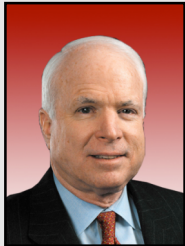

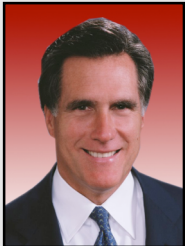



# CHART #4: SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF 2008 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES' HEALTH PLANS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY: M-Z)

By Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., Yi-An Ko, Beth Louise Hoffman, and Melissa Shive\*

	<b><u>John McCain</u></b>	<b><u>Ron Paul, M.D.</u></b>	<b><u>Mitt Romney</u></b>	<b><u>Fred Thompson</u></b>
				
<b>Health Care Plan Release Date</b>	October 11, 2007	No formal announcement	August 24, 2007	No formal announcement
<b>Stated Goals for Coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Believes that insurance reforms should increase the variety and affordability of insurance coverage available to American families by fostering competition and innovation throughout the health care system<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Proposes reforming the tax code to eliminate the emphasis on employer-sponsored health insurance<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Emphasis on preventing chronic diseases<sup>1</sup></li> <li>➤ Emphasizes containing costs<sup>1</sup></li> <li>➤ Health insurance policies will be available to small businesses and the self-employed, will be portable across jobs, and will automatically bridge the time between retirement and Medicare eligibility<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Promote personal responsibility for health<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rethink entire health care system<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Let free market determine health care costs to increase patient choice<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ “Unravel” the HMO system<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Revise the tax code to allow individuals to fully deduct healthcare costs from their taxes<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Expand access to affordable, portable, quality private insurance by deregulating the private health insurance market<sup>3</sup></li> <li>➤ Supports market-based health care reforms<sup>3</sup></li> <li>➤ Allow individuals to choose plans from private sector<sup>4</sup></li> <li>➤ Enhance portability of private health insurance by creating a more robust health insurance market<sup>3</sup></li> <li>➤ Emphasizes personal responsibility<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proposes affordable, fully accessible, and portable health insurance coverage through free-market solutions<sup>6</sup></li> <li>➤ Seeks to realign programs and create a system centered on consumers, providing more information and affordable health care options that best meet individual and family needs<sup>6</sup></li> <li>➤ Proposes a system that increases competition and consumer choice while streamlining regulations through free-market solutions that benefit individuals and reduce costs for employers<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Implementation Timeline</b>	No information found	No information found	➤ Pledges that everyone in the country will have health	No information found

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			insurance by 2012 if Congress passes his plan <sup>7</sup>	
<b>Mandatory Requirement to Obtain Insurance &amp; Structure of Coverage</b>	➤ Does not require all Americans to buy health insurance <sup>25</sup>	➤ Opposed to Federal mandate <sup>8</sup>	➤ Opposes Federal government system of health insurance <sup>9</sup>	➤ Opposes Federal mandate for health insurance <sup>6</sup>
<b>Employer Mandate</b>	➤ Allow individuals, small businesses and self-employed to purchase insurance through any organization or association. Plans would have to meet rigorous standards and certification procedures <sup>23</sup>	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>Costs of Plan</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>How costs are covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tax credit of \$2,500 to low-income individuals and \$5,000 to low-income families who obtain their own insurance<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>➤ Increase availability of health savings accounts (HSAs)<sup>25</sup></li> <li>➤ Link doctor and hospital compensation to performance, starting with Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements<sup>1</sup></li> <li>➤ Offer grants to states to defray the cost of providing insurance for people with medical problems who can't afford their own coverage<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Change the tax code to allow individuals and employers to fully deduct healthcare costs from their taxes<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Provide doctors the freedom to collectively negotiate with insurance companies<sup>11</sup></li> <li>➤ Reform licensure requirements so that pharmacists and nurses can perform some functions to increase access to care and lower costs<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Emphasizes high-deductible plans<sup>12</sup></li> <li>➤ Calls for tax deductions that would allow individuals to deduct out-of-pocket expenses and costs for insurance not provided by an employer<sup>13</sup></li> <li>➤ Provide Federal incentives to help states decrease health care costs by expanding and deregulating their private health insurance markets<sup>13</sup></li> <li>➤ Expand health savings accounts<sup>13</sup></li> <li>➤ Redirect existing Federal and state resources to help low-income, uninsured people purchase their own private health insurance<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	➤ Will eliminate Medicare eligibility for the very wealthy <sup>14</sup>
<b>Estimated savings</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>Insurance Pools</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>New Federal/Public Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Permit providers to practice nationwide<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Coverage would bridge the time between retirement and Medicare eligibility<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	➤ Make Americans eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA) by removing the requirement that they must obtain a high deductible insurance policy to	No information found	No information found

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		<p>open an account<sup>21</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Permit senior citizens to use Health Savings Accounts to buy Medigap policies (insurance that provides coverage beyond that offered by Medicare)<sup>21</sup></li> <li>➤ Waive the worker's portion of Social Security payroll or self-employment taxes for individuals with life-threatening cancer and other serious illnesses, and for those who are primary caregivers with a sick spouse or child<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Veterans' Health Care Initiatives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Will make health care for veterans his top domestic priority<sup>15</sup></li> <li>➤ Ensure adequate funding to provide quality health care for veterans<sup>16</sup></li> <li>➤ Give veterans a card to use at any health-care center to eliminate waiting for routine care at veterans' hospitals<sup>15</sup></li> <li>➤ Provide veterans with the flexibility to carry their VA dollars to a health professionals in the community that provide them with timely, high quality care<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ All military retirees (even if they are not eligible for VA health care) should be provided with access to health care<sup>17</sup></li> <li>➤ Federal government should ease the burden of health care costs for military and veterans<sup>17</sup></li> <li>➤ Provide equal treatment of disabled veterans under the retirement system<sup>17</sup></li> <li>➤ Veterans' hospitals should focus on treating post-traumatic stress disorder, burns and other combat</li> </ul>	<p align="center">No information found</p>	<p align="center">No information found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Make sure that the nation's veterans are cared for<sup>18</sup></li> </ul>

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	wounds <sup>15</sup>			
<b>State Flexibility</b>	➤ Give states the flexibility and encourage them to experiment with: alternative forms of access; risk-adjusted payments per episode covered under Medicaid; use of private insurance in Medicaid; alternative insurance policies and insurance providers; and, different licensing protocols for medical providers <sup>23</sup>	No information found	➤ Would empower states to create solutions to rising health costs and the uninsured by allowing them to use Federal assistance with greater flexibility <sup>19</sup> ➤ Provide Federal incentives for states to deregulate their health insurance market and institute their own reforms <sup>3</sup>	No information found
<b>Medicaid</b>	➤ Require any state receiving Medicaid to develop a financial "risk adjustment" bonus to high-cost cases and low-income families to supplement tax credits and Medicaid funds <sup>23</sup>	No information found	➤ Would help people who can't afford insurance buy their own private policy <sup>20</sup> ➤ Would not enroll people who can't afford insurance in Medicaid <sup>20</sup> ➤ Enable states to change Medicaid to help contain costs, by offering Federal block grants to states and eliminating administrative requirements that may impede these changes <sup>13</sup>	No information found
<b>Coverage for Children</b>	➤ Expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) <sup>25</sup>	➤ Create a \$500 per child tax credit for prescription drugs and medical expenses not covered by insurance <sup>21</sup> ➤ Provide a \$3,000 tax credit for dependent children with cancer, disabilities, or terminal illnesses <sup>21</sup>	No information found	No information found
<b>Health Insurance Regulations/ Eligibility</b>	➤ Allow families to purchase health insurance nationwide, across state lines <sup>23</sup> ➤ Protect consumers by vigorous enforcement of Federal protections against collusion, unfair business actions, and deceptive consumer practices <sup>23</sup>	➤ Allow Americans to buy health insurance across state lines to lower costs <sup>2</sup>	No information found	➤ Streamline regulations through free market solutions <sup>22</sup>
<b>Public Reporting</b>	• Require transparency by health	No information found	No information found	No information found

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<p><b>&amp; Transparency</b></p>	<p>providers regarding medical outcomes, quality of care, costs, and prices<sup>23</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the public with more information on treatment options<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>			
<p><b>Improving quality and performance of health system</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitate the development of national standards for measuring and recording treatment outcomes<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Reform Medicare payment systems to compensate providers for appropriate diagnosis, prevention, and care coordination<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Would not allow Medicare to reimburse for preventable medical errors or mismanagement<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<p align="center">No information found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Institute tax reforms that promote "smart" spending on health care<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Encourage widespread use of clinical best practices<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Health IT**</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>For more information</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote rapid deployment of 21st century information systems<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Employ telemedicine in areas where services and providers are limited<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Opposes a government-funded database containing personal health information<sup>21</sup></li> <li>➤ Maintain doctor-patient confidentiality and fight any government efforts to endanger medical privacy<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use information technology to create transparency, enabling cost and quality comparisons<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Modernize delivery and administration of care by fostering medical information technology and other innovations<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Malpractice/ Professional Liability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pass tort reform to eliminate "frivolous" lawsuits and excessive damage awards<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Provide a "safe harbor" for doctors that follow clinical guidelines and adhere to patient safety protocols<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allow the purchase of "negative outcomes" insurance prior to surgery or other serious medical treatments that guarantee those harmed receive fair compensation<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reform medical liability laws, including placing Federal caps on non-economic and punitive damage awards in malpractice cases<sup>13</sup></li> <li>➤ Encourage states to engage in additional medical liability reforms that will both honor the rights of patients and respect the work of physicians<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<p align="center">No information found</p>
<p><b>Increasing Drug Availability and Reducing Their Costs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Calls for greater competition in drug markets by safe re-importation of drugs and faster introduction of generic drugs<sup>1</sup></li> <li>➤ Foster the development of safe,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allow prescription drugs to be imported from foreign countries where they cost less than in the U.S.<sup>21</sup></li> <li>➤ End subsidies to insurance and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Believes the best way to make drugs more affordable is to make sure everyone has access to health insurance<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure adequate funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to streamline and expedite the drug-approval process without compromising</li> </ul>

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	<p>cheaper generic versions of drugs and biologic pharmaceuticals<sup>23</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop safety protocols that permit re-importation to promote competition<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<p>pharmaceutical companies and cut unnecessary FDA regulations<sup>21</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Streamline the FDA approval process to make new prescription drugs available more quickly<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>		<p>patient health<sup>24</sup></p>
<b>Disease Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Emphasizes importance of prevention<sup>1</sup></li> <li>➤ Expand community health centers<sup>25</sup></li> <li>➤ Supports public health initiatives to stem growing epidemic of obesity and diabetes, and to deter smoking<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Supports innovative delivery systems, such as clinics in retail stores<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Promote education of children about health, nutrition, and exercise<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>	<p>No information found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offer more nutritious lunch programs in schools and establish afterschool exercise programs to address the growing diabetes and childhood obesity epidemic<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote cost-effective prevention and personal responsibility for health<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Chronic Disease Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Alter reimbursement for treatment of chronic disease<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote chronic-care management<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Long Term Care</b>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>
<b>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services</b>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>
<b>Eliminating Health Disparities</b>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>
<b>Health Workforce Issues</b>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>	<p>No information found</p>
<p><b>Research Investments***</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>For more information</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide Federal research funds on the basis of sound science resulting in greater focus on care and cure of chronic disease<sup>23</sup></li> <li>➤ Supports embryonic stem cell research using human embryos left over from fertility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Believes there is no constitutional authority for the Federal government to fund stem cell research<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supports research using human embryos left over from fertility treatments<sup>27</sup></li> <li>➤ Opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos<sup>27</sup></li> <li>➤ Believes that embryonic stem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure adequate funding for the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute<sup>24</sup></li> <li>➤ Promote and speed medical research and life-sciences innovation<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>

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	treatments <sup>27</sup> ➤ Opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos <sup>27</sup>		cell research should not be funded by the government <sup>27</sup>	➤ Supports adult stem cell research, but not stem cell research involving embryos <sup>22</sup>
<b>Special Disease Initiatives: Cancer</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	➤ Modernize Medicare to cover health screening and preventive tests for diseases like breast cancer <sup>24</sup>
<b>Special Disease Initiatives: HIV/AIDS****</b>  <a href="#"><u>For more information</u></a>	➤ States that fighting disease and extreme poverty in Africa is in America's strategic and moral interests <sup>28</sup> ➤ Supports abstinence until marriage sex education and HIV/AIDS domestic prevention programs <sup>28</sup> ➤ Supports PEPFAR <sup>28</sup> ➤ Will fund AIDS treatment and prevention programs in Africa <sup>28</sup>	No information found	➤ States that poverty and AIDS in Africa represents a global crisis <sup>28</sup> ➤ States that global health diplomacy in fighting the AIDS pandemic is a means of improving the international image of the United States <sup>28</sup>	No information found
<b>Special Disease Initiatives: Autism</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>Public Health Preparedness Initiatives</b>	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
<b>Global Health</b>	See AIDS initiatives above	No information found	➤ See AIDS initiatives above	No information found

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## CHART #4: SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES' HEALTH PLANS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY: M-Z

\*\* For detailed information on the Presidential candidates' health information technology plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Plans: Incorporating Information Technology to Provide 21st Century Care](#) by Susan Blumenthal, M.D. et al.

\*\*\* For detailed information on the Presidential candidates' medical and scientific research plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Care Plans: Scientific and Medical Research Proposals](#) by Susan Blumenthal, M.D. et al.

\*\*\*\* For detailed information on the Presidential candidates' HIV/AIDS plans, please see [U.S. Presidential Candidates' Health Care Plans 2008: HIV/AIDS Proposals -- A Time for Leadership](#) by Susan Blumenthal, M.D. et al.

While efforts have been made to make these charts on the Presidential candidates' proposals on HIV/AIDS as comprehensive as possible, this information is intended to be used as a non-partisan reference only and does not necessarily represent the opinions of sponsoring organizations.

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<sup>2</sup> "An interview with Presidential Candidate Congressman Ron Paul." [Muckraker Report](#) 28 June 2007. <<http://www.muckrakerreport.com/id447.html>>

<sup>3</sup> "Policy Briefing: Expanding Access To Affordable Health Care." 24 August 2007. [Mitt Romney: True Strength for America's Future](#). 27 November 2007.

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<sup>5</sup> "Extending Health Insurance to All Americans." Mitt Romney: True Strength for America's Future. 25 June 2007. [Romney for President](#).

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<sup>6</sup> "On the Issues: Healthcare." Fred '08. 28 Sept. 2007. <<http://www.fred08.com/Principles/PrinciplesSummary.aspx?View=OnTheIssues>>.

<sup>7</sup> "Romney Boasts of Healthcare Plan." 12 December 2007. [The New York Times](#). 13 December 2007. <[http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/12/12/romney\\_boasts\\_of\\_healthcare\\_pl.html](http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/12/12/romney_boasts_of_healthcare_pl.html)>.

<sup>8</sup> "The Presidential Candidates on Health Care." [The New York Times](#). 6 July 2007. <[http://www.nytimes.com/ref/us/politics/HEALTH\\_POSITIONS\\_2.html](http://www.nytimes.com/ref/us/politics/HEALTH_POSITIONS_2.html)>.

<sup>9</sup> Toner, Robin. "2008 Candidates Vow to Overhaul Healthcare" [The New York Times](#). 6 July 2007.

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<sup>10</sup> "McCain's Health-Care Divergence." 11 October 2007. [The Wall Street Journal](#). 17 October 2007. <[http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB119206651378255555-jC\\_k4Vc\\_G\\_SgxniFouXTBWSohoY\\_20071109.html?mod=tff\\_main\\_tff\\_top](http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB119206651378255555-jC_k4Vc_G_SgxniFouXTBWSohoY_20071109.html?mod=tff_main_tff_top)>.

<sup>11</sup> "Issues: Health Care." [Ron Paul 2008](#). 3 December 2007. <<http://www.ronpaul2008.com/issues/health-care/>>.

<sup>12</sup> "Presidential Candidates Push Health Care Reform, but Who Will Pay?" [Knowledge@Wharton](#). 17 October 2007.

<<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=1827&jsessionid=a830a6cbbc8168261025>>.

<sup>13</sup> "Candidate Profile: Mitt Romney." [WebMD](#). 29 October 2007. <<http://www.webmd.com/election2008/cp-mitt-romney>>.

<sup>14</sup> "Des Moines Register Presidential Debate: The Republicans." 12 December 2007. [CNN.com – Transcripts](#). 13 December 2007.

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<sup>15</sup> "McCain presses for veterans care." 12 December 2007. [Winston-Salem Journal](#). 13 December 2007.

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<sup>16</sup> "Commitment to America's Service Members: Past and Present." [John McCain 2008](#). 26 November 2007. <<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/9cb5d2aa-f237-464e-9cdf-a5ad32771b9f.htm>>.

<sup>17</sup> "On the Issues: Commitment to America's Service Members: Past and Present." [John McCain 2008](#). 3 December 2007.

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<sup>18</sup> "Thompson stumps in Bristol and Laconia." 24 Nov. 2007. [The Citizen](#). 7 Dec. 2007.

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<sup>19</sup> "McCain to Prescribe Remedy for U.S. Health Care Ills." [Washington Wire - WSJ.com](#). 10 June 2007. <<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/?s=McCain+to+Prescribe+Remedy>>.

**CHART #4: SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES' HEALTH PLANS  
LISTED ALPHABETICALLY: M-Z**

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- <sup>22</sup> "Candidate Profile: Fred Thompson." WebMD. 29 October 2007. <<http://www.webmd.com/election2008/cp-fred-thompson>>.
- <sup>23</sup> "On the Issues: Straight Talk on Health System Reform." John McCain 2008. 17 October 2007. <<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/19ba2f1c-c03f-4ac2-8cd5-5cf2edb527cf.htm>>.
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