

Does My Vote Really Matter?

Yes! Consider the following examples:

In 1801, one vote in the U.S. House broke the tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr.

In 1839, one vote made "Landslide" Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office.

In 1876, one vote in the Electoral College gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.

In 1941, one vote extended the Draft just four months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 2000, our nation had one of the most closely contested presidential elections in American history, and some people are still arguing about who won!

The point is this: Your vote can make a tremendous difference!

Action Points

- > **Register to Vote:** Registering to vote is easy. Here are the three simple steps:
 - > Obtain and complete the registration form (This can be done online at www.iVoteValues.org).
 - > Print it, sign it, address it, and stamp it.
 - > Mail it (or take it) to the election official in your county (For your state, see www.nass.org or www.fec.gov).

- > **Register Your Friends:**
 - > Send an e-Card from www.iVoteValues.org encouraging your friend to register.
 - > Help organize a Voter Registration drive in your local church or community. A Voter Impact Toolkit is available from Family Research Council (www.frc.org). Follow the strategy and download resources provided by www.iVoteValues.org. Contact your local Supervisor of Elections for specific guidelines in your area.

- > **Vote Your Values:**
 - > Educate Yourself on Election Issues: www.iVoteValues.org is a great place to start.
 - > Pick Your Party: Consider each party's platform statements for their positions on moral issues and core values.
 - > Choose a Candidate: Know what the candidates stand for. Consult the "candidate's values" section at www.iVoteValues.org. Weigh the candidates' values against your values, and choose the ones who most closely match up.

- > **Pray for the Election:**

Election Day is approaching, and there is much at stake. In many ways, the future of your state and our nation hangs in the balance. We encourage all concerned Christians to devote themselves to focused prayer for the upcoming election. A great prayer guide can be found at www.iVoteValues.org.

Final question: Do the candidates you are considering share your values? If not, why vote for those candidates? Strongly consider voting for the candidates who have positions that line up with yours. Don't just vote-vote your values!

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Voting Your Values



**HOW YOU VOTE
TODAY IMPACTS
TOMORROW.**

Voting Your Values

Scripture:

Matthew 22:21

The religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus on the issue of paying taxes, but Jesus turned the tables on them (Matt. 22:15-20).

He asked them for a coin, and then asked whose portrait and inscription was stamped on it. They replied: "Caesar's." Jesus responded: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (v. 21). His point: Citizens are obligated to support their government.

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

Samuel Adams,
Founding Father

Unlike Ancient Rome, Americans are blessed to have a government, as Lincoln put it, "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Our form of government requires our participation. Christian citizens can "give to Caesar" by praying for our officials, paying taxes, engaging government policy, speaking out on moral and social issues, holding public office, and voting.

Voting is a simple act with a significant impact. When we vote, we help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms. Voting is a right, a privilege, and a freedom that millions in other parts of the world can only dream about.

Yet, many Americans choose not to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 30% of the voting age population is not registered to vote. That translates to over 55 million Americans! What's worse is that less than half of those registered actually vote in a given election!

More sobering news: Many who profess to be Christians fail to consider their biblical values when voting, often choosing candidates whose positions are at odds with their own beliefs, convictions, and values. A study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions.

However, as "salt" and "light," Jesus expects us to influence every part of our culture—including our government and the democratic process (Matt. 5:13-16). www.iVoteValues.org was created to help you get informed and take action as a Citizen Christian. Here are four practical action steps:

- > Register to Vote
- > Register Your Friends
- > Vote Your Values
- > Pray for the Election



Imagine the impact **Christians** could have on the **direction** of our government, the **character** of its leadership, and the **moral health** of our nation if we simply applied **biblical principles** to every aspect of our lives, including our **participation** in the **democratic process**.

**It is true:
How you vote today
impacts tomorrow!**

"The moral issues with public policy implications

being debated today are far too important for Christians to ignore, especially at election time. Do your homework before you enter the voting booth. Find out where the candidates stand on the value of human life, the definition of marriage, and the freedom to express our faith in public. Resist the temptation to vote your family heritage, ethnic background, your pocketbook or your party. Instead, pray and ask God for guidance in choosing candidates. As a follower of Christ, vote your values in the upcoming election."

Tony Perkins

President of The Family Research Council