



PALIN REVEALED

Palin: What Do We Know About Her?

Posted By [Seth Michaels](#) On September 10, 2008 @ 4:29 pm In [Legislation & Politics](#) | [7 Comments](#)

What does vice presidential nominee and Alaska Gov. [1] [Sarah Palin](#) have to say on crucial issues that affect real people's lives?

Remarkably little, as it turns out. Palin, like Sen. [2] [John McCain](#) and other politicians, gave a [3] [speech](#) at the Republican National Convention that was heavy on biography, filled with vague rhetoric and misleading, easily debunked statements about her public record. What she—and McCain—didn't offer were any proposals that would help workers and families struggling in the economy.

We've done some research and pulled together information on Palin [4] [here](#), as part of our [5] [Working Families Vote](#) website.

In her 2006 campaign, Palin supported a controversial earmark project commonly referred to as the "Bridge to Nowhere." After her nomination for vice president, she has repeatedly claimed she opposed the project. Palin has been an ally of now-indicted Sen. Ted Stevens, serving as the chairman of a campaign organization supporting him and accepting his endorsement in 2006. Palin currently is under investigation into whether she abused her power by firing the state's public safety commissioner.

But her record on national issues is almost nonexistent, although one thing is clear: Even though Palin's husband is a member of the United Steelworkers ([6] [USW](#)) union, she's made no statements about McCain's opposition to the [7] [Employee Free Choice Act](#), proposed federal legislation that would ensure workers have the freedom to form a union and bargain.

USW President Leo Gerard [8] [wants to know](#) why Palin has not stated her position on the Employee Free Choice Act.

Ms. Palin needs to stop trotting out her husband as an exhibit until she explains her positions on workers' issues. Just exactly where does she stand on the Employee Free Choice Act?

Her family has benefited from her husband's ability to be part of a labor union. Workers in labor organizations earn higher wages and are more likely to have pensions and health insurance. Because he works for BP and is a member of the USW, which collectively bargained a good contract for workers at BP, Todd Palin earns a good wage and has good health insurance. The Employee Free Choice Act would make it easier for other Americans to join unions and earn better money and obtain health insurance. Polling shows that 60 percent of Americans support the Employee Free Choice Act.

Inquiring minds want to know, Ms. Palin. Where do you stand on Employee Free Choice? Where do you stand on privatization of Social Security? Where do you stand on job-killing free trade? Are you with McCain—and against workers—on these issues? If so, you need to stop using your husband's membership in the USW as a prop, because then his union card cannot possibly cover up your or John McCain's worker-savaging positions.

These are many other key questions Palin needs to answer.

Does she approve of McCain's goal to [9] [privatize Social Security](#)? Because while McCain doesn't need his monthly Social Security check to get by, millions of retirees are wondering if the lifeline they depend on will get gambled away.

Does she approve of McCain's [10] [health care plan](#) that would create a new tax on working families? Her [11] [limited statements](#) point toward putting the interests of private insurance companies ahead of consumers. Is she following the lead of the McCain adviser who thinks the solution is [12] [pretending](#) the problem doesn't exist?

Does she realize that working families will get a [13] [bigger tax cut](#) under Sen. [14] [Barack Obama's](#) plan than McCain's?

Does she agree with McCain that we need more job-busting [15] [bad trade deals](#)?

Does she think, as McCain has said recently, that the economy is "fundamentally strong"?

Does she agree with McCain confidante Phil Gramm that those suffering from foreclosed homes, stagnant wages and lost jobs are "whiners"?

[16] [Women of Steel](#) also has written an [17] [open letter](#) to McCain and Palin about the issues that affect working women. Does Palin, like McCain, oppose laws to ensure equal pay for women? Does she, like McCain, oppose family and medical leave for workers? Does she, like McCain, oppose the minimum wage?

These unanswered questions aren't just about Palin. They're about McCain and his priorities. McCain has picked a running mate for press attention, but America's working families don't need hyped-up media coverage focused on personality and gender.

Despite what McCain campaign manager (and job-killing mega-lobbyist) [18] [Rick Davis](#) may [19] [think](#), this campaign **is** about issues. Working families need real change—new policies, not just new faces on the same old anti-worker Bush agenda.

Will we get answers to these questions? There are only 55 days left to find out.

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URLs in this post:

- [1] Sarah Palin: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/governorsarahpalin.cfm>
- [2] John McCain: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/mccain.cfm>
- [3] speech: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2008/09/05/mccain-palin-still-offering-nothing-for-working-families/>
- [4] here: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/governorsarahpalin.cfm>
- [5] Working Families Vote: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/>
- [6] USW: <http://usw.org/>
- [7] Employee Free Choice Act: <http://www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voiceatwork/efca/>
- [8] wants to know : <http://blog.usw.org/2008/09/03/sarah-palin-explain-yourself-or-stop-using-the-usw-as-a-prop/>
- [9] privatize Social Security: http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/mccain_retirement.cfm
- [10] health care plan: http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/mccain_healthcare.cfm
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<http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/governorsarahpalin.cfm#healthcare>
- [12] pretending: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2008/08/28/mccain-adviser-theres-no-such-thing-as-the-uninsured/>
- [13] bigger tax cut: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2008/09/04/obamas-tax-plan-better-for-working-families-than-mccains/>
- [14] Barack Obama's: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/obama.cfm>
- [15] bad trade deals: http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/mccain_trade.cfm
- [16] Women of Steel:
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- [17] open letter:
http://assets.usw.org/action_center/WOSPalinLetter/openlettertomccain-palin.pdf
- [18] Rick Davis: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2008/08/11/mccain-should-fire-lobbyist-who-killed-ohio-jobs/>
- [19] think:
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/09/mccain_manager_this_election_i.html