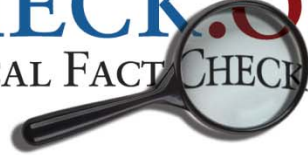




**FACTCHECK.ORG**  
ANNENBERG POLITICAL FACT CHECK



**JUST THE FACTS!**

**TITLE: "THE DEBATE FINALE"**

**EPISODE #: 41**

**HOST**

Welcome back to Just the Facts! The weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org. I'm Emi Kolawole and the candidates have come together for the last time, at Hofstra University. If only it marked the last time we would encounter false statements in politics. We continue to dream.

**VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

And we start with Sen. Obama:

**OBAMA**

And 100 percent, John, of your ads -- 100 percent of them have been negative.

**MCCAIN**

It's not true.

**OBAMA**

It absolutely is true.

**HOST**

Obama's right here, but only to a point. One hundred percent of the McCain-Palin campaign ads were deemed negative by the Wisconsin Advertising Project, but only for the week of Sept. 28 to Oct. 4. The same organization found that 34 percent of the Obama-Biden campaign ads were also negative. On the other hand, they also found that the Obama-Biden campaign had outspent the McCain-Palin campaign in nearly all competitive states, by, in some cases, margins as large as 3-to-1.

**VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

Next, we turn to Sen. McCain

## **MCCAIN**

Congressman John Lewis, an American hero, made allegations that Sarah Palin and I were somehow associated with the worst chapter in American history, segregation, deaths of children in church bombings, George Wallace. That, to me, was so hurtful. And, Sen. Obama, you didn't repudiate those remarks.

## **HOST**

It's true that John Lewis compared the atmosphere at McCain-Palin rallies to that at rallies held by George Wallace in the 1960s. But McCain is wrong to say that Obama did not repudiate the remarks. The Obama campaign released the following statement: "Senator Obama does not believe that John McCain or his policy criticism is in any way comparable to George Wallace or his segregationist policies. But John Lewis was right to condemn some of the hateful rhetoric that John McCain himself personally rebuked just last night."

## **VIDEO: SECOND PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

Next we turn to Joe the Plumber:

## **MCCAIN**

A couple days ago, Sen. Obama was out in Ohio and he had an encounter with a guy who's a plumber. 'Name is Joe Wurzelberger [ph]. And what you want to do to Joe the Plumber and millions more like him is have their taxes increased...

## **OBAMA**

Now, the conversation I had with Joe the plumber, what I essentially said to him was, "Five years ago, when you were in a position to buy your business, you needed a tax cut then."

## **MCCAIN**

You know, when Sen. Obama ended up his conversation with Joe the plumber -- we need to spread the wealth around. In other words, we're going to take Joe's money, give it to Sen. Obama, and let him spread the wealth around.

## **HOST**

The candidates are referring to an encounter between Obama and Joe Wurzelbacher in Toledo, Ohio. It went like this:

## **VIDEO: OBAMA IN TOLEDO**

## **OBAMA**

If you've got a plumbing business, you're gonna be better off if you're gonna be better off if you've got a whole bunch of customers who can afford to hire you, and right now

everybody's so pinched that business is bad for everybody and I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody.

...

But listen, I respect what you do and I respect your question, and even if I don't get your vote, I'm still gonna be working hard on your behalf, because small businesses are what creates jobs in this country and I want to encourage it.

#### **HOST**

It may be true Obama's tax plan would raise Mr. Wurzelbacher's taxes – *if* the plumbing company he plans to buy does very well. Some small business owners file their business taxes as individuals. If they do, those business owners whose income exceeds \$200,000 a year (or \$250,000 a year if they file as a couple) would see a taxes go up under Obama's plan. That means "Joe the Plumber" would see his taxes go up under a possible Obama administration, if he makes at least \$200,000 a year.

#### **VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

We leave Joe the Plumber and turn to this contradiction from Sen. Obama

#### **OBAMA**

What I've said is I want to provide a tax cut for 95 percent of working Americans, 95 percent.

#### **OBAMA**

And 95 percent of working families, 95 percent of you out there, will get a tax cut...

#### **HOST**

Obama's right when he says 95 percent of *families* would see a tax cut under his plan. The Urban Institute-Brookings Tax Policy Center found that, under Obama's plan, 95.5 percent of households *with children*, would see a tax cut. But Obama also said this:

#### **VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

#### **OBAMA**

...if you make less than a quarter million dollars a year, then you will not see your income tax go up, your capital gains tax go up, your payroll tax. Not one dime.

#### **HOST**

But that's only true for couples. Individuals would see a tax hike if they make more than \$200,000 a year.

And that's it for the this episode of Just the Facts! As before, you can see our live coverage of the debate on The Wire at [wire.factcheck.org](http://wire.factcheck.org) and the full story is available

for your reading pleasure on our website at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org). I'm Emi Kolawole, thanks for watching and see you next week.