

# NETWORK Connection

PEOPLE LOBBYING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

INCLUDES 2008 VOTING RECORD  
AND BOARD ELECTION BALLOT



# WITH HOPE

**dear members**

I had thought that we were busy before the election, but that almost pales in comparison to the momentum that we have now. There are so many opportunities to have our concerns heard and considered that we have to prioritize the opportunities because we cannot do it all. In that process, our field team is trying to make sure that we do not overwhelm you, our e-activists, with opportunities—but know that this is the time when your voice really can count.

In the midst of this great opening for our message for the common good comes a financial crisis that is keeping me awake nights (which is VERY rare for me). We at NETWORK, like the rest of the country, are struggling to make ends meet and weather this storm. As one of our Board members said, "It doesn't seem fair—just when there is new possibility, there is no money." But we live through faith and hard work, knowing this too will change. We also realized the other day that this puts us in closer relationship with those who live at the economic margins of our country and our world. Perhaps this is a time to live more intensely the reality that we are one.

Together in our commitment to justice, we can find a shared way through. Know that I am grateful that we are in this together. Community is the warmth that reminds me that we live in the Spirit! Let's continue to make change together.

*Simone Campbell, SSS*

**NOTE TO ALL NETWORK MEMBERS:**



*Be sure to vote for new members of NETWORK's Board of Directors. Your ballot can be found on the back page and must be postmarked by March 14, 2009.*

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7th Annual **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**

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A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

**NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation.**

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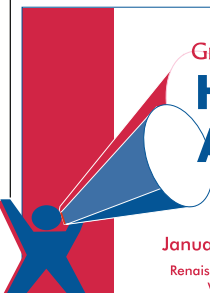
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# Anticipation

By SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS

The excitement in DC is palpable. On the Metro, people talk to strangers about the Inauguration. We are making plans to deal with the expected crowds and are on our own quest for tickets! I had not known how arduous and spirit-sapping these last years had been until I began to experience that change is not only possible, but it is happening. In our policy meetings with President-elect Obama's transition staff we experienced receptivity to our concerns and an effort to understand the principles behind our agenda. This was a stark contrast to the last eight years, when it was virtually impossible to get anyone in the administration to listen. It appears that there is a new springtime in governance. What a relief!

But just as this new springtime is coming, we are facing the most serious fiscal crisis in my lifetime. I have inside myself hope and happiness, as well as financial concern—a strange mix of spring with deep winter worry. This worry was heightened when Senate Republicans recently demanded significant cuts to ordinary autoworker salaries in order for them to approve the auto industry bailout. These are the same senators who refused to include caps on CEO salaries when they approved the financial services/mortgage bailout. We still have more work to do if the GOP Senate leadership does not understand the wrongness of this view.

This is the work that we must be ready for. We need a national party on January 20 to celebrate the turning of a page in our history, but we must be ready on January 21 to get to work.

I worry that we think that a new president and administration can “fix it all.” Our nation will function only if we

maintain the basic principles on which we were established. We have to be the people involved in forming this more perfect union. And we have a long rough road ahead.

Long-term engagement is needed if we are to solve the challenging problems of the economy, healthcare, Iraqi occupation, immigration, ecology and trade. The political pushback will be significant when any detailed plan is proposed. The human species consistently seems to resist change—no matter how bad the current situation. And we NETWORK people will most likely be disappointed in the reality that not every seed we plant will result in a sheaf of wheat. It will be tempting to complain, pout and disengage. I think that this springtime reality is calling us to shift our spiritual stance from rugged endurance and resistance to a mature engagement.

In this time of change, we are called to be people of the Gospel engaged in creating this more perfect union. We must remember that no one of our individual

views is the fullness of the ideal. In this time of possibility we are called, while anchored in our faith values, to walk the roads of engagement, compromise. We are called to continue to dialogue with people who think differently—not just out of political necessity, but as a spiritual practice to find the best way forward. We are called to find solutions to the vexing problems of our time, understanding that governance is the solving of problems for the sake of the whole.

And as the Prophet Isaiah challenges, we are called to struggle together both individually and as a nation to share our bread with those who are hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe those who are naked, and not turn our back on people in need. These are spiritual practices for our twenty-first century. By engaging together, we will be true to the promise of this springtime—and realize a hundredfold harvest.

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*Simone Campbell, SSS, is NETWORK's Executive Director.*



# Addressing the Economic Crisis with Faith

By AMATA MILLER, IHM

The economic news is bad everywhere, for everybody it seems! What got us into this mess? What do we need to avoid in the future? What do we need to do now—as individuals and as a nation? What principles of Catholic Social Teaching can guide our consciences as we face the realities? And what are the opportunities inherent in all of this?

## Cultural Causes

The media have told us in great detail about the institutional causes of the current economic crisis. We must recognize that these causes are rooted in national cultural trends of recent decades. And all of us have been a part in some way of the loss of confidence at the core of the present downturn.

For the past two decades, the nation has been in one of the three periods in U.S. history when money has been king: the late nineteenth-century era of the Robber Barons; the 1920s; and the period since the mid-1980s.

We have been in what *Fortune* magazine called “a St. Vitus Dance of money.” The value of having more and more things has become paramount. What Thorstein Veblen called “conspicuous consumption” has been the custom. The media and fans have been absorbed by the lifestyles of the rich and famous. We have come to measure personal value

in terms of how big our house is, what kind of car we drive, and the purse we carry. Greed has become good. This spirit undermines the confidence needed in a free market economy.

This spirit has also fostered a culture of irresponsible borrowing. Our economy depends on the ability to borrow in anticipation of future ability to repay—and on a willingness to lend in reliance on that repayment. National data show that we have become a nation of people living beyond our means, using borrowed money to finance our lifestyle without considering whether the debt will grow our potential for repayment. When loan parties forget about inherent risks and their responsibilities, confidence is undermined and lending freezes up.

Greed and reckless borrowing have generated economic “bubbles” in which a spirit of euphoria rooted in expectation of ever-rising prices rules decision-making. McMansions and massive foreclosures bear witness to the arc of the recent housing bubble. Forgetting that what goes up also inevitably comes down in the marketplace leads to unsustainable behavior and ultimately devastates confidence. It also generates a widespread climate of fear that paralyzes and can panic.

Little attention has been paid in recent decades to the dramatic growth in

inequality of incomes. Some have gained inordinately while incomes of middle- and lower-income workers stagnated or inched up. Tax cuts have favored the wealthy, and productivity gains have enriched those at the top instead of being shared more equitably.

A sense of citizenship has diminished as individualism has supplanted co-responsibility for the common good. Economist Randy Albeda has remarked that at some point in the 1980s the American people began to think of themselves primarily as “taxpayers” rather than as citizens. A sense of government as only taking away from private satisfaction came to predominate.

These cultural trends have gradually come to govern our decision-making. Cultural change is a gradual process, and we must recognize that changing to a more responsible way of living will take time and cause pain for individuals and the nation.

## Structural Responses

Inevitably, the cultural trends of greed, irresponsibility, euphoria and individualism spawned institutions and behavior that supported them. People saw that they could make money from them and did so. Financial speculation became the economic driver on a global scale, with profit the motivating factor.

In the U.S., support for a pro-capital and anti-government ideology of deregulation and non-enforcement meant that safety rules were ignored, untenable risks were taken, unsustainable levels of debt were multiplied, and underwriting principles were relaxed. Securities of many different grades were bundled together and sold to investors on small margins, creating a domino effect when the loans were called.

Presciently, financier George Soros pointed out in the late 1990s that laissez-faire capitalism carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction when it neglects the common good and focuses only on self-interest. Critics point out that global capitalism can create overproduction when it generates levels of





inequality that prevent people from using what is produced. As Henry Ford demonstrated in the 1920s, you have to pay people enough so they can afford to buy what you produce.

Globally, the crisis has borne out the implications of our interrelatedness. The rapid growth of the Chinese economy has been based on its ability to export huge quantities of manufactured products to Europe and the United States, tying its economic fate to that of these economies. Its failure to enable its own people to purchase its products is now causing an economic slowdown, widespread unemployment and social unrest, as well as an inability to foster a global economic recovery. The national income of other countries—middle-income as well as poor countries—depends heavily on their exports and on remittances from their emigrant workers. They are therefore adversely affected by economic slowdowns elsewhere. The crisis is worldwide—as must be the recovery.

For a sobering but realistic assessment of the impact of the current recession on people already struggling with poverty, read “RECESSION COULD CAUSE LARGE INCREASES IN POVERTY AND PUSH MILLIONS INTO DEEP POVERTY; Stimulus Package Should Include Policies to Ameliorate Harsh Effects of Downturn” by Sharon Parrott. It is available on the Web site of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [www.cbpp.org/11-24-08pov.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/11-24-08pov.htm)

### Some Caveats as We Move Forward

What next? Many ideas for resolution have been put forward and continue to be suggested.

Inevitably, many critics are also speaking out. This is one of those situations where we are walking on untrodden paths in a new kind of economic reality that we have not seen before. So, like FDR in the Great Depression, we have to try different kinds of responses—some of which will work and some of which won't. As different policy proposals come forth, we will have to evaluate them, both on the basis of societal realities and from the perspective of the values of Catholic Social Teaching.

In terms of the economic realities, we will need to attend to some admonitions:

- **Separate Wall Street volatility from experience of an economic recession.** The gyrations of stock market prices are signs of the state of mind of investors. As such, they generate optimism or pessimism about economic reality and they influence economic decision-making about whether to borrow or spend now in order to gain in the future. Stock prices may go up while the economy is still in a recession. Even though stock markets may recover quickly, depending on investor demand in relation to the number of stocks being offered for sale, it will take longer for the economy as a whole to recover. The consensus as of this writing is that it will take 12-18 months—into 2010—for the economy to recover from this deep and complex recession. Government assistance for stimulus is essential.

- **Don't expect a quick fix.** Turning around the economic cycle so there are enough jobs at a livable wage for everyone who wants to work requires that households, businesses, governments and people in the rest of the world spend enough for the things those workers make and do. There is plenty of work to be done to produce food, clothing, housing, basic education and healthcare for everyone. But enabling everyone to register a need for those things in the marketplace requires a more equitable distribution of income. That takes time, both in purely national terms and in global ones. Unfreezing the credit markets is a first step. Households, farmers, small and large businesses, and governments at all levels must be able to borrow in order to get the construction, agricultural, industrial and infrastructure sectors creating jobs and income again.

- **Don't expect President Obama and Washington to fix everything.** National policymaking is a critical piece of the necessary change. Only the federal government has enough resources to take big enough steps to get things moving again. But unrealistic expectations can be self-defeating. Patience will be needed. If the public mood sours, the crisis will be prolonged. We must understand that adjustments will take time while we advocate for changes that will address unmet human needs.

- **Don't neglect the long term.** In this recession, public and private groups will have to address the basic needs of those for whom the recession means homelessness, hunger and unemployment. But policy and practice should do this in ways that also attend to the neglected infrastructure needs in education, healthcare, transportation and the environment. System-fixing is required in each of these areas, but we cannot fix long-term problems by just throwing money at them.

- **Remember that we have to balance a more active government with individual freedom.** We have just come through a very partisan period as a nation. The election seemed to show that people want to move beyond this. But individual freedom is a very powerful value among Americans, and we have always resisted too-strong government. As commentators have reminded us, the election showed a movement to the middle, not to the left, and those who wish to be more progressive must be patient

and support new leadership in its efforts to reunite us.

• **Don't forget the rest of the world.** As pointed out above, we live in a very interdependent world. Climate change, international terrorism, and cross-border transmission of diseases and economic problems demonstrate this all too vividly. It is critical to keep our promises about trade, about commitments for overseas development assistance, about debt relief and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, and about the Global Fund to conquer HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. In our own national interest and concern for the universal common good, we have to rethink our role in the world, reduce our military expenditures, and revitalize our anti-nuclear activities. All of these are essential both for the longer term and as ways to address the worldwide economic recession.

### A Faith Response

As we evaluate policy proposals and our private responses to current economic realities, Catholic Social Teaching provides us with important guideposts:

- **Dignity of Every Person.** Each has inalienable dignity prior to social status, race, gender, nationality, type of employment and human achievement. From conception to death, everyone has a right to all that is necessary to live in dignity
- **Co-responsibility for the Common Good.** As citizens of our states and nation and of the world community, we have a responsibility to collaborate with others to bring about a more just, humane and sustainable world for all God's people so that each can fulfill the unique purpose for which he or she was created.
- **Universal Purpose of Material Things.** Everything we have has a moral significance. Our right to private ownership is conditioned on the rights of others to have what is necessary. Their basic needs have to take priority over my wants. There should be a floor and a ceiling for what is considered necessary for human dignity. As Americans we need to develop a sense of "enoughness." Our value does not depend on what we have.



- **Solidarity.** This is the moral response to the reality of our interdependence. We are called to recognize every member of the human family as "neighbor"—one who deserves to enjoy, on a par with ourselves, a share in the abundance that God has created for all.
- **Special Concern for Those Who Are Poor and Vulnerable.** Central to the biblical tradition that we share with Jews and other Christians is special care for people among us who are poor and vulnerable—specifically children, widows and "strangers in the land." These have a special claim on our care and our resources, especially at times of special necessity such as this deep recession when they have few options.
- **Care for Earth.** Our choices must be made in light of our co-responsibility to live sustainably in order to preserve the habitat for future generations.

Evaluating policy and practice in light of the realities and our values can guide us when calling ourselves and our elected officials to accountability in this time of crisis. It will make us agents of positive change.

### Positive Effects from the Crisis?

In light of the perspectives outlined above, we can identify some possible positive outcomes from the current crisis.

We might see a decline in our cultural tendency to value ourselves in terms of what we have—as we hopefully pay

more attention to the value of who we are as persons.

We may come to a simpler way of living, one that focuses more on quality than on quantity of things, one that is more consonant with sustainability and a more equitable sharing of earth's resources. We may learn to celebrate with fewer material things.

We may come to recognize that our relationships with family and friends are more important than things. We may learn to celebrate these relationships more fully and overcome the fragmentation of our families and neighborhoods.

We may resurface the communitarian part of our culture that has been more evident in some eras than our rugged individualism. We may learn anew how much we depend on one another and come to value again the honesty, confidence in one another's goodness, work ethic, and care for one another on which our societal order ultimately depends.

We may as a nation repair our tattered safety net, realizing that it is there because we are all likely to need it at some point. We may come to see it as a necessary part of a civilized and caring nation.

We may come to a greater realization of our interrelatedness as a world—moving from our devotion to independence, through our understanding of our interdependence, to a sense of human solidarity as Catholic Social Teaching calls us. We may then come to be agents of peace in our world—as individuals and as a nation.

For these to become reality we must be rooted in and emboldened by our faith. As the pastoral letter *Economic Justice for All* put it: "Christians must embody in their lives the new creation while they labor under the weight of the old... The quest for economic and social justice will always combine hope and realism."

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Amata Miller, IHM is Professor of Economics and Director of the Myser Initiative on Catholic Identity at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul Minnesota. E-mail address: armiller@stkate.edu. Photos by Andrea Laurita.

# Voting Record of the 110th Congress, Second Session

NETWORK's voting record for the second session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress shows an almost unprecedented interplay of changes in the nation's direction. These formed the context of that session and will inevitably continue beyond its conclusion.

As legislators wrestled day-to-day with issues affecting the electorate, a wide spectrum of that electorate was immersed in the presidential election. Many believed that a new day for the nation loomed despite the shocks of the housing crisis and economic downturn.

The session's final weeks were marked by the devastating impact

of the massive downturn manifested by a seemingly endless series of bank and corporate failures, even leading to the spectacle of the nation's auto-makers appearing before Congress to plead for government assistance. Meanwhile, millions of our families and workers continued to lose homes and jobs.

Given that overwhelming economic context, this voting record endeavors to highlight several key decisions with which Congress wrestled. Among them are passage of a Continuing Resolution keeping the government functioning into March 2009, provisions doubling the fund-

ing available for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and expansion of disaster relief and tax credits for Gulf Coast disaster victims.

While all of us will undeniably experience the effects of the devastation to the economy, these congressional decisions offer some relief to those of us who are most vulnerable. It is abundantly clear that much remains to be done to address our nation's problems, including enacting comprehensive immigration reform.

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*Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ. NETWORK Lobbyist*

## HOUSE Voting Record 2008

### 1. Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 Vote #22 (H.R. 3963)

The House was unable to overturn the president's veto of the bill to improve children's healthcare. They had voted in favor of the bill by 265–142 in 2007. NETWORK worked hard for passage of this bill.

Failed 260–152 (19 not voting) • January 23, 2008

#### About this Voting Record

NETWORK tries to select votes for our voting record that illustrate individual representatives' and senators' positions on issues on our legislative agenda. This year, however, it was somewhat difficult to pinpoint votes that clearly demonstrate legislators' level of support for our agenda. During this election year, Congress avoided voting on many issues, especially in the Senate where the rules made it easier to block votes. Many of the bills that passed were big "must-pass" spending bills, which had provisions for different programs wrapped into them.

In this voting record, we explain specific provisions in these spending bills that we supported. We cannot show if a representative or senator supported a bill for the same reasons we did. The percents in this voting record may not be as reliable an indicator of support of our legislative agenda as in past years.

For a more complete picture of your legislators' votes, we suggest that you read the descriptions of the votes to see what provisions we supported, and then check with your Members of Congress to see why they voted for or against the bills.

### 2. Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 Vote #42 (H.R. 5140)

This bill provided tax rebates of \$600 for individual taxpayers, \$1200 for married taxpayers filing jointly and \$300 for taxpayers with earned income of at least \$3000. It increased tax credits for depreciable business assets to \$250,000 with a ceiling of \$800,000 and had mortgage provisions. NETWORK supported some economic stimulus. This was signed into law on February 13, 2008.

Passed 380–34 (16 not voting) • February 7, 2008

### 3. Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 Vote #209 (H.R. 5613)

NETWORK strongly supported this bill to prevent draconian changes to Medicaid regulations. Among the changes were denial of assistance to school systems for special needs children and curtailment of services in public hospitals.

Passed 349–62 (20 not voting) • April 23, 2008

### 4. Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 Vote #330 (H.R. 2642)

The original intent of this bill was to support the military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In its final form, however, it included several critical elements that NETWORK strongly supported, including funding for Iraqi reconstruction, Gulf Coast disaster aid, LIHEAP, and extension of unemployment benefits. This was signed into law June 30, 2008.

Passed 256–166 (12 not voting) • May 15, 2008

## 5. Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act Vote #344 (H.R. 6049)

This bill provided tax incentives for renewable energy, reduced tax deductions for domestic oil and gas production, and encouraged energy conservation and efficiency. NETWORK worked predominantly on three provisions in the bill: lowering the earned income threshold for the child tax credit to \$8,500; Gulf Coast tax credits; and inclusion of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

Passed 263–160 (12 not voting) • May 21, 2008

## 6. McGovern of Massachusetts Amendment to Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act, 2009 Vote #363 (Amendment 31 to H.R. 5658)

NETWORK supported the McGovern amendment, which required the Defense Secretary to release to the public, upon request, the names, ranks, countries of origin, and other information about students and instructors of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).

Passed 220–189 (30 not voting) • May 22, 2008

## 7. The Congressional Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 Vote #382 (S. Con. Res. 70)

NETWORK supported this federal budget authorization legislation that included increased allocations in non-defense-related discretionary spending and provided for deficit-neutral reserve funds supporting families in greatest need.

Passed 214–210 (10 not voting) • June 5, 2008

## 8. Medicare Improvements For Patients and Providers Act Vote # 491 (H.R. 6331)

NETWORK supported this bill, which amended titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act. The bill extended those expiring provisions under the Medicare Program that improve the access of beneficiaries to preventive and mental health services, enhanced low-income benefit programs, and main-

tained access to care in rural areas, including access to certain medications. It also extended TANF supplemental grants. President Bush vetoed the original bill, but the House voted to override the veto.

Passed 383–41 (11 not voting)  
July 15, 2008

## 9. Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 Vote #519 (H.R. 3221)

NETWORK supported this bill, which created the Housing Trust Fund for low and extremely low income housing, the HOPE for Homeowners mortgage insurance program and the Federal Housing Finance Agency. It contained provisions to prevent foreclosures, foreclosure protections for service members and veterans, and aid for states and municipalities in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes. Unfortunately, now that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are in governmental conservatorship, these funding sources for the Housing Trust Fund have been imperiled. Signed into law on July 30, 2008.

Passed 272–152 (11 not voting) • July 23, 2008

## 10. Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 Vote #632 (H.R. 2638)

NETWORK supported this Continuing Resolution because of provisions that provide disaster relief to the victims of floods, wildfires and hurricanes; double funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); and increase funding for the Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program and for Pell Grants. It will keep the government funded through March 6, 2009, largely at FY2008 levels. Additionally, the bill incorporates the FY2009 appropriations for Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

Passed 370–58 (4 not voting) • September 24, 2008

## 11. Job Creation and Unemployment Relief Act of 2008 Vote #660 (H.R. 7110)

NETWORK supported this bill, which creates jobs by funding infrastructure projects and “green” renovation and repair of public schools. It also supports energy efficiency and renewable energy development, job training programs, and public and Indian housing. It also extends unemployment benefits and temporarily increases food assistance and the federal Medicaid matching rate to states.

Passed 264–158 (12 not voting) • September 26, 2008

## 12. Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 Vote #683 (H.R. 6867)

NETWORK supported this bill, which extends unemployment benefits by seven weeks for those whose benefits have run out, and by thirteen weeks for those in states with unemployment rates higher than six percent. Signed into law November 21, 2008.

Passed 368–28 (38 not voting) • October 3, 2008

### Changes in the House During This Session

- Jackie Speier (D-CA-12): Elected April 9, 2008
- Tom Lantos (D-CA-12): Died February 11, 2008
- Bill Foster (D-IL-14): Elected March 8, 2008
- Andre Carson (D-IN-7): Elected March 11, 2008
- Bobby Jindal (R-LA-1): Resigned January 14, 2008
- Don Cazayoux (D-LA-6): Elected May 3, 2008
- Richard Baker (R-LA-6): Resigned February 2, 2008
- Steve Scalise (R-LA-1): Elected May 3, 2008
- Albert Wynn (D-MD-4): Resigned May 31, 2008
- Donna Edwards (D-MD-4): Elected June 17, 2008
- Roger Wicker (R-MS): Appointed to Senate Dec. 31, 2007
- Travis Childers (D-MS-1): Elected May 13, 2008
- Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11): Elected November 18, 2008
- Stephanie Jones (D-OH-11): Died August 20, 2008
- Thomas Davis (R-VA-11): Resigned November 24, 2008











# SENATE Voting Record 2008

## 1. Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 Vote #10 (H.R. 5140)

NETWORK supported some economic stimulus. (See #2 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 81–16 (3 not voting)  
February 7, 2008

## 2. To provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and tax relief to America's troops and veterans Vote #42 (S. Amdt. 4160 to S. Con Res 70)

NETWORK supported this amendment to the Budget Resolution 2009. It included assistance to hurricane victims and middle-class families.

Passed 99–1  
March 13, 2008

## 3. Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 Vote 142 (S. Con Res 70)

NETWORK supported this resolution. (See #7 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 48–45, with 2 voting “present” (5 not voting)  
June 4, 2008

## 4. Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 Vote #162 (H.R. 2642)

NETWORK strongly supported several critical elements, including funding for Iraqi reconstruction, Gulf Coast disaster aid, LIHEAP, and extension of unemployment benefits. (See #4 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 92–6 (2 not voting)  
June 26, 2008

## 5. Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act Vote #177 (H.R. 6331)

NETWORK supported this bill, which was vetoed by President Bush. The Senate voted to override the veto. (See #8 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 70–26 (4 not voting)  
July 15, 2008

## 6. Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 Vote #186 (H.R. 3221)

NETWORK supported this bill. (See #9 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 72–13 (15 not voting)  
July 26, 2008

## 7 Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 Vote #205 (H.R. 6049)

NETWORK worked predominantly on three provisions: lowering the earned income threshold for the child tax credit to \$8,500; Gulf Coast tax credits; and inclusion of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. (See #5 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 93–2 (5 not voting)  
September 23, 2008

## 8. Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Continuing Resolution) Vote #208 (H.R. 2638)

NETWORK supported this Continuing Resolution because of provisions that provide disaster relief to the victims of floods, wildfires and hurricanes; double funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); and increase funding for the Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program and for Pell Grants. (See #10 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 78–12, 1 voting “present” (9 not voting)  
September 27, 2008

## 9. Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 Vote #214 (H.R. 6867)

NETWORK supported this bill. (See #12 in the House Voting Record.)

Passed 89–6 (4 not voting)  
November 20, 2008

## 10. Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 Vote #403 (H.R. 3963)

The Senate voted in favor of this bill to improve children's health care during the first session of this Congress. Early in the second session, the House was unable to overturn the president's veto. This was the last Senate vote on the children's health insurance program. NETWORK worked hard for passage of this bill.

Passed 64–29 (6 not voting)  
November 1, 2007  
Vetoed December 12, 2007

### Change in the Senate During This Session

- Barack Obama (D-IL): Resigned November 16, 2008

110th CONGRESS  
SECOND SESSION

HOW THEY  
VOTED IN THE  
SENATE

	Economic Stimulus										%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>ALABAMA</b>											
Richard Shelby (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	50%
Jeff Sessions (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	50%
<b>ALASKA</b>											
Ted Stevens (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
Lisa Murkowski (R)	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
<b>ARIZONA</b>											
Jon Kyl (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	30%
John McCain (R)	+	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	100%*
<b>ARKANSAS</b>											
Blanche Lincoln (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	100%*
Mark Pryor (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>											
Dianne Feinstein (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	+	100%*
Barbara Boxer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	+	100%*
<b>COLORADO</b>											
Ken Salazar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Wayne Allard (R)	-	+	-	-	-	o	+	-	+	-	33%*
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>											
Joseph Lieberman (I)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Christopher Dodd (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	100%*
<b>DELAWARE</b>											
Thomas Carper (D)	+	+	+	+	+	o	-	+	+	+	88%*
Joseph Biden (D)	+	+	o	+	+	+	o	o	o	+	100%*
<b>FLORIDA</b>											
Mel Martinez (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	80%
Bill Nelson (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>GEORGIA</b>											
Saxby Chambliss (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	o	-	77%*
Johnny Isakson (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	80%
<b>HAWAII</b>											
Daniel Inouye (D)	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	+	+	+	100%*
Daniel Akaka (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>IDAHO</b>											
Mike Crapo (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	50%
Larry Craig (R)	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	50%
<b>ILLINOIS</b>											
Barack Obama (D)	o	+	+	+	o	o	o	o	l	o	100%*
Richard Durbin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>INDIANA</b>											
Richard Lugar (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
Evan Bayh (D)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
<b>IOWA</b>											
Charles Grassley (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	70%
Tom Harkin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	+	+	+	100%*
<b>KANSAS</b>											
Pat Roberts (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
Sam Brownback (R)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
<b>KENTUCKY</b>											
Jim Bunning (R)	+	+	-	+	-	o	+	-	+	-	55%*
Mitch McConnell (R)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
<b>LOUISIANA</b>											
David Vitter (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	60%
Mary Landrieu (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>MAINE</b>											
Susan Collins (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Olympia Snowe (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>MARYLAND</b>											
Barbara Mikulski (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Benjamin Cardin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>											
John Kerry (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Edward Kennedy (D)	+	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	+	100%*
<b>MICHIGAN</b>											
Debbie Stabenow (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Carl Levin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>MINNESOTA</b>											
Norm Coleman (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
Amy Klobuchar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>											
Thad Cochran (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	80%
Roger Wicker (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	l	80%*
<b>MISSOURI</b>											
Claire McCaskill (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	+	100%*
Christopher Bond (R)	+	+	-	+	+	o	+	+	+	+	88%*

\*Percentage with asterisk (\*) signifies that legislator did not vote on all relevant bills.

Key to votes:

- Voted with NETWORK . . . . . +
- Voted against NETWORK . . . . . -
- Did not vote . . . . . o
- Inactive/not in office . . . . . l
- Voted "Present" . . . . . p

	Economic Stimulus										%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>MONTANA</b>											
Max Baucus (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Jon Tester (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>NEBRASKA</b>											
Chuck Hagel (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	60%
Ben Nelson (D)	o	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%*
<b>NEVADA</b>											
John Ensign (R)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	40%
Harry Reid (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>											
Judd Gregg (R)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	60%
John Sununu (R)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	o	+	77%*
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>											
Robert Menendez (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Frank Lautenberg (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>											
Jeff Bingaman (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Pete Domenici (R)	+	+	p	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	89%*
<b>NEW YORK</b>											
Charles Schumer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Hillary Clinton (D)	o	+	o	+	+	+	+	o	+	o	100%*
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>											
Elizabeth Dole (R)	+	+	-	+	+	o	+	+	+	-	77%*
Richard Burr (R)	+	+	-	+	-	o	+	p	+	-	63%*
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>											
Kent Conrad (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90%
Byron Dorgan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>OHIO</b>											
Sherrrod Brown (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
George Voinovich (R)	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	70%
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>											
Tom Coburn (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
James Inhofe (R)	-	+	-	+	-	o	+	+	-	-	44%*
<b>OREGON</b>											
Ron Wyden (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	100%*
Gordon Smith (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>											
Robert Casey (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Arlen Specter (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>											
Jack Reed (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Sheldon Whitehouse (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>											
Jim DeMint (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	o	-	-	-	11%*
Lindsey Graham (R)	+	+	-	+	-	o	+	-	+	-	55%*
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>											
Pat Thune (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	60%
Tim Johnson (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>TENNESSEE</b>											
Lamar Alexander (R)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	80%
Bob Corker (R)	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	70%
<b>TEXAS</b>											
John Cornyn (R)	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	70%
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	80%
<b>UTAH</b>											
Orrin Hatch (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	60%
Robert Bennett (R)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
<b>VERMONT</b>											
Patrick Leahy (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Bernard Sanders (I)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>VIRGINIA</b>											
John Warner (R)	+	+	p	+	o	o	+	+	+	o	100%*
James Webb (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
<b>WASHINGTON</b>											
Maria Cantwell (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Patty Murray (D)	+	+	+	+	+	o	+	o	+	+	100%*
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>											
John Rockefeller (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Robert Byrd (D)	+	+	o	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%*
<b>WISCONSIN</b>											
Herbert Kohl (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Russ Feingold (D)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	80%
<b>WYOMING</b>											
John Barrasso (R)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	40%
Michael Enzi (R)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	40%

# Move Your Legislators Toward Justice!

BY KELLY TROUT

For many in our nation, the past year's election renewed belief in the integrity of our democratic system. Together, we demonstrated that the aspiration of forming a more perfect union still resonates across our nation.

*We the People* have spoken and must keep speaking.

While elections remind us of the power of our votes to hold elected officials accountable and to mandate a new course for our country, we must remember that voting is not the only means by which *We the People* participate in our democracy.

As this issue of *Connection* documents, our elected representatives vote as well—and far more frequently than we do. Their job is to represent us! Each congressional vote represents an opportunity for you to influence the direction of federal policy.

At NETWORK, we were inspired by the increased civic engagement and mobilization of the past election season. Capitalizing on this bold spirit is a key goal for NETWORK's field work in the coming year.

The more emails sent, letters mailed, and phone calls made to legislators on Capitol Hill in response to our messages, the more attention our issues will receive. Likewise, the more members NETWORK represents when our lobbyists head to the Hill, the greater our clout to push our agenda forward in Congress. In this critical year, we want to increase

## NETWORK's Voting Record—A Great Tool

As a NETWORK member, you receive a record of your senators' and representative's votes on key justice issues at the beginning of each year. This is an important tool for evaluating how well your elected officials serve the common good. Congressional offices are delighted when they receive high rankings from NETWORK and often issue press releases to spread the word.

Here are some ways you can use the voting record in this issue of *Connection* to help move our nation toward social justice:

- Contact your Members of Congress to discuss their overall records and specific key votes. Get your friends and families to do the same. Legislators need to know that constituents are monitoring their actions.
- Distribute copies of the record of local legislators to people in your area.
- Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed for your local paper about your legislators' record.
- To keep up with key votes during the year, go to <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/votes/>.

the number of activists receiving our Legislative Updates and Alerts and to see more activists become contributing members. (To sign up to receive our Legislative Update, go to <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/mlm/signup>).

You can help us engage more people in the legislative process by spreading the word about NETWORK, forwarding our emails to your friends and neighbors, and encouraging them to become members.

We also want to facilitate more frequent and more substantive interactions between NETWORK staff and you, our members and activists. Look for more invitations to NETWORK member conference calls, an exciting opportunity for you to share your perspectives on the

issues facing Congress, ask us questions, and get “insider” information on current activities on Capitol Hill. As we seek a just and effective way forward out of the current economic crisis, we also encourage you to share with us and your legislators your stories about the problems affecting your families and your communities.

The more your legislators hear about the struggles people are confronting in their districts and states, the more motivation and urgency they will feel to act.

This year will be a pivotal one for our country. At NETWORK, we look forward to opportunities for moving our agenda forward in Washington. We have already met with members of President Obama's transition team, and we expect to stay engaged with the new administration to help shape policy. We will also meet with all new members of Congress.

But we cannot effectively turn opportunities into legislative progress on the issues we care about without the active involvement of our members and activists. You—along with friends and neighbors you reach out to and bring into our movement—can make the difference between a government merely elected by the people and a government truly of and working for all the people.

*Kelly Trout is the NETWORK Field Associate.*

## A New Year to Work for Justice!

Is your New Year's resolution to work harder for justice? You can support just policies throughout the year by pledging a monthly donation to NETWORK. You can instruct NETWORK to make pre-authorized withdrawals from your bank account or pre-authorized credit card charges each month. It's easy to sign up—just fill out and return the envelope in the center of this magazine or sign up on our Web site, [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org).



EDUARDO LEITE

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## NETWORK BOARD ELECTION BALLOT

### ***NETWORK Members—Vote for two (2) candidates.***

Ballots can be mailed in the envelope found in middle of this magazine. You may photocopy this page, but please send only **one ballot per paid membership.**

**Ballots must be postmarked by March 14, 2009.**

## CANDIDATES

### **Mary Jo Iozzio**

**Hollywood FL; Professor, Barry University;  
Syrian-Italian.**

My skills (moral theology, healthcare ethics, feminist ethics, disability studies, anti-racism, Catholic Social Teaching), talents (professor, author, editor), and experience (political activism, workshop training, public speaking) can support NETWORK's use of teachings from the Catholic traditions and their trajectories to persuade "the powers" to reform policies that bow some folks down while they raise others over (even to oppress). Constituencies: Adrian Dominican Sisters, Catholic Theological Society of America, PCUSA, Society of Christian Ethics, and others.

### **Donna Marie Korba**

**Scranton PA; Congregation of the Sisters,  
Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary;  
Director of the Office of Justice and Peace;  
Caucasian.**

Challenged by the Gospel, I foster community among diverse people. Twelve years in Guatemala fostered my passion for life and a better world. As an artist, I bring creativity; as missionary, gentle reverence for people and Earth; as my congregation's Justice and Peace Director, passion for justice. My constituencies: IHM Sisters, Scranton Chapter: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Catholic Coalition for Justice and Peace, Pax Christi, Marywood University Campus Ministry, and Hermanas, Dominicas de la Anunciata, Guatemala.

### **Max Wendell**

**Empire MI; Permanent Deacon, Dioceses  
of Lansing, Gaylord, Venice; Caucasian.**

Having served on two boards for Catholic Social Services and the Bishop's Council on Alcoholism, I began my awareness of Catholic Social Teaching in action. Empowerment of others through education, spiritual growth, and social concerns lead me to facilitate Stephen Ministry, JustFaith and Pax Christi programs related to non-violent living. Prayerful discernment and participation with NETWORK, CACG and SOAW now energize me to live the Gospel at a deeper level of political action.

### **Jean Anne Zappa**

**Louisville KY; Ursuline Sister of Louisville;  
Shively Area Ministries (beginning in March  
2009); Caucasian.**

I can further NETWORK's mission because of my experiences as a NETWORK volunteer and connection with religious communities, parishes and agencies after serving as President of the Louisville Ursulines. I have experience with nonprofit organizations in the areas of finances, development and mission advancement. Planning, organizing, collaborating, supporting, encouraging, and reaching out to others have been sharpened in my ministry experiences. I am enthusiastic, detailed and practical and have energy and passion for mission-driven organizations.



## BALLOT

Eligible to vote: NETWORK Members  
(one vote per membership please)

You can mail your ballot to NETWORK in the envelope inserted in the middle of the magazine. Please write "election" on the outside of the envelope. **Ballots must be postmarked by March 14, 2009, to be counted.**

### **VOTE FOR TWO:**

- Mary Jo Iozzio
- Donna Marie Korba
- Max Wendell
- Jean Anne Zappa