

Candidates' Views

How do Catholics decide which presidential candidate to vote for? Many knowledgeable political pundits are seeing from surveys that this election, more than any other in recent memory, appears to be bringing Catholics closer together as a "voting bloc".

Conservative Catholics are critical of Obama on abortion, euthanasia, embryo destruction, cloning, same sex marriage, and the Judiciary, his lack of experience, and longstanding alliance with a bombastic, race-baiting preacher while more liberal Catholics will attack McCain on pro-life, the war, climate change, immigration, his military background, age, and affiliation with the party of the outgoing administration which is grappling with national economic woes.



In the U.S. we are over sixty million Catholics. If we know our faith and vote and live our faith, we would witness a tremendous change for the better in our country.



In spite of our Catholic bishops' emphatic and clarion voices on the principles of Christian voting, many Catholics continue to believe they can vote for pro-

abortion, anti-life, anti-marriage and anti-family candidates because they have always voted for one party over the other. No matter how attractive one candidate's promises may be on jobs, the economy, health care, and other public policies, Catholics cannot put their selfish interests before principle.

"Catholics would 'commit moral evil' by voting for a candidate who supports abortion and other intrinsically evil things". (Kansas Bishops Conference). According to Fr. John Corapi, noted theologian and lecturer: "Voting is a moral act, and voting for pro-choice candidates is evil in itself. One becomes a collaborator in evil by so doing."

"We sin if we support 'pro-choice' candidates without a truly proportionate reason for doing so—that is, grave enough to outweigh our obligation to end the killing of the unborn."

(Archbp. Charles Chaput, Denver)

"I have long been on record opposing DOMA, and an Obama-Biden administration will work hard to ensure that we can pass a repeal of that law as soon as possible." **Sen. Obama**, New York Blade Interview, 9/11/08 (The Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage to be between one man and one woman)

"The first thing I'd do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act." **Sen. Obama** speaking at the Planned Parenthood Action Fund event, 7/17/07 (FOCA would overturn all laws restricting abortion like parental notification, conscience protections, waiting periods, informed consent, and regulations for women's health.)

"This is something that I have not come to a firm resolution on. I think it's very hard to know what that means, when life begins.... So I don't presume to know the answer to that question." **Sen. Obama** answering a question if he believes life starts at conception. (Messiah College, 4/13/08.)

"I think the respect and commitment to the rights of the unborn is something I've fought for, and it has a lot to do with national security. Because it says very much what kind of a country we are and our respect for human life, whether it be here in the US or anyplace else in the world." **Sen. McCain**, Iowa debate, 8/05/07.

"The surge is working and we have to rally the American people. People are saddened and frustrated and angry over our failures in Iraq. I share their anger, their frustration at failure, and I want them home too. But I want them home for the right reasons. I want our troops home with honor. Otherwise, we will face catastrophe and genocide in the region." **Sen. McCain**, GOP debate at UNH, 9/5/07

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On Protecting Life

Senator Obama

Voted against banning partial birth abortion. Supports abortion throughout pregnancy. Undecided on whether life begins at conception. Voted NO on notifying parents of minors going out-of-state for abortions. Rated 100% pro-choice by NARAL Pro Choice America.



Voted against Born Alive Infants Protection Act which would protect victims of botched abortions.

Senator McCain

Supports repealing Roe v. Wade but keep incest & rape exceptions. Voted YES on banning partial birth abortions. Voted YES on banning human cloning. Voted YES on notifying parents of minors who get out-of-state abortions. Rated 0% by NARAL Pro-Choice America. Supports federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

Marriage & Homosexual Rights

Senator Obama

Voted NO on constitutional ban of same-sex marriage. Opposes CA Prop. 8, one-man-one-woman marriage. Being gay or lesbian is not a choice. Homosexuality no more immoral than heterosexuality. If elected will sign bill to repeal Defense of Marriage Act. Provide benefits to same sex partners.



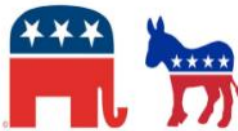
Senator McCain

Voted YES on prohibiting same-sex marriage. Supports CA Prop. 8: one-man-one-woman marriage. Leave gay marriage to the states. Voted NO on adding sexual orientation to definition of hate crimes. Rated 0% by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Principles & Values

Senator Obama

Ranked most liberal in Senate based on 99 votes. Don't know if life beyond earth; focus on life here on earth. Community politics: merges Alinsky & political activism. Rev. Wright and flag pins are distractions from real issues. "I'm a big believer in the separation of church and state." Joined church that emphasized a "Black Value System".



Senator McCain

Serve a cause greater than yourself. We need moral courage to be honest all the time. We are indebted to those who shed blood for us. Public officials have failed

to set example. Survived as POW by faith to a higher cause. "I hate war; it's terrible beyond imagination."

Budget & the Economy

Senator Obama

Voted NO on \$40B in reduced federal overall spending. Save \$150 billion in tax cuts for people who don't need them. Rejects free market vision of government.

Senator McCain

Voted YES on \$40B in reduced federal overall spending. Voted YES on Balanced-budget constitutional amendment. Use veto power to reduce government spending. These are tough times; we need changes; so keep taxes low.

Energy and the Environment

Senator Obama

Voted YES on removing oil & gas exploration subsidies. We cannot drill our way out of our addiction to oil. Let states define stricter-than-federal emission standards.

Senator McCain

End moratorium on offshore oil drilling. Strengthen Clean Air & Water Acts. Public pressure on oil industry to invest in alternatives.

Foreign Policy and War

Senator Obama

Jerusalem as joint Palestinian-Israeli capital is ok. The Iraq war has undermined our security. Iraq War has made US less safe from terrorism. Engage North Korea in 6-party talks.

Senator McCain

Advocate for political reforms in China, and live up to treaty with Taiwan. Our conscience influences US intervention as in Rwanda. Support the surge and bring troops home with honor. Iraq War has been mismanaged, but we are now on the right track.

Health Care

Senator Obama

Guaranteed health care for anyone who needs it. End-of-life "self-medication" (suicide) ok. We need condom distribution to deal with the scourge of AIDS. Universal health care means anyone who wants it can get it.

Senator McCain

Tax credits for those without employee medical benefits. More tax-deductible health care costs. Limit malpractice. Supports tax-free medical savings accounts and tax credits. Large tax credit for families to buy their health care.

Taxes

Senator Obama

Capital Gains Tax: 28% on profit from ALL home sales. Dividend Tax: 39.6% of dividends. Inheritance Tax: Restore the inheritance tax. Voted NO on extending the tax cuts on capital gains and dividends. Income Tax: For married couple making \$60K/yr. Federal tax rate would be \$16,800.

Senator McCain

Capital Gains Tax: 0% tax on home sales up to \$500K (couples). Dividend Tax: 15% of dividends. Inheritance Tax: 0%. Income Tax: For married couple making \$60K/yr. Federal tax rate would be \$9,000. Taxes should be flatter, lower, and simpler. Voted YES on permanently repealing the 'death tax'. Supported Reagan tax cuts

Sources: www.ontheissues.org; money.cnn.com/news/specials/election/2008/index.html; www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/issues/issues.taxes.html; blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/candidates/barack_obama/; bulletin.aarp.org/yourworld/politics/articles/mccain_obama_offer_different_visions_on_taxes.html