



## OBAMA'S EMPTY CLAIMS OF BIPARTISANSHIP

*"There has never been a time when Barack Obama has bucked the party line to lead on an issue of national importance. He has never been a part of a bipartisan group that came together to solve a controversial issue. He has never put his career on the line for a cause greater than himself. Even as a state Senator, Obama voted 'present' on controversial bills. We have seen Barack Obama forced to choose between principle and the interests of himself and his party. He has always chosen the latter." – Steve Schmidt*

### Summary:

- Supporting legislation that passes by large margins or unanimous voice vote is common and not a bipartisan profile in courage.
- A Republican like Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) crossing party lines to vote against Republicans is bipartisanship. Barack Obama voting with the Democratic caucus on the same bill is not.
- While in the United States Senate, Barack Obama has taken partisan positions on major bipartisan efforts.
- In the United States Senate, Barack Obama consistently toed the party line and never took on his own party.
- In the Illinois State Senate, Barack Obama voted "present" instead of taking hard positions.

### Supporting Legislation That Passes By Large Margins Or Unanimous Voice Vote Is Common And Not A Bipartisan Profile In Courage:

**NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION: Barack Obama Co-Sponsored Legislation To Authorize “The President To Establish A Program To Provide Assistance To Friendly Foreign Countries For Proliferation Detection And Interdiction Activities And For Developing Complementary Capabilities (Program)” That Passed By Unanimous Voice Vote.** (S. 2566, Introduced 4/6/06)

- **The Atlantic's Marc Ambinder:** "Working with Dick Lugar on loose nukes was a good thing, and an example of Obama's willingness to write legislation [with] Republicans, but it didn't piss off liberals. (Who's in favor of looser nukes?)" (Marc Ambinder, "Obama's Bipartisanship," *The Atlantic*, 6/26/08)

**LOBBYING LEGISLATION: Joining 82 Other Senators, Barack Obama Voted For The 2007 Lobbying And Ethics Reform Legislation.** "Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would overhaul congressional lobbying and ethics rules for members and their staffs and require the disclosure of 'bundled' campaign contributions that exceed \$15,000 in a six-month period. Former senators would have to wait two years before becoming lobbyists." (S. 1, CQ Vote #294: Motion Agreed To 83-14: R 34-14; D 47-0; I 2-0, 8/2/07, Obama Voted Yea)

**ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION: In 2006, Barack Obama Co-Sponsored Senator Tom Coburn's (R-OK) “Federal Funding Accountability And Transparency Act” Which Passed By Unanimous Voice Vote.** "U.S. Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Barack Obama (D-IL) today hailed the Senate's passage of the 'Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act,' a bill that will create a Google-like search engine and database to track approximately \$1 trillion in federal grants, contracts, earmarks and loans." (Sen. Tom Coburn, "Senate Passes Coburn-Obama Bill To Create Internet Database Of Federal Spending," Press Release, 9/8/06)

**A Republican Like Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) Crossing Party Lines To Vote Against Republicans Is Bipartisanship. Barack Obama Voting With The Democratic Caucus On The Same Bill Is Not:**

**In June 2007, Gordon Smith Joined With Democrats To Vote For The 2007 Energy Bill.** (H.R. 6, CQ Vote #226: Passed 65-27; R 20-23; D 43-4; I 2-0, 6/21/07, Obama Voted Yea, Smith Voted Yea)

**In December 2007, Gordon Smith Joined With The Democrats And 85 Other Senators To Pass The 2007 Energy Bill.** (H.R. 6, CQ Vote #430: Motion Agreed To 86-8: R 40-7; D 44-1; I 2-0, 12/13/07, Smith Voted Yea, Obama Did Not Vote)

**While In The United States Senate, Barack Obama Has Taken Partisan Positions On Major Bipartisan Efforts:**

***The Washington Post's David Ignatius: "Fair To Say That Obama Has Not Shown Much Willingness To Take Risks Or Make Enemies To Try To Restore A Working Center In Washington."*** "The record is mixed, but it's fair to say that Obama has not shown much willingness to take risks or make enemies to try to restore a working center in Washington." (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, "Obama: A Thin Record For A Bridge Builder," *The Washington Post*, 3/2/08)

**"[O]bama Declined To Join The Bipartisan 'Gang Of 14' Coalition To Prevent Democratic Filibusters Of President Bush's Judicial Nominations And Block A GOP Effort To Alter Senate Rules Limiting The Right To Filibuster."** (Morton M. Kondracke, Op-Ed, "Obama Shows Promise Of 'New Politics,' But Is He The 'Real Deal'?" *Roll Call*, 3/22/07)

**Barack Obama "Backed 11th-Hour Amendments" To The Bipartisan Immigration Bill That Imperiled The Compromise.** "Obama was part of the bipartisan group of senators who began meeting in 2005 on comprehensive immigration reform. But last summer, with the presidential nominating race well under way, Obama backed 11th-hour amendments - supported by labor, immigrant rights, and clergy groups - that Republicans saw as imperiling the fragile compromise. None of those measures passed." (Ariel Sabar, "For Obama, Bipartisan Aims, Party-Line Votes," *Christian Science Monitor*, 4/17/08)

- **Barack Obama "Voted For One Amendment ... Designed To Insert A Deadly 'Poison Pill' Into The Bipartisan 'Grand Bargain' On Immigration Reform."** "But then, on the floor of the Senate last week, Obama voted for one amendment -backed by the AFL-CIO and sponsored by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) - designed to insert a deadly 'poison pill' into the bipartisan 'grand bargain' on immigration reform." (Mort Kondracke, Op-Ed, "Pandering to Base, 2008 Candidates Risk More Division," *Roll Call*, 6/14/07)

**In The United States Senate, Barack Obama Consistently Toed The Party Line And Never Took On His Own Party:**

**"The Record Shows Obama To Be A Fairly Doctrinaire Liberal Democrat..."** (Editorial, "Obama's Rhetoric Soars, But What Does His Record Suggest?" *USA Today*, 1/28/08)

- **In 2007, Barack Obama Voted With The Democrat Party 97 Percent Of The Time.** (*Congressional Quarterly* Website, [www.cq.com](http://www.cq.com), Accessed 3/3/08)
- **In 2006, Barack Obama Voted With The Democrat Party 96 Percent Of The Time.** (*Congressional Quarterly* Website, [www.cq.com](http://www.cq.com), Accessed 1/27/08)
- **In 2005, Barack Obama Voted With The Democrat Party 97 Percent Of The Time.** (*Congressional Quarterly* Website, [www.cq.com](http://www.cq.com), Accessed 1/27/08)

**In The Illinois State Senate, Barack Obama Voted "Present" Instead Of Taking Hard Positions:**

**"A [Chicago] *Tribune* Review Of Obama's Voting Record Found That He Voted Present On 129 Bills And 11 Personnel Appointments Out Of Roughly 4,000 Votes Cast During His Nearly Eight Years In Springfield."** (Rick Pearson and Ray Long, "'Present' Votes Emerging From The Past," *Chicago Tribune*, 2/3/08)

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