

Table T08-0144
McCain and Obama Estate Tax Proposals
Estate Tax Returns and Liability, 2009-18¹

	Calendar Year										2009-18 Total
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Current Law											
Number of Returns (thousands)	15.4	0.0	124.6	130.6	139.4	147.6	155.2	164.9	172.6	187.8	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	7.1	0.0	61.0	64.0	67.2	71.8	76.7	79.7	83.3	90.8	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	17.9	0.0	41.4	44.8	49.0	53.3	57.5	62.1	66.6	73.9	466.5
Senator McCain's Proposal ²											
Number of Returns (thousands)	8.8	9.5	10.2	11.1	12.2	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.5	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.5	5.8	6.3	7.0	7.6	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	4.2	4.5	4.9	5.3	5.9	6.4	7.0	7.5	8.2	9.1	62.9
Percent change in liability compared to current law	-76.8	n/a	-88.2	-88.1	-88.1	-88.0	-87.9	-87.9	-87.6	-87.7	-86.5
Senator Obama's Proposal ³											
Number of Returns (thousands)	15.4	16.2	17.4	19.2	21.2	23.2	25.2	27.6	29.0	32.4	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	7.1	7.8	8.3	8.7	9.7	10.6	12.1	13.3	14.2	15.7	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	17.9	19.4	21.1	22.9	25.0	27.3	29.7	32.1	34.9	38.5	268.7
Percent change in liability compared to current law	0.0	n/a	-49.1	-48.9	-49.0	-48.8	-48.4	-48.3	-47.6	-47.8	-42.4

Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0308-5)

(1) Values are for decedents dying in each calendar year. Change in estate tax liability is a static estimate that does not include behavioral response. Change does not include any effects on the gift tax or individual income tax.

(2) The estate tax exemption would be \$5 million and the estate tax rate would be 15 percent. The credit for state taxes would be permanently repealed and replaced with a deduction. The 5 percent surtax would be permanently repealed.

(3) The estate tax exemption would be \$3.5 million and the estate tax rate would be 45 percent. The credit for state taxes would be permanently repealed and replaced with a deduction. The 5 percent surtax would be permanently repealed.