

Get the Facts, then Get Out the Vote

The economy, the war, the environment ... They're the issues getting major media play as the presidential campaign hits its final few days. People interested in special education in particular and education funding in general will need to do a little legwork to find out where the candidates stand.

Without endorsing one candidate over the other, Broder Law Group offers the following information and internet links to help voters make a choice that reflects their values, goals and ideas for the special education arena.

Presidential candidate John McCain and running mate Sarah Palin have some family ties to special education. McCain's wife Cindy has a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in special education, and she worked for a year as a special education teacher with students who had Down Syndrome. She also participated in a pilot program for movement therapy and published literature about that topic.

Palin's fifth child Trig was born in April with Down Syndrome, and her teenage nephew has autism. Some people believe a vice president with such a

personal experiences with special needs children would benefit the administration's positions on special education issues. Palin outlined her plans Oct. 23 during a rally in Coraopolis, Penn. A newspaper reporter's article on the speech and a TV station's broadcast from the event are [online](#).

McCain has issued a [statement](#) on autism that details his support for research into causes and treatments.

Presidential candidate Barack Obama and running mate Joe Biden have the endorsement of the AFL-CIO. That national organization's [website](#) mentions Obama's stated plan to fully fund No Child Left Behind and increase funding for special education.

Obama's website includes a [statement](#) specifically about autism. It recounts Obama's involvement in ASD research and care and details plans for federal funding and a ASD coordinator to oversee federal efforts. Read a similar [statement](#) on issues related to disabilities, including Obama's goals for NCLB funding and a \$10 billion per year investment in early intervention educational and developmental programs for children from birth through age 5.



No matter your choice, take time to vote Tuesday, Nov. 4

Broder Law Group, P.C.
will keep you up to date
on legal issues affecting
special education.

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