

# VALUES VOTER GUIDE FOR 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



## BARACK OBAMA

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 46 (8-4-61)

**www.barackobama.com**

Today's values issues involve many more questions and sub-questions than in years past, especially as a result of new topics and themes in bioethics, marriage and family law, which are themselves linked concerns. The following questions have been compiled by FRC policy experts to drill down on existing issues that are of interest to values voters. The answers have been researched and supplied by FRC Action's researchers by analyzing campaign statements and votes.

### RESEARCH ISSUES

#### Bioethics / Stem Cells and Embryos

		What form of stem cell research would you permit access to federal funds? <sup>1</sup>
	✓	Therapeutic cloning (SCNT)
		Adult stem cell research
	✓	Leftover embryos derived from in vitro fertilization
	✓	Embryo destructive research
		Human/animal hybrids
	✓	Umbilical cord blood banks
	NO	Would you support a federal law prohibiting states from engaging in research in which (or which relies on research in which) a human embryo is destroyed? <sup>2</sup>
	YES	Would you support a federal law prohibiting human cloning? <sup>3</sup>
	NO	Would you support, and continue, President Bush's ban on the use of federal funds for research on human embryonic stem cell lines created after August 2001? <sup>4</sup>
		In light of the recent scientific discoveries regarding skin cells would you support/oppose continuing federal funding of destructive embryonic stem cell research?
Judicial Issues	PERSONAL BELIEFS	Would you appoint as judges men and women who interpret a law in accordance with their personal beliefs, or applying it as written whether they would have written it that way themselves or not? <sup>5</sup>
Women's Health	YES	Do you support Medicaid-funded abortions? <sup>6</sup>
		Would you support laws requiring abortion clinics to show all women an ultrasound image of their unborn baby?
Family and Parental Rights	OPPOSE	Would you support or oppose a federal parental notification law? <sup>7</sup>
Abstinence and Marriage Education	NO	Would you fight to protect the integrity of federally defined abstinence-until-marriage education ("A-H criteria," without being watered down just to the delay of sexual initiation)? <sup>8</sup>
Promoting Stronger Marriages	NO	Do you support a U.S. constitutional amendment to define and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman? <sup>9</sup>
		If you support a U.S. constitutional amendment to define and protect marriage, what provisions do you believe should be included in such an amendment?
		a) create a fixed definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman nationwide
		b) prohibit judges from requiring that marriage or its legal benefits be conferred upon any union other than the union of one man and one woman
		c) prohibit judges or legislatures from conferring marriage or its legal benefits on any union other than the marriage of one man to one woman
		d) prohibit judges from requiring that states recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states
		If you <b>do not</b> support a U.S. constitutional amendment to define and protect marriage now, would any of these hypothetical future circumstances allow you to support such an amendment?
		a) if additional state supreme courts require that the legal rights and benefits of marriage be granted to same-sex couples (as has happened in Vermont and New Jersey)
		b) if additional state supreme courts require that civil marriage be granted to same-sex couples (as has happened in Massachusetts)
		c) if one or several state supreme courts requires their state to recognize same-sex "marriages" from another state
		d) if one or several states legalize same-sex "marriage" through the legislative process
		e) if the U.S. Supreme Court requires states to recognize same-sex "marriages" from another state (thus overturning a provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act)
		f) if the U.S. Supreme Court requires the federal government to recognize same-sex "marriages" and/or partnerships for any purpose under federal law (thus overturning a provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act)
		g) if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that same-sex "marriage" is a right under the U.S. Constitution

<sup>1</sup> Therapeutic cloning: <http://www.cmsdocs.org/content/index.pl?iid=2542&isa=Category> see also <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN01520:@@@P> Bill prohibits reproductive cloning but permits therapeutic cloning.

Adult Stem cell research: Opposed [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00128](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00128)

Leftover embryos and embryo destructive research [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00127](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00127)

Supports Umbilical Cord Blood Banks: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?r109:1:./temp/~r109MUS9Gy::>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.issues2000.org/2008/Barack\\_Obama\\_Abortion.htm](http://www.issues2000.org/2008/Barack_Obama_Abortion.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cmsdocs.org/content/index.pl?iid=2542&isa=Category> see also <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN01520:@@@P>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00127](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00127)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ontheissues.org/Social/Barack\\_Obama\\_Abortion.htm](http://ontheissues.org/Social/Barack_Obama_Abortion.htm) See also: <http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2007/07/17/274143.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.lifenews.com/nat3556.html>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.issues2000.org/Senate/Barack\\_Obama\\_SenateMatch.htm](http://www.issues2000.org/Senate/Barack_Obama_SenateMatch.htm)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=2&vote=00214](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=109&session=2&vote=00214) Voted for the Lautenberg Amendment (S.ADMT 4689 to S.3 Child Custody Protection Act)

<sup>9</sup> [http://ontheissues.org/Senate/Barack\\_Obama.htm#Civil\\_Rights](http://ontheissues.org/Senate/Barack_Obama.htm#Civil_Rights)

<b>Promoting Stronger Marriages</b>		The Federal Defense of Marriage Act (1996) declares marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for all purposes of the federal government and declares that states do not have to recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states. Which of the following describes your position on the federal DOMA?
		a) I would veto any bill that would weaken any provision of the federal DOMA.
	<b>YES</b>	b) I would support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to codify the provision of DOMA that says that states do not have to recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states.
	<b>YES</b>	c) I would support repeal of the provision of DOMA that defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman for all federal purposes, thus freeing the federal government to give marital benefits to same-sex couples. <sup>10</sup>
		d) I would support repeal of the provision of DOMA that declares states do not have to recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states, thus leaving courts free to require such recognition under the Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause.
<b>Religious Liberty</b>	<b>YES</b>	Will you support the continuation of the Faith Based Initiative (on the federal level) to guarantee the right of religious social service providers to access federal programs on an equal basis <sup>11</sup>
<b>Homosexuality and Special Rights</b>		Which of the following comes closest to your position on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would grant federal civil rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation?
		a) I would veto any bill to provide federal civil rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation.
		b) I would sign a bill to give federal civil rights protection based on sexual orientation, but not one that included protection for "gender identity."
		c) I would sign a bill to give civil rights protection based on sexual orientation, but only if it had the broadest possible religious exemption.
	<b>YES</b>	d) I would sign a bill to give federal civil rights protection based on sexual orientation and "gender identity." <sup>12</sup>
		Which of the following comes closest to your position on the proposed federal "hate crimes" law, which would allow the federal government to prosecute any "hate crime" anywhere in the country?
		a) I would veto any federal "hate crimes" law, and leave prosecution of such crimes to state and local authorities.
		b) I would sign a federal hate crimes law covering the characteristics included in the 1964 Civil Rights Act (such as race), but not one with protections based on sexual orientation or "gender identity."
		c) I would sign a federal hate crimes law that included sexual orientation and "gender identity," but only if it included strong and explicit protections for freedom of speech and freedom of religion.
	<b>YES</b>	d) I would sign a federal hate crimes law that included protections based on sexual orientation and "gender identity." <sup>13</sup>
		Which of the following policies would you follow regarding the issue of homosexuals who wish to serve in the military?
	<b>YES</b>	a) I would veto any bill to overturn the statutory ban on homosexuals serving in the military.
	b) I would sign a bill to overturn the statutory ban on homosexuals serving in the military. <sup>14</sup>	
	c) I would end the Clinton-era "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and resume the practice of asking military recruits about their sexual orientation, with the purpose of excluding homosexuals from the military.	
	d) I would continue the Clinton-era policy of "not asking" military recruits about their sexual orientation and advising them not to acknowledge such an orientation.	
	e) I would continue to prosecute both homosexual and heterosexual members of the military for the crime of sodomy under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.	
	f) I would support removal of the crime of sodomy from the Uniform Code of Military Justice.	
<b>General Issues</b>		Do you support or oppose federal legislation limiting the ability of government to take private land for private development purposes?
	<b>OPPOSE</b>	Do you support or oppose repeal of the federal estate (death) tax? <sup>15</sup>
	<b>OPPOSE</b>	Do you support or oppose legislative initiatives that emphasize border security over all other forms of immigration reform? <sup>16</sup>
	<b>OPPOSE</b>	Do you support/oppose President Bush's decision not to renew the federal ban on assault weapons? <sup>17</sup>

10 Transcript of LOGO debate on August 9, 2007. OBAMA:  
Well, it is my strong belief that the government has to treat all citizens equally. I come from that, in part, out of personal experience. When you're a black guy named Barack Obama, you know what it's like to be on the outside. And so my concern is continually to make sure that the rights that are conferred by the state are equal for all people. That's why I opposed DOMA in 2006 when I ran for the United States Senate.  
See also [http://ontheissues.org/Senate/Barack\\_Obama.htm#Civil\\_Rights](http://ontheissues.org/Senate/Barack_Obama.htm#Civil_Rights) same for answer to choice "D"

11 [http://obama.senate.gov/podcast/060628-call\\_to\\_renewal\\_1/index.php](http://obama.senate.gov/podcast/060628-call_to_renewal_1/index.php)

12 <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=093-0765> See also <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=077500050K1-103>  
See also <http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/lgbt.pdf>

13 <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=093-0765> See also <http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/lgbt.pdf>

14 <http://www.hrcbackstory.org/2007/11/senator-barack.html>

15 [http://www.ontheissues.org/2008/Barack\\_Obama\\_Tax\\_Reform.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/2008/Barack_Obama_Tax_Reform.htm)

16 [http://www.issues2000.org/Senate/Barack\\_Obama.htm#Tax\\_Reform](http://www.issues2000.org/Senate/Barack_Obama.htm#Tax_Reform)

17 [http://www.ontheissues.org/Domestic/Barack\\_Obama\\_Gun\\_Control.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Domestic/Barack_Obama_Gun_Control.htm)  
<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/issues/issues.gun.html>  
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,289373,00.html>

