

## **Michael Farris' Voter Guide**

### **Federal Marriage Amendment**

Background: In 2004, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court struck down the state's marriage law, thus making Massachusetts the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. Following that ruling, homosexual couples who obtained a Massachusetts marriage license filed suit in several other states seeking to force those states to recognize same-sex marriage. An Amendment to the Constitution of the United States would enact a nationwide rule that marriage would be exclusively a union between one man and one woman.

Candidate Positions:

Democrats: Clinton voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment in 2004 and in 2006. Edwards did not cast a vote in 2004, but he has stated he opposes the Amendment. Obama was not in the Senate in 2004, but he voted against the Amendment in 2006, and he has announced his opposition to the Amendment.

Republicans: Huckabee and Romney both support the Federal Marriage Amendment. McCain voted against the Amendment in 2004 and in 2006. Paul voted against the Amendment while a member of the U.S. House in 2004 and in 2006, and he is opposed to the Amendment. Guiliani and Thompson oppose the Amendment.

Prior positions of candidates as noted by major media: In 1994, when campaigning for the U.S. Senate, Romney promised to be more liberal on gay rights than his opponent Ted Kennedy.

### **Human Life Amendment**

Background: In *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and in *Doe v. Bolton* (1973), the United States Supreme Court ruled that a woman may obtain an abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, thus overruling every state law in the country. If the Supreme Court overrules these prior decisions, the matter of abortion and when life should have legal protection will revert to the states. A Human Life Amendment would guarantee that the right to life for unborn children would be legally protected under the U.S. Constitution.

Democrats: Clinton, Edwards, and Obama support abortion rights and oppose a Human Life Amendment.

Republicans: Guiliani, Paul, and Thompson oppose a Human Life Amendment. Huckabee supports the Amendment. McCain's website is silent on the Amendment although he does criticize *Roe v. Wade*. Romney says that he supports the 2004 GOP platform which includes support for the Amendment.

Prior position of candidates as noted by major media: All Democrats say that they support abortion rights and have no noted discrepancies on this issue.

Guiliani supports abortion rights and opposes the Amendment. All other GOP candidates say they oppose abortion. Huckabee supports the Amendment. McCain has supported embryonic stem cell research. Paul opposes abortion but he also opposes the Amendment. Thompson opposed the attempt by Congress to protect Terry Schaivo. In 1994, Romney supported abortion, but he now states he does not support abortion.

### **Waterboarding**

Background: Waterboarding is an interrogation technique where a subject is strapped down, a cloth placed tightly over the face, water is then poured over the cloth into the subject's mouth and nose. Breathing becomes difficult and the subject experiences the gag reflex and feels that he is drowning and near death.

Democrats: Clinton, Edwards, and Obama oppose waterboarding.

Republicans: Guiliani and Thompson also would not rule out use of the technique. McCain, Huckabee, and Paul oppose waterboarding. Romney has said that he would need to consult with military leaders to make a decision.

## **Immigration Reform**

Background: Every candidate from both parties espouses some form of immigration reform. A core issue is what to do with the approximately 12 million illegal immigrants who are currently in the country. The Senate considered a bill in 2007. This proposal would have granted a new status, called H5-A, which would have allowed illegal immigrants with jobs to remain in the United States. In most cases a \$500 fee would be required.

Democrats: Clinton and Obama both voted in favor of this legislation. Edwards also supported this legislation.

Republicans: Giuliani has endorsed the idea of such immigrants being allowed to stay upon the payment of a penalty. Huckabee has said that these immigrants could be allowed to apply to enter the United States legally after returning to their home country and making the application from that location. McCain was the chief sponsor of the H5-A legislation. Romney said he opposed the legislation. He would not deport these illegal aliens, but he would require registration, and the government would decide who would stay and work and who would be required to leave. Thompson would seek to reduce the number of illegal aliens over time by enforcing existing laws on employment and other regulations.

## **Iraq**

The New York Times has helpfully organized all of the presidential candidates positions on Iraq asking two distinct questions: a. Did the candidate support the invasion in 2002? b. Did the candidate support the troop increase in the spring of 2007?

Democrats: Clinton and Edwards both supported the invasion in 2002, but opposed the 2007 troop increase. Obama opposed both the invasion in 2002 and the increase in 2007.

Republicans: Giuliani, Huckabee, McCain, Romney, and Thompson supported both the 2002 invasion and the 2007 increase in troops. Paul opposed both the invasion in 2002 and the increase in 2007.

## Charts

### **Human Life Amendment**

Clinton	Opposes
Edwards	Opposes
Obama	Opposes
Giuliani	Opposes
Huckabee	Supports
McCain	Silent
Paul	Opposes
Romney	Supports (supported abortion in 1994 Senate campaign)
Thompson	Opposes

### **Federal Marriage Amendment**

Clinton	Opposes
Edwards	Opposes
Obama	Opposes
Giuliani	Opposes
Huckabee	Supports
McCain	Opposes
Paul	Opposes
Romney	Supports
Thompson	Opposes

### **Should waterboarding be banned?**

Clinton	Yes
Edwards	Yes
Obama	Yes
Giuliani	No (refused to rule out)
Huckabee	Yes
McCain	Yes
Paul	Yes
Romney	No (refused to rule out)
Thompson	No (refused to rule out)

**Should illegal immigrants be allowed to remain lawfully after taken legal steps to remediate (such as registering and paying a fee)?**

Clinton	Yes
Edwards	Yes
Obama	Yes
Giuliani	Yes
Huckabee	No (Apply for admission only after returning to original nation)
McCain	Yes
Paul	No answer found
Romney	Yes/No (answer has varied)
Thompson	No

**Iraq Invasion and Increase of Troops in 2007**

	Iraq Invasion	2007 Troop Increase
Clinton	Yes	No
Edwards	Yes	No
Obama	No	No
Giuliani	Yes	Yes
Huckabee	Yes	Yes
McCain	Yes	Yes
Paul	No	No
Romney	Yes	Yes
Thompson	Yes	Yes