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## **Presidential Candidates' Responses to Questions from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayors**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) issued a questionnaire to all United States Presidential Candidates in December 2007 to better understand their positions on key Great Lakes issues.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem is a source of drinking water, economic vitality, and recreational activity for more than 40 million people. Cities are on the front lines managing drinking water, investing in wastewater infrastructure, revitalizing waterfronts, restoring natural habitats, and working to ensure beaches are clean, safe and accessible. Because of this high level of local government commitment to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes, GLSLCI Mayors wanted to understand U.S. Presidential Candidates' positions on the resource and ensure that it was a priority.

In the questionnaire, GLSLCI Mayors questioned presidential candidates on their support of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, the agreement through which the Great Lakes States and Provinces cooperatively manage the waters of the Great Lakes, and legislation to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. The Strategy, developed in 2005 through the work of 1,500 Great Lakes stakeholders, is a comprehensive blueprint for restoring and protecting the resource and requires federal support and funding for implementation.

Of the original thirteen U.S. Presidential Candidates who received a Great Lakes questionnaire issued by GLSLCI, only Senator Barack Obama has responded. In a letter to Mayor Gary Becker of Racine, Chairman of GLSLCI, Senator Obama acknowledged the significant perspective of local governments by stating that "municipalities, as first responders, have an important role to play in the restoration of the Great Lakes."

To read the GLSLCI Presidential Questionnaire and Senator Obama's full response, please visit [www.glslcities.org/news.htm](http://www.glslcities.org/news.htm).

Founded in 2003 by Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, and joined by Mayor David Miller of Toronto, GLSLCI is a binational coalition of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, and provincial governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. The organization has over 50 members and an additional 50 participating cities from the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces.

### **For further information, contact:**

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*Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*