



# Would Obama’s change be too much?

Sen. Barack Obama has been campaigning on the motto “Change we can believe in,” and in doing so has captured the hearts of many, not only in this country but in this largely Republican state and community.

A vote for Sen. Obama most certainly is a vote for change, but have we taken the time to look and see what kind of change it would bring?

A vote for change would mean a change to our current abortion

policies. Sen. Obama supports legislation that would repeal the Hyde Amendment, which protects pro-life citizens from having to pay for abortions (through federal programs) that are not necessary to save the life of the mother and are not the result of rape or incest. Sen. Obama has also promised that “the first thing I’d do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act.” This would create a federally guaranteed “fundamental right” to abortion through all

## Letter Drop

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nine months of pregnancy, including fully viable children in the final weeks. Sen. Obama was one of the few senators who opposed the

ban on partial birth abortion and opposes parental notification laws.

A vote for change would mean a change in health care policies. Sen. Obama supports government-controlled and mandated “universal health care,” which is wildly ineffective worldwide and would not allow us to choose our own doctor.

A vote for change would mean a change to our foreign policies. Sen. Obama was against the recent surge in Iraq, claiming that it would not be effective. Sen. Obama was proven wrong, as the surge has been working. He also has promised to meet with leaders who are hostile to the United States, including Hugo Chavez, Fidel Castro, Kim Jong Il and radical Muslims.

A vote for change would mean

a change to our First Amendment rights. Sen. Obama supports extension of the Fairness Doctrine, a law that requires all radio and television stations and broadcasters to air opposing viewpoints. If you air three hours of Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity or Bill O’Reilly, you’d have to air the same amount to someone who has the opposite views. This is an infringement and government control of our freedom of speech and press.

A vote for change would mean a change to our Second Amendment rights. Sen. Obama voted to allow lawsuits against gun manufacturers while serving in the Senate.

A vote for change would mean a change to our immigration laws. Sen. Obama supports giving driver’s licenses and extending welfare to illegal immigrants.

In short, a vote for change would mean a vote for one of, if not the most, liberal senators in office

right now. Many want to believe that Sen. Obama is the next JFK or FDR, but in reality he is one of the most inexperienced people to ever run for the highest office in the land, having not even served a full term in the Senate and having passed no piece of significant legislation. Many people want to vote for history, but any vote this year is a historic vote, featuring the first time in decades an incumbent or vice president has not run, the first African-American candidate, the oldest candidate, the first woman on a Republican ticket.

Vote as an informed voter, as a passionate voter, not a hood-winked voter.

Everett Robert, Colby

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## Baughn wraps up contest

To the Editor:  
We are now in the closing days of the campaign for office of sheriff in Thomas County. I want to thank all those who are working hard on the citizens’ committee to re-elect me to the office and those who have contributed to my campaign. I also want to thank those who have already cast their vote for me and thank in advance those of you who will do so.

The sheriff’s forum hosted by the Colby Community College Criminal Justice Association provided an opportunity for those attending to see the demeanor and hear the responses of both myself and my opponent. I received much

positive feedback from those who attended.

I have based my campaign on my record and my goals for the next four years. I have not dwelt on “office politics” and employee issues which I cannot discuss, as they are confidential by law. I have been accessible to the public when they have issues or concerns. That accessibility will continue and you are welcome to discuss concerns with me at any time.

I stand on my record as sheriff for the past four years and promise to continue, and expand, the level of service and protection expected by the citizens of Thomas County.

Once again, I am asking for you to write in my name for sheriff on the general election ballot, being sure to darken the oval next to my name.

Mike Baughn, Brewster  
Thomas County sheriff

## Taylor responds to reader’s letter

To the Editor:  
I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letters in the Oct. 30 *Colby Free Press*.

First of all I would thank Shane Finley, Kansas Bureau of Investigation agent, as well as all my supporters for letters of support, calls, contributions, and personal contacts.

I do respect Lloyd Theimer and agreed with him on many issues while on the school board 14 years ago. He was great with budgets and figures. Yes, the community was split about the school bond issue, however, I was never involved in any secret meeting, so alleged would be the correct wording.

The forfeiture funds have been an issue throughout the campaign. To me, the only issue is whether or not the funds have been spent according to statute. If not, the taxpayers may eventually have to pay those dollars back. Mr. Vette’s discussed funding but used different accounts, different figures. Over \$300,000 is a fund set up from a seizure from Scott Sitten years ago. That is not part of the \$2.5 million I brought in. Another \$200,000 is pending, and some has been pending for years. It is very likely those funds will never

be turned over to Thomas County.

I based my figures on what was given to me by the clerk’s office. Just ask Shelly Harms for the forfeiture funds ledgers or call me to look at the ledger, paying close attention to expenditures in 2005.

Both of the candidates have signs all over town and have sent out fliers. Baughn evidently has more funds than I. This may influence some, but not the informed voter. If nothing else, voters should seek to find out why Baughn’s education job ended at Brewster. Although years ago, I feel that same problem affects his management and judgment skills.

I just urge you to make a few calls. Talk to agencies that work with the sheriff’s department. See what insights they might provide. Some may point out my shortcomings also, but I feel many will share with you the problems that they see with the sheriff’s department.

Other than that, I would thank everyone who supports me in many different ways and brought about my election in the primary. I will appreciate your vote on Tuesday.

Rod Taylor, Colby  
Republican candidate for  
sheriff

## Would tax burden cut middle class income?

To the Editor:  
Most parents want to raise independent children. That’s why it’s troubling that so many people champion the thought of Barack Obama swooping in to save us from ourselves.

I disagree with John McCain on multiple issues, but Obama has been very clear that he’ll tax America’s wealthiest 5 percent and redistribute the money to the other 95 percent. Originally, those being taxed were the ones making over \$250,000 a year. Then Obama lowered it to \$200,000, and this week the number was dropped again to \$150,000. Whenever he determines the top 5 percent line falls, remember that he also promised to let the Bush tax cuts expire in 2010. Then taxes for the middle class will go up anyway (for sources, e-mail togetherusa@gmail.co).

The Constitution guarantees op-

portunity, not fairness. Some of us have to work harder than others, but individual success comes from making the most of our God-given talents and sharing the fruits when and how we — not the government — decide.

America’s greatness lies in the fact that we can remain uneducated, uncommitted and undisciplined if we want, but we can also choose to thrive. It makes no sense to punish people if they desire to better themselves.

Actions have consequences. If we tell our children that life is always fair, we’re setting them up for disappointment. We put ourselves in a helpless position when we allow our destiny to be controlled by someone else. Instead, during our trying times, let us strengthen our faith and recognize the opportunities God gives us.

Doug Johnson, Colby

## Give us your letters

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail s.haynes@nwkansas.com or colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

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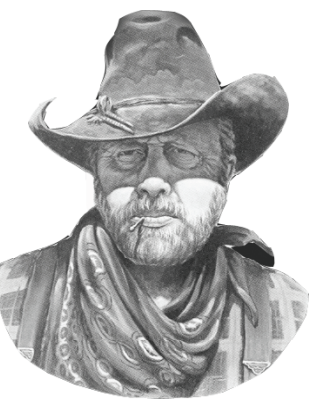
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