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About Sarah Palin: A Letter From Anne Kilkenny

By [admin](#) on Sep 3, 2008 in [John McCain](#)

What follows is an open letter written by a resident of Wasilla, Alaska named Anne Kilkenny.

I am a resident of Wasilla, Alaska. I have known Sarah since 1992. Everyone here knows Sarah, so it is nothing special to say we are on a first-name basis. Our children have attended the same schools. Her father was my child's favorite substitute teacher. I also am on a first name basis with her parents and mother-in-law. I attended more City Council meetings during her administration than about 99% of the residents of the city.

She is enormously popular; in every way she's like the most popular girl in middle school. Even men who think she is a poor choice and won't vote for her can't quit smiling when talking about her because she is a "babe".

It is astonishing and almost scary how well she can keep a secret. She kept her most recent pregnancy a secret from her children and parents for seven months. She is "pro-life". She recently gave birth to a Down's syndrome baby. There is no cover-up involved, here; Trig is her baby. She is energetic and hardworking. She regularly worked out at the gym.

She is savvy. She doesn't take positions; she just "puts things out there" and if they prove to be popular, then she takes credit. Her husband works a union job on the North Slope for BP and is a champion snowmobile racer. Todd Palin's kind of job is highly sought-after because of the schedule and high pay. He arranges his work schedule so he can fish for salmon in Bristol Bay for a month or so in summer, but by no stretch of the imagination is fishing their major source of income. Nor has her life-style ever been anything like that of native Alaskans. Sarah and her whole family are avid hunters. She's smart.

Her experience is as mayor of a city with a population of about 5,000 (at the time), and less than 2 years as governor of a state with about 670,000 residents. During her mayoral administration most of the actual work of running this small city was turned over to an administrator. She had been pushed to hire this administrator by party power-brokers after she had gotten herself into some trouble over precipitous firings which had given rise to a recall campaign.

Sarah campaigned in Wasilla as a "fiscal conservative". During her 6 years as Mayor, she increased general government expenditures by over 33%. During those same 6 years the amount of taxes collected by the City increased by 38%. This was during a period of low inflation (1996-2002). She reduced progressive property taxes and increased a regressive sales tax which taxed even food. The tax cuts that she promoted benefited large corporate property owners way more than they benefited residents.

The huge increases in tax revenues during her mayoral administration weren't enough to fund everything on her wish list though, borrowed money was needed, too. She inherited a city with zero debt, but left it with indebtedness of over \$22 million. What did Mayor Palin encourage the voters to borrow money for? Was it the infrastructure that she said she supported? The sewage treatment plant that the city lacked? or a new library? No. \$1m for a park. \$15m-plus for construction of a multi-use sports complex which she rushed through to build on a piece of property that the City didn't even have clear title to, that was still in litigation 7 yrs later--to the delight of the lawyers involved! The sports complex itself is a nice addition to the community but a huge money pit, not the profit-generator she claimed it would be. She also supported bonds for \$5.5m for road projects that could have been done in 5-7 yrs without any borrowing.

While Mayor, City Hall was extensively remodeled and her office redecorated more than once. These are small numbers, but Wasilla is a very small city. As an oil producer, the high price of oil has created a budget surplus in Alaska. Rather than invest this surplus in technology that will make us energy independent and increase efficiency, as Governor she proposed distribution of this surplus to every individual in the state.

In this time of record state revenues and budget surpluses, she recommended that the state borrow/bond for road projects, even while she proposed distribution of surplus state revenues: spend today's surplus, borrow for needs.

She's not very tolerant of divergent opinions or open to outside ideas or compromise. As Mayor, she fought ideas that weren't generated by her or her staff. Ideas weren't evaluated on their merits, but on the basis of who proposed them.

While Sarah was Mayor of Wasilla she tried to fire our highly respected City Librarian because the Librarian refused to consider removing from the library some books that Sarah wanted removed. City residents rallied to the defense of the City Librarian and against Palin's attempt at out-and-out censorship, so Palin backed down and withdrew her termination letter. People who fought her attempt to oust the Librarian are on her enemies list to this day.

Sarah complained about the "old boy's club" when she first ran for Mayor, so what did she bring Wasilla? A new set of "old boys". Palin fired most of the experienced staff she inherited. At the City and as Governor she hired or elevated new, inexperienced, obscure people, creating a staff totally dependent on her for their jobs and eternally grateful and fiercely loyal—loyal to the point of abusing their power to further her personal agenda, as she has acknowledged happened in the case of pressuring the State's top cop (see below).

As Mayor, Sarah fired Wasilla's Police Chief because he "intimidated" her, she told the press. As Governor, her recent firing of Alaska's top cop has the ring of familiarity about it. He served at her pleasure and she had every legal right to fire him, but it's pretty clear that an important factor in her decision to fire him was because he wouldn't fire her sister's ex-husband, a State Trooper. Under investigation for abuse of power, she has had to admit that more than 2 dozen contacts were made between her staff and family to the person that she later fired, pressuring him to fire her ex-brother-in-law. She tried to replace the man she fired with a man who she knew had been reprimanded for sexual harassment; when this caused a public furor, she withdrew her support.

She has bitten the hand of every person who extended theirs to her in help. The City Council person who personally escorted her around town introducing her to voters when she first ran for Wasilla City Council became one of her first targets when she was later elected Mayor. She abruptly fired her loyal City Administrator; even people who didn't like the guy were stunned by this ruthlessness.

Fear of retribution has kept all of these people from saying anything publicly about her.

When then-Governor Murkowski was handing out political plums, Sarah got the best, Chair of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission: one of the few jobs not in Juneau and one of the best paid. She had no background in oil & gas issues. Within months of scoring this great job which paid \$122,400/yr, she was complaining in the press about the high salary. I was told that she hated that job: the commute, the structured hours, the work. Sarah became aware that a member of this Commission (who was also the State Chair of the Republican Party) engaged in unethical behavior on the job.

In a gutsy move which some undoubtedly cautioned her could be political suicide, Sarah solved all her problems in one fell swoop: got out of the job she hated and garnered gobs of media attention as the patron saint of ethics and as a gutsy fighter against the "old boys' club" when she dramatically quit, exposing this man's ethics violations (for which he was fined).

As Mayor, she had her hand stuck out as far as anyone for pork from Senator Ted Stevens. Lately, she has castigated his pork-barrel politics and publicly humiliated him. She only opposed the "bridge to nowhere" after it became clear that it would be unwise not to.

As Governor, she gave the Legislature no direction and budget guidelines, then made a big grandstand display of line-item vetoing projects, calling them pork. Public outcry and further legislative action restored most of these projects—which had been vetoed simply because she was not aware of their importance—but with the unobservant she had gained a reputation as "anti-pork".

She is solidly Republican: no political maverick. The State party leaders hate her because she has bit them in the back and humiliated them. Other members of the party object to her self-description as a fiscal conservative.

Around Wasilla there are people who went to high school with Sarah.

They call her "Sarah Barracuda" because of her unbridled ambition and predatory ruthlessness. Before she became so powerful, very ugly stories circulated around town about shenanigans she pulled to be made point guard on the high school basketball team. When Sarah's mother-in-law, a highly respected member of the community and experienced manager, ran for Mayor, Sarah refused to endorse her.

As Governor, she stepped outside of the box and put together a package of legislation known as "AGIA" that forced the oil companies to march to the beat of her drum.

Like most Alaskans, she favors drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She has questioned if the loss of sea ice is linked to global warming. She campaigned "as a private citizen" against a state initiative that would have either a) protected salmon streams from pollution from mines, or b) tied up in the courts all mining in the state (depending on who you listen to). She has

pushed the State's lawsuit against the Dept. of the Interior's decision to list polar bears as threatened species.

McCain is the oldest person to ever run for President; Sarah will be a heartbeat away from being President. There has to be literally millions of Americans who are more knowledgeable and experienced than she. However, there's a lot of people who have underestimated her and are regretting it.

CLAIM VS FACT

- “Hockey mom”: true for a few years
- “PTA mom”: true years ago when her first-born was in elementary school, not since
- “NRA supporter”: absolutely true
- social conservative: mixed. Opposes gay marriage, BUT vetoed a bill that would have denied benefits to employees in same-sex relationships (said she did this because it was unconstitutional).
- pro-creationism: mixed. Supports it, BUT did nothing as Governor to promote it.
- “Pro-life”: mixed. Knowingly gave birth to a Down's syndrome baby BUT declined to call a special legislative session on some pro-life legislation
- “Experienced”: Some high schools have more students than Wasilla has residents. Many cities have more residents than the state of Alaska. No legislative experience other than City Council. Little hands-on supervisory or managerial experience; needed help of a city administrator to run town of about 5,000.
- political maverick: not at all
- gutsy: absolutely!
- open & transparent: ??? Good at keeping secrets. Not good at explaining actions.
- has a developed philosophy of public policy: no
- “a Greenie”: no. Turned Wasilla into a wasteland of big box stores and disconnected parking lots. Is pro-drilling off-shore and in ANWR.
- fiscal conservative: not by my definition!
- pro-infrastructure: No. Promoted a sports complex and park in a city without a sewage treatment plant or storm drainage system. Built streets to early 20th century standards.
- pro-tax relief: Lowered taxes for businesses, increased tax burden on residents
- pro-small government: No. Oversaw greatest expansion of city government in Wasilla's history.
- pro-labor/pro-union. No. Just because her husband works union doesn't make her pro-labor. I have seen nothing to support any claim that she is pro-labor/pro-union.

WHY AM I WRITING THIS?

First, I have long believed in the importance of being an informed voter. I am a voter registrar. For 10 years I put on student voting programs in the schools. If you google my name (Anne Kilkenny + Alaska), you will find references to my participation in local government, education, and PTA/parent organizations.

Secondly, I've always operated in the belief that “Bad things happen when good people stay silent”. Few people know as much as I do because few have gone to as many City Council meetings.

Third, I am just a housewife. I don't have a job she can bump me out of. I don't belong to any organization that she can hurt. But, I am no fool; she is immensely popular here, and it is likely that this will cost me somehow in the future: that's life.

Fourth, she has hated me since back in 1996, when I was one of the 100 or so people who rallied to support the City Librarian against Sarah's attempt at censorship.

Fifth, I looked around and realized that everybody else was afraid to say anything because they were somehow vulnerable.

CAVEATS

I am not a statistician. I developed the numbers for the increase in spending & taxation 2 years ago (when Palin was running for Governor) from information supplied to me by the Finance Director of the City of Wasilla, and I can't recall exactly what I adjusted for: did I adjust for inflation? for population increases? Right now, it is impossible for a private person to get any info out of City Hall—they are swamped. So I can't verify my numbers.

You may have noticed that there are various numbers circulating for the population of Wasilla, ranging from my “about 5,000”, up to 9,000. The day Palin's selection was announced a city official told me that the current population is about 7,000. The official 2000 census count was 5,460. I have used about 5,000 because Palin was Mayor from 1996 to 2002, and the city was growing rapidly in the mid-90's.

[2008, Sarah Palin, Vice President](#)

McCain-Palin in 2008

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[e of a flat stomach:](#)

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740 Comment(s)

1. Wow! This is an excellent post and I'm thrilled I found it. I was searching for the job description of Wasilla because saying one has executive experience doesn't tell me much.

Can you tell me if she was paid when she was on the council or was it a non-paid, part-time type of position? Same goes for her position as Mayor. Was this a full-time, paid job?

I live in a city of 60,000 and our mayor is nonpaid and part-time (he holds a full-time paid job) because our City Manager does all the day-to-day managing.

And have the press talked to you yet? This is really important information and needs to be heard far and wide.

You did a great job!!!

[gyma](#) | [Sep 3, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

2. This is scary stuff...

[Nick](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

3. Commendable and brave. Thanks much for sharing your perspective.

[Hilary Baxter](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

4. Thank you, Anne, for speaking up. I really want our country to get back to being known as an example of integrity and compassion. We need leaders who truly embody this rather than simply say they do!

[Concerned Citizen](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

5. I wouldn't want this person as a friend!

[Brenda](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

6. wow, good to know. what a snake.

[Max](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

7. Keep up the good work.. I was a register democrat for Hilary Clinton that change his party affiliation to independent. Thanks to you and the unfair media I will vote for McCain/Palin. Again thank you for making decision easier.

[Jose Rivera](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

8. Thank you for posting this. I am very wary of Palin - very. But you've given me a start - I'm going to check all this out.

[Elizabeth Kapoor](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

9. Nice Internet hoax...!!

[Cappy Farbstein](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

10. Bravo for putting this out there. As the microscope of national politics turns to Alaska, I salute anyone with knowledge and experience and perspective on Sarah Palin, pro or con, who speaks up. This Pennsylvanian is proud of you.

Craig | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

11. as the cult of personality is rapidly forming around palin, and they are an evangelical and easily misled group, I don't know how damning this can be, damning as though is. I sincerely doubt mccain's vetting team knew this much going in. still, I hope enough people process this information, and act accordingly. thanks anne, for acting on your convictions...

david | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

12. Wow... thank you so much for the truly inside scoop. When I see her on stage I can see how all of these things are true. God bless us people. The wool has been pulled over our eyes for so long with these pols and we often can't find the truth even when we try.
Wolves in sheep's clothing is all we seem to get. Truth is so often now twisted with lies that to discern between the two gets complicated.
Don't be afraid to ask questions. True freedom comes from knowing, and not just believing.
Thanks for Anne Kilkenny's testimony!

T Fiero | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

13. Please send this letter to every media outlet. This stuff really needs to be exposed. The hypocrisy floating around these days is painful. Good luck and cheers!!

Lisa Seattle... | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

14. Excellent post--thank you for putting yourself "out there" to inform the public. I hope lots of people read this!

Sheila Baston | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

15. From the letter: Right now, it is impossible for a private person to get any info out of City Hall--they are swamped. So I can't verify my numbers.

This letter was posted here on Sept. 3. McCain announced Palin as his running mate on Friday, Aug. 29. Anne Kilkenny said that City Hall was swamped so she couldn't get any info. In our city, City Hall closed on Friday, Aug. 29 at 4:00 PM and re-opened Tues. Sept. 2. That was a long holiday weekend. Does anyone know if City Hall in Wasilla was open that weekend and was swamped?

JasonP | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

16. Uuuurrrghhh. Thanks for that post.

alakazarm | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

17. What a candid, honest message. I appreciate your bravery and your opinions and your facts. What was McCain THINKING? I tell you what..It ALL boils down to oil....Seriously. Same as Bush starting the war in the Middle East. OIL OIL OIL.
I hope Sara reads this. And I hope she has the grace to accept it. Because if she becomes VP...It will get WAY worse than this and she can't badger a country like she has one state.

April - In Georgia | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

18. Thank you. Can you tell me if it's true, that although she speaks of being an advocate for special needs children, that she actually cut the state budget in support of early interventions and special education for these same children? It bothers me that she would be misleading,so I would like to know if that is actually factual.

Cheryl | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

19. I'm picking up on some small town jealousy here.

Herald | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

20. Someone forwarded Anne's letter to me this morning. Much of it may be true; maybe very little of it is true. I/we have no way of knowing. The mainstream media seems to be more focused on the uterus of Ms. Palin's 17-year-old daughter.

When Ms. McKinney uses the term 'unbridled ambition and predatory ruthlessness' to describe Ms. Palin, to me the motivation for her writing this letter is called into question. She appears to be very bitter and very vindictive.

I'm glad I'm not one of Anne's 'friends'(!)

John Cannon | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

21. After seeing Sarah Palin's nasty vindictive speech last night I have no doubt that everything Anne says in this letter is true.

Sarah Palin is not someone who can be trusted.

[admin](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

22. The female Dick Cheney, that ticket is really more of the same. Thank you, Anne, for your honest and accurate description of Caribou Barbie, it certainly is consistent with everything we have seen in public.

Patrick | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

23. I am also from Alaska. Everything Ms. Kilkenny says is true. My uncle lived in Wasilla for thirty years and he always said "She was the worst mayor we ever had and we've had a lot of bad ones." Her speech last night was filled with misleading statements about her record. She claims that under her leadership Alaska began building a forty billion dollar gas pipeline. No building has begun. At Palin's request the legislature gave a CANADIAN company \$500 million as an incentive to someday build a pipeline. There is no contract to build and other companies are also trying to build a pipeline on their own. She also claims she told the federal govt. thanks but not thanks on the bridge to nowhere. Not true. She took the money from the feds but just didn't use it for the bridge after the bridge became unpopular. Before it became unpopular she was for it.

Concerned Alaskan | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

24. Before you dismiss this, check it out. Smart people know that if something is "too good to be true" it usually isn't. Same goes for vice presidential candidates.

P Irving | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

25. John McCain says, and every red neck knows, "A woman's place is in the home, barefoot, pregnant and chained to a kitchen sink" - It's the American way! let the ice caps melt, let Darfur starve, let the oil run out, let the yellow hordes have my job, let the wars rage on, let inflation starve me out, let deflation choke my wallet, let OPEC ream my ass, let Wall street steal my mortgage, let Bin Laden run free, let Iraq prosper while we go in debt, let gas go to \$12.00 a gallon, let The Big Three build super cars, let the stock market fall, let the Euro soar, But don't touch my 'sacred cow' let the American sexpots we love stay as they are, over-indulged, ignorant, large-breasted sex machines, at home at the sink, and ready to do service for me! Go! Palin Girls Go!

Uncle B | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

26. Anne,

What did this woman do to you? Talk about backstabbing. If this is true than I think you should reflect upon yourself...one of the most unethical posts I have ever read. Why do women treat each other like this? I commercial fished in Alaska for several years and cannot imagine a fellow Alaskan would stoop so low.

Scott | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

27. Thank you so much for your informative perspective. Personally, after years of teaching children to read, selecting books for many new school libraries and fighting for Intellectual Freedom, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SPREAD THE TRUTH ABOUT SARAH PALIN. Alice Belous

[Allie Belous](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

28. As an Alaskan resident I can tell you this: Sarah did not become an enthusiastic advocate for high-needs and early

intervention until she was given the news of her newest addition Trig (whom she conceived after the age of 40).

Misty Nelson | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

29. So you are voting for McCain out of spite? That is extremely irresponsible of you. You should not vote unless you will base your vote on the issue as well as a candidates ability.

MY1111 | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

30. As a lifelong Alaskan, I can say that the letter released by Anne Kilkenney is quite honest and factual. As would occur with any letter of this nature- people who do not know for a fact that this information is true will surely slam Anne for sounding bitter and vindictive. But guess what? Someone HAS to speak the truth and Alaska is a small, small state where we all know one another. It is also true that people do not want their boldness to come back around and bite them in the butt because this woman has got power and authority. Need I explain why I am not signing my name to this?

Long-time Alaskan | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

31. Please note the previous comment was in response to: Jose Rivera | Sep 4, 2008 | Reply

MY1111 | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

32. I support this open letter. In fact, I approve it.

sikanrong | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

33. Just because someone (we really don't know who) posts something on a blog doesn't mean it is true! look at the "stuff" published by US magazine and the National Enquirer. Don't be easily taken in by "stuff" like this.

Ron Wigton | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

34. The evil forces that underpin the right wing of the Republican party are trying to sell out the country in the name politics/greed. A Palin presidency would be the beginning of a national nightmare and a global disaster. Thanks, Anne, for the info.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant.

Darryl Warren | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

35. Mc'Goo found its Artic-frozen nemesis.
Now he'll need more than luck; after all, a plane, or two, or three lost, who knows in fact how many, is just a few million dollars worth local savings.
However, finding a damsel-in-wait out of the dark stinking room of politics is something else. In time it may sink the Titanic.
Oops...
The question still is, how long can he fool people with his eternal bush yo-yo militarist nonsense smoke-screen jingo?

JERY FRANCOLO | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

36. Suspicion confirmed, but still many times more intelligent than President Bush.

Scott Mabusth Sr. | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

37. When push comes to shove, people will see McCain is an old man and realise that this moose-loving political novice is a heartbeat away from becoming President. It will play out in Obama's favor.

Phil | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

38. Sour grapes? Woman scorned? Green Monster? Hoax? whatever, the writer of this diatribe seems to be a very very narrow person (speaker for an attack-pack?) and has all the contempt from me she deserves.

Shame on you!

ruth klein | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

39. Everything this brave woman says rings true after hearing this person's speech at the Republican convention. She's a ruthless liar/opportunist that has taken advantage of a small conservative isolated population of a state that has less people than most cities in the US and I might add nothing in common with mainstream America. Because she's a heart beat away from the oval office we must do everything we can to prevent our country from falling into her grimy hands.

chris Dugan | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

40. Sounds like you've watched and been jealous of Sarah for a while...probably from before you picketed against her. How she became point guard in high school? This is truly scandalous stuff

mandy | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

41. Kilkenny or whatever your name is: Just because she is smarter, prettier and more competent than you doesn't mean that she is not ready for the job. She was elected by the people. It is obviously that the people like her, but in every city there is a small bunch of idiots who are never satisfied with anything unless it is not their way. Usually such people sit in the Democratic Party. Just look at Do-Nothing Congress and Obama. Talk, talk, talk. Where is action???

John Kreutzer | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

42. Thanks for the posting. The veiled threats are part of the Republican techniques. If her inexperience is tough to swallow, look at the present President and Vice President--no experience required. After eight years of lies, refusal to allow public information to reach the public, "they" are yelling about the press corps behaviors regarding the Republican VP nominee. What Anne says is like nasty girls and guys the world over.

P F Horn | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

43. Glad I am not a 'friend' of Anne's!! I too smell the ugly green monster...JEALOUSY.

McCain/Palin 2008!!!

shannon | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

44. some one is obviously jellois...so she is a babe... smart... witty.. popular.... and you probably have hated her sense middle school... give it up.

dee | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

45. I am mostly concerned about Palin's antichoice record. She wants to outlaw abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the mother. She would like to impose her evangelical views on the entire country, including teaching creationism (intelligent design) along with evolution. I don't think this country needs to take any more steps backwards.

jean | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

46. This is a sour grapes letter. I would love to know the real story about Anne Killkenny. Letters like this are written only to hurt or discredit someone. Carefully crafted scenarios that describe her success but framed in a negative light. I read it in detail and I am sure every point mentioned could be presented very differently. I really do not know Sarah Palin but at this point she is demonstrating she has what it takes to fight through the crap and get the focus back on the country and the issues at hand. I do know more about Biden. 35 five years in Washington with no other experience to speak of and no significant accomplishments. Long winded and shallow. Sarah has had positions of accountability. Biden could not handle them and has never been in the position to demonstrate his ability in that situation. He did not want to be asked to be VP but said he would do it if asked. His quote. The Democrats spoke when he was not their candidate obviously they would not want to see him as President either. Ann Kilkenny needs to get on with her life. She is a loser. Biden expected a detailed analysis of "her" plan for the country in her speech. She is 5 days into this thing. If she did have some sort of detailed plan, it would be very suspect. Very typical from the left.

A. M. Grotto | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

47. That really makes people think... hmm... you are a lying turd.

bill | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

48. Thank you for your intelligent and insightful post. This woman is no more qualified to be vice president than my poodle. For the GOP to even insinuate that she will garner Hillary's voters is just nonsensical. Women won't vote for her just because she is a woman; she clearly doesn't have women's issues in mind (except for her own ambition). To compare her experience with either Joe Biden or Barack is really laughable.

It seems like the entire republican party has a serious case of the "emperor's new clothes" going on; they are so energetically finding ways to defend her that they haven't realize all she has is her (to borrow from Maureen O Dowd) go go boots.

Celia

[celia milton](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

49. My comment was about jose who says he will vote for mccain. he is a baiter. shouldnt have bothered. hes off making comments on hello kitty blogs about the gay agenda

[bill](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

50. john kreutzer, get a clue. first you have no idea what anne looks like so you are the worst kind of sexist. i don't need a president to be pretty - i need them to be competent, fair and truthful. this woman palin openly misleads her own party faithful ('obama will raise your taxes') - unless that room was full of people who make over 250K a year, that is an outright LIE. she is dangerous and needs to be stopped. the new karl rove indeed. i wish they would make it an actual offence to deliberately mislead or misinform the public. people don't have time to factcheck every statement and they shouldn't have to.

[suzanne](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

51. ann you rock, love the article 😊

I hope you enjoy reading this Sarah.

[Kelly](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

52. As usual, when someone dares to tell truths which contradict the storyline the GOP would have us believe, the right-wing hit squad turns out to try to shout the person down. You can identify them by their constant attacks on the messenger and their consistent lack of a rebuttal to the message.

"Bitter" "Vindictive" "Backstabbing" "Sour Grapes" "Jealous" This from the people who call the media's investigating a largely-unknown politician who has suddenly been thrust into the national stage "unfair" and "sexist".

Meanwhile none of these people, even the ones who claim to be Alaskan, offer a single word of dispute that isn't petty name-calling. None of them offer a single contrary example or piece of evidence to bolster their attacks. These are exactly the people who need to be marginalized from American politics. We can't let their kind of 'debate' continue to poison our national discourse.

[Nathan Perry](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

53. Thanks so much for doing this! I love it when people care about things.

[Deana](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

54. Thank you for your careful documentation. This is all very interesting material and I appreciate the candor.

And to those who doubt the authenticity of the letter—Palin is still a terrible potential president. She has little to no experience in national issues and little to no experience in international issues.

Can anybody honestly tell me they trust the future of our country to a woman most of us just heard about for the first time a week ago?

[Sam](#) | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

55. Wow,

I believe in freedom of speech, so cheers. Your letter would have had more impact had you left out some of your personal feelings.

“She is enormously popular; in every way she’s like the most popular girl in middle school. Even men who think she is a poor choice and won’t vote for her can’t quit smiling when talking about her because she is a “babe”.”

It reminds me of the nasty stuff that was going around about Obama not singing the national anthem.

From a swing voter.

Cricket

Cricket Kapp | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

56. Whoa! It sounds like a Democratic operative with quite an agenda here! If this woman is as evil as you say, why do Alaska citizens give her an 80% approval rating? (That’s the highest for any governor in the country and FAR higher than the do-nothing windbag Democratic Congress that currently enjoys the LOWEST approval rating in U.S. history.)

Ms. Kilkenney, let’s hear what you have to say about the liars (Bill Clinton and John Kerry) who looked you and me in the eye and lied through their teeth to the entire country!!

Mike | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

57. Dear Anne Kilkenney (if that IS your real name). I don’t agree with you, therefore, you must be a) ugly b) jealous c) a liar d) unethical e) a rotten human being and sell out to the beautiful state of Alaska (where you’ve probably never even been because you’re writing this from your lesbian apartment in San Francisco). Sorry, Anne, I don’t mean any of this, I just enjoy aspiring to be one of the deep and thoughtful commentators engaging in this discussion. Thanks for sharing your experiences. Hope Sarah doesn’t have you fed to a grizzly. Good luck!

CR | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

58. Was this written by a jealous classmate? Is she the only person that knows this stuff? Poorly written. Do you really believe this? Point guard in HS? What does that have anything to do with the VP position?

CLAIM VS FACT

- “Hockey mom”: true for a few years so?
- “PTA mom”: true years ago when her first-born was in elementary school, not since So? Were you active in PTA when you had no children in school?
- “NRA supporter”: absolutely true Great and correct.
- social conservative: mixed. Opposes gay marriage, BUT vetoed a bill that would have denied benefits to employees in same-sex relationships (said she did this because it was unconstitutional). This does not deserve “mixed” Conservatives are against gay marriages
- pro-creationism: mixed. Supports it, BUT did nothing as Governor to promote it. When did she have a chance?
- “Pro-life”: mixed. ? Knowingly gave birth to a Down’s syndrome baby BUT declined to call a special legislative session on some what? pro-life legislation Which ones were those? How much do want?
- “Experienced”: Some high schools have more students than Wasilla has residents. Many don’t. many cities have more residents than the state of Alaska. So? Should the size of a city where someone come from have any thing to do with thier competence? No legislative experience other than City Council. Little hands-on supervisory or managerial experience; needed help of a city administrator to run town of about 5,000. Good managers always look to people to help in any job, It shows good leadership.
- political maverick: not at all. I beg to differ.
- gutsy: absolutely!
- open & transparent: ??? Good at keeping secrets. Not good at explaining actions. Where do you get this? Document please.
- has a developed philosophy of public policy: no Whose answer is this?
- “a Greenie”: no. Turned Wasilla into a wasteland of big box stores and disconnected parking lots. Like Illinois? Or Lima? Is pro-drilling off-shore and in ANWR. Thank God!
- fiscal conservative: not by my definition! I don’t care about your definition! She lowered taxes in AK!
- pro-infrastructure: No. Promoted a sports complex and park in a city without a sewage treatment plant or storm drainage system. Built streets to early 20th century standards. Do you even know what “pro-infrastructure” means?
- pro-tax relief: Lowered taxes for businesses, increased tax burden on residents
- pro-small government: No. Oversaw greatest expansion of city government in Wasilla’s history. If she did, don’t you

think that it was because they were growing? from 5000 to 9000 as you have mentioned above?

•pro-labor/pro-union. No. Just because her husband works union doesn't make her pro-labor. I have seen nothing to support any claim that she is pro-labor/pro-union. Either have I. Thank you.

Norman D Wick | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

59. Thanks Jose for your comment, I'm also undecided but after reading about Mrs Palin and her lack of ethics. I'm voting for Mr. Obama.

Penny | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

60. If you read articles about palin yopu would realize these things are actually true.
Ive read on many occasions about the attempt to fire or have someone fire the state trooper her ex-in law, why out of spite, her own husband dont know if you read about that but didnt want Alaska to be part of the USA, why power trip,Palin just want control and quite seriously I would be frightened to have her as VP or in control of anything.

DB brown | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

61. Good heavens people! Are you seriously going to take one woman's letter as truth because she simply said "this is so". I have had so many jealous high school girls in my past who STILL, 21 years later, still have not gotten past their grudges for me because I was popular, athletic, or dated one of their boyfriends at one point in my high school career. It is so silly. You can't make an important decision people just by reading some strangers letter once and assuming she is telling you the truth. Aren't you people smarter than that? Do your own research folks before you make a decision so quickly. How would you like to be so quickly and easily judged so negatively like you are all doing to Sarah Palin right now. Rumors and hearsay people.....rumors and hearsay do not help the world a better place.

Michigan Mom | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

62. Wow ... what a jealous little housewife. Some people are working because of her actions ... sorry if you didn't get your way "back then". People grow and evolve ... jump on the train!

Coe | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

63. Thanks for stepping up and setting the facts straight. Obviously, this information will never make it to our TV screens.

Ms. Palin and her "family values" need to be sent packing, along with John McSame and the rest of the neo-cons.

E Wilcox | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

64. This is letter is needed in that it helps for there to be transparency for both major party candidates.

People have been attacking Barack Obama ("he's an elitist, he's a snob," et cetera) and lauding him. People have done the same to John McCain.

Let both the good and bad of both parties' candidates and their vice presidential running mates be clearly communicated, and then we as a republic can decide who we want for President and VP.

Mark Delgado | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

65. Bitter bitter woman you are anne.
things didn't quite go your way did they. typical bitchy,bitchy.
you and your MoveOn talking points won't work,and of course the NYTimes picks it up.
you are a waste of good clean alaskan air.
you believe V.P. Palin should have just killed the child because it wasn't going to be perfect,like your disfunctional spawn.
sad,cold,bitter,bag!

ediemeout | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

66. No one knows if this person is who she says she is.

Andrew | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

67. John Kreutzer,

John McSame has been in congress for 25 years. If this guy was truly a leader, rather than a skirt chaser, maybe Washington would look different today.

The RNC was 1. Reagan, 2.9/11 - be afraid, 3. POW, 4. Obama's not qualified. Same message from every speaker. Funny how they failed to mention the last 8 years of the man McCain has voted with 90% of the time.

jemandc | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

68. Absolutely amazing piece which falls apart with little to no research:

1) Anne Kilkenny is a staunch Obama supporter and has a strong prejudice against the Republicans

2) Sarah Palin's popularity as governor of Alaska is amazingly high - something which would not be true if any of the comments by Anne Kilkenny were actually accurate.

People need to research the truth to find it and not assume something. Perhaps that is the difference between someone who will vote for McCain (seek the truth) and someone who will vote for Obama (swallow whatever they are fed).

Enough said...

Jim | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

69. Can you tell me what "pin" that Palin and her husband wear on their lapels? It certainly is not the american flag.

kay | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

70. I see nothing but demonization going on here. This post is rife with personal vendetta, and Anne has shown herself not to be brave, but to be vindictive. If Anne had been even a bit reasonable and self-restrained in her vitriol, I might have believed her, and this post would have been sent on to others, like myself, who are endeavoring to make an informed decision. This is so "off the charts" it would be irresponsible for me to share it.

Sarah Palin is no more the Wicked Witch of the Northwest than O'bama is the New Messiah, and supporters of each would be wise to temper your tantrums. As an undecided voter I have watched both conventions. O'bama was just as cutting to McCain a week ago as Palin was to O'bama last night. That is how a political convention works. Get over yourselves, give us believable substance, and quit trying to whitewash a smear campaign.

J K Huggins | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

71. While it is always good to hear another side, I will continue to research. For those who mention how easially republicans are mislead, I would ask you to recognize that this is one opinion. No one in the conservative base has ANY issues with her ethics, integrity or experience brought into question. But it makes you wonder, when the media and the opposing party has to resort to petty attacks and unsubstantiated claims, how with the resources they have, they miss something as significant as this? The more information the better, but an 80+ approval rating? Hmmm I appreciate the fact that you stay at home, but maybe you need another hobby?

Amy | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

72. Since Anne Kilkenny is quoted in the New York Times article on Palin on Sept 2, I would say that it probably is not an internet hoax, although I admit it looked like one at first glance. It feels real — these are exactly the sorts of things that folks in small towns know about each other. Obviously she's no great admirer of Palin, but it does seem to be an attempt to be fair and even-handed.

tanya | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

73. This is a very well written article. That is all I can say about it. This lacks any evidence. You have failed to display any backing to verify what you have said. You can easily say, "Well, look it up if you don't believe me." You know very well people won't look up all the stats you put up.

I see especially notice the claims vs. fact section. To me, it looks like a claims vs. claims section. You need to back up what you are saying. In my book, this would get an F+, but an F+ is still failing.

This article is strictly for the people who don't want to believe what is right and want to hear what they want to hear.

Some where | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

74. It's pretty pathetic that this Anne Kilkenny thought she had to tell the world what a "bad person" Sarah Palin is, especially after Palin's terrific speech. Kilkenny seems to be a true Democrat who wants to fall all over themselves trying to find fault with somebody who would be good for this country in order to make their useless candidate appear electable.

Carolyn Bourdeau | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

75. The above comment was in response to the earlier accusation of 'internet hoax'

tanya | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

76. thank you so much for this information! thank you for not keeping silent about this!

teri tomizawa | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

77. Thank you for writing this, and more importantly for taking a such a risk in sharing it.

Cindy | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

78. The letter seems real enough, based on a bit of investigation, but only in the sense that Anne Kilkenny is really a Wasilla resident and really wrote it. The content of this letter is a bunch of disjointed irrelevance and bad-sounding assertions without meaningful context. Taxes went up by around a third, it seems, under her administration. Bad, right? Wrong. Population went up by a helluvalot more. So of course tax revenues went up, and that's a good thing.

The idea that it's somehow revealing that a commercial fisherman on the bearing sea doesn't fish full time is starkly absurd. It's a damn near lethal occupation, very expensive to support (fishing vessels burn tens of thousands of gallons of gas on any given trip, to give one obvious example) so in many instances it only pays to go after high value catches, such as crab. Crab has a limited season, enforced by the feds.

The fact that she fired a police chief for intimidation is another good thing. He tried to bully the mayor, and the mayor canned his ass, as she should.

The stuff about firing the top trooper for failure to fire her ex-brother in law is a distortion of facts—mostly by leaving out most of them. The investigation confirmed that the guy should have been fired for among other things, using a Taser on his young son, hunting illegally despite being a police officer and drinking beer in his police cruiser.

She fired a city administrator, after a counselman—evidently someone else—"showed her [Palin] around town." That doesn't even make any sense. A total non sequitur. And in any event, we are not given any hint of what the admisitrator did or failed to do.

We do know the admitted fact that she's enourmously popular. How could that be if she's a backstabbing dirtbag, unless of course she's stabbing people who desperately deserve it.

Oh, now I see. This is a personal pissing match. "Sarah hates me," she says. What bunch of drivels.

Kim | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

79. The tactics she has used in the past are the same tactics used by the Rove machine—attack dog. I guess her description of herself in right on—a pitbull with lipstick. What the country needs now is a party and leaders that can go beyond the attacks and come together as a nation. The republicans only know one method and that is the selfish, greeding, lying, tactics that have been successful in the past. Attack the individuals with hate remarks and blame them for everything wrong in the country. The Nazi party did it in Germany with many cheering on the hate mongers with success. Let's us learn from past history or even recent history of George W. Bush. Speak up before it is to late.

Carlos Ramirez | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

80. You know it's easy to tell one side of a story. There are people I went to High School with that carried grudges against the well liked people and would do or say anthing against them. Just because someone says something like the above doesn't make it true.

acs | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

81. Another lifelong Alaska here; this letter is completely true. Sarah Palin never thought she'd be in this position so she didn't bury the bodies well.

She has a lot of enemies in Alaska - not so much elsewhere - but the dirt on this woman is astounding.

I am a woman, and I always promised myself i would vote for every woman candidate whenever I got the chance because i think our country just needs the perspective.

But we do NOT need Sarah Palin.

KP | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)

82. Response to John Cannon's charges of Anne's "bitter and vindictive" motives.

The tone of Anne's post pales in comparison to Palin's vicious September 3 assault. What is the difference between a pit bull and a hockey mom? Oops, you forgot the lipstick Sarah! In her defense, this is the nature of American politics, and she is filling the traditional attack dog role of a VP candidate. But back to Anne's post. Rather than expressing personal angst, I think that she has provided us with desperately needed information that has not been accessible thus far. Information has been sparse because Palin's selection was a complete surprise (is it pronounced PAIL-IN or PAL-IN?), and the McCain campaign has publicly crucified anyone who attempts to obtain or disseminate anything about the governor. The information Anne provided at least allows us to look more closely at Sarah's speech, even though it is not yet verified,...and raises serious concerns in my book.

Beyond the vindictiveness toward the media, the Obamas and non-conservatives in general, the blatant double standard the governor demonstrated was quite disturbing. "Don't talk about my family", but let me unload my moose rifle at Michelle Obama. "Don't talk about my daughter's personal issues", but let me plug my new son in an obvious appeal to a specific female demographic. Summary - don't mention anything negative about my family, but let me use the positives to gain support. McCain, an undeniably brave and heroic man, vociferously defends Palin's right to family privacy. Anyone remember McCain's "why is a certain democratic president's daughter so ugly" joke in the late 90's? Sure, it wasn't expressed publicly, but...ouch, yikes, play nice, lay off those kids. Personally, at this level of politics, I think that every aspect of the candidates and their families', donkey or elephant, is relevant. Kind of like paps and celebs. It stinks, but it is part of the job. Get a new career if you don't like it, but quit whining.

Anne's post and other online sources also help us to see Palin's ability to speak different languages in "Scranton and San Francisco", a key criticism of Obama. "Ban those books or you're fired" quickly changed when there was a public response. (Banning books? You have got to be kidding, that is simply too good to be true for non-Republicans. It must be an internet rumor, right?) "Build that bridge to nowhere", "earmarks are an important part of the system" and the "million we got from the feds to pave the airport". Oops, McCain doesn't like pork and earmarks. So "I said no thank you to the bridge to nowhere". But, she spent every penny of the \$220, 000,000 for the bridge project, allegedly including a road to where the bridge would cross. Perhaps the "Road to nowhere where the bridge to somewhere will probably be if Palin becomes vice president"?

Fiscal conservative? It sounds really nice, particularly in a struggling national economy that has not been directly addressed as an issue during the RNC. Anne, and other sources are painting a different picture, though. It seems that Sarah may have sharpened those barracuda (or pit bull?) teeth on tasty federal pork during her substantive executive service as mayor of Wasilla and governor of Alaska. It sounds like she also spent a pretty penny on a snappy new sports complex in Wasilla, expedited at a high cost while things like roads and sewage treatment were tabled. Hmmm, any chance that there are hockey facilities in that complex? Tax issues? It sounds like tax cuts for big box retail and new taxes on bread and milk (for all of those small town folks Palin relates to so well) worked alright in Wasilla.

Anne, thank you for giving us SOME information, regardless of your motives. I think that you shared your knowledge very tastefully, and acknowledged possible sources of uncertainty in your data, giving you more credibility that your critics will admit. It is obvious that you were bitten by the barracuda (or pit bull), but I believe that you showed remarkable restraint in your article, and are probably aware of a great deal more "gossip and dirt" than your character permits you to share.

I do have to ask though....did she through elbows and trips while she was a point guard? Just kidding, I really do not want to know. I have a growing fear that Sarah is the stereotype hometown darling who is really the "mean girl" behind closed doors.

Jim | [Sep 4, 2008](#) | [Reply](#)