

	Obama	McCain
Net Neutrality	<p>Stated Position “Users must be free to access content, to use applications, and to attach personal devices. They have a right to receive accurate and honest information about service plans. But these guarantees are not enough to prevent network providers from discriminating in ways that limit the freedom of expression on the Internet. Because most Americans only have a choice of only one or two broadband carriers, carriers are tempted to impose a toll charge on content and services, discriminating against websites that are unwilling to pay for equal treatment. This could create a two-tier Internet in which websites with the best relationships with network providers can get the fastest access to consumers, while all competing websites remain in a slower lane. Such a result would threaten innovation, the open tradition and architecture of the Internet, and competition among content and backbone providers. It would also threaten the equality of speech through which the Internet has begun to transform American political and cultural discourse.” (Source: http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/)</p> <p>Q: You have said network neutrality would be a priority in your administration. Why and how would you go about ensuring a neutral Internet while still allowing networks to manage traffic? A: The Internet is a powerful, democratizing tool. There are very low entry barriers for the delivery of services over the Internet, and public debate is unfettered by either the network owner or any single dominant voice. The neutral nature of the Internet makes that possible, and it is something we should defend. Up to now, legislation has focused on protecting against the discrimination against or in favor of any single voice or legal service. All have made allowances for objective, nondiscriminatory network-management practices. (Source: www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6570325.html)</p>	<p>Stated Position “In general, I think we need to move to a different model for thinking about the FCC. I think it should focus on policing clearly anti-competitive behavior and consumer predators. But, frankly, until some foul has been committed, I don’t think it should be interfering in the market, and probably shouldn’t be trying to micromanage American business and innovation. This is a very tough issue, because if you look at the extremes of it, then, obviously it has significant consequences – you can’t restrain the market, you can’t say that people can’t make a living or a profit off of the Internet. That obviously is not the intent of why the Internet was invented, and the reason why it has flourished. So what I would like to do is keep an eye on what goes on with the Internet, whether people are taking unfair advantage of it, whether people are being ripped off, and how this thing progresses. The great thing about the Internet is that it has enjoyed, to a large degree, immunity from federal interference and federal regulation. So, I have a tendency to say, look, let’s see how this thing all turns out, rather than anticipate something that, a problem that so far has not arisen in any significant way. I know that sounds a little bit equivocal, but it has a lot to do with my reluctance to use, my inclination to use government intervention only when it’s absolutely necessary.” (Source: Interview with Michael Arrington of TechCrunch, November 12, 2007)</p> <p>“John McCain will focus on policies that leave consumers free to access the content they choose; free to use the applications and services they choose; free to attach devices they choose, if they do not harm the network; and free to chose among broadband service providers. When Regulation Is Warranted, John McCain Acts. John McCain does not believe in prescriptive regulation like “net-neutrality,” but rather he believes that an open marketplace with a variety of consumer choices is the best deterrent against unfair practices.” (Source: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/cbcd3a48-4b0e-4864-8be1-d04561c132ea.htm)</p>
	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor of S.215, The Internet Freedom Preservation Act</p>	<p>Legislative Record 109th Congress In 2006 cast the deciding no vote in committee to halt the Snowe/Dorgan net neutrality bill. The bill tied in committee 11-11.</p>

Stated Position

"Instead of greater consolidation, I fully endorse the call for new rules promoting greater coverage of local issues and greater responsiveness of broadcasters to the communities they operate in."

(Source: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/>)

Q: What prompted you to weigh in on media ownership and diversity at an FCC field hearing in Chicago (<http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6480419.html>) last year?

A: I strongly favor diversity of ownership of outlets and protection against the excessive concentration of power in the hands of any one corporation, interest or small group. I strongly believe that all citizens should be able to receive information from the broadest range of sources. I feel that media consolidation during the Bush administration has had the effect of eliminating a lot of the diversity of information sources available to persons who have to rely on more traditional information sources, such as radio and television broadcasts and newspapers.

Q: What ill effects has the country suffered from media consolidation, if any?

A: This country's media ownership rules that both chairman [Michael] Powell and chairman Martin have wanted to dismantle protect us from excessive media concentration. However, even under current rules, the media market is dominated by a handful of firms. The ill effects of consolidation today and continued consolidation are well-documented -- less diversity of opinion, less local news coverage, replication of the same stories across multiple outlets, and others. We can do better.

Q: You co-sponsored the Dorgan bill to block the FCC's **media-ownership change**, which Martin has argued was a moderate compromise that took into account the input of opponents to consolidation. Why block it?

A: Chairmen Martin and Powell both argued that their previous effort to deregulate the media market was moderate, as well. Both the courts and a majority of the Senate disagreed the first time. And a few weeks back, the Senate disagreed with chairman Martin again. While he argues that the rule is no longer in the public interest, the public response has heavily weighed in against him. And common sense tells us that the consolidation of outlets in local markets will lead to fewer opportunities for diverse expression of opinions.

(Source:

www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6570325.html)

Stated Position

"At some point there is so much consolidation in an industry, particularly in vertical integration, that it becomes anti-competitive. If we continue to see these mergers and consolidations within this industry, it should be a matter of concern."

(Source: "Candidate McCain pushes agenda on media consolidation; Senator worries links mean lack of competition." Advertising Age, Ira Teinowitz, January, 2000)

"Congress and the federal courts have required the FCC to conduct a biennial review of its media ownership rules. These rules have a critical impact on our society - we must ensure that they serve the public interest. The Commerce Committee, therefore, will immediately begin its oversight of this decision by hearing from the five FCC Commissioners this Wednesday." McCain said. "The FCC has spent considerable resources examining these issues, and the rules they adopted today appear to retain important limitations on media ownership. These are complex decisions, however, and it is difficult to know exactly where to set these limits. I look forward to hearing from the Commissioners on Wednesday to better understand how they settled on the specific limitations they set forth today. Congress must remain vigilant to guarantee the important values of competition, diversity and localism within our nation's media markets."

(Source: June, 2003, Press Release from Senator McCain's office)

	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor, S.2332 The Media Ownership Act of 2007 Title: A bill to promote transparency in the adoption of new media ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission, and to establish an independent panel to make recommendations on how to increase the representation of women and minorities in broadcast media ownership. Cosponsor, S.J.Res.28 Title: A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to broadcast media ownership.</p>	<p>Legislative Record 108th Congress Voted AGAINST S.J.Res.17, the Resolution of Disapproval of the 2003 Broadcast Media Ownership Rules.</p>
<p>Women and Minority Media Ownership</p>	<p>Stated Position “Unfortunately, over the past several years, the Federal Communications Commission has promoted the concept of consolidation over diversity... providing opportunities for minority-owned businesses to own radio and television stations is fundamental to creating the diverse media environment that federal law requires and the country deserves and demands... will encourage diversity in the ownership of broadcast media, promote the development of new media outlets for expression of diverse viewpoints, and clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters who occupy the nation’s spectrum. “ (Source: http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/) Q: What prompted you to weigh in on media ownership and diversity at an FCC field hearing in Chicago (http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6480419.html) last year? A: I strongly favor diversity of ownership of outlets and protection against the excessive concentration of power in the hands of any one corporation, interest or small group. I strongly believe that all citizens should be able to receive information from the broadest range of sources. I feel that media consolidation during the Bush administration has had the effect of eliminating a lot of the diversity of information sources available to persons who have to rely on more traditional information sources, such as radio and television broadcasts and newspapers. (Source: www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6570325.html)</p>	<p>Stated Position “Tax Certificates To Encourage Minority Ownership In Broadcasting - When Commissioner Michael Powell was appointed to the FCC in 1998, he spoke with Senator McCain, then Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, about establishing a program that would encourage minority ownership for communications companies, but prevent the rampant abuse that was found in a previous program that the Congress voted to terminate in 1995. McCain and Powell began working in 1999 with the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, the Minority Media and Telecommunication Council, and other minority groups.” (Source: Fact Sheet from McCain’s campaign released February 20, 2008)</p>

	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor, S.2332 The Media Ownership Act of 2007 Title: A bill to promote transparency in the adoption of new media ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission, and to establish an independent panel to make recommendations on how to increase the representation of women and minorities in broadcast media ownership.</p>	<p>Legislative Record Primary Sponsor, S.267 The Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act of 2003 Title: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a deferral of tax on gain from the sale of telecommunications businesses in specific circumstances or a tax credit and other incentives to promote diversity of ownership in telecommunications businesses. This legislation reinstates the tax credit with better accountability. He introduced similar legislation in the 105th, 106th and 107th Congresses.</p>
Public Access (PEG)	<p>Stated Position [none found]</p>	<p>Stated Position [none found]</p>
	<p>Legislative Record [none]</p>	<p>Legislative Record 109th Congress Cosponsor, S.1504, The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act Title: A bill to establish a market driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services. Note - The legislation would eliminate a requirement for telecommunications companies to pay franchise fees to local municipalities. These fees are required as compensation to the community for use of the public right of way through which the companies route cables and utilities. By eliminating the franchise fees, the bill will eliminate the only source of funding that the public access provider receives.</p>
Low Power FM	<p>Stated Position [none found other than generally supportive]</p>	<p>Stated Position In a statement, McCain said LPFM implementation has been "severely hampered by commercial broadcasters' flagrantly exaggerated claims of interference. The most recent obstruction, a two year study conducted at the behest of broadcasters, cost taxpayers over two million dollars and proved what the FCC and community groups have known for years: Low Power FM stations will not cause significant interference to other broadcasters' signals. It is time for broadcasters to stop hiding behind false claims of interference when they are really afraid of the competition from truly local broadcasters." (Source: Prometheus Radio Project Press Release)</p>

	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor, S.1675 Title: A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service.</p>	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Primary sponsor, S.1675 Title: A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service. Sponsored similar legislation in the 109th, 108th and 107th Congresses.</p>
Public Interest Obligations	<p>Stated Position “I believe that the nation’s media ownership rules remain necessary and are critical to the public interest. We should be doing much more to encourage diversity in the ownership of broadcast media, promote the development of new media outlets for expression of diverse viewpoints and establish greater clarity in the public-interest obligations of broadcasters occupying the nation’s spectrum. “ (Source: http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/)</p> <p>Do you support regulatory and legislative efforts to clarify the public interest obligations of broadcasters, including adoption of new license processing guidelines that would encourage digital broadcasters to (1) air a certain minimum number of hours of qualifying civic and/or election-related programming each week and (2) file periodic reports with the Federal Communications Commission detailing how stations are meeting this and related guidelines? Obama - Yes (Source: Midwest Democracy Network Candidate Questionnaire, as reported in Washington Post, 2/2008)</p>	<p>Stated Position “Eight times more news coverage went to stories about accidental injuries than local elections,” during the 2004 campaign, McCain said, citing the study. “If a local candidate wants to be on television, and cannot afford to advertise, his only hope may be to have a freak accident.” McCain’s “Localism in Broadcasting Reform Act of 2005” would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the length of station license terms from eight years to three, which would require individual broadcasters to more frequently justify why they should keep their licenses. • Require the full Commission to review five percent of all license and renewal applications, rather than entrusting agency staff to conduct all the reviews. • Allow viewers not residing in a station’s market to complain about the station. • Require broadcasters to list their local public affairs programming on their web sites. • Order the FCC to complete its proceeding to determine what public interest obligations should apply after broadcasters go all-digital. <p>“I believe this legislation is a step in the right direction,” McCain said. “It will have a small impact on those stations that are currently meeting their public interest obligations, but it should have a large impact on those citizens whose local broadcaster is not meeting its obligation to serve the local community. (Source: “McCain wants to cut license terms,” Bill McConnell, Broadcasting and Cable, February 15, 2005)</p>
	<p>Legislative Record [none]</p>	<p>Legislative Record 109th Congress Primary Sponsor, S.383, The Localism in Broadcasting Reform Act of 2005</p>

Free Air Time

Stated Position

Would you, if elected President, support and sign legislation that would (1) provide qualifying congressional candidates and party committees with vouchers with which to pay for some broadcast advertising time; (2) impose a modest user fee on broadcasters' gross advertising revenues to underwrite the voucher program; and (3) allow qualified candidates and parties to purchase non-preemptible advertising time at rates below stations' lowest unit charges during the final weeks of primary and general election campaigns?

Obama: Yes.

(Source: Midwest Democracy Network Candidate Questionnaire, as reported in Washington Post, 2/2008)

Stated Position

"I believe that one of the most beneficial ways for broadcasters to meet their public interest obligation is through the provision of free air time to candidates. Not only will this serve viewers, voters, and candidates, it will serve to help restore the integrity of the democratic process.

"Like the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act that finally passed this year, the free air time proposal has the ambitious though vital goal of improving our democracy. Whereas the campaign finance reform act's emphasis was on eliminating improper financial contributions, the free air time bill would help de-emphasize large contributions by reducing candidate's dependence on raising money to reach voters. Clearly, our democracy will be improved when a candidate's success is less dependent on money, and more dependent on the value of his or her ideas. The benefits of free air time are not only for candidates, however. By increasing the flow of political information, free air time can better inform the public about candidates and invite viewers to become more engaged in their government by learning more about the individuals seeking to represent them. "I believe that one of the most beneficial ways for broadcasters to meet their public interest obligation is through the provision of free air time to candidates. Not only will this serve viewers, voters, and candidates, it will serve to help restore the integrity of the democratic process."

(Source: remarks by Sen. McCain at a symposium sponsored by the Alliance for Better Campaigns and the New America Foundation, on June 19, 2002 in Washington, D.C.)

Legislative Record

[none]

Legislative Record

108th Congress
Primary Sponsor, S.1497
Our Democracy, Our Airwaves Act of 2003

Stated Position

"An Obama administration will encourage the creation of Public Media 2.0., the next generation of public media that will create the Sesame Street of the Digital Age and other video and interactive programming that educates and informs. Obama will support the transition of existing public broadcasting entities and help renew their founding vision in the digital world."
 (Source: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/>)

Stated Position

"... I rise today to introduce The Public Broadcasting Reauthorization Act of 2004. This legislation is designed to reauthorize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB or "the Corporation") through 2011 to carry forth its mission to support the Nation's public broadcasting system...
 In addition to authorizing the Corporation, the bill would explicitly provide public broadcast stations the ability to use CPB funds to produce local programming. An April 2004 General Accounting Office (GAO) report noted that 79 percent of the public television stations surveyed found that the amount of local programming they currently produce is not sufficient to meet local community needs. Eighty-five percent of the stations surveyed stated that they do not have adequate funds for local programming or that they would produce more local programming if they could obtain additional sources of funding. The bill would provide the Corporation the explicit authority to award grants for the production and acquisition of local programming and allow stations to use CPB funds supporting the digital transition to produce local digital programming.
 Furthermore, the bill would expand the definition of public telecommunications services to capture the services public broadcasters are now providing through their web sites and through digital multicasting. The bill would also allow CPB to recoup some federal funds provided to a public broadcast station if the broadcaster sells the station to an entity that does not offer public broadcasting services.
 Reauthorization would allow the CPB to continue carrying out its many responsibilities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to expeditiously move this measure through the legislative process."
 (Source: Congressional Record upon introduction of S.2645 in the 108th Congress)

Legislative Record

Most funding issues are in omnibus spending bills so no votes specifically related to this issue can be cited.

Legislative Record

108th Congress
 Primary Sponsor, S.2645
 A Bill to Reauthorize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (this bill increased funding for public broadcasting by 4% and was supported by the CPB)

Stated Position

"Full broadband penetration can enrich democratic discourse, enhance competition, provide economic growth, and bring significant consumer benefits. Moreover, improving our infrastructure will foster competitive markets for Internet access and services that ride on that infrastructure... we can get true broadband to every community in America through a combination of reform of the Universal Service Fund, better use of the nation's wireless spectrum, promotion of next-generation facilities, technologies and applications, and new tax and loan incentives... Encourage Public/Private Partnerships: Obama will encourage innovation at the local level through federal support of public/private partnerships that deliver real broadband to communities that currently lack it."

(Source: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/>)

Stated Position

"John McCain Will Pursue High-Speed Internet Access For All Americans. John McCain has long believed that all Americans, no matter if rich or poor, rural or urban, old or young, should have access to high-speed Internet services and receive the economic opportunities derived from technology. Access to high-speed Internet services facilitates interstate commerce, drives innovation, promotes educational achievements, and literally has the potential to change lives. As President, John McCain would continue to encourage private investment to facilitate the build-out of infrastructure to provide high-speed Internet connectivity all over America. However, where private industry does not answer the call because of market failures or other obstacles, John McCain believes that people acting through their local governments should be able to invest in their own future by building out infrastructure to provide high-speed Internet services. For this reason, Senator McCain introduced the "Community Broadband Bill," which would allow local governments to offer such services, particularly when private industry fails to do so. John McCain has fought special interests in Washington to force the Federal government to auction inefficiently-used wireless spectrum to companies that will instead use the spectrum to provide high-speed Internet service options to millions of Americans, especially in rural areas. As President, John McCain would continue to encourage research and development in technologies that could bring affordable alternatives to Americans, especially in rural areas. John McCain would seek to accurately identify un-served or under-served areas where the market is not working and provide companies willing to build the infrastructure to serve these areas with high speed internet services incentives to do so. He also supports private/public partnerships to devise creative solutions and help rural area and towns and cities in their efforts to build-out broadband infrastructure through government-backed loans or low-interest bonds. John McCain will establish a "People Connect Program" that rewards companies that offer high-speed Internet access services to low income customers by allowing these companies offset their tax liability for the cost of this service. "

(Source: <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/cbcd3a48-4b0e-4864-8be1-d04561c132ea.htm>)

	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor, S.1190, The Connect the Nation Act Title: A bill to promote the deployment and adoption of telecommunications services and information technologies, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Legislative Record 110th Congress Cosponsor, S.1853, The Community Broadband Act of 2007 Title: A bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services, and for other purposes. (also sponsored same legislation in 109th Congress) 107th Congress Primary Sponsor, S.2863, The Consumer Broadband Deregulation Act of 2002.</p>
Reforming the FCC	<p>Stated Position [none found]</p>	<p>Stated Position [none found]</p>
	<p>Legislative Record [none]</p>	<p>Legislative Record [none]</p>

Stated Position

"The transition will continue to require public-private cooperation and targeted outreach to seniors and lower-income communities. We have made coupons available for converter boxes, and we need to ensure that the neediest individuals are receiving them," Obama stated.

(Source: <http://www.tvpredictions.com/obama061708.htm>)

Q: If you become president, you will take office only weeks before the biggest technological change in TV history. How will you prepare for that, and will you put someone on your team in charge of keeping tabs on the progress of that transition?

A: The transition will continue to require public-private cooperation and targeted outreach to seniors and lower-income communities. We have made coupons available for converter boxes, and we need to ensure that the neediest individuals are receiving them.

Estimates vary over the number of analog TV sets and households affected. According to Nielsen Media Research, 13 million households cannot receive digital-television signals, and an additional 6 million households have at least one other television set that would no longer work after the transition. Of particular concern are low-income, elderly, disabled, non-English-speaking and minority populations. Many of these groups tend to rely more on over-the-air television and, as a result, are more likely to be impacted by the digital transition. I am committed to working with the Senate and House Commerce Committees and the appropriate agencies to ensure that this transition happens without significant disruption and inconvenience.

(Source: www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6570325.html)

Legislative Record

109th Congress

Senator Obama voted against the McCain Amendment to move up the DTV by one year.

Stated Position

"Can we really afford to wait until 2009 before we go ahead and transfer this spectrum?" he said. "I thought it should've happened many years ago."

(Source: "Senator calls for quicker digital TV transition," By Grant Gross, IDG News Service October 18, 2005)

Legislative Record

109th Congress

Senator McCain offered an amendment in 2005 to move up the Digital Transition date to April, 2008. The amendment was defeated, but did help to move the transition date up to February, 2009 from April, 2009.