



What is at Stake in 2008?

Reproductive Rights

Abortion rights and birth control are under attack in this country. Congress has passed the Teen Endangerment Act that makes it a federal crime to assist young women crossing state lines to obtain a safe abortion. In 2007, the Supreme Court upheld the federal abortion procedure ban with no regard for the health and safety of women. Since the ruling, lawmakers in several states have introduced anti-choice legislation. Anti-choice extremists are working to add so-called "fetal personhood initiatives" to state ballots in CO, MT, and possibly in GA, MS, WI, MI, and OR as well. Abortion, IUDs and emergency contraceptives are all threatened by these dangerous measures. Antis are pushing on to the November ballot in CA a parental notification initiative and in SD an abortion ban. In MO, a proposed initiative threatens doctors with "medical negligence" if they perform an abortion without meeting strict conditions, such as proving the procedure is medically necessary in order to prevent the immediate death, or severe threat of substantive and irreversible impairment to a woman.

Civil Rights and Human Rights

Critical civil rights issues are at stake. Federal lawmakers will decide to weaken or strengthen Title IX, the historic U.S. law that prohibits discrimination in federally funded educational programs. State constitutional amendments prohibiting affirmative action programs for women and people of color in public employment, public education, and public contracts will be on the ballot in five states (MO, CO, AZ, NE, OK). State and federal lawmakers continue to debate and pass laws on whether to permit same sex civil unions and marriage or whether to restrict the benefits of marriage to heterosexual couples.

Global Peace and Women's Rights

Those elected in 2008 will decide if our troops will stay in Iraq, if we go to war with Iran or another country, if we participate in the International Criminal Court, and if the U.S. Senate will ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Women's Economic Equality

Even today, a woman with a college degree will make less money on average than a man who has dropped out of high school. In 2007 the Supreme Court disregarded 40 years of precedent when it delivered a significant blow to Title VII protections against pay discrimination. The President and lawmakers elected in 2008 will make decisions about pay equity, equal education, minimum and livable wage laws, healthcare, federal welfare funding, and economic policies that will create or lose jobs.

Environment and Oil

The next Congress will decide the fate of environmental laws and regulations intended to crack down on corporate polluters, and how strictly these laws are enforced. The Congress and President determine our energy policies, and whether and how we are going to reduce our dependence on oil and develop renewable energy sources.

Globalization and Trade Policies

The next Congress and President will shape the U.S. role in globalization, our global trade policies, whether we crack down on sweatshops and protect workers' rights internationally from Juarez, Mexico to the Marianas Islands, and what we do to stop human trafficking.

***Exercise your vote this November!
With so much at stake, feminists must make their votes count!!***

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