



DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA



# *The Case for Pro-Life Democrats*

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# Democrats are losing ground...

*Fewer Americans identify with the Democratic Party*

- 152 counties that voted Democratic for president in 2000 shifted to Republican in 2004
- 11 counties that voted Republican in 2000 shifted to Democratic in 2004

**This resulted in a Democratic net loss of 141 counties in 2004.**

*(USA Today, February 4, 2005).*

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The average Democratic lead in party identification has fallen from an average of:

- 21 percentage points in the 1970s
- 11 percentage points in the 1980s
- 7 percentage points in the 1990s
- 5 percentage points, so far, in the 2000s

*(Harris, 2004).*

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**In the 2004 election, Democrats lost 97 of the 100 fastest-growing counties in America  
(National Committee for an Effective Congress).**

# The Democratic Party is not in line with Americans' views on abortion

- An overwhelming majority of Americans (86%) favor parental consent for minors seeking abortion
- A similar percent (89%) favor informed consent for women seeking abortions
- About 90% of Americans are opposed to performing abortions in the third trimester (Gallup, 2005)
- More than two in three Americans (70%) favor a ban on partial-birth abortions (Gallup, 2003)

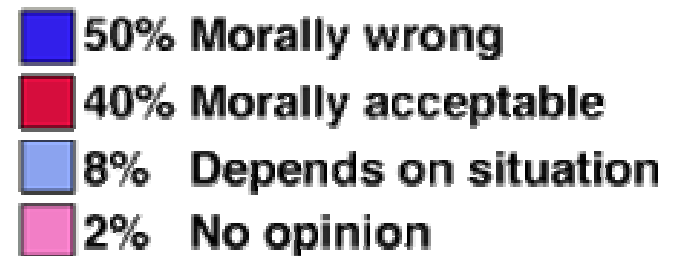
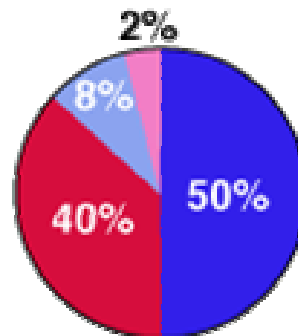
**Despite overwhelming popular support for restrictions on abortion, the Democratic Party platform continues to advocate for the small minority of Americans in favor of abortion-on-demand, no matter what the circumstance.**



## Democrats are becoming more pro-life

43% of Democrats agreed with the statement that abortion  
“destroys a human life and is manslaughter” (Zogby, 2004)

“Regardless of whether or not you think each of these issues should be legal, do you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong (to have an abortion)?” (Gallup, 2004).





## Women—a major constituency of the Democratic Party—are becoming more pro-life.

51% say abortion should be available only in cases of rape, incest, or if the life of the mother is endangered

<i>Which one of the following comes closest to your own view on abortion?</i>	2001	2003
<b>It should be generally available to those who want it</b>	34%	30%
<b>It should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the mother's life</b>	31%	34%
<b>It should not be permitted at all</b>	14%	17%

Source: Center for the Advancement of Women, 2003

- In the 2000 election, Gore had an 8-point advantage with women over Bush
- In the 2004 election, Kerry had 4-point advantage with women over Bush (Gallup, 2004)

## Hispanics—*a group long courted by Democrats*—are overwhelmingly pro-life

- Hispanics are the nation's largest minority community at 38.8 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003) .
- 71% of American-born Hispanics oppose abortion (Pew Hispanic Center and Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002)
- 75% of Hispanics took one of three pro-life positions, opposing all or almost all abortions (Latino Opinion, 2003).
- 59% of Hispanics were more likely to vote for a candidate who opposes abortion, while only 26% were likely to vote for a candidate who favors abortion (Latino Opinion, 2003).

**In the 2000 election, Bush received 31% of the Hispanic vote.**

**In the 2004 election, Bush received 43% of the Hispanic vote.**

# Democrats are losing their base support of Hispanics, African Americans, and Youth

## Hispanics

- 40% believe abortion should never be legal.
- 11% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother.
- 27% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother, rape, or incest.
- 78% of Hispanics believe that almost all abortions should be illegal or restricted.  
(Zogby, 2004)

## African Americans

- 22% believe abortion should never be legal.
- 15% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother.
- 25% believe abortion should only be legal for the life of the mother, rape, or incest.
- 62% of African Americans believe that almost all abortions should be illegal or restricted.  
(Zogby, 2004)

## Youth

- 72% of 13-17 year olds believe abortion is morally wrong.  
(Gallup, 2003)
- 60% of 18-29 year olds believe abortion should never be legal.  
(Zogby, 2004)

## Despite high levels of spending, pro-choice Democrats couldn't win in 2004

- Pro-choice PACs raised over \$61 million, yet after the 2004 elections, there is a pro-life Congress and pro-life president (Federal Election Commission, 2004).
- Emily's List raised \$52.3 million for female candidates who support abortion rights. By comparison, the National Right to Life Committee, the largest donor opposed to abortion rights, raised about \$1.7 million (February 16, 2005, *New York Times*).
- In the states where Emily's List ran an extensive Voter Mobilization Project, none of the pro-choice women they supported for Senate won.
- Meanwhile 80% of the candidates endorsed by the Susan B. Anthony List—a PAC that supports pro-life candidates— won their elections; however, only 39% of Emily's List candidates won.

**Of the 38 NEW U.S. Representatives, 20 are pro-life.**

**Of the 9 NEW U.S. Senators, 7 are pro-life.**

## This translates into more votes for pro-life candidates and fewer victories for Democrats

- In 2004, Republicans replaced the traditional Democratic stronghold in Southern states (FL, NC, GA, LA, SC). Republicans gained five Southern Senate seats that were previously held by Democrats (Gallup, 2005).
- Pro-life Senator Mel Martinez of Florida defeated Democrat Betty Castor despite \$3 million raised by Emily's List.
- Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, the Senate minority leader, lost re-election after a campaign in which his Republican opponent, John Thune, spotlighted Mr. Daschle's support of abortion rights.



# Democrats and moral values...

A 2004 post-election nationwide Harris Poll found that 45% of voters believe that moral values were very important in deciding which candidate to support. However, almost twice as many Bush voters (59%) than Kerry voters (30%) cited moral values as their top concern.

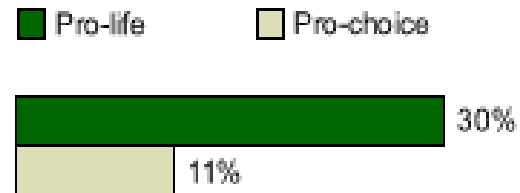
**Overall, voters who cited moral values, specifically abortion issues, broke 70-30% in favor of President Bush.**



# Pro-lifers are more likely to prioritize abortion than supporters of abortion rights

- 30% of pro-lifers say they will only vote for a candidate who shares their views on abortion.
- 11% of pro-choicers who say they will only back candidates of a similar mind on abortion. (Gallup, 2004).

*Only vote for candidate who shares views on abortion.*



2004 Oct 14-16

**National exit polling in every presidential election since 1984 has shown a net advantage to the pro-life side (Gallup).**

# Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are out of step with registered Democrats

**Question:** “Abortion should be generally available to those who want it rather than under stricter limits or not permitted.”

**Answer:** 75% of 2004 DNC delegates agreed with this statement, but only 48% of registered Democrats agreed with the statement (*New York Times/CBS Poll, July 2004*).

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are becoming more pro-choice. Asked the same question (above), the results were:

- **71% in 2000**
- **75% in 2004**