



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

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THE ELECTIONS: It all depends on your perspective "A visit to the "far-side" shows a difference in world views

The recent elections showed clearly that Americans gravitated to pro-family and pro-life agendas rather than liberal social ideology. All over the country, candidates stood strongly on their conservative views and were rewarded by seats in the U.S. Congress, Senate and governorships as well as state offices. Ironically, Kansas has shown itself to be a bit schizophrenic in that we elected three conservative representatives and one Democratic "moderate" who voted against the partial-birth abortion ban. We elected a strongly pro-life attorney-general who made no attempt to hide his views, but gave the nod to a Democratic candidate for governor who has consistently voted against restrictions on abortions and protecting women and children in her tenure in the Kansas House of Representatives. Lest we believe that our vote does not count, the race for Attorney General was so close it was in doubt for days after the election. World-views do formulate our decisions and we carry them to the ballot box.

The "far-side" reacts

However, judging from the comments of more liberal groups, they were less than satisfied with the results of the election. For one thing, the power in the Senate will now shift to the Republicans, with the powerful committees shifting to Republican control. The power of these committees was made evident in the gridlock produced by the Senate Judiciary Committee who stalled or rejected most of President Bush's appointees to judgeships, leaving a crisis of judicial vacancies across the country. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) will now chair that committee. Liberal groups across the country have reacted to the election results:

- **NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League):** NARAL president Kate Michelman states: "With the White House and Congress now both in anti-choice hands, the President's move to stack the courts represents an attempt to fundamentally realign our entire federal government. The consequences, if left unchallenged, will be profound and real for generations to come. . . It would be a serious breach of the public's trust for President Bush to abuse his power to undermine reproductive rights. NARAL fully intends to fulfill our own obligation to educate Americans about judicial nominees' views and mobilize pro-choice opposition to any attempt to restrict a woman's freedom of choice. NARAL's challenge is to protect and defend a woman's right to choose in what is unquestionably one of the most hostile political environments we have ever faced."
- **NOW (National Organization of Women)** "Women are bracing for an onslaught of judges and legislation designed to undo many of our hard-won gains and we intend to fight." Their press release (November 6, 2002) states, "*Roe v. Wade* hangs by a single vote. Tipping the balance of the Supreme Court with one more extremist justice would ensure the loss of abortion rights for generations. We know that the stealth legislation disguised as "fetal protection," is really a thinly veiled effort to deprive many more women of their reproductive freedom. And the Senate is primed to confirm a bevy of right-wing judges that will make the

federal bench look more conservative than a Bush family reunion." Editorial Note: Apparently NOW is upset about protections for infants born alive during the abortion procedure receiving adequate medical care.

- **Planned Parenthood:** [Press Release: November 6, 2002] "Yesterday's election was dire for reproductive freedom. Despite gains in state house races, the Washington leadership can now enact draconian policies that threaten fundamental liberties. This day must mark our recommitment to changing the political landscape for reproductive rights. This is not a time for retreat. Rather this is the day when Planned Parenthood redoubles its efforts to ensure passage of laws and policies that protect our fundamental human right to make private childbearing decisions." Note: Planned Parenthood's newest foray into our teen-ager's decision-making is a new cartoon-animated link called "Sextionary" that indoctrinates teen-agers to the Planned Parenthood world view in a "fun" manner.
- **Americans United for Separation of Church and State:** An excerpt from a statement by Barry Lynn, executive director, "With so many Religious Right-backed candidates winning this year, the movement will have a new set of powerful allies who will be pressured to do the Religious Right's bidding. Americans who value church-state separation will have to be more vigilant than ever about protecting the First Amendment." In another statement, Reverend Lynn attacked voter guides because he fears they are "stacked to favor Republican candidates" and bemoaned the fact that some groups only follow the issues in which they have concerns. Editorial Note: Does he seriously believe that we would follow issues that are NOT our concerns?
- **Feminist Majority Foundation:** Speaking about Representative Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) bid to become Minority Leader of the House: [Press Release: November 7, 2002] "Pelosi remains staunchly pro-choice and has a strong women's rights voting record. Her focus in the House has been on international family planning, AIDS prevention, human rights in China and environmental causes."
- **EMILY'S List:** This group operates as a donor network (bundling PAC) that distributes money to and recommends pro-choice Democratic women. Governor-elect Kathleen Sibelius was supported by this network. EMILY'S List distributed over \$9.3 million to these candidates. Their press release after the election stated, "These new women governors won extraordinarily hard-fought, difficult races. They were able to do that because they had impressive records in office, built strong coalitions, and attracted independents and a large outpouring of support from women voters."

Obviously these groups and others are fully committed to their cause . . . now that we have worked hard to get pro-family and pro-life men and women elected, will we show the same commitment to help them get something done?

If you want to know how to become involved, come to our "Citizen-Action Forum" with Michael Schwartz, V.P. of legislative affairs for CWA and Connie Marshner of the Leadership Institute on December 7th at Colonial Presbyterian Church. It is an all-day forum with lunch and materials provided. Cost: \$45. Register by sending a check to CWA of KS; P.O. Box 11233, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207