



## Straight Talk

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## One Down, One to Go

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### Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Statistics collected at the Democratic Convention give a picture of the values and priorities of the party faithful. It is hard to get beyond their hatred of Bush and everything Republican under other circumstances, but at the convention, they provided some insight.

Here are the stats: 44% favor same-sex marriage, 43% favor civil unions, 62% say imposing environmental regulations is more important than saving jobs, 66% oppose the death penalty for murderers, 75% favor abortion on demand, 77% worry more about anti-terrorism laws violating our liberties than about those laws being inadequate to stop terrorism, 78% oppose government's favoring traditional American values over other values, 89% favor letting most of President Bush's tax cuts expire.

The Democrat slogan is "Strong at Home, Respected in the World." What does respected in the world mean? "Give us your money, then sit down and shut up?" Could be. Will it change if we change leaders? Everyone who follows the international scene knows better. The name of the game is "Shake down the Americans, then stab them in the back."

Now, let's get to the crux of the matter: We have a chance, once again, to have a say in governing our country. Do we follow a political party slavishly, or think for ourselves? Do we have specific standards, or do we say, "If it was good enough for Grandpa, it's good enough for me?"

The standards and values of prospective politicians are available to us, and since party values have changed so dramatically in the past few decades, we need to know what they are.

When abortion became legal in the 70s, the parties lined up for or against it. Support for or opposition to other basic American values quickly followed, including gun control and international environmental treaties. Nativity scenes, Ten Commandment plaques and other Christian symbols were banned. Marriage became disposable as radical feminism came on the scene. Political correctness

destroyed much in its path.

The political parties lined up on either side of these social issues. Democrats favored higher taxes and redistribution of wealth, abortion, then partial-birth abortion, gun control, political correctness, radical feminism, the environmental lobby, and homosexual rights, as they came to be called. They accepted removal of Christian symbols and programs, and cohabitation in place of marriage. They favored government regulations over most facets of their lives.

They tended toward anti-militarism and were especially anti-CIA. Most thought problems between nations could be settled peacefully, and such problems were America's fault, anyway. Some disliked UN corruption and incompetence, but felt obliged to support and defend it.

Republicans came down against abortion unless the mother was in danger, especially against partial-birth abortion, gun control, political correctness, radical feminism, environmentally-driven abuse of property owners, removal of Christian symbols and programs, and in favor of marriage and intact families. They favored low taxes, and were against redistribution of wealth and excessive governmental regulations over their lives.

Most tend to be pro-military, convinced that neither Stalin and Hitler types nor terrorism can be talked away. Many think the UN is a disaster beyond reform, and are convinced the world's problems are not America's fault.

In the Boy Scout's quarrel over homosexual scout leaders, the Democrats came down on the side of the homosexual leaders, while the Republicans supported the Scouts.

These make up the political continental divide in America today. The parties are more diametrically opposed in their values and beliefs than ever before. If ever there was a time for examination of ourselves, our beliefs and making sure they line up with those of the candidates for which we vote, this is the time.

