



ELECTION '08

Get to know your presidential candidates this election with a little teen perspective

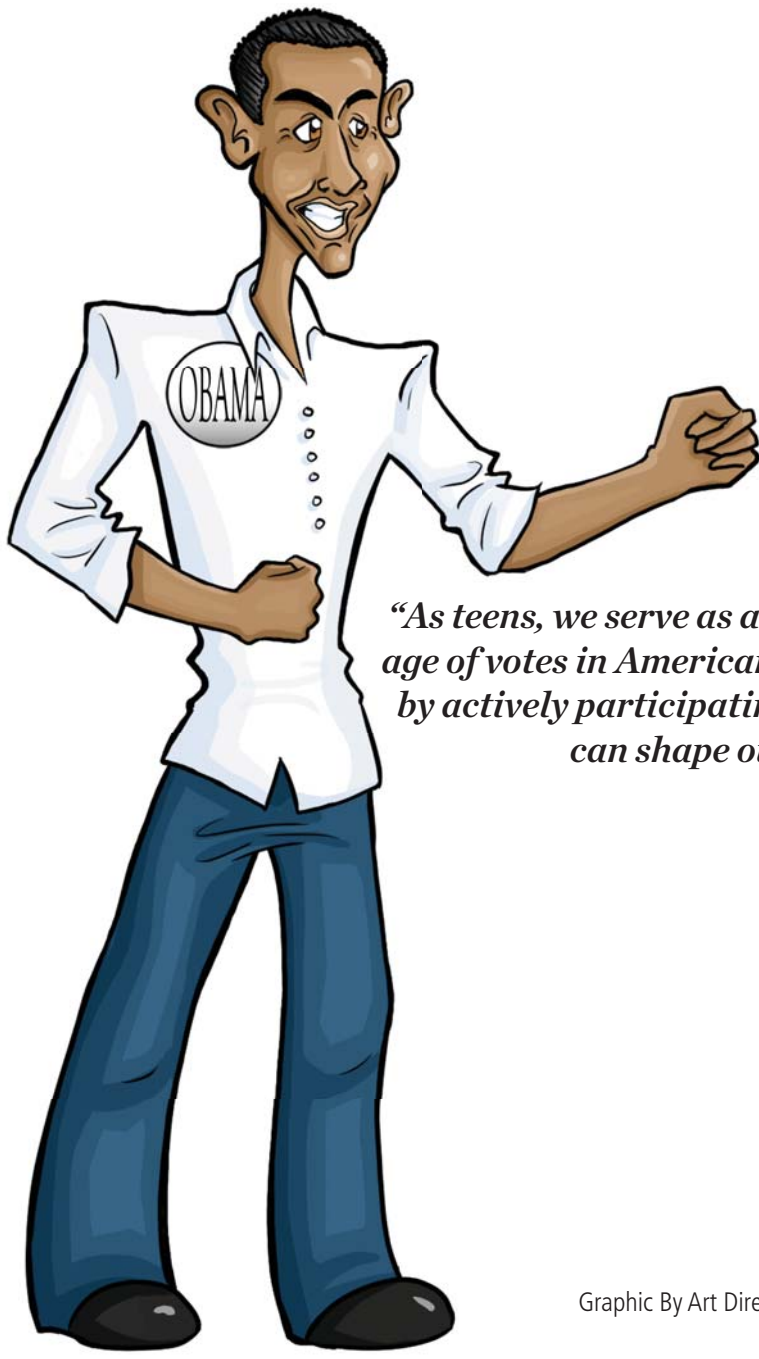
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MT. SPOKANE

During the last few months, being a living, breathing American citizen is nearly impossible without having some idea of our primary presidential candidates (unless you have retired to hibernate in your windowless basement with only a collection of cheese crackers series to sustain you). As teens begin to reach the ripe voting age of eighteen, elections gain prominence, and even for those who do not vote, recently, politics has increased the involvement of younger generations in the political world and big decisions we face.

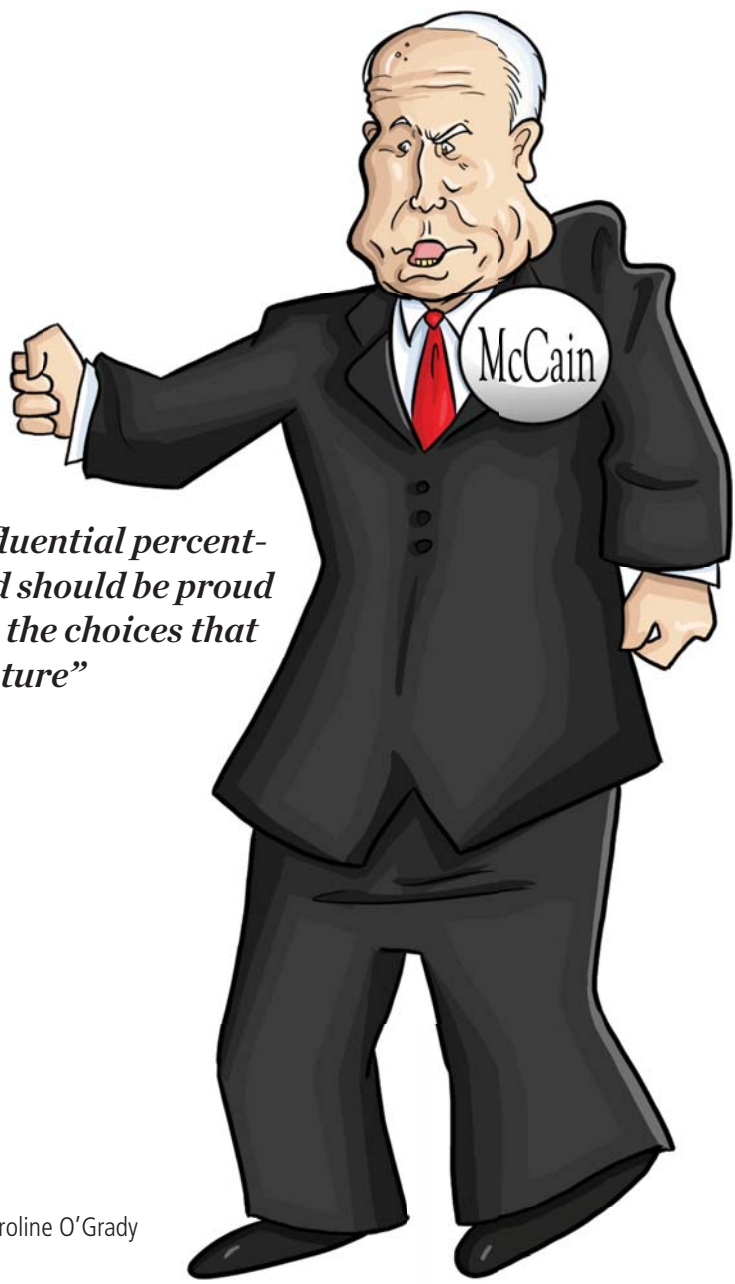
The political process of elections can be a complicated one and recent campaigns have not proved this any different for Election 2008.

But whether you are a member of "Obama-nation," going "Country First" with McCain, undecided or simply have no care or regard for the future leader of America, having a simple overview of not only the candidates in the limelight but all those in the running can be interesting and beneficial.

As teens, we serve as an influential percentage of votes in American and should be proud by actively participating in the choices that can shape our future.



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Graphic By Art Director Caroline O'Grady

Barack H. Obama Jr.

Age: 47
Political Party: Democratic Party
Quote: "And now I know my biggest weakness is I like to help old ladies cross the street."
Platform: Obama remains a strong believer in equality regarding education, disabilities and civil rights.

For the economy, Obama proposes a plan to help the middle-class thrive as well as simplifying the tax code to help give more Americans financial relief.

For education in high school, Obama plans on placing emphasis on math and science and addressing the drop-out crisis by putting in place more after-school programs. He also believes teachers should be held to a higher standard and those administrators that do not perform should be removed from the educational system.

For college students, Obama plans on simplifying the application process for financial aid and making college more financially accessible for all students.

Obama is pro-choice (supports legalized abortion). He also represents a powerful position regarding the importance of family and faith's role in government and implements the ethics of government being honest and true to the American people.

He's for You If: Obama, to most, represents a younger generation and a fresh, new image of politics. If you are into the unity of family Thanksgiving dinners, being respected for your difference and enjoy school not

only for the socialization but for the exciting prospect of the future ahead of you, Obama may be your choice for educational and ethical purposes.

John S. McCain III

Age: 72
Political Party: Republican Party
Quote: "I'm older than dirt and have more scars than Frankenstein."
Platform: McCain is firm on the issue of national security and keeping troops in Iraq for the purposes of "preserving and protecting" the American people and believes that is the highest duty of any American president to protect the nation.

On the education front, McCain is a believer in parents having full control of their children's school experience, meaning he supports both home-schooling and charter schools. McCain wants schools to report on progress and give parents and students the capability to change the schools in which they attend if necessary.

McCain is pro-life (against abortion) and believes in creating more jobs and promoting more worker's rights. McCain is also pro-gun (supports the right for citizens to obtain guns) and believes in instilling a better crime fighting program to further ensure safety of the American people.

He's for you if: If you enjoyed sitting on your grandfather's lap and listening to his past stories of the good old days and fighting for his beloved country while feeling safe and cozy with a mug of hot chocolate, you may be the McCain prototype. If issues regarding military and home-

land security are important to you, and having strict guidelines in education and protection in your own local community, McCain just might be your new presidential figure.

Cynthia Ann McKinney

Age: 53
Political Party: Green
Quote: "Well, I won't sit down and I won't shut up until the full and unvarnished truth is placed before the American people."
Platform: McKinney is an avid human rights activist and has been the highest ranking Democrat on the Human Rights Committee where she fights transfers of weapons to other nations and remains firmly anti-war.

Representing the Green Party, McKinney represents the idea of equal opportunity, justice, peace and freedom for all humanity.

She supports same-sex marriages and grassroots democracy (keeping government as close to the people as possible).

Green Party also wants to put into action most any legislation having to do with achieving sustainability and environmental harmony while opposing violence when disagreements arise either in our own country or overseas.

McKinney also is the first African-American woman to be a presidential nominee.

She's For You If: If you prefer daisies in guns instead of bullets, still envy your parents for growing up in the '60s, consider granola to be your favorite snack and find Birkenstocks

with socks to be completely fashionable, McKinney may be for you. If the environment and anti-war are at the top of your priority list, then the Green Party could be your best friend.

Ralph Nader

Age: 74
Political Party: Independent
Quote: "Your best teacher is your last mistake."
Platform: He believes that standardized tests and high-stake exams are over-emphasized in the educational system. Nader plans on making education equally accessed and putting more money into improving school systems.

The answer to the energy-crisis, he claims, should be answered by alternative sources, specifically solar while also proposing putting in place a carbon tax to reduce emissions by 80 percent.

He takes a unique position on civil rights and wants to push legislation to take action regarding civil rights violations of Muslim and Arab Americans considering he is the first Arab American and Lebanese American presidential candidate.

He's for you if: Maybe your last SAT scores were not the most impressive, you're tired of taking the WASL every year since the 4th grade, you do not drive a diesel fueled car and you enjoy cultural diversity; in any of the above cases Nader could be your guy. If civil rights, reforms in education and the economy are important to you, again, Nader is your man.

Robert L. Barr Jr.

Age: 59
Political Party: Independent; Libertarian
Quote: "There is no legitimate use whatsoever for marijuana. This is not medicine. This is bogus witchcraft."
Platform: In the past, Barr has been an active participant in the "War on Drugs."

Representing the Libertarian party he stands for achieving smaller government, lower taxes and the expansion of individual freedom.

Barr represents a fairly conservative perspective on politics as he opposes abortion and voted for increasing prosecution and sentencing for juvenile crimes.

In education, Barr supports prayer to be allowed in schools and also believes in standardized testing.

For the environment, Barr is quite passive and votes against prohibiting oil drilling and wants to repeal the gas tax.

He's for You If: Barr may be your cup of tea if you are that kid that wears the crisp collared Oxford button-up with your loafers and is always ready to maintain order and control. If you are the hooligan getting suspended for bringing beer or other illegal paraphernalia to school, Barr may just be your worst enemy. All in all, if you believe in religion mixing with education, getting oil from our homeland and keeping the status quo, Mr. Barr would like your support.

Charles O. Baldwin

Age: 56
Political Party: Independent; Constitution

Quote: "There is still hope for America. Let the truth be heard."
Platform: Baldwin believes in disbanding the Department of Education and removing educational legislation from the federal level and returning it to the hands of the people by promoting parents' choice to put their kids in whatever educational system they deem necessary.

Baldwin would support tax relief for any families who do not attend government schools.

He is both pro-gun and pro-life. Baldwin believes that civil governments must be strictly limited in their powers to impose upon other people and personal property.

He remains a very religious candidate and believes that God has put the destiny of the nation in the hands of "We the People."
He's for you if: You value your personal space and like to have full control of every aspect of your life, from the cleanliness of your fingernails to the school system you attend, then you may like Baldwin's style. If you believe in fundamentals and strict construction thinking, Chuck is for you.

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"If you have the urge to call something cool, but need a word that conotates freshness and good hygiene try using 'mint.'"

—Chris Alfino and Emmet Winkle von Stackelberg, "Linguistics is bodacious and radical, McBrosef" Page 4

MORE JOURNALISM GOODNESS

ARTS: Some new slang, page 4

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NEW INSTALLMENT OF TWILIGHT SERIES



FUN FACT

The longest one syllable word in the English language is "screeched."

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LIFE SPORTS: FROLFIN'



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