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## Candidates on Trade

Compiled by Brookings Institution experts, this chart is part of a series of issue indices to be published during the 2008 Presidential election cycle. The policy issues included in this series were chosen by Brookings staff and represent the most critical topics facing America's next President. Available voting records and statements vary based on time in office.

### CANDIDATES



**Barack Obama (D)**  
 Senator from Illinois



**John McCain (R)**  
 Senator from Arizona

Published 1/17/2008. Updated 08/22/08. The index displays the top candidates from both major parties. Opportunity 08, a Brookings project in partnership with ABC News, aims to help presidential candidates and the public focus on critical issues facing the nation, providing ideas, policy forums, and information on a broad range of domestic and foreign policy questions. Brookings is an independent think tank (501c3) that does not support or oppose any candidate for public office. Voters should learn all they can about the candidates on a range of issues and should not rely on any single source of information before making their decision.

Candidates	Obama (D)	McCain (R)
<b>General Position</b>	<p>Obama not in office in 2002.</p> <p>“Obama believes that trade with foreign nations should strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs. He will stand firm against agreements that undermine our economic security.” – BarackObama.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p>Voted in Favor of <a href="#">Trade Promotion Authority (2002)</a></p> <p>"Globalization is an opportunity, but globalization will not automatically benefit every American." – WSJ.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)</b>	<p>Obama not in office in 1993.</p> <p>“Obama believes that NAFTA and its potential were oversold to the American people. Obama will work with the leaders of Canada and Mexico to fix NAFTA so that it works for American workers.” – BarackObama.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p>Voted in favor of <a href="#">NAFTA (1993)</a></p> <p>“...objective statistics show that trade with Canada, trade with Mexico, has been good for our economy as well as theirs.” – ABCNews.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>China</b>	<p>Voted in Favor of Sen. Schumer's <a href="#">Chinese Currency Bill (2005)</a></p> <p>Obama not in office in 2000.</p> <p>Senator Obama "...believes that China is manipulating its currency. He has pledged as President to use all the diplomatic avenues open to him to seek change in China's currency practices. Senator Obama also believes we need more sustained and serious efforts to combat intellectual property piracy in China. With respect to China trade, as more generally, he believes we must devote more resources to enforcing US rights and ensure that US trade laws are vigorously enforced.” – WSJ.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p>Voted Against Sen. Schumer's <a href="#">Chinese Currency Bill (2005)</a></p> <p>Voted in Favor of <a href="#">Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China (2000)</a></p> <p>“...the United States has benefited from trade with China, but there is plenty of work to do. China must be held to account when it violates rules and it must continue to appreciate its currency to a point where it reflects market forces. John McCain will not make the mistake, however, of reducing the relationship with China to the trade balance or the value of the renminbi. China needs to improve its record on human rights, do its share to fight global warming, be responsible in Africa, and help address the challenges of North Korea and Iran.” – WSJ.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>

Candidates	Obama (D)	McCain (R)
<b>Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)</b>	<p><a href="#">Opposes FTA with Colombia (pending)</a></p> <p>Opposes FTA with Panama (pending) – <i>Inside Trade</i>, August 8, 2008</p> <p><a href="#">Opposes FTA with South Korea (pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supported FTA with Peru (2007)</a> (did not cast vote)</p> <p>Voted against <a href="#">CAFTA-DR (2005)</a></p> <p>“Obama will fight for a trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support good American jobs. He will use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world.” – BarackObama.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Supports FTA with Colombia (pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supports FTA with Panama (pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supports FTA with South Korea (2007)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supported FTA with Peru (2007)</a> (did not cast vote)</p> <p>Voted in favor of <a href="#">CAFTA-DR (2005)</a></p> <p>“As president, he will pursue multilateral, regional and bilateral efforts to reduce trade barriers, level the global playing field and build effective enforcement of global trading rules.” –JohnMcCain.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>The Doha Development Round</b>	<p>Rejects concessions on domestic agricultural supports. Supports opening foreign markets to domestic products. – TheHill.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p>“The United States will need to work with allies to determine the best approach, whether that means reviving the Doha Development Agenda or beginning afresh with new rules and objectives. Given the sensitivity of farm subsidies, Senator McCain’s opposition to the recent farm bill would bolster his credibility in seeking to repair...damage to the system.” – WSJ.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>Safety Net for Dislocated Workers</b>	<p>“Obama would update the existing system of Trade Adjustment Assistance by extending it to service industries, creating flexible education accounts to help workers retrain, and providing retraining assistance for workers in sectors of the economy vulnerable to dislocation before they lose their jobs.” – BarackObama.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>	<p>“John McCain will overhaul unemployment insurance and make it a program for retraining, relocating and assisting workers who have lost a job. The unemployment insurance system created in the 1950s needs to be modernized to meet the goals of helping displaced workers make ends meet between jobs and moving people quickly on to the next opportunity.” – JohnMcCain.com</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>