



# Where Do the Candidates Stand on Life?

**John McCain**

**Barack Obama**

## Roe v. Wade

*\*Note: The "Freedom of Choice Act" is a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal limitations on abortion, including partial-birth abortion.*

### OPPOSES

- Voted to oppose *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "...We would be better off by having *Roe v. Wade* return to the states....I don't believe the...Court should be legislating in the way that they did on *Roe v. Wade*."

### SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsor of the "Freedom of Choice Act."\*
- "I have consistently advocated for reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as President."

## Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

*\*\*Note: Gonzales v. Carhart is the April 2007 Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.*

**The partial-birth abortion procedure — used from the fifth month on — involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull and suctioning out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies of healthy mothers.**

### SUPPORTS

- Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.
- "Today's Supreme Court ruling [in *Gonzales v. Carhart*\*\*] is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of life."

### OPPOSES

- "I am extremely concerned that [*Gonzales v. Carhart*\*\*] will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman's right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode *Roe v. Wade*."

## Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

### OPPOSES

- Voted in favor of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.
- Voted consistently against federal funding of abortion.

### SUPPORTS

- Voted against legislation in the Illinois State Senate that prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortion.
- His campaign has stated that he "does not support" the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.

## Parental Notification Law

### SUPPORTS

- Voted to support a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

### OPPOSES

- Voted to block a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

## Protecting Abortion Survivors

### SUPPORTED

- Voted for legislation that provides protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

### OPPOSED

- Voted three times against a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would have provided protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

## Embryonic Stem Cell Research

### SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "I believe that skin stem cell research has every potential very soon of making that discussion [embryonic stem cell research] academic."

### SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "Embryonic stem cells can be obtained from a number of sources including in vitro fertilization. ...We should expand and accelerate research using these embryos..."

## Human Cloning

### OPPOSES

- His campaign website states that he "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes."

### SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsored a bill (S. 1520) in 2005 that would allow the cloning of human embryos to be used in research, but prohibit placing them in wombs.