



Space Policy Comparison



The following information was compiled from space policy information posted on the campaign websites of Senator Barack Obama (http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/policy/Space_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf) and Senator John McCain (<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/7366faf9-d504-4abc-a889-9c08d601d8ee.htm>).

Senator Barack Obama	Senator John McCain
Space Policy Management	Space Policy Management
<p>"Ensure an integrated and fully coordinated national space program [as a] major responsibility of the reestablished National Aeronautics and Space Council." "Will work to better integrate NASA in a better coordinated national science policy." "Will appoint an Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy who will report directly to the president, and be deeply involved in establishing research priorities...based on the best available advice from experts around the country." "Believes that NASA can work more closely with other federal agencies [including DOD and NOAA] to take advantage of their expertise and technologies. This includes sharing research and technical information as well as better coordination of acquisition programs." "Will engage our public servants in two-way dialogs with the public to discuss the national agenda for space, to show how their tax dollars are being used, and to solicit feedback how to better address the needs of the nation."</p>	<p>"[Will] ensure that space exploration is top priority and that the U.S. remains a leader." "[Will] prevent wasteful earmarks from diverting precious resources from critical scientific research." "Spearheaded efforts to control costs at NASA and promote a space exploration agenda based on sound management, safe practices, and fiscal responsibility."</p>
Space Program Funding	Space Program Funding
<p>Advocates a \$2 billion increase in NASA's budget. (This is not explicitly stated in the Obama space policy document posted on his website, but it has been reported in the Washington Post and other news outlets based on public comments by the candidate.)</p>	<p>Plans first-year "spending freeze" on all budgets, except defense, veterans, "and other vital programs". One McCain adviser said NASA's budget would increase, but did not specify by how much. (This is not included in the McCain space policy web-document.)</p>
Constellation Program - Space Exploration	Constellation Program - Space Exploration
<p>"Will support renewed human exploration beyond low earth orbit. He endorses the goal of sending human missions to the Moon by 2020, as a precursor in an orderly progression to missions to more distant destinations, including Mars."</p>	<p>"[Will] commit to funding the NASA Constellation program to ensure it has the resources it needs to begin a new era of human space exploration." "[Will] ensure that space exploration is top priority and that the U.S. remains a leader."</p>
Shuttle Retirement	Shuttle Retirement
<p>"Supports Congressional efforts to add at least one additional Space Shuttle flight to fly a valuable mission and to keep the workforce engaged." "Will work to ensure there is adequate funding to support that additional flight so that it does not interfere with developing the Shuttle's successor."</p>	<p>Has called on NASA to halt activities that would prevent the addition of one or more Space Shuttle missions after 2010. Has advocated adding at least one additional Space Shuttle flight. (Neither of these are included in the McCain space policy document posted on his website. Both are from letters McCain has signed recently.)</p>
Shuttle / Ares Gap - Access to Space	Shuttle / Ares Gap - Access to Space
<p>"Committed to making the necessary investments to ensure we close this gap as much as is technically feasible and to minimize reliance on foreign space capabilities." "Will expedite the development of the Shuttle's successor systems for carrying Americans to space so we can minimize the gap." "Will evaluate whether the private sector can safely and effectively fulfill some of NASA's need for lower earth orbit cargo transport." Credited by NASA Administrator for help in breaking gridlock in Congress for Soyuz purchases.</p>	<p>"[Will] review and explore all options to ensure U.S. access to space by minimizing the gap between the termination of the Space Shuttle and the availability of its replacement vehicle." "The current policy also calls for new vehicles (referred to as the Orion crew vehicle and the Ares launch vehicle) to be ready for Earth orbit by 2015 and lunar landing by 2020 with an eventual mission to Mars."</p>
Military Space	Military Space
<p>"The Department of Defense (DOD) invests heavily in space assets to provide troops with weather, communications, navigation, early warning, space surveillance and other information critical to conducting military operations." "The National Reconnaissance Office operates satellites that provide information essential to national security and global stability."</p>	<p>"Has been involved in a number of efforts to improve America's scientific prowess within the space arena."</p>



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Aeronautics	Aeronautics
<p>"A strong national program of aeronautics research and technology contributes to the vitality of the United States aeronautics industry, the efficiency of the U.S. air transportation system, and the economic well-being and quality of life of our citizens." "Will pursue more long-term fundamental research to reduce the risk associated with advancing the state of the art [including aviation safety, air traffic control, noise reduction, fuel efficiency]."</p>	<p>"[Will] ensure adequate investments in aeronautics research." "Played a major role in legislation to provide funding for space exploration (manned and unmanned), space science, Earth science, and aeronautics research."</p>
International Space Station	International Space Station
<p>"Would ensure that NASA and other federal agencies are fully utilizing the ISS to conduct research that can help address global challenges such as public health and energy independence and can develop technologies that can provide economic benefits to Earth." "Will enable research on the ISS to support long-term human exploration and planetary research needs." "Will enlist other Federal agencies, industry and academia to develop innovative scientific and technological research projects." "Will consider options to extend ISS operations beyond 2016. After investing so much in developing the ISS, it would be a shame not to utilize it to the fullest possible extent." "Will stimulate private sector utilization of the International Space Station."</p>	<p>"[Will] complete construction of the ISS National Laboratory." "[Will] seek to maximize the research capability and commercialization possibilities of the ISS National Laboratory." "Current U.S. space operations policy commits the U.S. to completing the International Space Station (ISS) by 2010." "We must explore all options to complete and fully utilize one of the great achievements of mankind, the International Space Station National Laboratory. It represents a tremendous investment of public funds and should not be put at risk by cutting funding for NASA programs as my opponent in this election had previously proposed."</p>
Earth Science / Earth Monitoring	Earth Science / Earth Monitoring
<p>"Will lean forward to deploy a global climate change research and monitoring system that will work for decades to come [including Global Precipitation Measurement mission, and Landsat Data Continuity Mission]." "Will strengthen baseline climate observations and climate data records to ensure that there are long-term and accurate climate records."</p>	<p>"[Will] maintain infrastructure investments in Earth-monitoring satellites and support systems." "Played a major role in legislation to provide funding for space exploration (manned and unmanned), space science, Earth science, and aeronautics research."</p>
International Cooperation	International Cooperation
<p>"Will enlist international partners to provide International Space Station (ISS) cargo re-supply and eventually alternate means for sending crews to the ISS." "Will encourage a cooperative framework for the conduct of a long-term and sustainable international exploration initiative. This will enable the U.S. to leverage its resources and to use space exploration as a tool of global diplomacy."</p>	<p>"Space is a great tool to promote peace and international cooperation."</p>
ITAR & Technology Export Control	ITAR & Technology Export Control
<p>"Some sections of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) have unduly hampered the competitiveness of domestic aerospace industry. Outdated restrictions have cost billions of dollars to American satellite and space hardware manufacturers as customers have decided to purchase equipment from European suppliers. While protecting our national security interests." "Will direct a review of the ITAR to reevaluate restrictions imposed on American companies, with a special focus on space hardware that is currently restricted from commercial export." "Will direct revisions to the licensing process to ensure that American suppliers are competitive in the international aerospace markets, without jeopardizing American national security."</p>	<p>No specific mention.</p>



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Senator Barack Obama	Senator John McCain
Commercial Space	Commercial Space
<p>"Will stimulate efforts within the private sector to develop and demonstrate spaceflight capabilities. NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services is a good model of government/industry collaboration." "Will evaluate whether the private sector can safely and effectively fulfill some of NASA's need for lower earth orbit cargo transport." "Will expand the use of prizes for revolutionary technical achievements that can benefit society, and funds for joint industry/government rapid-to-the-consumer technology advances." "Will stimulate the commercial use of space." "Will establish new processes and procurement goals to promote the use of government facilities." "We must unleash the genius of private enterprise to secure the United States' leadership in space."</p>	<p>"Sponsored legislation to support the up and coming commercial space industry." "[Will] seek to maximize the research capability and commercialization possibilities of the ISS National Laboratory."</p>
Space Research & Technology Development	Space Research & Technology Development
<p>"Will support a robust research and technology development program that addresses the long-term needs for future human and robotic missions." "Supports a funding goal that maintains at least 10 percent of the total exploration systems budget for research and development." "Will promote cost sharing initiatives between government and industry to increase the state of the art in various technical areas, such as microelectromechanical systems, nanotechnology, and biotechnology." "Will renew NASA's commitment to innovation-driving basic research that the private sector can use to develop new products for American consumers." "[Technology development efforts will] have high potential for technological benefits in the private sector as well as in training the next generation of scientists and engineers." "Will establish multi-agency programs that focus on rapid maturation of advanced concepts and transfer to industry for commercialization." "Supports efforts to advance new frontiers in technical areas, such as advanced structures, power generation, comm. and navigation systems, and biomedical systems."</p>	<p>"[Will] seek to maximize the research capability and commercialization possibilities of the ISS National Laboratory." "Has been involved in a number of efforts to improve America's scientific prowess within the space arena." "Although the general view in the research community is that human exploration is not an efficient way to increase scientific discoveries given the expense and logistical limitations, the role of manned space flight goes well beyond the issue of scientific discovery and is reflection of national power and pride." "Understands the importance of investments in key industries such as space to the future of our national security, environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness, and national pride as a technological leader."</p>
Aerospace Workforce and Educational Development	Aerospace Workforce and Educational Development
<p>"Will work with the space industry to ensure retention of workforce and technical capabilities during the transition from the shuttle to its successor." "Supports Congressional efforts to add at least one additional Space Shuttle flight to fly a valuable mission and to keep the workforce engaged." "[Technology development efforts will] have high potential for technological benefits in the private sector as well as in training the next generation of scientists and engineers." "Will develop K-12 education activities to translate the successes of our civil space programs, particularly our nation's scientific discoveries, our technology developments, and space exploration activities, into instructional programs for our children." "Will support nontraditional approaches, such as student design competitions and internet-based collaborations to engage students and develop the next generation of scientists and engineers." "Will support university programs that partner NASA, DOT, DOD and NOAA with academia to provide hands-on training experiences at the college level."</p>	<p>"[Will] ensure the national space workforce is maintained and fully utilized."</p>
Space Program Infrastructure	Space Program Infrastructure
No specific mention.	"[Will] seek to maintain the nation's space infrastructure."