



# take action!

Women. Power. Peace. Change.

**WAND2008**



## Listen up! Presidential Debate on Foreign Policy Friday, September 26, 2008, 9pm EDT

**W**HEN JOHN MCCAIN AND BARACK OBAMA take the stage to debate foreign policy on September 26, they will be laying out what they think is most important for the U.S. role in the world right now. Just as important as the men on stage will be you, the listener. You play a role in this debate, as well: when you listen, you bring your perspectives and your experiences. You can discern what each man would do as President; and you can decide how to proceed in the run up to the historic election on November 4.

WAND hopes you will be considering not just how to cast your own vote; but how deeply you can get involved in the electoral process. Can you make sure your friends and neighbors are registered to vote and informed on the issues? Can you help to get out the vote on that Tuesday? Can you provide someone with a ride to the polls?

On September 26, the candidates will be debating the issues closest to our mission, and our heart. WAND encourages you to take an active role in listening. This Guide consists of a series of handy charts, which are easy to print out and fill in. The charts highlight specific topics to listen for, along with spaces for taking notes and recording conclusions.

### GET CONNECTED!

Check out these great online resources.

WAND Education Fund web site:  
[www.WANDEducationFund.org](http://www.WANDEducationFund.org)

Will web site:  
[www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org)



### Questions? Opinions? Need more information?

Please contact **Kathy Robinson, WAND public policy field director**

202-544-5055 | [krobinson@wand.org](mailto:krobinson@wand.org)

**WAND Washington Office** | 322 4th St., NE | Washington, DC 20002



WAND's mission is to empower women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs. [www.wand.org](http://www.wand.org)

## The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

The Iraq war has lasted more than 5 years (longer than WWII); has caused the deaths of over 4,000 American military personnel and over 80,000 Iraqi civilians; and costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$330 million each day.<sup>1</sup>

### Some key questions:

- Do the candidates think it will be possible to find a way to end the war and bring the troops home?
- What is the timeframe (months, years, decades)?
- *What is the future of our military in Iraq?*  
Will we have bases? Will the Iraqi government have command and control?
- *What next?* What are the plans for maintaining security after our withdrawal? What are the plans for rebuilding the country? What are the plans to involve other countries?
- What is the financial cost? What are the human costs?
- What will each candidate do about the so-called “war on terror” in a larger sense? How can we make our country safer in the world? What are the alternatives to military action?

#### What John McCain indicated

#### What Barack Obama indicated

#### My own observations and conclusions

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<sup>1</sup>The figure of \$330 million per day is the minimum appropriated for the war (totaling nearly one trillion dollars). According to projections from some economists, the overall final cost of the Iraq war could be as high as three trillion dollars (which would work out to \$720 million per day).

## *Other countries on the landscape*

### **Afghanistan**

The war on terror started in Afghanistan; what do the candidates have to say about the situation there?

**What John McCain indicated**

**What Barack Obama indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

### **Iran**

Iran is still actively pursuing nuclear power, and therefore the potential for nuclear weapon, despite all diplomatic appeals. Should the U.S. respond, and if so, how?

**What John McCain indicated**

**What Barack Obama indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

## *Nuclear weapons and other security challenges*

- Calls from mainstream policy experts have sparked new momentum for accelerated efforts to eliminate **nuclear weapons**. Is this a moment of opportunity to get rid of nukes? How can we proceed down this road?
- Many experts say that **missile defense** does not work, despite the fact that the United States is now spending over \$10 billion per year on it. Do current plans to deploy missile defense in Europe and other places enhance our security?
- Some countries have indicated they would like to ban **weapons in space**. The majority of the population supports such a ban. Is this reasonable?

**What John McCain indicated**

**What Barack Obama indicated**

**My own observations and conclusions**

### *Don't go it alone!*

We recommend viewing the debate together with friends. Host a party!

For tips on organizing a debate viewing party, see

**[www.wand.org/debate08](http://www.wand.org/debate08)**

For help or more ideas, contact **Kathy Robinson**, WAND Public Policy Field Director

**(202) 544-5055 ext. 2605 | [krobinson@wand.org](mailto:krobinson@wand.org)**

### *Pitch into the conversation about this historic election!*

We invite you to voice your comments at the WAND 2008 election blog

**[www.wand.blogs.com/vote2008](http://www.wand.blogs.com/vote2008)**

For more that you can do to help empower women's vote for peace, see

**[www.wand.org/vote](http://www.wand.org/vote)**

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