

# 80-20 Initiative Endorses Obama for President

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The 80-20 Initiative at its presidential endorsement convention in Foster City, Calif. Aug. 2, endorsed Senator Barack Obama for president by a 31-2 vote.

A nonpartisan Asian American political action committee, 80-20's delegates are one-third Republicans, one-third Democrats and one-third independents.

After the vote, all the delegates present pledged to support the group's decision and urged Asian Americans to make financial contributions to Obama's campaign.

The organization in a press release said it was supporting Obama for two reasons.

First, the Illinois senator "replied with all 'yeses' to 80-20's questionnaire."

Obama, 80-20 said, gave "unequivocal commitments to give Asian Americans equal opportunities to rise to the top in workplaces through the enforcement of Exec. Order 11246," agreed to give "Asian American legal professionals equal opportunity to be judges at all levels of the federal courts," and agreed "in writing to meet with Asian American national organizations, organized by 80-20 with the (U.S.) Labor Department to review the progress."

Second, 80-20 said, Democratic Party National Committee chair Howard Dean in October 2006



Delegates of the 80-20 Initiative gather for a group photo at the presidential endorsement convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City, Calif.

promised to work with 80-20 to encourage Congress to hold a public hearing on the glass ceiling concerning Asian Americans in workplaces.

Congress later passed legislation "giving underserved Asian American students the same educational assistance long available to other minority groups — a historic first," 80-20 said.

In contrast, Republican presidential candidate Senator John McCain "neither replied to 80-20's questionnaire nor sent a representative to the convention."

"However, if Senator McCain picks Governor Bobby Jindal, R-La., an Asian American, as his (vice president), 80-20 will view it very helpful in winning equal opportunity for Asian Americans," the statement said. "In that event, this convention may reconvene."

## Indians, Pakistanis Favor Own Govt Kashmir Policies

WASHINGTON (PTI) — A majority of people in India and Pakistan endorse their respective governments' approach to finding a solution to the Kashmir problem, according to a recent survey.

Fifty-seven percent of Indians and 68 percent of Pakistanis approved of the way their respective governments were handling the issue, the poll released July 17 by WorldPublicOpinion.org showed.

Only minorities on either side

call for their government to take a harder or softer line on the Kashmir issue in its dealing with the other country.

In the survey, Indians and Pakistanis were asked to consider a range of possible outcomes for Kashmir issue and to say whether they found them desirable, acceptable, tolerable, or unacceptable.

Three-quarters of Pakistanis called an independent Kashmir a desirable or acceptable outcome. While 50 percent of Indians said

this idea is unacceptable, the other half said it was at least tolerable or did not provide an answer.

The idea of dividing Kashmir between Pakistan and India gets little support on either side.

On the issue of militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, a majority of Pakistanis believe their government does not provide support to them, while a majority of Indians say the Pakistani government is providing support to the militants there.

## India Blames World Bank, IMF For Food, Fuel Crisis

NEW YORK (PTI) — Firmly rejecting the contention that rising consumption in developing nations was responsible for the soaring food and fuel prices, India has blamed the policies of the World Bank and IMF and "excessive and unsustainable" demand in developed countries for its crisis.