

What's Your Vote Worth?

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A Million Dollar Investment

Have you ever thought of your right to vote as a form of currency? Let me explain - you can spend your money on purchases that you researched and know are the best choice for the money you are spending, or you can impulse buy, picking whatever catches your fancy at the moment. When we consider what is at stake, the security of our families and future of our country, our vote should be treated like a million dollar investment.

Your Vote Counts

And your vote could be the one that helps swing an election that would affect your family in the future. Remember the ordeal of the 2000 presidential election, when, for 36 long days, the destiny of America's leadership hung on the contested votes cast in one county in Florida? We certainly learned that each vote counts.

In 1916, less than one vote per precinct in a few states would have unseated President Woodrow Wilson. A few votes per precinct in Illinois in 1960 would have lost John F. Kennedy the election. Rep. Louis Wyman became the U.S. Senator from New Hampshire by just two votes in 1974.

Good Judgment

Equally important to voting is making good judgments when you vote. I hear from people who know their vote is valuable but become discouraged that they cannot find a candidate who is worth a million dollars.

Rarely will you find a candidate who is perfect; for that matter, how many of us are perfect? Instead, evaluate candidates based on their stand on Biblical issues such as morality, their character, and their experience and history. You do not have to "choose the lesser of two evils" but can choose to limit evil by supporting the person who will do the most good, most of the time.

I started Concerned Women for America nearly forty years ago because I saw the threat that our elected officials were on the verge of approving the Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment that would have destroyed the Biblical view of women and the sanctity of human life. As feminist Betty Friedan, a founder of the National Organization for Women, said, "I am convinced if we lose this struggle (for the ERA) we will have little hope in our lifetime of saving our right to abortion." If the ERA had passed – and there are still attempts to pass it today – restrictions on abortion would be outlawed as "discrimination against women," same-sex marriage would be permitted since men and women would be considered no different from one another, our daughters could be sent into combat, and the noble role of motherhood would be downgraded to mere "caretaker" in the eyes of the law. Elected officials hold the power to make laws that profoundly affect our lives.

Checklist

Here is a quick checklist to assess if a candidate deserves your vote:

- ❑ Where does he or she stand on the moral issues that God calls good or evil? Abortion destroys innocent human life and harms women; does the candidate pledge to uphold the sanctity of life and not force taxpayers to subsidize abortions? Pornography degrades women and steals our children's innocence: does the candidate seek to protect our communities from its proliferation?
- ❑ Marriage is the bedrock of every healthy society and God's plan for the foundation of the family; does the candidate vow to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman? Religious freedom is crucial to a free society; does the candidate respect the free exercise of religion such as prayer in public and the right to honor God in public settings?
- ❑ Does the candidate exhibit strong character? The best way to discern a person's character is through both their personal and professional life. Do they take their vows, whether marriage or to uphold the Constitution, seriously? Do they believe in the rule of law, that is, there is an authority higher than themselves and it applies equally to everyone? Are they charitable in personality and their own giving, but wise enough to know what people really need?
- ❑ What does their history and experience reveal about them? Do their actions match their campaign promises? How have they voted in the past on key moral issues? Now that both political parties recognize the importance of Evangelical voters, we are seeing candidates tout their "Christian" credentials during campaigns even though their positions and voting records contradict Biblical principles.

Choose Integrity and Righteousness

If we are to be free to live out our faith and order our society according to the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God (as the Declaration of Independence puts it), we must have people in elected office who honor the proper role of government, defend religious freedom, respect the sanctity of life and marriage, and have the character to do what is right. Thank God we live in a country in which we choose our leaders.



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