

ELECTION GUIDE *for* SERIOUS CHRISTIANS

Nothing in this voter's guide should be construed as an endorsement of any particular candidate or political party.

HOW THIS ELECTION GUIDE HELPS YOU

If you take your Christian faith seriously, then you need this election guide. It will help you vote in an informed manner consistent with Christian moral teaching. It will assist you in avoiding candidates who endorse policies that cannot be reconciled with moral norms held by Christian tradition and the Bible.

With most issues facing politicians or voters, a Christian can take one side or the other and not act against the faith. In reality, most matters do not have a specifically “Christian stance”.

But some issues involve “non-negotiable” moral principles that cannot be compromised. One's position either agrees with those principles or it doesn't. Individuals who endorse the wrong side of these issues cannot be said to act in accord with the Christian faith. Indeed, the common good of society rests upon the guiding light of non-negotiable ethical principles.

This election guide outlines five issues involving non-negotiable moral values in current politics to help you narrow down the list of acceptable candidates. For serious Christians, these 5 principles should be ranked above all other issues that come up in political debate.

Seldom is the case where a “perfect” candidate is available. But by ranking candidates according to the 5 Non-Negotiables, you can avoid to the greatest extent possible voting for those who endorse intrinsically evil policies. As far as possible, you should vote for those who promote policies in line with the moral law.

Voters may find a situation where all of the candidates take morally unacceptable positions on one or more of the non-negotiable issues. In those cases, citizens must vote for the candidates who will cause the least harm. This is another way of saying, we can effect the most good by reducing the potential harm.

YOUR DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN VOTER

Christians have a moral obligation to promote the common good through the voting process. It's not just civil authorities who have a responsibility for a country.

But who to vote for cannot be taken lightly. A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals. Even though it is the politician, not the citizen who will directly vote on laws or programs, that does not let us off the hook. Morality requires that we avoid doing evil to the greatest extent possible, even indirectly.

Some things are always immoral, and no one may deliberately vote in favour of them. Legislators may not support these evils in laws or programs. Citizens support these evils indirectly if they vote in favour of candidates who propose to advance them. Thus, to the greatest extent possible, Christians must avoid voting for any candidate who intends to support programs or laws that are intrinsically evil. When all of the candidates endorse morally harmful policies, citizens must vote in a way that will limit the harm likely to be done.

THE FIVE NON-NEGOTIABLE ISSUES

These five current issues concern actions that are intrinsically evil and must never be promoted by law. Intrinsically evil actions are those which fundamentally conflict with God's law and can never be deliberately performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions. No candidate who truly wants to advance the common good will support any action contrary to the non-negotiable principles involved in these issues.

1. Abortion

Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being. Therefore, it is a form of homicide. It is never licit to support abortion for it violates the commandment: “You shall not murder” (Ex. 20:13). Scripture is clear that the unborn are humans. When Mary visited Elizabeth who was

pregnant with John the Baptist, Elizabeth declared: “As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy” (Luke 1:44). The Bible is clear: Unborn babies are babies.

The unborn child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of his life. Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the child has no fault and does not deserve death for the sins of others.

2. Euthanasia

Often disguised by the name “mercy killing”, euthanasia is also a form of homicide. No person has the right to take his own life, and no one has the right to take the life of an innocent person.

In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed, by action or omission, out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person. Like abortion, euthanasia violates the commandment: “You shall not murder”.

3. Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Human embryos are human beings. It is immoral to kill embryonic human beings in order to harvest their body parts, but this is exactly what happens in embryonic stem cell research. Unborn children are killed to extract their stem cells for use in experiments. This practice also violates the commandment, “You shall not murder”.

Recent advances show that stem cells taken from **adult** tissue (i.e. without killing the person), can be manipulated to obtain similar properties as embryonic stem cells, without any of the ethical problems. Adult stem cells have successfully produced cures, whereas embryonic stem cells have produced none to date. Thus, there is no legitimate argument for embryonic stem cells. Even if benefits were discovered, they could not justify the intentional killing of human beings.

4. Human Cloning

God designed the human race to reproduce by the union of man and woman. Every child has the right to be born of a father and a mother. Human cloning violates God's design by trying to create a child with only a genetic father or only a genetic mother.

Human Cloning also involves abortion because the “rejected” or “unsuccessful” embryonic clones are destroyed. Each clone is a human being and therefore killing them is immoral.

5. Homosexual “Marriage”

Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other union as “marriage” undermines true marriage, and encourages immoral behaviour. God designed marriage to be a union between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24).

Even Jesus himself, from his very own lips, confirmed this definition of marriage when

speaking to the Pharisees: “But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. And God said, 'So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife and the two shall become one flesh...'” (Matt. 19:4-9).

No serious Christian can support homosexual 'marriage', neither by direct endorsement of such laws, nor by voting for candidates who rejects that definition so clearly stated by Christ.

HOW TO DETERMINE A CANDIDATE'S POSITION

1. Study one of the many candidate surveys that are available online at election time.
2. Visit or phone candidates or their local campaign offices directly.
3. If you cannot determine a candidate's position by other means, write directly to the candidate, asking for his position on the issues covered above.

HOW TO VOTE

1. Determine how each candidate with a real, even if unlikely chance of winning stands on each of the non-negotiable principles plus some of the lesser issues.
2. Rank the candidates according to how well their positions align with these 5 non-negotiable moral principles.
3. Give preference to candidates who do not propose positions that contradict these non-negotiables.
4. If every candidate endorses positions contrary to non-negotiable principles, choose the candidate likely to do the least harm. If several are equal, evaluate them based on their views on the lesser issues.

Brought to you by the following coalition groups:



www.defendmarriagekw.org

