



## BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN: SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM AMERICAN COMMUNITY

*"We know that faith and values can be a source of strength in our own lives. That's what it's been to me. And that's what it is to so many Americans. But it can also be something more. It can be the foundation of a new project of American renewal. And that's the kind of effort I intend to lead as president of the United States."*

[Barack Obama, 07/01/08]

*"You know, this [so-called 'Muslim smear'] is actually an insult against Muslim Americans, something that we don't spend a lot of time talking about. . . . You know, there are wonderful Muslim Americans all across the country who are doing wonderful things. And for this to be used as sort of an insult or to raise suspicions about me I think is unfortunate. **And it's not what America is all about.**"*

[Barack Obama, 07/15/08]

**ECONOMY:** Despite their hard work, American families are finding it harder and harder each day to make ends meet. Barack Obama supports an immediate \$50 billion emergency stimulus plan that would provide immediate assistance to help struggling local governments, continue needed infrastructure projects and protect jobs. Barack Obama will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 95 percent of American workers with a tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. Obama will fight for trade agreements that support American jobs and enforce good labor and environmental standards.

**CIVIL LIBERTIES:** Hate crimes against Muslim Americans rose in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. In the U.S. Senate, Obama cosponsored legislation that would expand and strengthen hate crime laws. He also cosponsored the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA), which defined racial profiling and prohibited law enforcement from using race or ethnicity as a basis for law enforcement activities. Obama firmly believes that those who pose a danger to this country should be swiftly brought to justice, but those who do not should have sufficient due process to ensure that they are not wrongfully denied their liberty.

**RESTORE U.S. STANDING IN THE WORLD:** Obama will restore America's standing, reputation, and authority in the world by respecting civil liberties, ending torture, restoring habeas corpus, and closing the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Obama would enlist our allies around the world to provide more support for our diplomacy, multilateral peacekeeping and to help rebuild conflict-ravaged societies.

**END THE WAR IN IRAQ RESPONSIBLY:** Obama will change our mission in Iraq and responsibly redeploy our combat brigades in consultation with our commanders and the Iraqi government. We can safely redeploy at a pace that removes our combat brigades in 16 months, with a residual force to target remnants of al Qaeda, to protect our service members and diplomats, and to train Iraq's Security Forces if the Iraqis make political progress. This change in mission will ease the burden on our troops and their families while increasing our flexibility to address more pressing challenges in Afghanistan. Obama will also increase diplomacy in the region and act immediately to address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

**SEEK A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT:** Obama will make achieving progress on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the consolidation of democracy in Lebanon, and other Middle East issues key diplomatic priorities. From the beginning of his presidency, he will make a

sustained, concerted effort – working with Israelis and Palestinians – to achieve the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security.

**REFOCUS ATTENTION ON SOUTH ASIA:** Barack Obama has long recognized that South Asia is critical to U.S. interests and will ensure that strong U.S. relations in the region are a top foreign policy priority. Countries in this vital region are key partners in the war on terrorism. Obama will partner with Pakistan to fight terrorism and help Pakistan tackle critical challenges like illiteracy, poverty, and lack of health.

Moreover, he will stand up for democratic institutions, civil society and judicial independence in Pakistan. He has cosponsored legislation with Senators Biden and Lugar to triple non-military assistance to Pakistan and sustain it for the next decade. Obama also believes that, as the world's largest democracy, India is a natural strategic partner for American in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that the U.S. should also be working with India on a range of critical issues from preventing terrorism to promoting peace and stability in Asia.

**EDUCATION:** Barack Obama knows that education is critical to our nation's future. He will reform and fund No Child Left Behind, implement early childhood education programs and develop initiatives to recruit, train, retain and reward strong, dedicated teachers. Obama will make college affordable by creating a new \$4,000 a year tax credit that students can get in exchange for 100 hours of community service each year.

**IMMIGRATION:** Obama has played a leading role in crafting comprehensive immigration reform and believes that our broken immigration system can only be fixed by putting politics aside and offering a solution that strengthens our security while reaffirming our heritage as a nation of immigrants. He believes we must secure our borders, fix our broken immigration bureaucracy, and require the 12 million undocumented to get on a responsible path to citizenship. They must pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for citizenship. Obama also will increase the number of people we allow in the country legally to a level that unites families and meets the demand for jobs employers cannot fill.

**HEALTH CARE:** There are 45 million uninsured Americans across the country. Obama will enact a health care reform plan that saves the typical American family up to \$2,500 annually by lowering costs and making a new national health plan available to all Americans. Obama will expand outreach and education efforts to improve the language and cultural skills of hospitals to better care for Muslim American patients.

**PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RESPECT FOR RELIGIOUS PLURALISM:** In June 2006, Obama delivered what has been called perhaps the most important speech on religion and politics in 40 years. Read it here: [http://www.barackobama.com/2006/06/28/call\\_to\\_renewal\\_keynote\\_address.php](http://www.barackobama.com/2006/06/28/call_to_renewal_keynote_address.php)

**PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN GOVERNMENT:** To ensure government's ability to effectively represent the American people, Obama believes that the federal government should recruit federal employees as diverse as the U.S. population. As president, Obama will work to increase the diversity of the federal government with qualified individuals from all groups, including Muslim Americans.