

WHAT'S YOUR VOTE ?

Another election, this coming Tuesday November 8. Vote like your life depends on it. Because if you've learned anything these past few years, you know that things don't change unless you stand up and speak out for what is right and true. You are the light and salt of the world.

Christian citizens need to be the most informed voters around. Be armed with facts, not talking points, about candidates, policies, parties and issues. Here are some links to get you started:

VOTER GUIDES - The "<https://ivoterguide.com/>" tool presents a personalized ballot based on the address you input. It links you to your proper Senate, House and statehouse districts. Candidates are evaluated with a visual scale from left to right, liberal to conservative, using data from their voting record, public statements, contributions, endorsements, and questionnaire responses.

A congressional district tool from Faith & Freedom Coalition "<https://www.ffcoalition.com/guides/>" includes "www.ffcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/IA-C4-W.pdf" (Clay county is in District 4). It summarizes the "yes" or "no" positions of candidates on several major issues.

Iowa Right to Life "<https://iowartl.org/voter-guide/>" evaluates candidates on positions, voting records, and questionnaires (see District 4). "<https://iowartl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Iowa-Right-to-Life-State-PAC-Endorsements.pdf>" highlights candidates endorsed by the IRL-PAC.

JUDGES - This is often the most puzzling section of your ballot. Finding information about judges is extremely difficult, and attempts to survey judges through questionnaires have been historically difficult to compile due to lack of response by many judges, keeping voters largely in the dark.

The "<https://iowartl.org/voter-guide/>" and "<https://iowartl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Iowa-Right-to-Life-2022-Judges-Standing-for-Retention.pdf>" highlights Iowa Supreme Court justices, Iowa Court of Appeals judges, and judges in eight judicial districts (Clay county is district 3A).

The document includes biographical information, primary election history and political party affiliation for 65 judges, and links to two major political party platforms. The 2022 Democrat party supports Roe vs Wade and full funding for Planned Parenthood. The 2022 Republican party platform states, "We believe that life begins at conception and must be protected to natural death" and "We oppose using public revenues for abortion or funding organizations which advocate it."

PARTY PLATFORMS - We often hear the sentiment "it's about the candidate, not the party" but this can be misleading. Some candidates appear to mislead voters by crafting comments depending on the audience. Once in office, they mostly support the party they affiliate with. See "<https://www.frcaction.org/platforms>" for comparisons of the two major parties. Still, it takes your stewardship of your representatives, to make sure they are voting for you, not lobbyists.

A candidate's party affiliation signals future voting positions, especially if you can also scrutinize their past voting records. It's not what they say, it's what they do. The Iowa Secretary of State page "<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/general/index.html>" provides links for a list of candidates in the general election, including their party, a list of judges standing for retention, and links to county auditors for local election information, polling locations and more.

IOWA AMENDMENT - The 2022 ballot asks: "Shall the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted? *Full Text:* Article I of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is amended by adding the following new section: Right to keep and bear arms. Sec. 1A. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny." Remember, the second amendment secures your freedom of religion and speech.

VOTER RESOURCES - Does your vote matter? Visit "<https://thefamilyleader.com/elections/>" (and "Honoring God")... "www.frcaction.org/2022" (and "Scorecard")... "<https://frc.org/engage>"... "<https://ivoterguide.com/news/>"... "<https://ifapray.org/take-action/>"... "<http://wellversedbook.com/>" ... "www.wellversedworld.org/newsletters" and check the links at these sites for more.

Pray about your vote. You pray "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" Then make sure your finished ballot reflects a Biblical Christian worldview, as you prayerfully choose candidates who will work for truth and the godly principles of our constitution! ☐