

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Vol. VIII, No. 6, October 22, 2008

eRegions

2008 Presidential Candidates Edition

NARC LEADERSHIP

President Betty Knight,

Platte County, MO

Commissioner

Chair Jim Reed,

Executive Directors Council

Executive Director, Central Texas

Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are rapidly approaching Election Day, November 4th. In commemoration, we are publishing this special edition of *eRegions* focusing on where the candidates stand on issues important to COGs and MPOs.

The elected leadership of the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA), the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL), the [Council of State Governments](#) (CSG), the [National Association of Counties](#) (NACo), the [United States Conference of Mayors](#) (USCM), the [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) and the [International City/County Management Association](#) (ICMA)—the "Big 7"—recently highlighted the important roles state and local government leaders play in solving national issues and called on the next president to actively engage these leaders when determining national policy. The two principles the group emphasized were to first “consult and cooperate with state and local leaders” and second to “promote innovation at the state and local level.”

[Click here](#) to read the Big 7 statement and recommendations for the next administration.

[Click here](#) to read a joint letter from the Big 7 to the candidates.

NARC supports these efforts as an association of government and elected officials. We will ensure that the regional point of view is represented in our work with the

TRANSPORTATION

DEVELOPMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY

ENVIRONMENT



The next *Learning Series* webinar will take place tomorrow, October 23 at 2pm, ET, presenting *GASB 45 and Managing Pension Assets: Hear what GASB 45 is, the implications, and what it means for regions from NARC Corporate Partner, Invest by Design.* Visit [NARC's website](#) for more information and to register online.



2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2009

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!



Mentoring is a valuable tool for career development and guidance. Our goal is to ease the learning curve of leadership and knowledge in a new field or job and better connect professionals in all stages of their careers. Join the Mentor Exchange today by clicking [HERE](#).

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND

Please note: The content below is not the opinion of NARC Board members, members, or staff, and is provided for informational purposes. It is a synthesis of information from the official campaign websites of [Senator John McCain](#) and [Senator Barack Obama](#), articles, interviews, and other sources. NARC does not endorse a candidate for President.

TRANSPORTATION



Senator McCain has a number of plans to which transportation is linked, including his energy and economic plans, though he has not released a transportation infrastructure plan to this date. Through each plan, he supports no earmarks, opposes raising the gas tax, supports stricter emission standards and has a detailed plan related to transportation.

[Click here](#) for more on McCain's transportation vision from his campaign website.

[Click here](#) for transportation information on McCain's Senate website.



Senator Obama has released his transportation plan, “Strengthening America's Transportation Infrastructure,” including:

- **Strengthening Core Infrastructure** by entering into a new partnership with state and local civic, political, and business leaders to enact a national infrastructure policy.
- **Establishing New Jobs through a National Infrastructure**

that the regional point of view is aggressively represented with the next administration and Congress.

Happy voting!

Fred

NARC STAFF

[Fred Abousleman](#)

Executive Director, x216

[Sylvia Bryant](#)

Office Manager, x218

[Jenee Kresge](#)

Program Analyst, x215

[Shannon Menard](#)

Policy Manager, x217

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services Manager, x220

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director, x212

To access past issues of eRegions, [visit our website](#).



- **Establishing New Jobs through a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank** by infusing \$60 billion of federal money from the Treasury over 10 years to leverage public and private investment for transportation infrastructure. This is the only transportation financing option Obama has endorsed to date and he has publicly stated he does not support raising the federal gas tax. Obama has also stated that he “will engage state and local leaders in [my] efforts to re-evaluate our federal transportation funding process.”
- **Supporting Amtrak Funding** and reform to improve accountability and on October 1, 2008, Senators Obama and Biden voted for the five-year reauthorization of Amtrak and rail safety legislation.
- **Supporting Development of High-Speed Freight and Passenger Rail** as a means to provide significant environmental and metropolitan planning advantages, and long-term economic growth.
- **Strengthening Air Transportation in Underserved Areas** by supporting funding for the Essential Air Service program and continuation of the Small Community Air Service Development Program.
- **Investing in Public Transportation** by re-committing federal resources to public mass transportation projects and working with state and local governments on efforts to create new, effective public transportation systems and modernize aging urban transit systems.
- **Strengthening Metropolitan Planning to Cut Down Traffic Congestion** by re-evaluating the transportation funding process to ensure that smart growth considerations are taken into account; ensuring Metropolitan Planning Organizations create policies to incentivize greater bicycle and pedestrian usage of roads and sidewalks; and, providing states and local governments with the resources they need to address sprawl and create more livable communities.

- **Requiring States to Plan for Energy Conservation** by reforming current law to require governors and local leaders in our metropolitan areas make “energy conservation” a required part of their planning for the expenditure of federal transportation funds.

[Click here](#) to access Obama’s transportation plan.

[Click here](#) for transportation information on Obama’s Senate website.

Shortlist for U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly’s* shortlist for who may become the next U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

DEVELOPMENT

Senator McCain has released a new economic plan for the U.S., which is centered on the following basic principles:

- **Cheaper energy** by building more nuclear power plants, opening more offshore fields to oil and natural-gas drilling, committing \$2 billion for clean coal technology and encouraging alternative and renewable energy sources.
- **Supporting small business** through cheaper and additional energy options, controlling healthcare costs, through competitive taxes and opening new markets for opportunities.
- **Worker retraining** by paying displaced workers a stipend equal to the difference between what they earned in their last job and a “potential” new job and more choice in job training assistance to build skills for new and better jobs.
- **Balanced budget** by ending pork barrel spending and earmarks, implementing comprehensive spending controls and working in a bi-partisan manner on budget issues, as well as a one-year spending freeze on discretionary funding (excluding defense and veterans affairs).
- **Reforming entitlement programs.**
- **Workplace flexibility** by modernizing the nation’s labor laws to allow for more flexible scheduling arrangements, including working from home and telecommuting.

[Click here](#) to access McCain’s full economic plan.

[Click here](#) for a downloadable summary.

Senator Obama has released his economic plan, which includes:

- **Providing aid to states and local governments** with \$10 billion in relief for those hardest hit by the housing crisis to prevent cuts in services.

prevent cuts in services.

- **Supporting Job Creation** by doubling federal funding for basic research, expanding the deployment of broadband technology, and making the research and development tax credit permanent.
- **Enhancing Workforce Training** through long-term investments in education, language training, and workforce development, as well as reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- **Investing in a Skilled Clean Technologies Workforce** by increasing funding for federal workforce training programs and direct these programs to incorporate green technologies training.
- **Supporting rural economic development** through small businesses, modern communications infrastructure, leadership in renewable energy and upgrading rural infrastructure.
- **Creating a White House Office on Urban Policy** to develop a strategy for metropolitan America and to ensure that all federal dollars targeted to urban areas are effectively spent on the highest-impact programs; fully funding the Community Development Block Grant; and by not imposing unfunded mandates on states and localities.
- **Supporting Regional Innovation Clusters**, regional centers of innovation and next-generation industries, with \$200 million in planning and matching grants for regional business, government and university leaders to leverage a region's existing assets and enhance long-term regional growth.
- **Creating a National Network of Public-Private Business Incubators** by investing \$250 million/year to increase the number and size of incubators in urban communities throughout the country.
- **Improving Access to Jobs** by doubling the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program for additional federal public transportation dollars to the highest-need communities and urban planning initiatives.

[Click here](#) to access Obama's full economic plan.

[Click here](#) to access Obama's rural economic development plan.

[Click here](#) to access Obama's urban policy plan.

Shortlist for U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly's* shortlist for who may become the next U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

Shortlist for Housing and Urban Development Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly's* shortlist for who may become the next Housing and Urban Development Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

SECURITY

Senator McCain has released a plan to address homeland security and the following are the summarized details that are most important:

- **Cooperation Between Federal and Local Authorities.** McCain wants to work to share information between the federal government and state and local authorities, treating them as equal partners with the federal government. McCain will continue to support federal funding to be allocated to state, local and tribal governments on a risk assessment basis, providing those areas with the highest risk the greatest allocations. McCain will also call for local authorities in large cities to share their information with federal authorities to justify the large federal subsidies they receive.
- **Catastrophic Event Preparedness and Response.** McCain wants to ensure that government response efforts operate immediately and effectively through a unified plan and the necessary assistance to help states and localities deal with disaster. McCain will leverage the private sector in recovery efforts, which will include a Business Operations Center in every Government-run Emergency Operations Centers.
- **Supporting First Responders.** McCain is committed to providing funding and set standards for interoperable communications between cities and counties. and with surrounding cities and counties.
- **Protecting Critical Infrastructure.** McCain wants provide a framework for protecting the country's critical infrastructure, including water and food systems, the chemical and defense industries, information technology, energy (nuclear, gas and oil, electrical and dams), transportation (air, highways, rail, ports, and waterways), agriculture, health systems and emergency services, telecommunications, banking and finance, postal and shipping entities, and national monuments and icons.
- **Fixing Our Self-Created Energy Vulnerability.** Through the "Lexington Project," McCain wants to break with the current and old energy policies and create a national campaign to achieve energy security for America.
- **Protecting Public Transportation.** McCain wants to strengthen the safety and security of our nation's transportation system, including its rail network.

[Click here](#) to access McCain's full homeland security plan.

Senator Obama has released his homeland security plan and the following summarizes details that are most important:

- **Allocating Funds Based on Risk.** Obama wants to work with Congress to direct homeland security dollars according to risk, helping states and localities prepare for disaster and fund first responder needs.
- **Preparing Effective Emergency Response Plans.** Obama wants to further improve coordination between all levels of

risk, helping states and localities prepare for disaster and fund first responder needs.

- **Preparing Effective Emergency Response Plans.** Obama wants to further improve coordination between all levels of government, create better evacuation plan guidelines, ensure prompt federal assistance to emergency zones, and increase medical surge capacity, as well as increase federal resources and logistic support to local emergency planning efforts.
- **Improving Interoperable Communications Systems.** Obama wants to provide greater technical assistance to local and state first responders and dramatically increase funding for reliable, interoperable communications systems.
- **Evacuating Special Needs Population in Emergencies.** Obama wants to require states to perform mandatory planning for evacuating people with special needs.
- **Creating a Real National Infrastructure Protection Plan.** Obama wants to develop a critical infrastructure protection plan across the nation working with the private sector.
- **Keeping Our Drinking Water Safe.** Obama wants to provide \$37.5 million over 5 years for drinking water systems to upgrade their monitoring and security efforts.
- **Improving Transportation Security.** Obama wants to improve transportation security for ports, airlines and public transportation.

[Click here](#) to access Obama's full plan on homeland security.

Shortlist for U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly's* shortlist for who may become the next U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

ENVIRONMENT

Senator McCain has an environment plan that proposes to focus on climate change and energy independence. He will look to establish a market-based system to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mobilize innovative technologies while strengthening the economy. The following summarizes McCain's plan:

McCain's Principles for Climate Policy are:

- Climate Policy Should Be Built On Scientifically-Sound, Mandatory Emission Reduction Targets And Timetables.
- Climate Policy Should Utilize A Market-Based Cap And Trade System.
- Climate Policy Must Include Mechanisms To Minimize Costs And Work Effectively With Other Markets.
- Climate Policy Must Spur The Development And Deployment Of Advanced Technology.
- Climate Policy Must Facilitate International Efforts To Solve The Problem.

McCain's proposed Cap and Trade Policy will look to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit, similar to the successful acid rain trading program of the early 1990s. The key feature of this mechanism is that it allows the market to decide and encourage the lowest-cost compliance options. He also proposes to reform federal government research funding and infrastructure to support the cap and trade emissions reduction goals and emphasize the commercialization of low-carbon technologies.

McCain's "[Lexington Project](#)," his energy plan, which calls for:

- Expanding domestic oil exploration
- Expanding the use of domestic natural gas
- Enforcing CAFE standards
- Promoting Green jobs and economy
- Providing \$2 Billion annually to Advance Clean Coal Technologies
- Constructing 45 new nuclear power plants by 2030 With and eventually constructing 100 new plants
- Encouraging alternative, low carbon fuels – Wind, Hydro And Solar Power
- Promoting energy efficiency

[Click here](#) to access McCain's full environment plan.

Senator Obama has released environment and energy plan and the following summarizes details that are most important to the work of COGs and MPOs:

- Helping create five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future;
- Investing in America's manufacturing workforce and manufacturing centers to ensure that American workers have the skills and tools they need to pioneer the green technologies that will be in high demand throughout the world;
- Increasing funding for federal workforce training programs and direct these programs to incorporate green technologies training;
- Ensuring 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025;
- Devoting substantial resources to repairing our roads and bridges and significantly more attention to investments that will

- Ensuring 15 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2020,
 - Devoting substantial resources to repairing our roads and bridges and significantly more attention to investments that will make it easier for us to walk, bicycle and access other transportation alternatives, as well as reforming the federal transportation funding and leveling employer incentives for driving and public transit.
 - Implementing an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.
- [Click here](#) to access Obama's full environment and energy plan.

Shortlist for U.S. Department of Energy Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly's* shortlist for who may become the next U.S. Department of Energy Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

Shortlist for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Secretary

Click [HERE](#) to read *Congressional Quarterly's* shortlist for who may become the next U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Secretary under a McCain or Obama administration.

LEARNING SERIES CALENDAR

[NARC Member Registration](#)

[Non-Member Registration](#)

October 23, 2 pm ET: Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 and Managing Pension Assets: Hear what GASB 45 is, the implications, and what it means for regions from NARC Corporate Partner, Invest by Design.

October 28, 2 pm ET: H1B VISA and Immigration Update: Understand how the latest immigration issues can impact you and your region from NARC Partner, Deutsch, Killea, and Eapen, Immigration Law Firm.

November 5, 2 pm ET: The Brookings Institution: Blueprint for American Prosperity: Discover what this program is and how it can impact your regions.

CD's are available of past webinars, simply contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@NARC.org to request your copy today. A calendar of all webinars is available by visiting [our website](#).

REGIONS360°

Atlanta Regional Commission Chairman, Sam Olens, addresses Atlanta business and governments leaders, discussing "State of the Region." Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Hurricane Ike relief efforts are still underway. NARC members are asked to assist; click [HERE](#) for additional information on how your organization can help.

Indiana Association of Regional Councils is awarded \$150,000 grant to promote rural partnerships. Additional information about their grant funding is available by clicking [HERE](#).

Interested in letting everyone know what your organization is doing? Let us know by emailing Lindsey Riley, lindsey@NARC.org, and we'll include your updates here in the next edition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 23-25, Northampton, MA: New England Association of Regional Councils (NEARC) and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies will host the 2008 Annual Conference and Meeting. Additional information is available at [NEARC's website](#).

November 17, Chicago, IL: Chicago's Metropolitan Planning Council and the New York Regional Plan Association will host a roundtable discussion, "Rebuilding and Renewing America: Infrastructure Choices in the Great Lakes Megaregion." Additional information is available at [Metropolitan Planning Council's website](#). Several NARC members will be featured in this discussion.

January 22-24, Albuquerque, NM: 8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference is now seeking proposals for sessions. For additional information on submitting a proposal, [visit the New Partners website](#).

February 22-24, 2009, Washington, DC: Save the Date! NARC will host the 2009 National Conference of Regions. An agenda and registration information will be available soon on [NARC's website](#).

June 1-3, 2009, Denver, CO: Save the Date! NARC and Denver Regional Council of Governments will host the 43rd Annual Conference and Exhibition. Details will be made available soon on [NARC's website](#).

CORPORATE PARTNERS

CORPORATE PARTNERS



INVEST by DESIGN Your decisions, our expertise



AFFINITY PARTNERS



BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW – SUITE 300 – WASHINGTON, DC 20009
202.986.1032 (T) – 202.986.1038 (F)
WWW.NARC.ORG

We are sending you this e-mail primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship, and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate. If you prefer not to receive any further messages from us or would like us to add your colleagues to this distribution list, just reply to this e-mail and let us know.

