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Top Ten Most Disturbing Facts and Impressions of Sarah Palin

By [AlterNet Staff](#), [AlterNet](#). Posted [September 2, 2008](#).

1: Palin supports gunning down wolves from planes

Sarah Palin is no friend of wildlife. And let's not blame this on her being a hunter. Plenty of subsistence hunters respect animals. But Palin [reportedly](#) came out against legislation introduced by Rep. George Miller, a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, that would "end Alaska's policy of allowing people to shoot wolves from airplanes."

2: Palin doesn't believe global warming is man-made

But Palin is among the conservative fringe that rejects the scientific consensus. According to the [Washington Post](#), "Sarah Palin told voters there she wasn't sure climate change wasn't simply part of a natural warming cycle." Palin told the conservative Web site NewsMax, "I'm not one ... who would attribute it to being man-made."

3: Palin is the candidate of powerful far right-wing cabal; her nomination seals their support for the little-wanted McCain

4: Palin staunchly opposes abortion, even in cases of rape and incest

Sarah Palin is strongly anti-choice, but she has taken her views on abortion to an extreme that may prove unpopular even among Republicans. Palin only supports abortion if the mother's health is in danger. Rape and incest don't register with her as legitimate reasons to honor a woman's right to choose -- not even if the woman is her own daughter. In 2006, when her daughter Bristol was only 14, Palin said that she would not support choice even if her daughter were raped.

5: Palin takes unnecessary risks with the health of her own child, supports failed abstinence-only programs

Amid the now-disproven rumors that the Palins' fifth child, Trig, was the son of her 17-year-old daughter, are reports that Sarah Palin seriously endangered her child during labor. Palin was in Texas delivering a speech when she allegedly began to leak amniotic fluid. Instead of immediately checking into a hospital, Palin finished her speech. She then flew to Anchorage, Alaska, where she drove to a hospital 45 minutes away to give [birth](#).

6: Palin is under investigation for allegedly abusing her power as governor to help her sister in a messy divorce

Politicians are supposed to recuse themselves, or step away from matters, when there is a conflict of interest. Yet according to the [Washington Post](#) and other news outlets, Palin "has been embroiled in a bitter family feud that has drawn in the state police, the attorney general, the governor's office and the state legislature." In fact, a "bipartisan state legislative panel has appointed a special prosecutor to investigate whether Palin improperly brought the family fight into the governor's office," the newspaper reports.

At issue is whether Palin and her staff pressured and then fired the public safety commissioner,

Walter Monegan, because he did not fire Palin's ex-brother-in-law, Mike Wooten, from the state police after he apparently threatened her sister and other family members, including her father, in 2005.

7: Palin lied about her plans for the "Bridge to Nowhere"

When accepting the GOP's nomination for vice president, Sarah Palin took credit for killing a controversial bridge project in Alaska dubbed the Bridge to Nowhere: "I told Congress, 'Thanks but no thanks on that Bridge to Nowhere,'" she exclaimed to a cheering audience in Ohio. But it turns out that her relationship with the bridge wasn't that cut and dry. It turns out that initially Palin was a big fan of the bridge -- although it could be that Palin wasn't so much a fan of the bridge as she was a fan of telling Ketchikan's 14,000 residents that she was while on the campaign trail in September 2006. "She was the only candidate who was saying, 'We're going to build that bridge,'" former governor Tony Knowles, a Democrat who lost to Palin in the 2006 general election, told the *Washington Post*. "She's taking a position now which certainly wasn't what it was when she was campaigning."

8: A so-called political reformer, Palin has big money ties to Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, who has been indicted for political corruption

Former Democratic Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil was known for political witticisms, including "Dance with the one that brung ya." That refers to being loyal to your supporters through the thick and thin of political life. According to the Washington Post's [The Trail](#), from 2003 to 2005, Palin was one of three directors of "Ted Stevens Excellence in Public Service, Inc.," a 527 group that could raise unlimited funds from corporate donors. A "527" refers to a section of the tax code governing such campaign groups.

9: Palin exploits her son's Iraq service for political gain

Palin's uber-motherhood is already the stuff of legend and controversy. With five children, including an infant with Down syndrome, now she's dealing with her teenage daughter's pregnancy. In a game that has traditionally shredded male candidates on the slightest hint that they are not tough enough for the job, Palin is the Right's version of what a strong woman should look like. That she'd be given a pass for exploiting her son's military service on emotional grounds is one thing. For her campaign to construe it as somehow making her more qualified to be commander-in-chief is absurd.

10: During her time as mayor, Palin drove a town deep into debt

According to [Politico](#), "Palin, who portrays herself as a fiscal conservative, racked up nearly \$20 million in long-term debt as mayor of the tiny town of Wasilla. That amounts to \$3,000 per resident. She argues that the debt was needed to fund improvements."