



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.833.7000
<http://www.ibew.org>

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

LINDELL K. LEE
International
Secretary-Treasurer

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is not often I write to you directly but I am concerned about the upcoming presidential election, and how its outcome will impact your livelihood. This is not an attempt to scare you or spread rumors, but instead, an effort to raise your awareness about the issues at stake. Everything you will read in this letter and accompanying fliers is documented. I want you to have the benefit of this information so you can make the most informed choice for President of the United States on November 4.

As an IBEW retiree, you have worked hard throughout your career to earn the right to retire in comfort and security. Do you rely on Social Security, Medicare or employer-provided health benefits? If you do, keep reading.

John McCain is opposed to Social Security in its present form. He has called it an “absolute disgrace.” He is on record as a supporter of privatizing Social Security – placing individual benefits in private investment accounts that are subject to the same wild fluctuations that sent the stock market down 10 percent one day in October, with repercussions worldwide. Yet John McCain himself – who is married to a multi-millionaire – received \$23,157 in Social Security checks last year. He also receives a secure, taxpayer-funded congressional pension.

For the first time in history, John McCain’s health care plan would require people to pay taxes on their employer-provided health care benefits. It would put retirees between the ages of 55 and 64 at risk of losing affordable health coverage by dismantling the employer-based health insurance system. His plan shifts people onto private health insurers who can deny coverage, carve out benefits and charge higher rates to those they deem as a higher risk. If you have a chronic illness, as do 72 percent of baby boomers, you may have a hard time finding insurance you can afford.

John McCain also plans to cut Medicare’s budget by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years to pay for his health care plan. And he would raise the Medicare eligibility age.

In short, McCain would increase our taxes and ensure fewer of us could afford quality health care.

Barack Obama and his running mate, Joe Biden, want to strengthen Social Security, and ensure it is solvent for you and your children. They want

it to continue to be what it has been for generations of Americans: a guaranteed monthly income for retirement with dignity.

Universal and affordable access to health care is one of Senator Obama's top priorities. And both Senators Obama and Biden have a record of fighting devastating cuts to Medicare.

The IBEW has endorsed the Obama/Biden ticket because steady leadership is needed in this time of fiscal crisis. They have a consistent record of supporting retirees and working families.

How you vote is your personal decision. Please vote on November 4 for the candidate who best represents your interests.

With best wishes, I am,

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Hill', written in a cursive style.

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:jhj

Attachments

Copy to All International Vice Presidents (Except First District)