionaid.org](mailto:41millionstrong@actionaid.org).

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## HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

In the following pages you will find positions each of the three Presidential candidates - Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John McCain - has taken on public policy issues related to Violence Against Women (VAW) and HIV&AIDS as it relates to US domestic and foreign policy. The tables illustrate the candidates' positions on over two dozen key policy issues based on candidates' responses to questionnaires developed by AIDSVote, a candidate and voter education project of the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA), and the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), as well as other publicly available information. As you'll note, there are gaps in candidate responses. We are following up with candidates to gain their positions/plans on areas they have yet to address and will be sending out an updated version of this guide when responses have been collected.

The 41 Million Strong Campaign does not endorse any particular candidate, but we hope to provide the American electorate, and in particular women of color, with pertinent information on each of the candidates' positions on issues impacting the lives of millions of women of color globally. Our hope is that this guide will serve as a useful tool for educating voters so that they can make better informed decisions around issues vital to the health of our nation and of our world. We hope to not only better inform voters, but also to better inform the candidates themselves as they seek to tackle these critical issues, and subsequently hold elected officials accountable to the commitments they have made.

## ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AND HIV&AIDS GLOBALLY

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>Violence Against Women Globally</b>	Supports ratification of <i>the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</i> , which is considered by many around the world to be an “international bill of rights for women.”	Supports ratification of <i>the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</i> , which is considered by many around the world to be an “international bill of rights for women.” In response to NHCADSV Survey: “Taking this step would make the United States a more active ally in the international fight to eradicate violence against women, and would additionally serve as a model, to inspire the individual states to increase their efforts to eradicate violence against women. I will work in a bipartisan way to ratify this important treaty.”	No information found.
<b>Integrating VAW programming into U.S. foreign assistance</b>	Co-sponsor of <i>the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)</i> , which would systematically integrate efforts against gender-based violence into U.S. foreign assistance programs.	No information found.	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>Addressing vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection globally</b>	Sponsor of <i>the Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women And Youth (PATHWAY) Act of 2007</i> (introduced bill in U.S. Senate), which would require the President and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) to establish a comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention strategy to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection.	No information found.	No information found.
<b>Women and girls as tools of war</b>	No information found.	In December 2005, introduced legislation that identifies systematic sexual violence as a particular threat in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and urges the DRC government to end these abuses.	No information found.
<b>Funding for global HIV&amp;AIDS</b>	Committed to investing \$50 billion for HIV&AIDS globally.	Committed to investing \$50 billion for HIV&AIDS globally.	In a statement made on the floor of the Senate in 2003: “The spread of HIV&AIDS, and the efforts of the international community to combat it, will be remembered by history as one of the defining issues of our time. The ethical implications of not doing everything in our power to slow the spread of this disease are severe. The most basic morality requires that we commit ourselves to combating

	Hillary Clinton	Barack Obama	John McCain
			<p>HIV&amp;AIDS everywhere.”</p> <p>In an article published by <i>Vanity Fair</i> magazine in the summer of 2007: “Fighting disease and extreme poverty in Africa is in America’s strategic and moral interests. If elected, I will fund AIDS treatment and prevention at levels befitting a wealthy and great nation, and establish a goal of eradicating malaria — the number one killer of African children under five — from the continent. I would link other forms of aid to good governance and economic reform, because no amount of assistance can succeed when governments fail their people.”</p>
<b>Abstinence-only earmark in PEPFAR</b>	<p>Supports lifting earmark for one-third of HIV prevention funding overseas to go to abstinence-only programs, and shifting funding to comprehensive prevention education. AIDSVote Survey: “[I] will end the Bush administration’s abstinence-only prevention policy, and instead, fund evidence-based HIV&amp;AIDS prevention programs.”</p>	<p>Supports lifting earmark for one-third of HIV prevention funding overseas to go to abstinence-only programs, and shifting funding to comprehensive prevention education.</p>	<p>No information found.</p>

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>Debt relief</b>	Supports 100% International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt cancellation for the 67 most impoverished countries so they can boost their fight against AIDS.	Supports 100% International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt cancellation for the 67 most impoverished countries so they can boost their fight against AIDS. Co-sponsored the International Cooperation to Meet the Millennium Development Goals Act of 2005, which would push for debt forgiveness and full funding for international commitments in the fight against HIV&AIDS.	No information found.
<b>Health systems in Global South</b>	Co-sponsored <i>the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007</i> , which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan African countries.	Co-sponsored <i>the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007</i> , which would improve the capacity of health systems in sub-Saharan African countries.	No information found.
<b>Health care worker shortage</b>	Supports investing \$8 billion over 5 years to address health care worker shortage.	Undecided on support for investing \$8 billion over 5 years.	No information found.
<b>Trade</b>	No information found. No response on AIDSVote Survey.	Supports licensing to ensure that medications developed in the U.S. are available off-patent in developing countries.	No information found.

**ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AND HIV&AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBALLY**

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>Microbicides</b>	Co-sponsor of <i>the Microbicide Development Act</i> , which would increase funding for microbicide research and development and establish a federal plan for cooperation of microbicide activities among the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).	Co-sponsor of <i>the Microbicide Development Act</i> , which would increase funding for microbicide research and development and establish a federal plan for cooperation of microbicide activities among the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Speaking to a <i>Los Angeles Times</i> reporter on the realities of HIV prevention: “We can’t ignore the fact that abstinence and fidelity, although the ideal, may not always be the reality — that we’re dealing with flesh and blood men and women and not abstractions, and that if condoms and, potentially, things like microbicides, can prevent millions of deaths, then they should be made more widely available.”	No information found.
<b>Human trafficking</b>	NHCADSV Survey: “I have spoken about this problem for many years. As First Lady, I raised awareness	NHCADSV Survey: “Under the Violence Against Women Act, there are methods by which	Issued public statement commending U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	<p>about the plight of victims of human trafficking; worked on a presidential directive to condemn human trafficking as a violation of human rights; and outlined a prevention, protection, and prosecution framework and strategy. This directive led to the first anti-trafficking bill passed by our government, which my husband signed into law in 2000. In the Senate, I have pushed for ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and I am pleased that the Senate finally took this important step. I will do all that I can to ensure that human traffickers are apprehended and punished, to the full extent of the law.”</p>	<p>undocumented victims of domestic violence can avoid unfair consequences of immigration laws which might otherwise keep them from reporting violence against them. I support creative measures like this, and I will continue to support efforts to expose and eradicate human trafficking, including by supporting legislative and other measures to protect victims of human trafficking from being penalized for helping to expose this modern form of human slavery.”</p>	<p>launching <i>the Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking</i>.</p>
<b>Undocumented immigrants</b>	<p>Supports a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants that includes learning English and paying fines; opposes guest worker programs that can lower wages of American workers or exploit immigrants; supports allowing states to give undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for higher education; opposes driver’s licenses for</p>	<p>Supports a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants that includes learning English and paying fines; supports guest worker programs that would allow undocumented workers to stay in the U.S. for a fixed period of time; supports allowing undocumented immigrants to participate in Social Security; supports allowing states to</p>	<p>Supports a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants that includes learning English and paying fines; supports allowing states to give undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for higher education. [New York Times Election Guide 2008]</p>

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	undocumented immigrants; toughen penalties for hiring undocumented immigrants. [New York Times Election Guide 2008]	give undocumented immigrants in-state tuition for higher education; supports granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants; toughen penalties for hiring undocumented immigrants. [New York Times Election Guide 2008]	
<b>Contraception and comprehensive sex education</b>	Supports comprehensive sex education, which covers abstinence as a positive choice, but also teaches about contraception and avoidance of STIs when sexually active. Co-sponsored <i>Prevention First Act</i> , which would provide comprehensive sex education to reduce unintended pregnancies and STI's domestically.	Supports comprehensive sex education, which covers abstinence as a positive choice, but also teaches about contraception and avoidance of STIs when sexually active. Co-sponsored <i>Prevention First Act</i> , which would provide comprehensive sex education to reduce unintended pregnancies and STI's domestically.	In response to question from press about whether he supports public funding for condoms in Africa: "Whether I support government funding for them or not, I don't know." [Washington Post, 3/16/2007]
<b>HIV vaccine development</b>	Committed to doubling the U.S. contribution towards researching a vaccine for HIV&AIDS and increasing commitments to research.	Supports increased funding for a vaccine.	No information found.
<b>Integrating VAW and HIV&amp;AIDS programming</b>	In her announcement of a national AIDS strategy: "[I] will require our government to develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of girls and women and integrate these needs into our efforts to address HIV&AIDS. This plan will identify and address factors, such as gender-based violence and	No information found.	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	<p>economic insecurity, which are linked with increased vulnerability to HIV. It will also work to improve services for women, in order to integrate HIV and AIDS care into existing health service delivery, including sexual and reproductive health services and family planning.”</p>		

## ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AND HIV&AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>VAW funding and programming</b>	<p>Supports full funding for <i>the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)</i>, which would increase appropriations for grants to combat violence crimes against women. In response to New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) Survey: “I support full funding for VAWA – which, for fiscal year 2008, is authorized at about \$1 billion – and I will continue to do so as President.”</p> <p>Pledged continued support for <i>the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)</i>. In the Senate, worked to make emergency contraception available to victims of domestic violence and to provide legal immigrants who are being victimized with access to Medicaid and other support services. NHADSV Survey: “I have cared about this issue and advocated on behalf of women who are survivors of domestic violence for many years – and I will continue to do so as President.”</p>	<p>Supports full funding for <i>the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)</i>, which would increase appropriations for grants to combat violence crimes against women. In response to New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) Survey: “I will make full funding of the Violence Against Women Act a priority for my administration.” NHCADSV Survey: “As a State Senator, I successfully passed the most comprehensive set of employment law protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence in the country. I introduced the <i>Victims’ Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA)</i>, which became Illinois state law in 2005. This legislation ensures that victims of domestic violence can seek treatment without losing their jobs.” As Senator, introduced legislation to provide \$25 million a year for partnerships between domestic violence prevention organizations and fatherhood or marriage programs to train staff in domestic</p>	<p>Introduced <i>Restoring Safety to Indian Women Act</i>, which seeks to combat high rates of domestic violence among Native American women by increasing punishments for repeat domestic violence offenders, giving greater authority to federal agents to make arrests in domestic violence incidents on reservations, and calling for a baseline study on Violence against Native American women as well as a task force to implement recommendations of the study.</p>

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
		<p>violence services, to provide services to families affected by domestic violence, and to develop best practices in domestic violence prevention.</p> <p>Sponsored bill that would seal sexual assault victims' court records for their protection. "The bill with respect to privacy for victims of sexual abuse is a bill I had actually sponsored...Nobody has worked harder than me in the Illinois state legislature to make sure that victims of sexual abuse were dealt with, partly because I've had family members who were victims of sexual abuse and I've got two daughters who I want to protect." [Presidential Debates, 1/21/08]</p>	
<b>Affordable housing for VAW survivors</b>	<p>NHCADSV Survey: "I support programs like <i>the Transitional Housing Program and the Grants</i> to increase the long-term stability of victims program. I also support <i>the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act</i> – part of <i>the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act</i> – which provides funding for emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, and victim assistance. I believe it is important to provide</p>	<p>NHCADSV Survey: "My administration will support affordable housing projects that do more to take into account the particular needs of victims of domestic violence, including by demanding that the Office of Violence Against Women and the Department of Housing and Urban Development work together to ensure that any federal projects impacting affordable housing and</p>	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	<p>transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Safe, dependable housing is critical for women as they re-start their lives after enduring violence.”</p> <p>“We need to build on the success of VAWA programs and find ways to help more women, children, and families. That means providing more beds in emergency shelters; access to longer term affordable housing, especially for women who have not been working or are working in low-wage jobs.”</p>	<p>homelessness be guided by the best expertise that is available on the inter-related nature of the problems.”</p> <p>“As President, I will create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund by setting aside profits from government-sponsored housing agencies to develop affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund will use a small percentage of the profits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to create tens of thousands of new units of affordable housing every year in mixed-income neighborhoods. I will also restore the federal government’s commitment to low-income housing.”</p>	
<b>Poverty as barrier for women in leaving abusive situations</b>	<p>NHCADSV Survey: “I believe that women need financial security and stability in order to leave abusive situations. That is why I have long supported microfinance programs as well as targeted investments in job training programs, such as programs to help women enter non-traditional skilled fields like carpentry that typically pay more than female-dominated fields. I have also led the charge for pay equity so that all</p>	<p>NHCADSV Survey: “I will increase federal funding for anti-poverty programs. In addition to passing my universal health care plan, I will fully fund the <i>Community Development Block Grant</i> program and create an <i>Affordable Housing Trust Fund</i>. I will increase funding for transitional jobs and career pathways programs and I’ll provide greater supports for ex-offenders and their families. I will ensure that</p>	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	<p>women earn the same amount as men for doing the same job.”            “We need to provide job training or education assistance to enable survivors to become economically independent.”</p>	<p>minimum wage is indexed for inflation. And I will expand eligibility and increase the <i>Earned Income Tax Credit</i> to benefit 12 million Americans.            “Additionally, I have called for the creation of a new program that replicates the success of the <i>Harlem Children’s Zone</i> – an all-encompassing, all-hands-on-deck anti-poverty effort that is literally saving a generation of children in a neighborhood where they were never supposed to have a chance. As president, an important part of my plan to combat poverty will be to replicate the <i>Harlem Children’s Zone</i> in twenty cities across the country. These “<i>Promise Neighborhoods</i>” will focus on addressing concentrated, intergenerational poverty in our cities. We’ll train staff, we’ll have them draw up detailed plans with attainable goals, and the federal government will provide half of the funding for each city, with the rest coming from philanthropies and businesses. And these Promise Neighborhoods will work with community organizations to provide resources that strengthen families,</p>	

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
		<p>including family counselors and anti-domestic violence programs. I will also create a <i>White House Office of Urban Policy</i> and have the Director of that Office report directly to me.</p> <p>“[...] I’ll help new mothers with their new responsibilities by expanding a pioneering program known as the <i>Nurse-Family Partnership</i> that offers home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income mothers and mothers-to-be. My plan will assist approximately 570,000 first-time mothers each year.”</p>	
<b>Reproductive rights for victims of violence</b>	Supports full reproductive rights for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence including the unrestricted use of emergency contraception.	Supports full reproductive rights for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence including the unrestricted use of emergency contraception.	Supports adoption as a first option for women struggling with a crisis pregnancy.
<b>Hate crimes</b>	Original co-sponsor of legislation that would strengthen the federal government's ability to assist local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, provide additional funds to states to develop hate crime prevention programs, and expand the definition of a hate crime to include those crimes perpetrated	Original co-sponsor of legislation that would strengthen the federal government's ability to assist local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, provide additional funds to states to develop hate crime prevention programs, and expand the definition of a hate crime to include those crimes perpetrated	Opposes legislation that would strengthen the federal government's ability to assist local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, provide additional funds to states to develop hate crime prevention programs, and expand the definition of a hate

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	<p>because of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability. [USA Today]</p> <p>In a public statement regarding Senate approval of this legislation in September 2007: "A crime motivated by hate on the basis of a victim's race, ethnic background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity is not just a crime against the individual – it is a crime against a community. It sends a message to an entire group of people that they are unwelcome and that they should be afraid. Hate crimes are an affront to the core values that bind us to one another, and we should dedicate the resources needed to prosecute these crimes to the fullest extent of the law. "[...] I am proud to cosponsor this important legislation and will continue to work hard to provide our law enforcement and prosecutors with the resources they need to fight these appalling crimes."</p>	<p>because of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability. [USA Today]</p> <p>In a public statement regarding the failure of Congress to pass this legislation in December 2007: "Hate crimes are unacceptable. All Americans deserve to live their lives without fear of hate driven attacks. Those who commit such heinous crimes should be punished to the fullest extent of the law, no matter whether those crimes are committed on account of race, gender, gender identity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation." "Almost 40 years after Congress first enacted a federal hate crimes law, it is our moral obligation to continue striving for equality, and ensure that the federal government, along with state and local jurisdictions, have the tools necessary to effectively prosecute these crimes. Given the rise in hate crimes nationally, failure to pass this vital legislation is truly unacceptable."</p>	<p>crime to include those crimes perpetrated because of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability. [USA Today]</p>
<b>National AIDS Strategy</b>	Committed to creating and implementing a national AIDS strategy early in the first term of presidency.	Committed to creating and implementing a national AIDS strategy early in the first term of presidency.	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>General prevention of HIV&amp;AIDS</b>	<p>Supports increasing federal appropriations for science-based HIV prevention to at least \$1 billion annually.</p> <p>In response to AIDSVote questionnaire: “we need to increase the ability of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide outreach, education, and awareness programs to reduce the incidence of HIV. And I will pay special attention to the needs of communities of color, which bear so much of the burden of this disease.”</p>	<p>Supports increasing federal appropriations for science-based HIV prevention to at least \$1 billion annually.</p> <p>At a 2006 World AIDS Day Summit at Saddleback Church in Orange County, California: “Let me say this loud and clear: I don’t think that we can deny that there is a moral and spiritual component to prevention, that in too many places all over the world where HIV&amp;AIDS is prevalent— including, by the way, right here in the United States— the relationship between men and women, between sexuality and spirituality, has broken down, and needs to be repaired.”</p>	
<b>Syringe exchange</b>	<p>Supports lifting ban on federal funding for needle exchange.</p> <p>In response to AIDSVote questionnaire: “Looking at this scientific evidence, I believe federal funds should be used to support needle-exchange programs. I have long believed in evidence-based decision-making and when it comes to combating the HIV&amp;AIDS crisis, I think we should try tools that have been shown to have an impact.”</p>	<p>Supports lifting ban on federal funding for needle exchange.</p> <p>In response to AIDSVote questionnaire: “I believe needle exchange is another important method of prevention of HIV&amp;AIDS transmission.”</p>	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
<b>Condoms in prisons</b>	No information found. In response to AIDSVote questionnaire: “As President, I will take steps to better understand how HIV&AIDS is transmitted in prisons and to address this problem.”	Supports the <i>Justice for the Unprotected against Sexually Transmitted Infections among Confined and Exposed (JUSTICE) Act</i> , which would allow for the distribution of condoms in prisons.	No information found.
<b>Early treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)</b>	Co-sponsored <i>Early Treatment for HIV Act</i> , which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive but have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.	Co-sponsored <i>Early Treatment for HIV Act</i> , which would allow states to amend their Medicaid eligibility requirements for low-income individuals who are HIV-positive but have not yet progressed to full blown AIDS.	No information found.
<b>Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act</b>	Supports protecting the <i>CARE Act</i> , our nation’s largest funding sources for the treatment and care of people living with HIV&AIDS domestically.	Supports protecting the <i>CARE Act</i> , our nation’s largest funding sources for the treatment and care of people living with HIV&AIDS domestically.	Co-sponsored the <i>CARE Act of 1990</i> , but did not co-sponsor the 2000 Reauthorization.
<b>Health insurance coverage</b>	Plan includes federal mandate that all individuals not covered by employer or public plans have health insurance, including all persons living with HIV&AIDS. Requires big employers to provide coverage or pay into a fund that supports a new system. Small employers would get incentives, not mandates, to offer insurance. [Washington Post, 2/12/08]	Plan does not mandate universal coverage. Proposes stepped approach starting with a mandate to cover all children, with the eventual possibility of full mandates if incentives, subsidies and cost controls fail to achieve universal coverage. Requires employers to offer “meaningful” coverage or pay a percentage of payroll into a fund. [Washington Post, 2/12/08]	Opposed to mandated universal health coverage. Bringing costs under control is the only way to stop the erosion of affordable health insurance. [McCain campaign website] A deregulated insurance market would provide insurance options. Tax breaks would make insurance easier to afford. Veterans would get care at any

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
			medical facility. [Washington Post, 2/12/08]
<b>Affordable housing for people living with AIDS</b>	Plans to increase funding for the <i>Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS Act (HOPWA)</i> to serve about 90,000 households. [National AIDS strategy]	Supports funding increase for the <i>Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS Act (HOPWA)</i> and other federal housing programs, toward the goal of assuring adequate and safe housing is available for all disabled and low-income people with HIV&AIDS in the U.S.	No information found.
<b>Communities of color</b>	Supports targeting efforts and resources to specifically fight HIV in communities of color. Supports increased funding for the Minority AIDS initiative, which aims to reduce the impact of HIV&AIDS on racial and ethnic minorities. <i>The Minority HIV&amp;AIDS Initiative</i> is part of the Department of Health and Human Services' larger Initiative to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health by the year 2010. In a statement announcing plans for a national AIDS strategy: "[I] will seek to increase cooperation with the clergy and other religious leaders in the black and Hispanic communities, to determine how churches can play a role in reducing the number of new	Supports targeting efforts and resources to specifically fight HIV in communities of color. In a radio campaign ad: "We have more work to do when the black incidence of HIV&AIDS and diabetes, and every other illness is multiple times higher than the rest of the population." In AIDS platform: "HIV has hit some communities harder than others. For example, while African-Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they make up 49 percent of new HIV&AIDS cases. AIDS is the leading cause of death in African-American women aged 25-34, and the third leading cause of death in African-American men in the same age group. In 2005,	No information found.

	<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>John McCain</b>
	infections. [I] will work to reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities throughout our entire health care system, to ensure that African Americans and Latinos living with HIV and AIDS have access to quality care and treatment.”	64 percent of women living with HIV&AIDS were black. Obama <i>will tackle the root causes of health disparities by addressing differences in access to health coverage and promoting prevention and public health.</i> ”	
<b>Women</b>	In a statement announcing plans for a national AIDS strategy: “[I] will work to target culturally competent prevention efforts towards vulnerable populations that account for a disproportionate number of new infections. In addition, [I] will ensure that women, who account for more than one-quarter of all new HIV&AIDS infections in the U.S., have the knowledge and tools necessary to protect themselves against HIV.”	See italicized above.	No information found.
<b>Women of color</b>	At the Howard University presidential debate in June 2007: “Let me just put this in perspective: If HIV&AIDS were the leading cause of death of white women between the ages of 25 and 34, there would be an outraged outcry in this country.”	No additional information found.	No information found.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Where do They Stand? The Gay Men's Health Crisis Report on the 2008 Presidential Candidates and HIV&AIDS.  
[http://www.gmhc.org/policy/federal/pres\\_report\\_2007.html](http://www.gmhc.org/policy/federal/pres_report_2007.html).

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Presidential Candidate Survey.  
<http://www.housing2008.org/wp-content/uploads/nhcadsvpresidentialsurvey.pdf>.

We Demand Accountability: The 2008 Presidential Elections and the Black AIDS Epidemic. Black AIDS Institute.  
[http://www.blackaids.org/image\\_uploads/article\\_462/.pdf](http://www.blackaids.org/image_uploads/article_462/.pdf).

2008 Presidential Candidate Issue Spotlight: Global Health and HIV&AIDS. Kaiser Family Foundation.  
[http://www.health08.org/issue\\_globalhealth\\_hiv aids.cfm](http://www.health08.org/issue_globalhealth_hiv aids.cfm).

On the Record. Presidential Candidates' Plans to Combat Extreme Poverty and Global Disease. ONE Campaign.  
<http://www.onevote08.org/ontherecord>.

Envisioning the Future: The 2008 Presidential Candidates' Health Reform Proposals. The Commonwealth Fund.  
[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=647708](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=647708).

Election Guide 2008. New York Times.  
<http://politics.nytimes.com/election-guide/2008/issues/index.html#/context=index/issue=health>.

2008 Presidential Primary Voters' Guide. League of Women Voters.  
<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10497>.

Brides Decide. Presidential Candidates' Viewpoints on Issues Important to Young Women.  
<http://www.bridesdecide.com/articles/A70719165542/about-us.aspx>.