



**John McCain**

**2008 Presidential Election**  
**Forming Your Conscience Before Voting**



**Barack Obama**

*Discerning Your Vote*

As we form our conscience before making a decision and casting our vote for a particular candidate, we are led to ask questions that focus on the protection of human life and dignity. There are moral and ethical dimensions to every public policy. However, issues carry different moral weight and urgency. Some involve matters of intrinsic evil that can never be supported, such as the direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life. Others involve affirmative obligations to seek the common good. Each of us needs to discern how the presidential candidates will help our nation address the issues raised by these questions.

**How will each candidate:**

- Pursue the preeminent requirement to protect the weakest in our midst—innocent unborn children—by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion?
- Keep our nation from turning to violence to address fundamental problems—a million abortions each year to deal with unwanted pregnancies; euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and imprudent resort to war to address international disputes?
- Protect marriage as a union between one man and one woman?
- Achieve comprehensive immigration reform that humanely secures our borders, treats immigrant workers fairly, fosters family reunification, offers an earned path to citizenship, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries?
- Assist families in ensuring access to and choice in education?
- Ensure health care for the growing number of people without it, while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system?
- Encourage families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, eradicate racism, pursue the common good, and care for creation, with full respect for religious groups and their right to address social needs in accord with their basic moral convictions?
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—and work for a “responsible transition” to end the war in Iraq?