

February 11, 2008  
Miami, Florida

## *Sidebar*

### Questions For The Presidential Candidates

**I Generalities.** The field is getting smaller and smaller. By April, two will remain standing for us (Americans) to elect one. I think it will be Barack Obama (D) vs. John McCain (R). (I would prefer Clinton v. McCain.) Obama's running mate will not be Hillary Clinton—he will choose a white, young man (A Hispanic?) to maintain his “hope” and “change” theme among minorities. McCain's running mate will be young, conservative, and ready to be president on day one. (I hope it is Mitt Romney.) While all this works its way to the August (D) and September (R) conventions, many questions need clear answers. America needs a ton of *debates*. For example, BO's “hope” and “change” needs to be defined—What will change in the US and the World? How will he accomplish change? What is the cost of change? So, I would be methodical in debate questions—I would not allow rhetorical answers. Americans need specifics and solutions. (Please answer the question.) The candidates must articulate specifics and solutions to tough issues. Moreover, we need to define the candidates: What are their core beliefs? What have they done for America? What laws have they sponsored? For what laws have they voted for? In other words, we need to know *substance* over oratory (rhetoric) or war heroics. Is BO a socialist who likes “Che” Guevara? Why does BO, without conditions, want to sit down with Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez, and Iran's president? Is JMc a true conservative? Will JMc govern with the help of democrats?

**II Glamour – Substance.** Obviously, BO has glamour—he inspires people—but his speeches say nothing of substance. (He is a liberal who inspires hope and change.) JMc is not handsome and lacks a Reagan-style oratory, but has significant more substance in his delivery. In my book “glamour” is worthless unless it is accompanied by substance (and experience). JMc will not be able to out-speak BO who is “full-of-charisma.” (BO's wife, however, seems full of anger and is not too proud of America.) JMc can only win with conservative substance and appealing to moderates and independents—Republicans at heart. Gentlemen, What will you do as president? What a contest!

So, debate questions and answers must reveal substance over glamour. Who are these two candidates? How will they protect America? How will they resolve socio-economic issues?

#### QUESTIONS

Senator Obama (BO): How would you win the war against Islamic terrorism?  
(Same Q. for JMc.)

Senator McCain (JMc): Explain why should our forces stay in Iraq 100 years?  
(What did you mean by that assertion?)

BO: Are you a socialist who admires Fidel Castro and “Che” Guevara?

JMc: Are you a true conservative?

JMc: How would you convince Spain and other pacifist nations to join the US in building a “democracy” in Iraq? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: What is the cost of your socialist-style health insurance program?

JMc: Do you have a free-market health insurance plan? What is it?

JMc: What is the cost of “winning” the war in Iraq? (BO: Would you care to respond on winning the war in Iraq?)

BO: What immediate plans do you have to eradicate Afghanistan’s heroin cultivation and exports? (Same Q. for JMc.)

BO: How would you go about capturing or killing Osama Bin Laden? Would you raise the bounty to 50 million dollars? (Same Q. for JMc.)

BO: How should the US deal with Pakistan in searching for Osama Bin Laden?  
(Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: How would you interact with President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin to keep a friendly relationship alive? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Is Russia becoming belligerent and starting a *new* Cold War? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Are you ranked as a conservative in the Senate?

BO: Why are you ranked as one of the top “liberals” in the US Senate?

BO: Economically, how will you confront rising “Chindia”? (Same Q. for JMc.)  
(Here pursue a line of questions to test the candidates’ knowledge on economic issues.)

JMc: How will your administration create “jobs”? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Are you for gun control? What about you Mr. McCain?

JMc: When did you become pro-life? (BO: What is your posture on abortion?)

BO: Why did you vote against FISA in February of 2008? (JMc: What is your position on FISA?)

JMc: Name three or four persons you would nominate to the US Supreme Court? (Same Q. for BO.) \*I would force an answer.

JMc: How would your administration deal with Latin America? Has the US forgotten Latin America? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you “uplift” the US Dollar? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Has the USA lost prestige in the eyes of the world? If yes, how would you reestablish it? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Is the Guantanamo (Cuba) prison needed to house foreign terrorists who want to kill Americans? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Who would you name as head of the Pentagon? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Who would you name Secretary of State? (Same Q. for JMc.)

BO: Who would be your Attorney General? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Would “Rudy” Giuliani and Mitt Romney (if not VP) be members of your cabinet? If yes, explain.

BO: Would you name Hillary Clinton (if not VP) to a cabinet post? If yes, which one?

BO: Would you nominate ex-president “Bill” Clinton as Ambassador to the UN? If no, who?

JMc: Who would you nominate as Ambassador to the UN?

JMc: Would you seal the borders (North and South)? What is the cost? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you interact with Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Is Iran a threat to the USA and the Middle East? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you resolve the Middle East crisis? (Same Q. for JMc.)  
(The answer to this open-ended question will inform us how brainy is the responding presidential candidate.)

JMc: Do you believe in creating a “united” North or South America (something like the European Union)? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you strengthen the UN? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Is the UN useful in stopping the development of *new* “nukes”? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Would you extend and amplify the Bush tax cuts? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Who would be your first choice for Treasury Secretary? (Same Q. for BO.)

JMc: What economic policy would you propose to keep the US economy growing and ahead of Chindia? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you respond to Senator John Edwards’s “two” Americas theme? (Same Q. for JMc.)

JMc: Name four persons you would consider to be your running mate? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: What security measures would you propose to keep university/school campuses safe? (What say you, Mr. Mc.?)

JMc: What opinion do you have of the No Child Left Behind Act? (Same question for BO.)

BO: How would you raise the level of education in the USA? (Same question for JMc.)

JMc: Would you have public school “teachers” tested every four years or so? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: Would you require that students—all over the USA—wear “red, white, and blue” uniforms? (Same Q. for BO.)

JMc: How would you save Social Security and Medicare? (Same Q. for BO.)

BO: How would you keep healthcare costs low? (Same Q. for BO.)  
(I would differentiate “coverage” from “costs.”)

Please, send me more questions. I will pass them on to CNN and FOX.

