

## 2008 Democratic Presidential Candidates Views on Pro-life Issues

Candidate	Abortion	Death Penalty
Senator Joe Biden	<p><b>Pro-Choice, but his voting positions are centrist. He supported the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act and opposes federal funding of abortion.</b> "I still am opposed to public funding for abortion. It goes to the question of whether or not you're going to impose a view to support something that is not a guaranteed right but an affirmative action to promote. <i>Meet the Press: April 29, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>Supports</b> "As the author of two major federal crime laws that extend the availability of the death penalty to sixty additional crimes, I support capital punishment as a crime-fighting technique. But we must implement the death penalty in a way that is consistent with our values as Americans. Just as we would not execute a 12-year-old, I have long argued that we should not execute a mentally retarded person whose mental capacity might be far more limited." <i>SelectSmart.com</i></p>
Senator Hillary Clinton	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances.</b> "I am and always have been pro-choice, and that is not a right any of should take for granted. There are a number of forces at work in our society that would try to turn back the clock and undermine a woman's right to chose, and [we] must remain vigilant. <i>New York Times, pg.A11 Jan 22, 2000</i></p>	<p><b>Supports expanding the death penalty.</b> "There are circumstances under which I support capital punishment." <i>WhereIStand.com</i></p>
Senator Chris Dodd	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> I happen to believe a woman has a right to choose. I've voted that way and done that, supported that for the 26 years I've been in the US Senate. <i>South Carolina 2007 Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC April 26, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>Supports</b> "Capital punishment is used too widely, but there are certain circumstances where [I] would not exclude the use of the death penalty." <i>Religion and Politics 2008 Website</i></p>
Senator John Edwards	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> "I believe in a woman's right to choose, but I think this is an extraordinarily difficult issue for America. And I think it is very important for the president of the United States to recognize, while I believe the government should not make these health-care decisions for women -- I believe they should have the freedom to make them themselves -- this is a very difficult issue for many people." <i>South Carolina 2007 Democratic primary debate, on MSNBC April 26, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>Supports</b> "I think there are some crimes that deserve the ultimate penalty" <i>Washington Post, February 27, 2004</i></p>

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Mike Gravel	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> "I am opposed to today's Supreme Court ruling [allowing states to ban partial-birth abortion] or any ruling that places restrictions on reproductive freedom. Any decision on abortion should remain between a woman and her doctor. There is no room for interference from politicians and judges.  <i>"Statement on Supreme Court ruling" April 27, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>DOES NOT Support</b></p>
Representative Dennis Kucinich	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> "And we also need to listen carefully to those who are concerned about abortion. At the same time, a healer as president would help reconcile this nation, and cause a woman's right to privacy to be protected unquestioningly, protect Roe v. Wade, but also go out and listen to people and engage people and open up hearts -- because this is an issue that requires an enormous amount of compassion, and that's the approach I would take." <i>South Carolina 2007 Democratic Debate on MSNBC April 26, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>DOES NOT Support</b> "As president, I'll do anything I can to end the federal death penalty, which I've already introduced legislation for in the past" <i>Democratic Debate, Washington D.C., Council on Foreign Relations</i></p>
Senator Barack Obama	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> "I think that most Americans recognize that this is a profoundly difficult issue for the women and families who make these decisions. They don't make them casually. And I trust women to make these decisions in conjunction with their doctors and their families and their clergy."  <i>Meet the Press: April 29, 2007</i></p>	<p><b>Supports</b> "The death penalty does little to deter crime. But in cases so heinous, so beyond the pale, that the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its outrage by meting out the ultimate punishment." <i>Washington Post of February 7, 2007</i></p>
Governor Bill Richardson	<p><b>Pro-Choice in all circumstances</b> "I am pro-choice and will continue to support abortion rights and medical privacy for women. I am the only candidate explicitly committing to appoint only judges who consider Roe v. Wade settled law." <i>Richardson for President Campaign Site</i></p>	<p><b>Supports</b> "I support the death penalty with the most strictest of safeguards for the most heinous of crimes" <i>Albuquerque Tribune, August 23, 2007</i></p>

## 2008 Democratic Presidential Candidates Views on Pro-life Issues

Candidate	Stem Cell	Assisted Suicide
Senator Joe Biden	<p><b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b>                      "Public support has surged for stem cells. Research is proceeding unfettered and, in some cases, without ethical standards in other countries. And even when these countries have ethical standards, our failures are allowing them to gain the scientific edge over the US. Some suggest that it is Congress' role to tell researchers what kinds of cells to use. I suggest we are not the arbiters of research. Instead, we should foster all of these methods, and we should adequately fund and have ethical oversight over all ethical stem cell research" <i>Campaign Website</i></p>	<p>"I am opposed to legalizing physician assisted suicide. Period." "Physician-assisted suicide is the most dangerous slippery slope, in my view, that the nation can embark upon." <i>A statement in Senate Committee on the Judiciary on April 27, 2000</i></p>
Senator Hillary Clinton	<p><b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b>                      "Americans who could benefit from this research. Where we are now is, we're going backward. We're not just stalled. We're going backward." <i>ABC June 20, 2007</i></p>	<p>Not directly opposed to physician assisted suicide</p>
Senator Chris Dodd	<p><b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b>                      "Under a Dodd administration, stem cell research will be conducted" <i>Democratic Debate, CNN August 17, 2007</i></p>	<p>Voted to support legislation to continue the banning of federal funds to pay for physician assisted suicide</p>
Senator John Edwards	<p>"That would be part of my plan, research into stem cells." <i>Democratic Debate, CNN August 17, 2007</i></p>	<p>Withholds position</p>

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Candidate	Stem Cell	Assisted Suicide
Mike Gravel	Should be unlimited	Withholds position
Representative Dennis Kucinich	<b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b> "Embryonic stem cell research has life saving potential" <i>Washington Post of July 19, 2006</i>	Voted Yes on banning physician assisted suicide
Senator Barack Obama	<b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b> "Recent developments in stem cell research may hold the key to improved treatments, if not cures, for those affected by Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, spinal cord injury and countless other conditions." <i>Barack Obama Campaign Site</i>	Does not directly oppose physician assisted suicide
Governor Bill Richardson	<b>Voted to expand embryonic research</b> "With one pen stroke, President Bush has ignored hard science, embraced misplaced ideology and turned his back on the millions who stand to benefit from the advances that stem cell research holds." <i>Bill Richardson's Campaign Site</i>	Withholds position

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Candidate	Human Rights	Additional Information
Senator Joe Biden	<p>"This administration rightly called what's going on in Darfur genocide, but it has failed to match its words with deeds. I am calling for NATO to declare and police a "No Fly Zone" over Darfur; for an international peacekeeping mission we should impose if Khartoum says no; and serious sanctions against the regime which is aiding and abetting the slaughter of innocents." <i>Campaign Website</i></p>	<p>36% Pro-Choice record from NARAL, Doesn't support public funding for abortion, Voted YES on banning partial-birth abortions.</p>
Senator Hillary Clinton	<p><b>Supports increasing peacekeeping efforts in dangerous regions and wants to send more support to Darfur</b> "A U.N. mission in Darfur must now be authorized with a clear and robust mandate to protect civilians; and be supplied with the troops, air- and ground-mobility, and communications network required to fully implement that mandate. " <i>Letter to the President, www.senate.gov</i></p>	<p>100% Pro-Choice record from Naral, voted NO on notifying parents of minors who get out-of-state abortions</p>
Senator Chris Dodd	<p><b>Supports helping Iraqi government and people and ending genocide in Darfur</b> "I call on the Bush Administration to actively support the work of the International Criminal Court in prosecuting those individuals who have committed crimes against the people of Darfur and against all humanity" <i>Statement to the President, April 25, 2006</i></p>	<p>100% Pro-Choice record from Naral, thinks death penalty is used to widely but shouldn't be abolished</p>
Senator John Edwards	<p><b>Supports giving aid to Darfur</b> "I admire the African Union troops stationed in Darfur. They have done their jobs courageously and deserve the world's gratitude. But they need help. The African Union peacekeeping troops, which number just 7,000, have been unable to protect civilians or enforce a 2004 ceasefire. In the meantime, security has deteriorated dramatically. At a time when the world is questioning U.S. sincerity and motives, what better way for the Bush Administration to show that we still believe in human rights and still have the moral authority to lead, than to step up and do our part to stop the genocide in Darfur? Tens of thousands of lives hang in the balance. So does our nation's moral credibility. " <i>Campaign Website</i></p>	<p>Rated 100% by NARAL, indicating a pro-choice voting record, believes right to abortion is constitutionally protected, voted NO on criminal penalty for harming unborn fetus during other crime and voted to expand embryonic stem cell research.</p>

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Mike Gravel	<b>Supports giving aid to Darfur</b>	Believes that any abortion decision should remain between woman & doctor and that Stem Cell research should not be limited.
Representative Dennis Kucinich	<b>Supports giving aid to Darfur</b> "The United States must adopt an entirely new perspective toward Africa: it's not just a place that corporations can exploit. If Darfur had oil, this administration would be occupying it right now." <i>Campaign Website</i>	100% Pro-Choice record from NARAL, introduced legislation to abolish the death penalty, Voted YES on barring transporting minors to get an abortion.
Senator Barack Obama	<b>Supports giving aid to Darfur</b> "Genocide is underway in Darfur, Sudan. Already, 50,000 African Muslims have been killed and 1.2 million displaced by the Sudanese Government and by Arab Janjaweed militias armed and encouraged by Khartoum. The Bush Administration itself warned of the magnitude of the crisis, if no action is taken. Andrew Natsios, head of USAID, said in June that "if nothing changes we will have one million casualties." We cannot, in good conscience, stand by and let this genocide continue." <i>2004 Speech</i>	Believes that stem cells hold promise to cure 70 major diseases, that we should trust women to make own decisions on partial-birth abortion and that we should extend presumption of good faith to abortion protesters
Governor Bill Richardson	<b>Supports giving aid to Darfur</b> "The U.S. has an opportunity to use leadership and diplomacy to help, and if I can play even a small part in that effort I am ready to do it. This is a bipartisan, humanitarian effort by both Democrats and Republicans to help find a resolution to this ongoing tragedy." <i>SaveDarfur.org</i>	Affirms that stem cell research is a part of preventive healthcare, that a Supreme Court model cannot be justice who dissented on Roe, and the government should resist any effort to weaken a woman's right to choose.