

The Governor's Race – What's A Pro-Lifer to Do?

Pro-Life Friends,

People have asked my opinion on the governor's race and I offer them the following information and rationale, which may be of interest to you also.

First, let us reaffirm that we are united in the quest to stop the killing of the preborn child. The issue then is how to apply this to Tuesday's election. We may reach different conclusions, however, our motives should remain true to this quest.

There are 3 major candidates for governor: Democrat Jerry Brown and Republicans Steve Poizner and Meg Whitman. There are several lesser candidates who offer a clear pro-life position on abortion, however they have little likelihood of winning and most have never held any elected public office.

California has now had 20 successive years of pro-abortion governors who have signed legislation giving us school-based "health" clinics, budgets with unlimited abortion funding, and that will allow the California abortion industry to continue unaffected even if Roe v. Wade is overturned. Do we want another 4 or likely 8 years more of this? Of course not. Can any of the major candidates alleviate this deplorable condition? Maybe.

Democrat Jerry Brown, a former governor of California, is a committed pro-abortion professional politician who will maintain and probably advance the Democratic Party pro-abortion platform. A vote for Jerry Brown is a vote for abortion.

To understand Meg Whitman's position on abortion one needs to understand it is the same pro-abortion position as that of her campaign chairman, former Governor Pete Wilson. Pete Wilson was and still is a champion of abortion, and his wife Gayle has been an officer of Planned Parenthood. As governor, Pete Wilson decimated the Republican pro-life caucus. He appointed pro-abortion John Seymour to succeed him in his U.S. Senate seat. He more than doubled the state budget for abortion-related funding. He appointed pro-abortion state Supreme Court judges who overturned the 1987 legislation that required parental consent before a minor could get an abortion.

Pete Wilson is Meg Whitman's mentor; she is his protégé. Meg Whitman has stated publicly that a woman has a right to abortion and that right should not be infringed by her ability to pay for it. She disingenuously claims to oppose federal funding of abortions, which is irrelevant to California since all abortion funding in California is paid with state taxes, none with federal funds.

Steve Poizner has publicly and consistently stated that he has changed his positions on abortion. He received a 100% pro-abortion rating from Planned Parenthood in 2004. That was six years ago. Today Planned Parenthood is targeting him for defeat. He still claims to be "pro-choice", but states that he does not embrace a pro-abortion (pro-choice) public policy position. He wants to drive the number of abortions down to zero because he believes abortions are harmful. He opposes abortion funding because it increases abortions, because the majority of Californians do not want

to pay for abortions, and because many Californians have a strong moral objection to being forced to be accomplices in abortion.

At a Poizner public campaign event in Villa Park on Tuesday, June 1st, I raised the issue of the state legislature's role in establishing school-based clinics, explaining that these clinics offer students contraceptives and provide abortion referrals behind parents' backs. I asked Mr. Poizner if he could be counted on to veto such legislation that places the state between parent and child. Steve Poizner answered, "Yes, you can count on me." The audience applauded.

The question for us is, of course, can we believe a candidate who has changed his position on abortion? One of our goals as pro-lifers is to change hearts and minds, and we rejoice when there is a turn-around at an abortion mill or a notable person comes out of the abortion industry and repudiates it.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson operated the largest abortion clinic in the western hemisphere during the late 1960s. He was a prime mover in legalizing abortion, which culminated in *Roe v. Wade*. By 1984 he had become pro-life and narrated the *Silent Scream*, the pre-eminent pro-life documentary on abortion. Why the change? As Nathanson put it, he had new information such as that provided by ultrasound. For him it was not a Damascus conversion; it took years.

It appears to me that Steve Poizner is on a similar journey. He openly acknowledges his changed abortion position, which does not vary from audience to audience and is plain for all to see on his website at <http://stevepoizner.com/meet/bio/>. The same candor and clarity are not found with Meg Whitman. Does Steve Poizner merit your vote? That's your decision. It's not yet Election Day, but I am increasingly convinced of voting for Steve Poizner; the alternative is an assuredly pro-abortion governor.

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About the Author: Bob Cielnicky has been active in the pro-life movement since shortly before *Roe V. Wade* was handed down. He has participated in a broad spectrum of pro-life activities and helped organize pro-life rallies, events and projects in California, Massachusetts and Florida. He is Director of Life Priority Network. His wife, Beverly, is National President of Crusade For Life, a Christian pro-life organization that has been dedicated to protecting human life from conception to natural death since 1971.