



...because voicing Christian values in the public arena  
insures the freedom to do so.

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## **Is it Important to Register to Vote? Does it Matter With Which Party you Register?**

As Americans we have a privilege of which many other countries may only dream. Men have gone to battle for this privilege. This often taken for granted advantage is the opportunity to vote. Yet, while millions in other countries cry for this opportunity, millions in our own country have chosen not to vote, or not even to register to vote.

Every two years, during the fall of the year, people from city and country gather at churches, libraries, community centers and fire stations to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice. We also have elections at other times of year for municipal, school board and other elections. Voting is NOT a right, it is a privilege.

You may decide to register as a Democrat, a Republican, or as No Party. If you don't register with a party, you must understand that you lose the opportunity of voting in primaries. Half of the elections happen without your voice. To assist you in determining what party might best suit your ideology, here are some excerpts taken directly from the 2006 Democrat and Republican Platforms as they pertain to Biblical Issues. No editorializing – just read for yourself and register with the party you feel best reflects your views. If you would like to read the entire platforms from each party, you may do so by logging on to their websites. The Iowa Democrat Party may be found at: [www.iowademocrats.org](http://www.iowademocrats.org) The Iowa Republican Party may be found at: [www.iowagop.org](http://www.iowagop.org)

We have attempted to select issues that might interest those involved in Iowa Christian Alliance. We have divided our selections into four separate categories, CIVIL RIGHTS, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, EDUCATION, and GOVERNMENT, LAW & ELECTIONS. Within these four sections you will find direct excerpts from the party platforms of both the 2006 Democratic Platform and from the 2006 Republican Platform.

These platforms are developed by the membership of the party. The planks in the platform begin by submission at the precinct caucus held in January of even numbered years. These planks are then forwarded to a county platform committee who prepares a document for each of the 99 county conventions. Each county develops its own platform. You may contact your own county party's leadership to request a copy of your platform. After the county passes its platform, representatives are sent to five district meetings representing Iowa's five congressional districts. Our five districts meet and each pass a platform of their own. From that point, members selected from each district meet to discuss the state platform. They propose a platform which is discussed at the state convention held in June of each even numbered year. After the platform has been discussed and amended, the convention delegates vote to pass the platform as you may see them on the websites listed above.

This is indeed a grassroots process. These platforms truly reflect the ideology of the party. It is important that you belong to a party that adequately reflects your views. We hope you find the following synopsis valuable.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### **Democrat**

#### **We support:**

- The ERA
- Equal marital rights for all consenting adults regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification
- Repealing DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act)
- Legislation protecting same sex couples' adoption rights
- Adding "Sexual Orientation", "Trans-Gender". And "Disability" to State and Federal Anti Hate Crime, Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Bullying and any other civil rights laws
- Forbidding the Defense Department and branches of the military from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation
- Federal legislation guaranteeing the right to privacy including reproductive choice

#### **We Oppose:**

- Erosion of separation between church and state
- Any governmental assets used to support the Boy Scouts of America or other organizations that do not accept gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender, & atheists as members, leaders and staff

### **Republican**

5.1 We support an amendment to both the state and federal Constitutions defining marriage as the exclusive union between one man and one woman.

5.3 We support adoption by heterosexual married couples only

5.4 We oppose the creation of a protected class based on sexual orientation

6.13 We assert that the phrase, "the separation of church and state" as commonly used, contradicts the original intent and practice of the Framers of the Constitution.

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

### **Democrat**

#### **We support:**

- The legal right of women to make their own health care decisions and the preservation of Roe v. Wade.

### **Republican**

7.12 We support requiring facilities performing abortions or distributing the abortifacient drug RU486 be required to meet state medical clinic requirements and that they be required to secure malpractice insurance.

7.13 We support the confidential collection and reporting of statistics regarding induced abortion and RU486 use just as done with any surgical procedure.

12.1 The unborn child has a fundamental right to life, which cannot be infringed.

12.2 We reaffirm our support for a human rights amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.

Statement of Principle: We believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator and is a fundamental right as outlined in the Declaration of Independence. This right is innately valuable in every stage and development, including the unborn and the elderly, the terminally or chronically ill, and the mentally or physically handicapped. No human life should ever be diminished, and innocent human life must never be arbitrarily taken.

## EDUCATION

### Democrat

#### We support:

- A state-wide "anti-bully law" to protect ALL children

#### We Oppose

- The teaching of "intelligent design" as science in public schools
- Diverting monies from public schools to fund or subsidize private educational ventures

### Republican

- 3.1 We believe money should follow the child in education, whether children attend public or private institutions. Therefore we support school vouchers and/or tax credits that are provided without religious discrimination, which assist parents financially in educating their children using the option best suited to their family's educational needs.
- 3.2 We believe the displaying of the Ten Commandments, the American Flag and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance should be allowed.
- 3.3 We support voluntary teacher or student led prayer in government schools, The use of the Bible as a textbook should be allowed as a local option
- 3.4 We support the teaching of alternative theories on the origins of life including Darwinian Evolution, Creation Science or Intelligent Design, and that each should be given equal weight in presentation.
- 3.5 We believe that educators should stress abstinence outside of marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and associated psychological problems. We also oppose the distribution of condoms in tax-funded schools.
- 3.8 We oppose the teaching of homosexual behavior as a normal, acceptable or alternative lifestyle, and believe that sex education must emphasize traditional heterosexual lifestyles.

## GOVERNMENT & LAW & ELECTIONS

### Democrat

#### We support:

- Voting rights for felons upon completion of their sentence
- Decriminalizing marijuana
- Treating substance abuse as a public health issue instead of a criminal issue
- Having National Election Day as a holiday, allowing same day voter registration, mobile registration and strongly encouraging voter registration for all high school students upon reaching the legal age
- Normalization of relations with Cuba
- Full participation in the new Human Rights Council
- We support ratification and/or full participation in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Kyoto Treaty on Global Warming.
- Payment of United Nations dues and active participation

#### We oppose

- Developing a "Star Wars" missile defense shield

### Republican

- 6.4 We continue to support "English as the official language" in Iowa.
- 6.13 We assert that the phrase, "the separation of church and state" commonly used, contradicts the original intent and practice of the Framers of the Constitution.
- 6.21 We support voting laws that emphasize Election Day balloting and oppose Oregon style mail in voting.
- 10.8 We call for continued research and deployment of a strategic missile defense system.
- 9.6 We support repealing Governor Vilsack's executive order allowing felons to vote without due

process.

9.14 We support the repeal of state and federal “hate crimes” legislation.

10.1 We support withholding of dues to the United Nations as a means of insuring fiscal integrity.

For more information, please proceed to [www.iowagop.org](http://www.iowagop.org) to obtain a copy of the full Republican platform or to [www.iowademocrats.org](http://www.iowademocrats.org) to receive your complete copy of the democrat platform. Although the excerpts listed above may give you a significant idea of the values of each party, you would be mistaken not to fully investigate the full texts of both platforms.

You may also find further information on the issues listed in this document on the website of Iowa Christian Alliance. The ICA website is packed with informative articles and research. You will find that website at [www.iowachristian.com](http://www.iowachristian.com).