

## WHO HAS THE BETTER ENERGY PLAN? REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS?

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Nancy Pelosi turned off the lights and Congress went home for the month of August without passing any of the energy bills that were pending. Republicans blocked legislation insisting that we address the oil supply problem with offshore oil drilling, tax breaks for oil companies for further exploration, and more nuclear energy. Democrats pushed for bills that address funding alternative fuels and ending speculation in the oil markets.

Republicans believe we need to increase the supply of energy by increasing domestic drilling off the coasts and in other areas previously off limits. We need to provide tax breaks to oil companies to provide incentive for hard to drill areas. We also need to increase other sources of energy such as nuclear power. Increasing supply will lower the prices of gas and oil.

Democrats believe we need to develop alternative fuels more aggressively. We need to tax the windfall of the oil companies to invest in those alternative energy sources. One way to address the rise in gasoline and oil prices is to address the speculators in the energy markets. Sen. Barack Obama recently proposed a \$1000 emergency energy rebate to help consumers deal with increasing oil prices.

**Today, Obama Is Proposing To Tap The Strategic Petroleum Reserve:** "In a reversal, Barack Obama is proposing tapping the nation's strategic oil reserves to help drive down gasoline prices, his campaign said Monday." (Tom Raum, "Obama: Tap Nation's Oil Reserve To Help Gas Prices," *The Associated Press*, 8/4/08)

**But Just Last Month, Obama Opposed Tapping The Reserve, Arguing That It Should Be Used For Genuine Emergencies Like A Terrorist Attack On Oil Supplies** **Obama:** "I do not believe that we should use the strategic oil reserves at this point. I have said and, in fact, supported a congressional resolution that said that we should suspend putting more oil into the strategic oil reserve, but the strategic oil reserve, I think, has to be reserved for a genuine emergency. You have a situation, let's say, where there was a major oil facility in Saudi Arabia that was destroyed as a consequence of terrorist acts, and you suddenly had huge amounts of oil taken out of the world market, we wouldn't just be seeing \$4-a-gallon oil. We could see a situation where entire sectors of the country had no oil to function at all. And that's what the strategic oil reserve has to be for." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Media Availability, St. Louis, MO, 7/7/08)

### NUCLEAR POWER

**John McCain Has Proposed Building 45 New Nuclear Plants.** McCain: "So, if I am elected president, I will set this nation on a course to building 45 new reactors by the year 2030, with the ultimate goal of 100 new plants to power the homes and factories and cities of America." (Sen. John McCain, Campaign Event, Springfield, MO, 6/18/08)

**Obama Said He's "Not A Nuclear Energy Proponent."** Obama: "I start off with the premise that nuclear energy is not optimal. I am not a nuclear energy proponent." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Town Hall Event, Newton, IA, 12/30/07)

## **ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

### **John McCain Proposed Lifting The Ban On Offshore Drilling And Letting States Decide If They Wanted To Explore And Drill For Energy.**

McCain: "But I also believe that lifting the moratoria from offshore drilling or oil and natural gas exploration is something that we should place as a very high priority. And again, I don't want to dictate to the states what they should do, but I think that the states can be provided with additional incentives such as a greater share of the revenues than is presently the case." (Sen. John McCain, Remarks At Press Availability, Arlington, VA, 6/16/08)

**Obama Opposes Lifting The Ban On Offshore Drilling.** Obama: "Now the latest scheme is well, we're going to drill offshore." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event, Springfield, MO, 7/30/08)

**John McCain Proposed Immediate Gas Tax Relief For American Families.** "Hard-working American families are suffering from higher gasoline prices. John McCain calls on Congress to suspend the 18.4 cent federal gas tax and 24.4 cent diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day." (John McCain For President Website, [www.johnmccain.com](http://www.johnmccain.com), Accessed 8/5/08)

**Obama Opposes Immediate Gas Tax Relief For American Families.** Obama: "I think John McCain's proposal for a three month tax holiday is a bad idea." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event, Blue Bell, PA, 4/21/08)

**John McCain Called For A \$300 Million Prize For A Next Generation Battery.** McCain: "I further propose we inspire the ingenuity and resolve of the American people by offering a \$300 million prize for the development of a battery package that has the size, capacity, cost and power to leapfrog the commercially available plug-in hybrids or electric cars." (Sen. John McCain, Remarks At Campaign Event, Fresno, CA, 6/23/08)

**Obama Called John McCain's \$300 Million Prize For A Better Battery A "Gimmick."** Obama: "In this campaign, John McCain is offering the same old gimmicks that will provide almost no short-term relief to folks who are struggling with high gas prices. Gimmicks that will only increase our addiction for another four years." (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event, Las Vegas, NV, 6/24/08)