

impact

Living
Your Values
Out Loud

www.iLiveValues.com

**“Act justly...
love faithfulness...
walk humbly with your God.”
Micah 6:8**



Should Our Faith Impact Our Voting Decisions?

When citizens make their voting decisions based on a candidate’s beliefs and convictions instead of a candidate’s party or promises, the outcome is bound to be better for our nation.

A majority of Americans who are eligible to vote do vote in presidential elections. In 2004, according to the Census Bureau, 64 percent of these citizens made it to the polls.

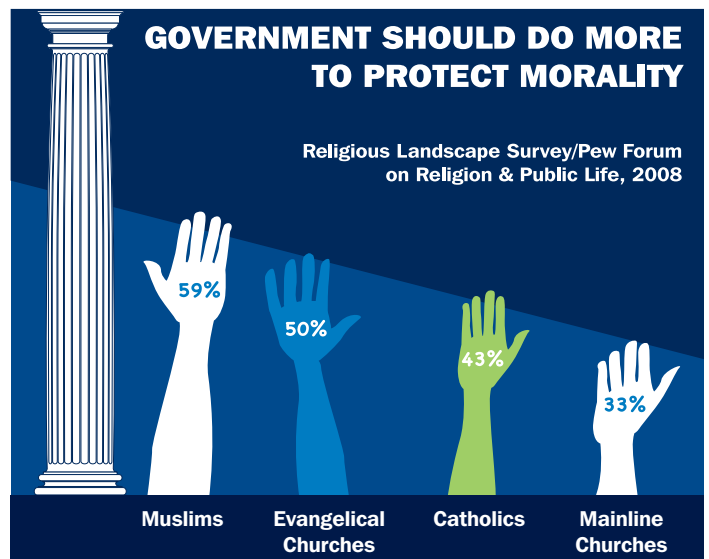
Unfortunately, a great many voters choose to ignore the precepts of their faith when casting their ballots. Just over a third of Americans indicated their faith has some impact on their voting decisions, according to a July 2003 study, “Religion and Politics: Contention and Consensus,” underwritten by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

“For the most part, people say religion does not frequently affect their voting decisions,” says the Pew Forum study. “Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say their religious beliefs seldom if ever affect their voting decisions.”

While there are those who believe Americans must segregate their religious beliefs from their civic involvement, that opinion doesn’t square with Scripture. Romans 13 tells us that God Himself ordained the civil magistrate, the government, so who are we to shun involvement in it? From the Bible we know that men like Joseph and Daniel were a part of the government in their day, serving for God’s glory.

Christians should register to vote, educate themselves on the positions of the candidates, and vote for those whose stances most closely square with God’s values.

iVoteValues.com provides churches with nonpartisan voter registration and voter awareness resources that are well within the Internal Revenue Service’s interpretation of tax code restrictions for 501(c)(3) organizations.





PEOPLE OF FAITH SHOULD UNDERSTAND

that their ultimate allegiance is to the Almighty, not any ideology or party. People of faith have an obligation to be involved as “salt” and “light” in the world, and that includes politics. They should be voting their values, beliefs and convictions, based on their understanding of the imperatives of their faith.



Richard L. Doerflinger

Voting and Registration in the 2004 Presidential Election

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, MARCH 2006

- Among the citizen population, 74% of women and 71% of men were registered to vote.
- 79% of citizens 55 and older were registered, while 58% of citizens 18-24 were.
- 126 million people voted (64% of voting-age citizens).
- Women were more likely than men to vote (65 percent compared with 62 percent).
- More citizens 55 and older voted (72%) than 18- to 24-year-old citizens (47%).
- Most voting-age citizens (93%) had U.S. citizenship at birth.
- Married individuals had a higher voting rate (71%) than widowed (62%), divorced (58%), separated (48%), or never-married individuals (52%).
- The voting rate of citizens who had a bachelor’s degree (78%) was about twice as high as that of citizens who had not completed high school (40%).
- The voting rate among citizens living in families with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more was 77%, compared with 48% for citizens living in families with incomes under \$20,000.

The Internet and the 2008 Election

PEW INTERNET & AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT, 6/15/2008

- 46% of Americans have used the Internet, e-mail or cell phone text messaging to get campaign news, share their views and mobilize others.
- 6% have made political contributions online, compared with 2% who did during the entire 2004 campaign.
- 35% have watched online political videos—nearly triple the number of the 2004 race.
- 10% have used social networking sites to gather information or become involved.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1. REGISTER TO VOTE.** Most states require that you register at least 30 days before Election Day. Contact your local election officials for dates and requirements.
- 2. LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES.** Each candidate has a Web site detailing their positions on major issues. The ERLC will produce a nonpartisan party platform comparison after the official nominating conventions.
- 3. PRAY.** Pray for spiritual revival in your own heart and in the hearts of our country’s leadership. Call upon God for national renewal (iLiveValues.com/prayer).
- 4. VOTE YOUR VALUES.** Jesus expects His followers to be “salt” and “light” in our culture, and He expects us to participate in government (Matthew 5:13-16, 22:21).

