



## BARACK OBAMA ON ETHICS

### BARACK OBAMA WILL CONTINUE TO CLEAN UP WASHINGTON

#### ***Promote Open Government***

In 2007, Barack Obama and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) introduced a bipartisan plan described as the “gold standard for reform.” The ethics package that passed the Senate included a number of Obama/Feingold provisions, including bans on subsidized travel on corporate jets, meals and gifts from lobbyists; disclosure of project earmark sponsors and recipients; and disclosure requirements for campaign contributions that lobbyists “bundle.”

#### ***Create an Independent Congressional Ethics Commission***

Obama is leading the fight to create an independent ethics commission to investigate alleged ethics violations. Obama’s plan ensures prompt and fair treatment of public complaints by taking the initial fact-finding away from members of Congress, who are often reluctant to investigate their colleagues.

#### ***Campaign Finance Reform***

Obama supports public financing of campaigns combined with free television and radio time as a way to reduce the influence of moneyed special interests. In February 2007, Obama proposed a plan that requires major party candidates to agree on a fundraising truce, return excess money from donors, and stay within the public financing system for the General Election.

#### ***Create “Google for Government” to Track Government Spending***

Obama and Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) teamed up to pass a law that will lift the veil of secrecy in Washington by creating a Google-like search engine that will allow regular people to track federal grants, contracts, earmarks and loans online.

#### ***Shining Light on Earmarks and Pork Barrel Spending***

Obama introduced legislation that would shed light on all earmarks by disclosing the name of the legislator who asked for each project earmark, along with a written justification, at least 72 hours before a full Senate vote. Senators would be prohibited from advocating for an earmark if they have a financial interest in the project. Parts of Obama’s plan were passed by the Senate in January 2007.



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