



DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA



The Case for Pro-Life Democrats...

A look at past Presidential Elections

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Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are out of step with registered Democrats

Question: “Abortion should be generally available to those who want it rather than under stricter limits or not permitted.”

Answer: 75% of 2004 DNC delegates agreed with this statement, but only 48% of registered Democrats agreed with the statement (*New York Times/CBS Poll, July 2004*).

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are becoming more pro-choice. Asked the same question (above), the results were:

- **71% in 2000**
- **75% in 2004**



In the 2004 Presidential Election Democrats were losing ground...

Fewer Americans identified with the Democratic Party

- 152 counties that voted Democratic for president in 2000 shifted to Republican in 2004
- 11 counties that voted Republican in 2000 shifted to Democratic in 2004

This resulted in a Democratic net loss of 141 counties in 2004.

(USA Today, February 4, 2005).

The average Democratic lead in party identification has fallen from an average of:

- 21 percentage points in the 1970s
- 11 percentage points in the 1980s
- 7 percentage points in the 1990s
- 5 percentage points, so far, in the 2000s

(Harris, 2004).

**In the 2004 election, Democrats lost 97 of the 100 fastest-growing counties in America
(National Committee for an Effective Congress).**



The Democratic Party is not in line with Americans' views on abortion

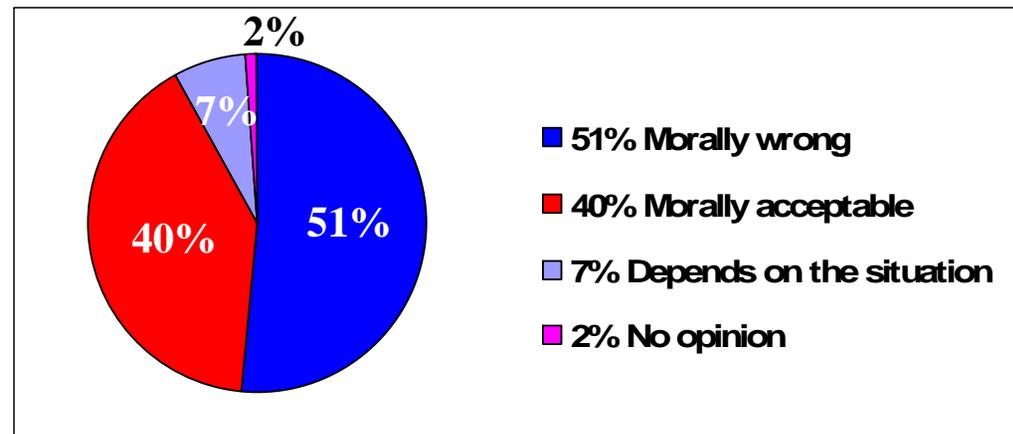
- An overwhelming majority of Americans (69%) favor parental consent for minors seeking abortion (Zogby, 2007)
- A similar percent (64%) favor informed consent for women seeking abortions (Zogby, 2007)
- About 72% of Americans are opposed to performing abortions in the third trimester (Gallup, 2007)
- More than two in three Americans (67%) favor a ban on partial-birth abortions (Zogby, 2007)

Despite overwhelming popular support for restrictions on abortion, the Democratic Party platform continues to advocate for the small minority of Americans in favor of abortion-on-demand, no matter what the circumstance.

Democrats are becoming more pro-life

35% of Democrats identify themselves as being pro-life (Gallup, 2008).

“Regardless of whether or not you think each of these issues should be legal, do you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong (to have an abortion)?” (Gallup, 2007).





Women—a major constituency of the Democratic Party—are becoming more pro-life.

- 51% of women say abortion should be available only in cases of rape, incest, or if the life of the mother is endangered (Zogby, 2004).
- Only 28% of women believe that abortion “should be available to any woman who wants it.” This is down significantly from 35% in 2003 and 49% in 1993 (CBS/NY Times, 2005).
- 41% of women say they would not vote for a candidate who disagrees with their position on abortion, even if they agreed with the candidate on most other issues (Pew Research, 2004)
- **In the 2000 election, Gore had an 8-point advantage with women over Bush**
- **In the 2004 election, Kerry had 4-point advantage with women over Bush**
(Gallup, 2004)



Hispanics—*a group long courted by Democrats*—are overwhelmingly pro-life

- Hispanics are the nation's largest minority community at 44.4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006) .
- 83% of American-born Hispanics oppose abortion (Pew Hispanic Center and Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008)
- 78% of Hispanics believe abortion should never be legal or only be legal when the life of the mother is in danger or in cases of rape or incest (Zogby, 2004).
- 64% of Hispanics said that abortion was very important in deciding their vote, while 40% of non-Hispanic voters said abortion was important in deciding their vote, a difference of 24% (Encuesta Inc., 2006).

In the 2000 election, Bush received 31% of the Hispanic vote.

In the 2004 election, Bush received 43% of the Hispanic vote.

Democrats are losing their base support of Hispanics, African Americans, and Youth

Hispanics

- 40% believe abortion should never be legal.
- 11% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother.
- 27% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother, rape, or incest.
- 78% of Hispanics believe that almost all abortions should be illegal or restricted.
(Zogby, 2004)

African Americans

- 22% believe abortion should never be legal.
- 15% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother.
- 25% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother, rape, or incest.
- 62% of African Americans believe that almost all abortions should be illegal or restricted.
(Zogby, 2004)

Youth

- 72% of 13-17 year olds believe abortion is morally wrong.
(Gallup, 2003)
- 60% of 18-29 year olds believe abortion should never be legal.
(Zogby, 2004)



Despite high levels of spending, pro-choice Democrats couldn't win in 2004

- Pro-choice PACs raised over \$61 million, yet after the 2004 elections, there is a pro-life Congress and pro-life president (Federal Election Commission, 2004).
- Emily's List raised \$52.3 million for female candidates who support abortion rights. By comparison, the National Right to Life Committee, the largest donor opposed to abortion rights, raised about \$1.7 million (February 16, 2005, *New York Times*).
- In the states where Emily's List ran an extensive Voter Mobilization Project, none of the pro-choice women they supported for Senate won.
- Meanwhile 80% of the candidates endorsed by the Susan B. Anthony List—a PAC that supports pro-life candidates— won their elections; however, only 39% of Emily's List candidates won.

**Of the 38 NEW U.S. Representatives, 20 are pro-life.
Of the 9 NEW U.S. Senators, 7 are pro-life.**



In 2006 *Pro-Life* Democrats Won

➤ Of 25 competitive House and Senate Candidates (non-incumbent) supported by Emily's List in 2006, 5 won their races. (Emily's List Website, Election Results) In contrast, 6 pro-life Democrats won seats in Congress and pro-life Democrat Senator Bob Casey defeated Republican Rick Santorum by the largest margin in Pennsylvania history.

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Joe Donnelly won in the Indiana 2nd with 54%, up from 45% for Democrats in the previous election

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Brad Ellsworth defeated John Hostettler in the Ohio 8th with 61%, compared to only 47% in the previous election

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Jason Altmire defeated Melissa Hart in the Pennsylvania 4th with 51% of the vote, up from 35% in the previous election

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Heath Schuler won North Carolina's 11th with 54%, up from 45% in the previous election

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Don Cazayoux won a seat in Congress in the Louisiana 6th District, in a special election, with 49%, up from 19% in 2006

➤ **Pro-life Democrat** Travis Childers won a seat in Congress in the Mississippi 1st with 54%, in a special election, up from 35% in 2006



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In 2004 Democrats and moral values...

A 2004 post-election nationwide Harris Poll found that 45% of voters believe that moral values were very important in deciding which candidate to support. However, almost twice as many Bush voters (59%) than Kerry voters (30%) cited moral values as their top concern.

Overall, voters who cited moral values, specifically abortion issues, broke 70-30% in favor of President Bush.

“I think we have been guilty in the [Democratic] Party at times of being pro-choice without honoring the deeply held beliefs of pro-lifers. There are 1.3 millions abortions in this country, and I don’t think anybody would disagree that that is too many.”

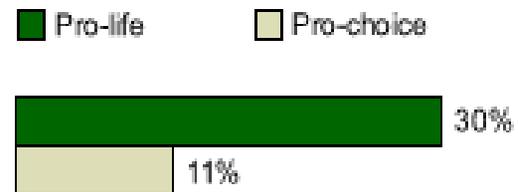
~ John Kerry at an interview with the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life
(2007)



In 2004 Pro-lifers were more likely to prioritize abortion than supporters of abortion rights

- 30% of pro-lifers say they will only vote for a candidate who shares their views on abortion.
- 11% of pro-choicers say they will only back candidates of a similar mind on abortion.
(Gallup, 2004).

Only vote for candidate who shares views on abortion.



2004 Oct 14-16

National exit polling in every presidential election since 1984 has shown a net advantage to the pro-life side (Gallup).



Supreme Court appointments affect Presidential elections

- When the Supreme court meets again in October there will be 5 justices over the age of 70. The oldest two justices, John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg –half of the court’s left wing – are likely to retire during the next presidential administration
- The 2008 presidential election is different from congressional ones because the president, unlike members of the Senate and House, appoints supreme court justices who may determine the outcome of Roe v. Wade

“Given the likely retirements, the next election probably will determine whether the court gets more conservative or stays the same.”

~Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at University of California,
Associated Press (2008)