

Obama and Clinton on the issues

While Barack Obama is the self-professed candidate of change, most of his policies reflect mainstream Democratic thinking. Hillary Clinton sells herself as experienced and ready to lead from day one

WAR IN IRAQ

■ Obama's signature foreign policy issue.

All combat troops will leave Iraq within 16 months of his inauguration at rate of one or two brigades per month

■ Clinton would start withdrawing troops within six months. Plans multi-national effort to reconstruct Iraq, *"replacing military force with diplomatic and global leadership"*

U.S. currently has some 160,000 troops, in 19 brigades, in Iraq. About 80,000 are combat troops

HEALTHCARE

■ Clinton's signature issue.

Health insurance – with subsidies and tax credits according to household income – for all, including some 47 million Americans who currently have no such cover.

Annual cost: \$110 billion

■ Obama would reduce costs so that more people can afford insurance. **Cost \$50-65 billion**

Neither candidate addresses soaring costs of **Medicare** and **Medicaid** which cost \$627 billion last year and accounted for 23% of all federal spending

TAX & ECONOMY

Key issue in swing states in November's election.

■ Obama plans to raise taxes on highest earners by letting Bush tax cuts expire at end of 2010.

Revenue used to pay for healthcare, with handouts to working families, pensioners, homeowners and jobless

■ Clinton would end tax cuts to pay for healthcare. Wants 90-day moratorium on sub-prime mortgage foreclosures

FREE TRADE

■ Clinton will rip up **North American Free Trade Agreement**

(NAFTA) – deal signed by her husband with Canada and Mexico in 1994, now widely blamed for costing American jobs

■ Obama would end some tax breaks enjoyed by companies that move jobs overseas. Amend NAFTA to safeguard U.S. jobs

ABORTION

■ Clinton is rock solid behind **right to choose** on abortion. Would write into federal law landmark **Roe v Wade** Supreme Court ruling permitting abortion. Would also lift ban on stem cell research

■ Obama attacked as soft on abortion. Refused to commit when abortion laws were debated in Illinois state senate in 1997

ENVIRONMENT

■ Clinton will sign successor to **Kyoto** climate deal. Strong supporter of developing alternative energy to boost jobs and lessen dependence on foreign oil

■ Obama plans to put U.S. at head of international global warming partnership. Pledges to invest \$150 billion over next 10 years to create green jobs in industries such as coal and biofuel

