

At least 22 reasons to vote for Kerry

TO THE EDITOR:

As a patriot, my concern has to be for the good of the nation; blind loyalty to the party or its candidate must take second place.

Please consider the following reasons for not voting for President Bush and to vote for John Kerry as the only way to get Bush and the American Taliban out of the White House. George W. Bush:

1. Is anti-science (a religiously motivated Luddite, actually).
2. Is anti-civil rights.
3. Is anti-women (e.g., religiously motivated attitudes about abortion and family planning).
4. Is not truly pro-family.
5. Is anti-veterans.
6. Is anti-gay.
7. Caters to religious organizations in return for help in his election campaign, erasing the line that separates church and state.
8. Violates all Republican tenets of fiscal responsibility and promises regarding the Social Security lock box.
9. Misleads the American public or actively lies about practically every program and in practically every statement he makes.
10. Leads a bumbling, inadequate and incompetent effort in both Iraq and Afghanistan.
11. Stimulates an increase in the ranks of terrorists committed to action against us for perhaps as long as 100 years and maybe longer.
12. Opposes a sensible tax policy targeted toward actual economic stimulus.
13. Supports a thinly disguised amnesty program for Mexican illegals.
14. Rejects the notion that judges can and should interpret the laws and the Constitution—in selected cases only, of course—particularly if the decision is pro-gay, in which case the judge is an activist.
15. Supports the appointment of extremist judges despite the facts that he has no mandate and that the Senate is virtually evenly divided.
16. Breaks his promises that he would be a uniter not a divider.
17. Opposes states' rights to make laws concerning such things as assisted suicide and internal drug policy.
18. Engages in one of the most smear-filled and negative campaigns in history.
19. Actually opposes full employment in the United States.
20. Actively engages in nation building, an activity he pronounced against in earlier times.
21. Turns our "most powerful nation in the world" into a paper tiger.
22. Coddles corporate crooks, despite lip service to the contrary.

We can't have people like that running this country. We can't have a president whose administration just coincidentally gives a million dollars to a church that supports him, or who begs the pope for his support, or who panders to the worst kind of religious demagogues in America. We can't have a religious zealot in public office. We can't have a religious reactionary appointing judges to any federal judgeship.

In the light of these matters, it simply doesn't matter who gets elected to head the executive branch of government as long as the person who does get elected is not a religious reactionary zealot. I'm sending Kerry money and taking part in his campaign because I loved this country the way it was before the Taliban mentality moved into the White House.

LEE COLEMAN
Oregon Republicans for Kerry

just asking *New Jersey*

Gov. James E. McGreevey comes out as the highest-ranking openly gay official in U.S. history amid a sex and ethics scandal: Do you feel this will have positive or negative repercussions for the queer community?

The issue is still unfolding, with accusations from his lover, etc. Haven't heard anything from Mrs. McGreevey. I'll wait and see.

JEANNE FLANIGAN
Norman, Okla.

next issue *Vice President*

Dick Cheney publicly acknowledges his lesbian daughter: Do you feel the White House is actually softening its stance on queers, or is it just pandering to moderates to ensure victory in November? (Please see related item on Page 15.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

Accidents happen

TO THE EDITOR:

It started for me when I was 12. The year was 1972, and the election was Nixon-McGovern. My sixth-grade social studies teacher, Ms. Moore, asked the class to divide by who would vote for each candidate, and it ended up that she and I were the only ones on the McGovern side of the room.

We spent the next hour and much of the week debating the merits of the two candidates. It was a time I'll never forget—perhaps my first sense that the minority can often be right. My first taste of a Jew standing with a black person, my teacher, and how that dynamic could work.

I don't think I've missed a presidential election since then—Carter, Mondale, Dukakis, Clinton, Gore and now Kerry. The elections have always been important, but I've never felt that the results could actually endanger me physically. I'm now concerned that this administration may "accidentally" push the button or take us to war unnecessarily again.

At 43, I don't believe this country can afford another four years of George Bush & Co. It's just too dangerous for Americans and the peoples of the world.

ALBERT KAUFMAN
Portland

The gift that keeps on giving

TO THE EDITOR:

Here's another idea to garner support for the No on 36 campaign. Ask your family and friends to send donations in lieu of (or in addition to) wedding gifts. That way, even folks who don't live in Oregon can help defeat the efforts of those wishing to write discrimination into the Oregon Constitution.

KATHRYN EATON
Portland



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