

November 2004

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The 'Values' Voter

By embracing the homosexual lobby, and accusing his fellow Americans of 'hatred' and 'bigotry' for defending marriage, Kerry didn't need to tell us any more about his 'values.' --Robert Knight, CFI

The old school says that high voter turnout benefits Democrats. That myth was laid to rest last Tuesday. The highest rate of voter turnout since 1968 not only produced a convincing win for President George W. Bush, but also for fellow Republicans across the country, including David Vitter, the first Republican elected to the U.S. Senate from Louisiana since the end of the Civil War!

Political strategist, Matthew Dowd, says that Mr. Bush is the first incumbent Republican since Calvin Coolidge in 1924 to win re-election while his party controls both House and Senate, and the first president of either party since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936 to be re-elected while gaining seats in both houses.¹

"While there were many important issues in last week's historic election, the single most important one for the largest block of voters was not the economy, the Iraq War or the Terror War," says *Human Events* writer Terence Jeffrey. "It was the cultural war." He argues that "Democrat John Kerry was defeated by a resolute army of voters who marched out in massive numbers to strike a blow at the ballot box for a traditionalist vision of American society."²

Even the liberal press says, "Surveys of voters leaving the polls found that a majority believed the national economy was not so good, that tax cuts had done nothing to help it and that the war in Iraq had jeopardized national security. But fully one-fifth of voters said they cared most about 'moral values'...and 8 in 10 of them chose Mr. Bush."³

That deeply troubles *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd. She writes: "W. ran a jihad in America so he can fight one in Iraq—drawing a devoted flock of evangelicals, or 'values voters' as they call themselves, to the polls by opposing abortion, suffocating stem-cell research and supporting a constitutional amendment against gay marriage."⁴

Gary Wills, a history professor at Northwestern University, couldn't agree more. He thinks that "the fundamentalist Christians who ensured President Bush's re-election on Tuesday are a bunch of ignorant religious fanatics—no different, really, than Islamic terrorists—who have done nothing less than end the Enlightenment."⁵ (Ibid)

But lionized or demonized, church-goers are so thankful for the outcome of the elections that even the howls from liberals is like the sound of music, making victory ere' the better.

Exit polls confirmed that the President is most favored by men, married women, and people who attend church regularly. Except for the 18-24 year-olds, Bush gained ground in almost every demographic during his first term, including; single moms, Hispanics, and Jewish voters. Although the "marriage" issue didn't benefit Bush among African-Americans to the degree expected, he did garner eleven percent of the black vote, a modest two point gain over the 2000 elections.

Yet, it never was about pitching to Gore voters, soft Democrats or Independents, say insiders.

After the 2000 elections when Bush lost the popular mandate to Al Gore by more than 500,000 votes, top presidential advisor, Karl Rove, discovered a disturbing trend. Disturbing for Republicans that is. Over several election cycles, the GOP's largest block of friendly voters seemed to be evaporating. Some four million fewer evangelicals and born-again voters in 2000 than did so in 1992. Rove quickly perceived the fix. Re-engage them! Speak to their issues, get them registered to vote, and get them to the polls on Election Day.

What Rove couldn't know was that down the road, in providential time, Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall would deliver to him THE issue that would accomplish his purposes. Court-ordered gay "marriage." It shook the Church, energized the grassroots, and helped forge new political alliances between conservatives and many in the so-called "Rainbow Coalition."

While concerned moms and dads flocked to huge outdoor rallies to hear preachers call for the preservation of marriage, ushers moved smartly among the crowds, signing up new voters. People of faith were urged to consider first, candidates who choose life, who support one-man-one-woman marriage, and who are not ashamed in their stand.

Within months, ballot initiatives to place constitutional bans on same-sex marriage were filed in 13 states. Each passed handily averaging 70% voter approval. Moreover, there is strong evidence that the marriage issue turned the crucial state of Ohio from a blue state back to a red state. Twenty-four percent of Ohio voters said the economy was their chief concern, and 83% of that group went for Kerry. But churches are well attended in Ohio. Bush won 69% of Protestants and 65% of Catholics who say they attend religious services weekly.

In Washington State, the marriage issue didn't play for Republicans—partly because Republicans (with exceptions) avoided it. At their state convention in May, party leaders quashed a resolution strongly supporting a federal marriage amendment called for by President Bush. Candidates also got the impression that if they expected any state party funding, they'd best "not go there!"

It is hard to tell if the "marriage issue" would have helped Republicans here as it did elsewhere around the nation. Although several seats are still in play, it appears the House has shifted further left, and, come January, the Senate will be under new management—Democrat.

But we do rejoice that voters chose a godly, pro-life man as our next Attorney General. In a few days when remaining ballots are tallied, we may even have a godly, pro-life governor to boot. The numbers look very encouraging. Keep praying!

Regardless, we do appreciate the many party leaders, candidates, and volunteers who gave their best. Unless one is in the seat of those directly responsible for recruiting candidates and volunteers, raising money, developing "a winning message," and getting out the literature and getting out the vote, it is all just Monday-morning quarterbacking. Who needs it?

So, to the keepers of the gate and those who toil in the political arena year after year after year, we bless you for keeping our government...*of the people, by the people, and for the people.*

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

¹ Purdum, Todd S., [Electoral Affirmation of Shared Values Provides Bush a Majority](#), NYTimes.com, 11/4/2004

² Jeffrey, Terence P., [It's the Culture, Stupid](#), www.humaneventsonline.com, 11/5/2004

³ Purdum, Todd S., NYTimes, 11/4/2004

⁴ Pierce, Greg, [Republican terrorists](#), [Inside Politic](http://www.washtimes.com), www.washtimes.com, 11/7/2004