



The Christian Citizenship Committee (C3) provides information to the Christian community regarding critical issues that affect our faith, family, and government. Our goal is that believers, once equipped with this information, will seek God in fervent prayer and respond appropriately as God-fearing, patriotic Americans.

FOCUS: A Quick Comparison of the Major Party Platforms – Do They Conform To Christian Values? (PART ONE)

As the 2016 elections draw near, it is important for Christians to gather information about the policy stances of the candidates and the parties. We should ask ourselves if these stances comport with the values that have been given to us in God's Holy Word.

It is important to review the stated positions *and* the track record of individual candidates. If one only votes based on party, without bothering to learn about the individual candidates, you may miss out on the opportunity to vote for a Godly candidate from the other party – or accidentally vote for a person with anti-Christian views from your own party. (Not to mention the possibility of excluding worthy independent candidates.)

Having said this, one unfortunate aspect of the two party system is the loss of independence of individuals within the party. Once seated, the pressures of party on the elected official can become enormous. Far too often, candidates who ran for office on an announced set of values, legislate/govern counter to those values once elected. This often occurs due to the pressure applied by party leadership to have all party members in alignment for specific votes.

Therefore, Christian voters should be sure to know where the parties stand on various issues – as a party. These position statements can be found in the respective party platforms.

Below are listed policy positions on issues of key interest to Christians. These are provided to help

the Christians of PGBC vote armed with information provided directly from the parties themselves. C3 does not endorse any candidate or party, and encourages all Christian voters to use all resources available to fully inform themselves before going to the polls.

Excerpts from each party platform (part one):

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY – DNC

“As we prosecute the fight against terrorism, Democrats will repudiate vile tactics that would do us harm. We reject Donald Trump's vilification of Muslims. It violates the religious freedom that is the bedrock of our country and feeds into ISIS' nefarious narrative. It also alienates people and countries who are crucial to defeating terrorism; the vast majority of Muslims believe in a future of peace and tolerance. We reject Donald Trump's suggestion that our military should engage in war crimes, like torturing prisoners or murdering civilian family members of suspected terrorists. These tactics run counter to American principles, undermine our moral standing, cost innocent lives, and endanger Americans. We also firmly reject Donald Trump's willingness to mire tens of thousands of our combat troops in another misguided ground war in the Middle East, which would only further embolden ISIS. There is nothing smart or strong about such an approach....

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY – RNC

“The First Amendment: Religious Liberty
The Bill of Rights lists religious liberty, with its rights of conscience, as the first freedom to be protected. Religious freedom in the Bill of Rights protects the right of the people to practice their faith in their everyday lives. As George Washington taught, ‘religion and morality are indispensable supports’ to a free society. Similarly, Thomas Jefferson declared that ‘No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.’ Ongoing attempts to compel individuals, businesses, and institutions of faith to transgress their beliefs are part of a misguided effort to undermine religion and drive it from the public square. As a result, many charitable religious institutions that have demonstrated great success

in helping the needy have been barred from receiving government grants and contracts. Government officials threaten religious colleges and universities with massive fines and seek to control their personnel decisions. Places of worship for the first time in our history have reason to fear the loss of tax-exempt status merely for espousing and practicing traditional religious beliefs that have been held across the world for thousands of years, and for almost four centuries in America. We value the right of America's religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. Republicans believe the federal government, specifically the IRS, is constitutionally prohibited from policing or censoring speech based on religious convictions or beliefs, and therefore we urge the repeal of the Johnson Amendment.

ABORTION – DNC

“Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion—regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women's, men's, and young people's health and wellbeing. We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people. We will continue to oppose—and seek to overturn—federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment. We condemn and will combat any acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients, and staff. We will defend the ACA, which

extends affordable preventive health care to women, including no-cost contraception, and prohibits discrimination in health care based on gender.

ABORTION – RNC

“The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Human Life
The Constitution's guarantee that no one can 'be deprived of life, liberty or property' deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that 'all' are 'endowed by their Creator' with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth.

PORNOGRAPHY – DNC

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PORNOGRAPHY – RNC

“The internet must not become a safe haven for predators. Pornography, with its harmful effects, especially on children, has become a public health crisis that is destroying the lives of millions. We encourage states to continue to fight this public menace and pledge our commitment to children's safety and well-being. We applaud the social networking sites that bar sex offenders from participation. We urge energetic prosecution of child pornography, which is closely linked to human trafficking.” (p 40)

Additional planks from each platform will be included in the next C3 insert.

ACTION STEPS

1. Pray about the upcoming elections. Prayer meetings will be held from now through election night.
Where: Room E104 (Park on left, enter through E100 door on ground floor.)
When: Tuesdays from 7-8 pm
2. Go to: <http://ncfamilyvoter.com> to get a personalized voter guide.
3. Review the full party platforms:
 - DNC - <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Democratic-Party-Platform-7.21.16-no-lines.pdf>
 - RNC - https://prod-static.nqop-pbl.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL/11-ben_1468872234.pdf
4. Look for more resources at: http://www.pgbc.com/Resources/C3_Committee/c3_committee.html