

Where do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?



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September 2008

404 S. 11th Street • P.O. Box 80410 • Lincoln, NE 68501 • (402) 438-4802



A couple, 30 weeks pregnant, stop by the Nebraska Right to Life booth during the 2008 State Fair.

State Fair Presence For 34 Years

By the summer of 1974, Nebraska Right to Life had been in existence slightly more than one year. Its founders had the good sense to take our message to Nebraskans at the State Fair by contracting for an educational booth. NRL has had a booth at the State Fair ever since.

For many of those years the booth has been inside the air-conditioned Bob Devaney Center. During the early years, the focus was educating the public about the facts of abortion, what it is, how it is performed and how it takes the life of an innocent, unborn child. Toward that end, the early organizers of the fair booth felt it was necessary to display photos of actual aborted babies, detailing which method of abortion was used on each baby. Mounds of informational Continued on Page 4

Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee Voter Guide Coming in October!

Watch your mailboxes and cars for the NRL PAC Voter Guide which will be distributed mid-October. The Voter Guide contains all of the answers of each candidate who responded to our survey, plus a list of the NRL PAC-endorsed candidates. That's not all, we tell you who is on the opposing side by showing you who Planned Parenthood is supporting as well as who is supported by the pro-unethical medical research crowd. If you don't receive a copy of the Voter Guide, call 402-438-4802 or request one at info@nebraskartl.org.

For now, here is a list of NRL PAC-endorsed candidates:

President/VP: We defer to National Right to Life in this race in supporting

John McCain and Sarah Palin.

Senate: Johanns

Congress: #1: Fortenberry #2: Terry #3: Smith

Legislature

By District 1: Heidemann 3: Kopplin 5: Barrientos-Patlin & Mello

7: Moles & Nordquist 13: Geschwinder 15: Janssen 17: Garwood & Giese 18: Lautenbaugh 19: Flood 21: Jeffers 23: Langemeier 27: Coash 29: Fulton

33: Utter 35: Gloor & Neuhaus 37: George 39: McCoy & Moats 41: Eurek & Sullivan

43: Fischer 45: Cornett 47: Schilz

NU Regent 1: Clare 2: Hawks

St. Board of Ed: 1: Evnen 2: Winterer 4: Heller

HEADS UP: PP'S OWN CANDIDATE:

In Legislative District #21 Ken Haar is running with support of Planned Parenthood. He is married to Chris Funk, the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Nebraska/Council Bluffs and he voted for city funding of Planned Parenthood while a Lincoln City Councilman in the mid-1990's.



This Advertisement Paid for by Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee, Brian Kimminau, Treasurer, P.O. Box 80410, Lincoln, Ne. 68501



Palin Speaks Loudly As Small-Town Mom

By Julie Schmit-Albin, Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life

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Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's selection as vice-presidential running mate by U.S. Sen. John McCain breathes new life into the Republican ticket's chances in November. Palin's independent spirit and integrity are virtues that should attract many undecided voters.

Chief among her positives is her example of living out her pro-life principles. Voters who claim the other label or who eschew abortion politics altogether still can rally around a woman who welcomed the gift of her Down-syndrome child and who is dealing with the unplanned pregnancy of her teen daughter.

Coupled with her courage in taking on entrenched GOP corruption in Alaska, Palin complements McCain's "agent of change" reputation. With all of this happening under the national spotlight, American voters may well relate to Sarah Palin in a way they have not been able to with other presidential and vice-presidential candidates, current and past.

The mainstream press and liberal bloggers are making a huge blunder in raising questions about Palin's judgment and ability to be "veep" while fulfilling her duties as a mother.

Detractors are questioning how Palin would be a mother to son Trig, with his special needs, and guide her 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, through teen pregnancy and young motherhood, all while holding the second-highest office in the land.

This is a hypocritical and sexist response from people who got whopped in the side of their collective head with the two-by-four of Palin's selection. They now are grasping at anything to dismantle undecided voters, curiosity about this breath of fresh air on the American political scene.

Geraldine Ferraro's youngest child was 18 when she was named the Democratic vice-presidential pick in 1984, so a comparison between how she was accepted by the liberal press (no bloggers then) and how Palin is being vilified probably would be dismissed as irrelevant. However, hypocrisy runs amok when the tables are turned.

The fact remains that Palin is the first female Republican vice-presidential candidate in history, something that should be celebrated on all sides. Would the dissenters be so quick to dismiss a liberal, pro-choice female veep candidate who also happened to be a mother of five - one child with special needs and the other a teen parent?

Something tells me that CNN, the New York Times and liberal bloggers would be touting such a woman's strength and grace in the face of challenging family situations while juggling a vice-presidential campaign and potentially being elected.

Isn't this what all the histrionics has been about for the women's movement? If women are to achieve true equality with men, then why would defenders of feminist principles denigrate a strongly pro-life woman who has fought her way to the pinnacle of Republican politics?

To their credit, the pro-choice feminist groups at this time appear not to be touching the hatchet job against Palin, leaving the gnashing of teeth to their friends in the press.

What Palin's critics are underestimating is the ire of Americans, particularly women who are mothers and those who aren't. Both groups can relate to the unfairness of a person like themselves being dragged through the muck. They can relate to the PTA parent, City Council member and mayor in Palin, because they all know someone like her. Or they fill that role themselves.

The liberal pundits rail that it is insulting to think Palin will attract any hard-core, single-issue, pro-choice voters. That remains to be seen. However, there are plenty of Americans in neither camp who can support a Sarah Palin, because they know that she is her own person and a trailblazer while at the same time a devoted mom. That's quite an appealing combination.

Medical Emergency At Lincoln Planned Parenthood Again

Labenz Patient Records At UNMC

In slightly more than one year, two medical emergencies have taken place at Planned Parenthood's abortion facility at 3705 South St. in Lincoln. The first occurred in August 2007 when a woman was rushed by ambulance to Bryan LGH Medical Center for an emergency hysterectomy. That woman filed a lawsuit naming Planned Parenthood and then abortionist Meryl Severson. The lawsuit was eventually settled by all parties in the spring of 2008 with no details being available to the general public as part of the condition of the settlement.

On Sept. 4, 2008, Lincoln Right to Life members who regularly witness and sidewalk counsel at the same facility saw another ambulance come to take a woman away to the hospital. This time, the current abortionist, C.J. Labenz, followed the ambulance in his car. No knowledge of the condition of the woman or the outcome of the emergency is known.

A week prior to this, Aug. 28, Lincoln Right to Life sponsored a picket at the Lincoln Country Club to oppose Labenz coming into Lincoln as the new abortionist. The event was a reception for new doctors in town, hosted annually by Bryan LGH Medical Center. Labenz has received hospital privileges at Bryan LGH.

Labenz had his own abortion practice in Omaha with William Orr until about two years ago. When the building they leased was sold, they were unable to find a new location for their abortion facility. It was also recently learned that former patients of Labenz are directed to the University of Nebraska Medical Center to obtain their records.

Inquiries with government officials as to whether this is a standard practice for UNMC to house records of retired medical practices have not yet revealed answers.

NRL will continue to press for an explanation as to why a private abortionist's former patients' records are housed at publicly-funded UNMC.



Where do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?

John McCain

Barack Obama



- Voted to oppose Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "I have stated time after time after time that Roe v. Wade was a bad decision, that I support... the rights of the unborn. I have fought for human rights and human dignity throughout my entire political career. To me it is an issue of human rights and human dignity."
- Co-sponsor of the "Freedom of Choice Act," (S.1173) which would make partial-birth abortion legal again, require taxpayer funding of abortion, and invalidate virtually all state and federal limitations on abortion, such as parental notification laws.
- "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

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.

Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Did not vote for the Illinois Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act when it came before the Illinois State Senate.

Protecting Abortion Survivors

- Voted for legislation that provides care and protection for babies who are born alive after an abortion.
- Voted four times against legislation in the Illinois State Senate that would have provided care and protection for babies who are born alive after an abortion.

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

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

Parental Notification Law

- 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.
- 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.



Sarah Palin

- Opposes abortion and believes unborn children should be protected. As Governor of Alaska, supported pro-life legislation.
- "...I am pro-life and have never wavered in my belief in the sanctity of every human life."

Joseph Biden

- Voted to endorse Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "I strongly support Roe v. Wade.... That's why I led the fight to defeat Bork. Thank God he is not in the Court or Roe v. Wade would be gone by now."





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for Life
Saturday,
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State Capitol,
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Spreading Awareness at the State Fair

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literature were stacked on the table for passers-by to pick up.

Oftentimes our volunteers fielded attacks from people who wanted to know why the graphic photos were displayed. Once, a neighboring vendor tried to get the photos removed but the State Fair manager backed us up when we queried what other forms of speech were outlawed on the fairgrounds ("Ever walk around the Midway?" we asked).

During the past 20 years, the booth doubled in size and cost. The aborted baby pictures were removed and instead the focus became fetal development, how the

A couple proudly hold their child during a visit to the Nebraska Right to Life booth during the 2008 State Fair.

baby grows in the womb throughout nine months. Eventually, 11- to 12-week plastic baby models came into vogue as free handouts to children. The main attraction for families became the large size hard plastic and soft rubber fetal models depicting the various stages of development.

For the past two years, the addition of a large-screen TV at the booth made possible the continuous showing of 4-D fetal ultrasound images.

Through the years, upwards of 80 volunteers manned the booth in three-hour shifts during the 10-day period. Today, our State Fair scheduler, Marvin Ward, Lincoln, starts calling for volunteers in July. The bulk of the workers for the weekday/night shifts come from Lincoln Right to Life and Lincoln Knights of Columbus Councils. The weekends are staffed by nearby NRL chapters such as Butler County Right to Life, Seward County Pro-Life Concern, Columbus Area Right to Life and South Central Nebraska Right to Life (Hastings area).

With the impending move of the State Fair to Grand Island in 2010, it is not



urt Matthes, President of Lincoln Right to Life and his wife, Cara,

known if NRL will be able to replicate its 80-plus fair volunteer base; not to mention set up and tear down of a booth not located in Lincoln. That will be a question for the NRL Board to grapple with next year after the completion of the final fair in Lincoln. What is certain is that throughout the years, we have made an impact. Not one year goes by that someone doesn't come up to the booth and thank us for having been there in a previous year because it meant that someone in their family had not been aborted.