

Vote as if Lives Depend on It - Because They Do

by Colin Mason (Population Research Institute, www.pop.org)

On Tuesday, we will participate in a historic election.

The stakes are high, and the campaign hard-fought. Already, in states like North Carolina and Florida, early voting has drawn record-smashing crowds. The nation's voters are engaged in this election to a degree rare in American history, and pro-life voters must play their part. It is of paramount importance that values voters go to the voting booth on November 4th, and that they bring their pro-life convictions with them.

There are stark differences between the two candidates on the life issues. John McCain has a perfect pro-life voting record in his years in the Senate, and has chosen a committed social conservative as his running mate. Barack Obama, for his part, has a record of consistently voting against the unborn. His radical stance in favor of abortion is illustrated by his insistence, at a Planned Parenthood function, that on the "fundamental issue" of choice, he "will not yield and Planned Parenthood will not yield."

If elected, John McCain would:	If elected, Barack Obama would:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veto the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act"• Serve as a check on the Congress, where a pro-abortion majority dominates both the House and the Senate.• Appoint strict constructionist justices to the Supreme Court, who less likely to distort the meaning of the Constitution to serve their political and ideological ends.• Issue Executive Orders which protect and defend innocent human life.• Sign pro-life laws and amendments into law, thus encouraging Congressional pro-lifers to work on behalf of such legislation• Enjoy the support of a staunchly pro-life vice president.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign into law the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" which would overturn any and all restrictions on abortion, including parental consent laws, waiting periods, informed consent laws and the like.• Preside over a government dominated by the party of abortion, putting both the executive and the legislative branches in the hands of a single party.• Appoint justices on the basis of their "empathy," rather than on their adherence to the original intent of the Founders.• Issue Executive Orders which promote the cause of abortion, and increase its numbers.• Veto any pro-life laws and amendments that reached his desk.• Serve with a vice president who shares his determination to promote abortion on demand without restrictions.

This is, for the pro-life movement, a watershed election. If the pro-life candidate wins, he will be able to protect our gains of past decades, and ensure that the federal judiciary is peopled by judges who will not legislate from the bench. If the pro-abortion candidate wins, not only will all of our gains be undone, abortion-on-demand will be written into national law.

Spread the word. Get involved. And on November 4th vote as if millions of lives depend on it. Because they do.

Vote pro-life!

A message from the Knights of Columbus regarding the November 4 election:

Dear friend of the unborn:

It has been a difficult struggle, but the pro-life movement has accomplished many things since the Supreme Court's decision to preempt all state and federal laws regulating abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. While achieving the ultimate goal of overturning *Roe* remains somewhere in the future, we have been able to achieve many small successes along the way:

- the Hyde Amendment, which restricts federal funding for abortions;
- the federal law banning partial birth abortions, which was finally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2007;
- the "Mexico City Policy," which has barred the use of federal taxpayers' money to pay for abortions in other countries;
- laws in 44 states that preserve a parental role when children under 18 seek abortions;
- laws in 40 states that restrict late-term abortions;
- laws in 46 states that protect the right of conscience for individual health care providers;
- laws in 27 states that protect the right of conscience for institutions;
- laws in 38 states that ban partial birth abortions;
- laws in 33 states that require counseling before having an abortion;
- and laws in 16 states that provide for ultrasounds before an abortion.

All of these restrictions on abortion - all of the progress we've made over the past 35 years in trying to limit and reduce abortions in the United States - would be invalidated with the stroke of a pen if the next Congress passes, and the next president signs, the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA).

Before you cast your vote on Tuesday, please take the time and effort necessary to learn whether candidates for whom you might vote *favor* or *oppose* FOCA.

The Senate sponsors of FOCA are listed here:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR01964:@@P>

The House sponsors of FOCA are listed here:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:SN01173:@@P>

Obviously, if a candidate in your area is not listed among the sponsors, you may have to ask his or her campaign for their position on FOCA.

We have gathered much additional information about the Freedom of Choice Act, including links to material from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and on life issues generally on a special Knights of Columbus web page: <http://www.kofc.org/pro-life>

Remember, all that we've done together since *Roe* to save the lives of the unborn is at stake. Please pass on this message to your pro-life friends.

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