

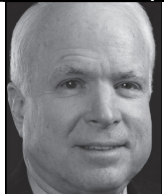


Presidential Candidate Comparison on AGC's Legislative Priorities

AGC of America	Democrats	Republicans
 www.agc.org	 Barack Obama 55% Lifetime AGC Vote Record http://www.barackobama.com/	 John McCain 67% Lifetime AGC Vote Record www.johnmccain.com

Immigration		
Overview	AGC of America supports three principles to comprehensive reform: (1) strengthen our borders, (2) create a new worker visa program, and (3) provide a viable way of dealing with the undocumented.	Supports a system through which illegals can earn citizenship by paying a fine, learning English, and waiting their turn behind legal immigrants. Supports a better employment verification system and more serious employer sanctions for those who hire illegal immigrants. Voted for the 2006 Kennedy-McCain immigration reform bill and is in favor of a border fence.
Guest Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports the creation of a new guest worker program to legally alleviate the worker shortage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports.
Tax		
Overview	AGC of America supports lowering the federal tax burden on individuals, construction companies, and other businesses as a means of promoting investment, business development, and business expansion.	Voted against repealing the estate tax, AMT, capital gains and dividends taxes, and against making the Bush tax cuts permanent.
Death Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports full repeal and permanent reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estates valued at \$3.5 million per spouse or more would be subject to the estate tax.
Capital Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports current tax rate of 15%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise to 20-25% based on individual's income level.
Dividend Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports current tax rate of 15%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise to 39.6%.
3% Withholding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports permanent repeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not cosponsored repeal.
Marginal Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports current tax rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore top rate to 39%. Tax breaks for middle class and low income seniors.

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Infrastructure			
Overview	AGC of America supports increased investment in the nation’s aging infrastructure.	Would make “strengthening” the U.S. transportation system, including roads and bridges, a “top priority”. Supports modernization of locks and dams. Supports development of high-speed rail and AMTRAK funding. Supports funding streams such as a national infrastructure bank that would fund large transportation, water, and housing projects.	Wants to eliminate individual earmarks and take a more system-based approach and has often voted against infrastructure bills because of earmarks.
Highway Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports meeting the authorized spending levels in SAFETEA-LU and finding additional revenue sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported SAFETEA-LU. Favors congestion pricing to raise money to fund highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voted against the 2004 \$318 billion highway and transportation bill, also voted in 2005 against a six-year, \$286 billion reauthorization of the same program.
Gas Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes any gas tax reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes moratorium on gas tax. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports “Gas Tax Holiday” for summer.
School Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports the federal government investing in our nation’s schools without strings that would drive up the costs, or delay the construction or repair of needed schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports increased investment (no specific plan). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voted against an amendment that authorized \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2002 to help states and local school districts repair public school buildings.
Water Resources (WRDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports providing long-term investment for water resources navigation, flood control and environmental improvements by reauthorizing WRDA every two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voted for and led efforts with the Democrat caucus to bring WRDA to a vote in the Senate in 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tried to block passage of WRDA.
Labor			
Overview	AGC of America supports employers’ ability to hire competent and qualified employees, and protecting employers’ rights to self-determination of labor policy.	Supports the ability for workers to unionize by passing the employee free choice act and increase the minimum wage.	Supports lowering barriers to trade while making American workers more competitive and modernizing the unemployment insurance programs.
Card Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, which would allow unions to organize an employer’s workforce based solely on “card check,” eliminating the option of a secret ballot election to decide representation when organizing and also would impose mandatory mediation and binding arbitration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voted for and a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act and is committed to its passage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed the Employee Free Choice Act.

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Wage Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes expansion of Davis Bacon and government-mandated labor agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would repeal executive order prohibiting project labor agreements for federally funded construction work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed expanding Davis Bacon.
Independent contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports the ability to hire legal independent contractors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following an Illinois state law he has introduced federal legislation to limit an employer’s discretion to classify workers as independent contractors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position unknown.
Safety			
Overview	AGC of America supports common-sense OSHA reform legislation which provides protection for small businesses while promoting a safe and healthy work environment through voluntary partnerships.	Would increase OSHA funding and staffing and give OSHA the authority to increase penalties. Would shift emphasis from partnerships with employers to enforcement.	Has opposed many increases in government spending and has not specifically outlined his OSHA policies. Did support the bipartisan MINER Act in 2006 and has been supportive of highway safety funding.
OSHA Penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes the Protecting America’s Workers Act because it does not incorporate measures for preventing accidents and instead focuses on action following a tragedy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cosponsor of the Protecting America’s Workers Act which increases monetary and criminal penalties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes the Protecting America’s Workers Act.
Ergonomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes efforts by OSHA to promulgate ergonomic standards on the construction industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports reinstating OSHA ergonomics standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed the original ergonomics standards and voted to repeal them in 2001 by calling the Clinton Administration’s standard unwieldy and unnecessarily burdensome to business.
Tort Reform			
Overview	AGC of America supports legal reform that can improve the business climate by removing the threat of frivolous litigation, reducing insurance costs, and stabilizing prices to the consumer.	Was 1 of 18 democrats that supported the Class Action Fairness Act in 2005 which sought to curb lawsuits by shifting suits from state to federal courts, by requiring judges to review all coupon settlements, and by limiting attorneys’ fees in non-cash settlements and voted to cap non-economic and punitive damages in medical malpractice suits.	Sponsored the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 and has supported medical malpractice reform.
Energy			
Overview	AGC of America supports voluntary efforts to build energy efficient projects.	Invest \$150 billion over 10 years in clean energy; double science and research funding for clean energy; promote oil independence by reducing oil consumption 35% by 2030	Diversify and conserve energy sources to break dominance of oil in transportation; reduce consumption, relying on technological advances and markets free to produce the means in which to do this.
Carbon Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America opposes regulatory systems that threaten to restrain economic growth and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports “cap and trade” system to reduce emission levels 80% by 2050; requires all pollution credits to be auctioned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports “cap and trade” system but must look at other ways to manage costs and maximize benefits.

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Nuclear Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of America supports increased growth in energy infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need better long-term strategies for storing and securing nuclear waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports.
Health Care			
Overview	AGC of America supports affordable, quality health care through broader coverage, choice and competition in the marketplace.	Mandatory health insurance for children; paid for by rolling back Bush tax cuts for households earning over \$250,000.	Supports free-market, consumer based system; and advocates affordable health care for every American without a mandate; states universal health care is possible without a tax increase.
Highlights of Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGC of Americas supports expanding the use of Health Savings Accounts. AGC of America supports allowing the use of association health plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a National Health Insurance Exchange to assist people who want to purchase a private insurance plan. Benefit package similar to what Members of Congress have. Cannot be turned down for preconditions; portable job to job Requires employers to contribute to cost of employee insurance or contribute to cost of national plan Low income subsidy to buy into new public or private health plan Opposes allowing individuals to join association health plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow individuals to join association health plan. Remove bias towards employer sponsored health insurance and provide a \$2,500 tax credit (\$5,000 for families). Expand Health Savings Accounts. End frivolous lawsuits. States provide financial risk adjustment funds to low income families.
Trade			
Overview	AGC of America supports free trade and Trade Promotion Authority.	Supports amending NAFTA to add labor agreements and opposed CAFTA. Opposes Trade Promotion Authority.	Supports free trade with no tariffs and believes economic isolation inhibits economic growth. Supports Trade Promotion Authority.