

Federal Transparency and Accountability Questionnaire to the Presidential Candidates

Question	Answer (Yes or No?)
<p>1. In 2006, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act which you co-sponsored was signed into law and resulted in the creation of www.USAspending.gov. As president, will you continue to work towards full implementation of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act's requirements? And will you work with the US Congress to pass legislation that would expand coverage of the 2006 law to include the language of <i>all</i> expenditure documents and related documents including the terms and agreements (S. 3077 only called for the inclusion of half of about half of the award types as defined by the legislation)?</p>	
<p>2. Neither the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act nor the S. 3077 require the disclosure of salaries and travel expenses as part of USAspending.gov. Taxpayers will be best served when <i>all</i> agency outlays are included in this website and are searchable by obligation and object class, as well as budget function. As President, would you work towards strengthening the disclosure requirements to this effect?</p>	
<p>3. Last year, the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS) within the Department of Labor launched www.unionreports.gov which allows dues paying union members to search their unions' financial disclosure forms (such as the LM-2). This allows members to see how their union is spending their money. As President, would you oppose any efforts to remove this website or any searchable content within?</p>	
<p>4. In January 2008, President George W. Bush signed an Executive Order directing Federal agencies to ignore any future earmark that is not voted on and included in a law approved by Congress, and in doing so sought to put an end to the practice of "airdropping" and concealing earmarks in committee report language instead of putting them into the actual text of the bill. As President, would you keep this executive order in place and work to end the practice of secretive pork-barrel spending?</p>	
<p>5. Transparency is not only necessary in the area of government expenditures. Meaningful tax reform is only possible when policymakers have the ability to estimate and compare the likely impact of competing proposals. Currently, there is a lack of transparency when it comes to tax scoring methodology. As President, would you commit to instruct the Office of Tax Analysis at the Treasury Department to make their scoring methodology fully-transparent and subject to academic peer review and call on Congress to do the same for its Joint Committee on Taxation?</p>	
<p>6. The Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) has the responsibility for administering and enforcing most provisions of the Labor-Management</p>	

Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA). One of the ways OLMS does this is using the LM-2 form which requires unions to account for how they spend their union dues. As President, would you oppose any attempts by unions or other organizations that would result in the elimination of any of the financial reporting forms as mandated by the LMRDA of 1959 (such as limiting or removing the LM-2 forms)?		
7. The OLMS was the only agency to receive a budget cut in H.R. 3043, the 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations falling nearly \$2 million behind FY 2007 levels and \$11 million behind the President Bush's request. As President, would you oppose any future attempts to further cut funding from the only federal agency that monitors union finances on behalf of rank-and-file workers?		
8. As President, would you seek to restore OLMS funding to at least 2007 levels to give OLMS the tools to protect rank-and-file workers?		
9. On October 2, 2008, the OLMS published a final rule implementing a reformed Form T-1 Trust Annual Report. The intent of the new T-1 report is to shed light on significant union assets previously exempted from federal transparency laws because they are maintained in trusts. Do you believe that the T-1 reports are necessary?		
10. Each year a third of unions fail to comply with the financial reporting requirements of the LMRDA. This year, Senator John Cornyn and Representative Pete Sessions introduced the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Enforcement Act of 2008 (LMRDEA), which would create civil penalties should a labor organization refuse to make available to its members the information and financial records that must be disclosed under the LMRDA. If Congress passed the LMRDEA, as President, would you sign it into law?		

Please sign below indicating that you are either the addressee or authorized to speak on behalf of Sen. McCain, Sen. Obama or their respective Presidential campaigns.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____