

# National News

## Meet the Candidates

### Words to Know

**candidate:** (kan-duh-date) *noun*. Someone who is running in an election.

**A**mericans are preparing to select a new President of the United States.

A President can serve only two four-year terms. President George W. Bush is in his second term. The election to choose a new President will be held November 4,

just two months away.

The U.S. has two major political parties: the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Each party nominates a **candidate** to run for President. U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona is the Republican candidate. U.S. Senator Barack Obama of Illinois is the Democratic candidate.

Both men will be working hard until Election Day to get voters'

support. Each will run advertisements telling voters why he would make the best President. Both men will attend events around the country to share their ideas about improving the country.

Read the Venn diagram below to learn more about these two candidates.

—Rebekah C. Linga



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BARACK OBAMA (OBAMA); FOR PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL OUTLINE (MCCAIN)





# What Do YOU Think?

## Sticky Situation



Dominique and Amanda got into an argument at school. Amanda said she didn't like Dominique's favorite band. Later, both of them realized that their argument was silly. Still, each friend thought the other should be the first to apologize. What should Dominique and Amanda do?

**WRITE TO US!** Tell us what YOU think of the stories you read on pages 2 to 6. We love hearing from you! (Letters may be edited for clarity and length.)



Mail your letters to:  
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## Debate of the Week

### Allow Classroom Pets?

Many classrooms in the U.S. have pets, which usually live in cages or tanks. Some people say that class pets are a good idea because they teach students responsibility. Others say that class pets are not a good idea because they can spread diseases, and some students could be allergic. What do you think? Should classrooms have pets?



**BRUCE GRAY**  
Indiana

#### Yes

Classrooms should have pets because [kids] could learn things, such as how to take care of them.

A pet might also encourage kids to get their work done so that they have time to play with the animal.



**JESSICA FUSILIER**  
Oregon

#### No

Pets shouldn't be allowed in classrooms because sometimes animals bite. If the pet bit a student,

the school could get in trouble. And the pet could possibly spread a disease. Also, not everyone likes pets.

**Want to have your say in our next DEBATE?**  
Have your parent or guardian fill in and sign this coupon. Mail it along with a photo of your face to:

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I hereby consent to Scholastic's publication of the attached photo and biographical information, together with my child's debate response, if any.

ADULT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME AND AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



## Vote for President

You can vote for President in Scholastic's Student Vote. Put a check mark next to the candidate of your choice.

**John McCain**  
Republican



**Barack Obama**  
Democrat



**Other**

(Write in Name)

Mail this ballot, or the class ballot that your teacher has, to:  
**SCHOLASTIC NEWS  
Election 2008  
c/o Scholastic Inc.  
P.O. Box 829  
New York, NY  
10013-0829**

Paper ballots must be postmarked no later than October 3, 2008.

Or you can vote online at [www.scholastic.com/vote](http://www.scholastic.com/vote) until October 10. Who is the students' pick for President? Results will be posted online and in a future issue!