



## John Kerry and the Democrats Reversing Bush's Anti-Woman Policies

“As I've traveled the country, I've listened to women from all walks of life and heard their stories of struggle and triumph. An America stronger at home means respecting and honoring the many roles that women play in our country and as President, I will do just that.”

-Senator John Kerry, Democratic Party Presidential Nominee

**George Bush may claim that 'W.' stands for 'Women', but his policies expose that as simply a slogan. America's women deserve action.**

### What's at stake: judicial appointments for the next four years

- ❖ Supreme Court: This is the longest interval between Supreme Court vacancies in 178 years. When a position opens up, Bush will try to fill it with a conservative justice. Bush's model justices are Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas: both consistently oppose basic rights for women.
- ❖ Since two of three Supreme Court decisions in the last term were decided by 5-4 votes – reproductive rights, civil rights, and other gains feminists had fought for in the last 35 years – could be at risk. All it takes is just one more ultra-conservative Supreme Court justice.
- ❖ George W. Bush has filled the appeals courts with judges who oppose women's rights and civil rights. The federal courts of appeal hear and decide almost 30,000 cases a year. Fewer than 100 cases actually go to the Supreme Court. With a lifetime appointment, these judges will sit on the bench for the next 30 years.

### What's at stake: George Bush's questionable judicial appointments:

- ❖ James Leon Holmes - equated Americans who support abortion rights with Nazis.
- ❖ William H. Pryor - believes that the Christian religion and government should work hand in hand.
- ❖ John G. Roberts - argued that "we continue to believe that Roe should be overruled."
- ❖ Priscilla Owen - supported elimination of protester-free buffer zones around health care clinics.
- ❖ Claude A. Allen - argues that the best way to prevent pregnancy and AIDS is to encourage young people to abstain from sex until they are married.

### It's not just appointments; it's policy. Did you know that George Bush:

- ❖ Specifically requires fetuses, but not pregnant women, to be eligible for health care?
- ❖ Likens the fight against choice to the fight against terrorism?
- ❖ Supports policy prohibiting military women from obtaining safe medical abortions at military hospitals overseas, even if they pay with personal funds?
- ❖ Cut \$34 million in funding for the United Nations' Population Fund? UNFPA estimates the lost funds will mean 2 million more unwanted pregnancies, 800,000 more abortions, 4,700 more dead mothers, and 77,000 deaths of children under five.

**John Kerry and the Democrats  
Supporting Women with Words AND Actions**

## **It's not just reproductive rights, George Bush's economy is bad for women**

- ❖ Women are still paid 76 cents for every dollar earned by men. But Bush eliminated the Equal Pay Matters initiative, a project to tackle discrimination and train women for better jobs.
- ❖ The unemployment rate for women is 37% higher since Bush took office. Since Bush took office, 1,078,000 women have become unemployed, over 200,000 of which are African-American.
- ❖ An analysis by the National Women's Law Center found that 17 million women, most earning less than \$22,500, did not receive a tax cut under the Bush's plan.
- ❖ Nearly half of all small businesses are owned by women. The Bush Administration has cut the Small Business Administration (SBA) budget by 25%. Bush also cut funding for Entrepreneurial Development programs by \$3 million. Entrepreneurial Development includes programs that help women create and develop small businesses.

## **John Kerry has a record of supporting women, and has specific plans to benefit them:**

### **On a Woman's Health and Choice:**

- Kerry supports Roe v. Wade, and his administration will only nominate individuals to the federal bench whose records demonstrate a respect for the full range of constitutional rights.
- John Kerry was an original co-sponsor of the Women's Health Equity Act, which ensures women's access to the highest quality and most advanced health care available.
- Kerry's Plan will increase funding for breast and cervical cancer research and treatment, require insurance plans to cover contraception, and guarantee women direct access to their OB/GYNs.

### **On Women in the Workplace**

- Closing the Pay Gap: John Kerry believes that we must make equal pay for equal work a reality, not a slogan. Kerry's Plan ensures greater transparency and fairness by improving enforcement and disclosure about companies' payment practices.
- Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs: America's 10.6 million women-owned businesses employ 27.5 million people and contribute \$3.6 trillion to the economy. John Kerry wrote the law which expanded assistance to women starting businesses.

### **A Better Domestic Policy for ALL Americans**

- Restore the Economy: All women – no matter what age, what job, and what income -- benefit from a stronger economy. John Kerry has a comprehensive plan to get our economy back on track including: cracking down on corporate welfare, a manufacturing tax credit to keep jobs in America, and a plan to cut the deficit. In addition, the Kerry Plan will increase the minimum wage, to \$7 an hour by 2007. The Bush administration has opposed such efforts.
- Improve Health Care Accessibility and Affordability: All women – no matter what age, what job, and what income – need affordable, quality health care. As president, John Kerry will offer tax credits to make health care affordable, pick up the cost of the more than 20 million children enrolled in Medicaid, control soaring health care costs, and enact a Patient's Bill of Rights.

“W. stands for ‘wrong’, the wrong direction for America.”  
-John Kerry, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## **John Kerry and the Democrats Back on the Side of American Women**

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For more info:

<http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/women/>

<http://www.now.org/issues/legislat/nominees/index.html>

<http://www.thetruthaboutgeorge.com/special/abortion.html>