

Comments on my September 2008 Newsletter Article: Our President's Personal Health Matters

I received about a hundred replies from readers on my assessment of the state of health of our presidential candidates, Obama and McCain. I very much appreciate the time you took to write me. Among the e-mails sent to me personally and the comments on my discussion board there was not single disagreement with any of the facts I presented or the calculations I made concerning the life expectancy and risk of disability for these two men. You might think that the clarity and accuracy of this newsletter article would have been universally appreciated. Guess again.

If I were to consider the responses representative of my readers, then I would have to conclude that very few people appreciated my input on the candidates' health, and that most of my readers thought I should have minded my own business—they seem to perceive "my business" to be restricted to food and maybe some non-contentious "doctor stuff."

In the past when I have written controversial newsletter articles, such as those on global warming, President Clinton's brain damage, and the cause of Tim Russert's death, I have also received many letters—and I have published these in the following month's newsletter. This time, however, I will not be publishing the responses because, with only a couple of exceptions, nothing meaningful was added to the topic of discussion—the candidates' health.

You should expect McDougall Newsletters to have a solid factual base, practical implications for your life, and to clearly reflect my opinions on a subject. An enthusiastic response from you, like this one, reinforces for me that I am doing my job well.

