

# THE HERALD

Newsletter of the Orrville Grace Brethren Church

## Why Every Christian Should Vote

Many Christians across this country have been asking a very similar question recently. It is a more spiritual question than they realize, and it generally consists of: "Since we don't like Candidate A or Candidate B, should we abstain from voting altogether?" We would like to answer that question from both a legal and Biblical perspective.

### First, the privilege to vote is a time-honored and sacred event.

Many countries are not afforded this ability and would sacrifice greatly to have this right. The process by which we select our country's leadership is both a responsibility and a tradition that was begun by our founders who escaped the tyranny of the monarch system. We must place this treasured past in proper context.

### Second, we must remember the legacy of each election.

Not only will the President be chosen, but various other bills and policies will be on the ballot. These influence your local communities and can have a significant impact on the rights of religious liberty for churches and Bible-believing ministries. One vote gone awry can cause decades of legal battles for freedom. It is vital for believers to be aware and lead their communities in these important affairs.

The legacy is not only found in the historical significance of local legislation but can also be found in the context of the Supreme Court Justices. Currently, two active judges are 83 and 80 years old, and there is an open seat already after the death of Justice Scalia. Already, one seat will be filled by the next President, and other seats may need to be filled as well over the next 4 or 8 years. The next ballot for President could have consequences that far outlive the current generation. The rulings by previous courts have given us outcomes that promote immoral behavior and acts such as *Roe v. Wade* in 1971, which took away the right of states to prohibit abortion. *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in 2015, is another decision by the High Court and sought to change the traditional and fundamental definition of marriage. These decisions will impact American for decades to come.

### Third, your decision to vote is a Biblical one that should be made with much prayer.

*In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God - Philippians 4:6.* We have been given an opportunity to choose a leader, but do not confuse choosing elected officials with the revival that our nation so desperately needs. The heart of the king (or President from any party) is in the hand of the Lord! Throughout history God has chosen every leader to serve His will. Our duty is to vote for those who align themselves with Biblical principles. We must pray for God's guidance in our choices, electing those both ⇒

locally and nationally who will support religious liberty.

Romans 13 shares insight about the role of government: *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.* The verses that follow show that these God-ordained rulers are to protect citizens from evil. Old Testament kings and rulers, both good and bad, were ordained and placed in those positions by God. Having a part in the selection process in our free nation is a duty that God expects each Christian to undertake.

### **Two major issues are constantly on the ballot in America: Religious Freedom and Right to Life.**

These moral issues should be at the forefront of the mind of every believer. Any time you have the opportunity to impact our society for good, you have a necessary duty and command by God to do it.

Voting is a fundamental privilege in America, guaranteed by our Constitution. A Christian who chooses not to vote is allowing secularists and those with opposing worldviews to make their viewpoints impactful with little or no opposition. As darkness is the absence of light, we are commanded to be that light in every aspect of our lives, including elections. *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin* - James 4:17.

We must voice Scriptural views in every aspect of our lives, both publicly and private, and we must vote to preserve religious liberty and select those who promise to uphold our freedoms for future generations. Every believer has a responsibility to stand up for Biblical views in America and to use every opportunity God provides to do so.

Taken from the August 2016 "Legal Alert"  
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## **Suggested Biblical Voting Guidelines**

**Taken the September Edition of PT News  
by Mike Wingfield**

Christians need to remember as we vote, that we are making a choice for a president, not for a pastor. Presidents are not Biblically mandated to measure up to the Biblical qualifications of a pastor. Pastors lead the spiritual body of Christ. Presidents are called by God to lead a civil government. God has a divine purpose for all leaders. He can lead a president, even if he does not know Him. A great example of this is the pagan king of Persia, Cyrus (590-530 B.C.). (Ezra 1:1-4; Isaiah 45:1)

The following questions have been prepared to help us think about the choices we have before us for in this presidential election. These questions are worded so as to promote the candidate that best agrees with the Bible, its godly principles, the U.S. Constitution, and its historical heritage founded upon the freedoms that have made America great. Read each question and then after making a decision, write the name of the candidate at the end of each of the following 35 questions. If you do not have a clear choice for a particular question, leave that question blank. The one whose name appears the most in all of these questions should be the one you vote for. **Personality, gender, and political party affiliation should not be major issues in this consideration.**

- Which candidate seems most respectful to Jesus and the Bible?
- Which candidate will be the best friend to the church and Christians in America?
- Which candidate would be the closest to uphold and promote the moral standards of the Bible?

- Which candidate would be most likely to defend the Biblically defined marriage of one man and one woman?
- Which candidate seems to have the best relationship with his/her spouse and family?
- Which candidate seems to support pro-life, rather than abortion?
- Which candidate seems to have the most devotion and love for America?
- Which candidate will most likely protect and promote the U.S. Constitution, including the first and second amendments.
- Which candidate will be most faithful to America, rather than advance the agenda of the United Nations?
- Which candidate will offer the most opposition to the progress of the evil agenda of the New World Order?
- Which candidate is less likely to promote the politically biased environmental issues to weaken America?
- Which candidate will promote democracy and freedom, rather than progressive socialism?
- Which candidate will be more inclined to stop promoting “big government?”
- Which candidate seems to be less evil than the other?
- Which candidate seems to be more truthful than the other?
- Which candidate seems to best understand the threat of Islamic terrorism to America and the world?
- Which candidate will call terrorism what it is — Islamic terrorism?
- Which candidate will best support Israel’s occupation of the Promised Land and Jerusalem?
- Which candidate seems to have the best overall ideas, goals, policies, and ambitions for America?
- Which candidate can be trusted the most as the Commander in Chief of our armed forces?
- Which candidate will be most trustworthy to defend America against those who want to destroy us?
- Which candidate has the best policy for controlling the flow of refugees, or illegal aliens attempting to enter the U.S.?
- Which candidate will best support our international allies and friends?
- Which candidate has chosen the best all-around candidate to be his/her vice-president?
- Which candidate will think first of America rather than his/her political party?
- Which candidate will act in the best interest of America, rather than appease people to be liked or re-elected?
- Which candidate is more likely to work with congress in leading the country instead of following party lines?
- Which candidate will, in case of a vacancy, select a Supreme Court justice that will uphold the U.S. constitution?
- Which candidate will surround himself/herself with cabinet appointees that will be true Americans?
- Which candidate has the best working solutions to best help America’s failing economy?
- Which candidate is most likely to stop adding to our national debt?
- Which candidate seems to have the best common sense approach to solving America’s problems?
- Which candidate will seek to become a leader for all Americans, not just some segment of America?
- Which candidate seems to understand the dangers of promoting an entitlement mentality among Americans?
- Which candidate’s lifestyle best illustrates trustworthiness to hold the highest political office in America?

# FUNNIES

## Kids say insightful things... about politics

### WHAT IS A GENERAL ELECTION?

India Henderson, 10: It's a big argument that's going on at the moment between adults who want to be the boss of everything. They're getting very angry about it. It's a bit like World War Two.

Hallé Bell, 9: I really don't understand it, but it sounds babyish to me.

### WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

Megan Edwards, 11: It's a party where everyone gets together to talk about who should run the country.

India: It's a party, but not a fun one like a birthday party. All these people get together and have a huge discussion, and try to get each other to back down.

Hallé: Wouldn't it be better if they had a proper party, with a bouncy house? If they had fun, they might get on a bit better and agree more.

Mathew Johnson, 10: It isn't that kind of party at all. It's a group of people who all say the same thing about stuff to do with politics.

### WHAT SHOULD A GOOD PARTY LEADER BE LIKE?

George Russell, 10: They should be like the people we vote to our school council: truthful, kind and always stand by their word.

Tom Monks, 9: They should be confident but it shouldn't matter if they're popular. They should have good ideas – that's what should count.

Hallé: It's important that they're friendly and kind. They should be very good at listening, especially to people who are sad or have problems.

Mathew: They should be very clever and I don't think they should be a mom or a dad. If they did win, they'd be too busy being in charge to be able to spend time with their family.

Megan: I don't think they should have children, either. They'd be split between wanting to go to another political party and being with their children.

India: They should treat other people how they want to be treated and say what they believe. They shouldn't be the kind of people who pretend to believe stuff just to make everyone like them.

### POLITICIANS MAKE LOTS OF PROMISES – HOW DO WE KNOW IF THEY ARE TELLING THE TRUTH?

Hallé: If they look directly at you, they're usually telling the truth.

Tom: But if they start trying to waste time and change the subject then they're probably telling a lie.

India: You have to watch them very closely. If they start fidgeting, they're probably lying. It's the same if they start doing funny things with their faces, like they're trying to hold a lie in. If they start trying to be the loudest, they're probably also lying.

Mathew: This is going to sound harsh, but I think they should have to take lie-detector tests while they're making promises.

Megan: That's a really good idea. You could use that to check if they've kept the promises they made last time they were trying to get people to vote for them.

George: My worry with a lie detector is that one of them might get someone to teach them how to breathe in a certain way so that they could still lie and get away with it. Then it wouldn't be fair on the others.