



Where Do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?



John McCain

Barack Obama

**Note: The "Freedom of Choice Act" is a bill that would make partial-birth abortion legal again, provide for taxpayer funding of abortion, and invalidate virtually all state and federal limitations on abortion, such as parental notification laws.*

Roe v. Wade

- 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*."

- 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.

- 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."

- "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

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

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.

Protecting Abortion Survivors

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

- 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.