

**2008 REPUBLICAN
CANDIDATES' POSITIONS ON HEALTHCARE REFORM**

	Expanding Coverage	Private & Public Insurance	Support for Individuals & Employers	Regulating Insurers	Cost & Containment
RUDY GIULIANI	Provide the uninsured a tax deduction of up to \$15,000 to subsidize their premiums. Provide tax credit for lower-income families.	Use "free market incentives." Provide states with block grants to reduce costs and enroll the eligible uninsured.	Tax deduction and tax credit for individuals. No support for employers to provide insurance.	Get insurers and providers to provide info on prices, qualifications of providers, & outcomes. Focus on wellness.	Invest in info technology to increase efficiency & quality. Create greater transparency (see Regulating Insurers). Medical liability reform.
MIKE HUCKABEE	Use tax deductions & tax credits to encourage people to buy private health insurance.	Supports "market-based" healthcare. No expansion of public programs.	Tax credits and deductions, no support for employers.	No provision.	Encourage insurers to bring down costs and improve free market for health care. Require people to pay more out of pocket & open health savings accounts to encourage them to stay healthy & spend less on healthcare. Medical liability reform.
DUNCAN HUNTER	Increase competition in insurance market by allowing consumer to purchase insurance from any state.	Supports "market-based" healthcare. No expansion of public programs.	No provision.	No provision.	Argues that increased competition will reduce costs.
JOHN McCAIN	Remove tax benefits of employer-provided insurance & give a tax credit to all individuals as incentive to purchase insurance.	Encourage private insurance. Give states flexibility to experiment with alternative forms of access.	Tax credit of \$2500 for individuals & \$5000 for families to purchase insurance. No provision to help employers.	Enforce federal laws against collusion, unfair business & consumer practices. Require drug companies to reveal prices.	Adopt malpractice reform. Permit sale of nationwide insurance. More transparency for consumers on medical outcomes. Encourage coordinated care. Bar Medicare payment for preventable errors or mismanagement.

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RON PAUL	Tax deductions for all taxpayers to cover unreimbursed medical expenses and insurance premiums.	Supports "market-based" healthcare. No expansion of public programs.	Allow individuals to fully deduct healthcare costs, including premiums, from taxes. No supports for employers.	No provision.	Use the free market to determine healthcare costs by promoting competition among providers.
MITT ROMNEY	Tax deductions for medical expenses. Federalist approach: give states block grants for Medicaid & allow them power to restructure.	Supports market-based system, would redirect current fed & state subsidies toward subsidies for low-income people to buy private insurance.	Tax code would permit full deductibility of qualified medical expenses. No supports for employers.	Considers private insurers to be overregulated, contributing to high insurance costs.	Federal incentives to promote info technology, transparency on cost and quality. Supports medical liability reform – caps on damage awards.
FRED THOMPSON	Tax incentives to encourage individuals to purchase private health insurance. Increase competition, streamline regulations.	Supports "market-based" healthcare. No expansion of public programs.	Tax incentives for purchasing private incentives. No support for employers.	No provision.	Streamline regulations on insurers, increase competition.

NOTES

Most of the Republican candidates have only sketchy proposals on healthcare. McCain's is the most detailed, especially on cost containment. All the candidates encourage "market-based" solutions rather than expansion of public insurance. All but Hunter (who hasn't provided a formal plan) support tax deductions and/or credits to help either all people or just low-income people cover healthcare costs. None provide support to help employers provide insurance, emphasizing instead a system in which individuals buy their own private insurance.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation. See their more detailed side-by-side summary of candidates' proposals at: <http://www.health08.org/sidebyside.cfm>