

Faithful Citizenship



June 22, 2008

There will be a lot of things to consider when voting this fall. The economy seems to be out of control. Prices change on everything from food to gas almost everyday. Will we support drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)? What is the future of the U.S.'s role in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Locally, the idea of holding another Constitutional Convention (ConCon) is up for consideration on the November ballot. Lt. Gov. Aiona has commissioned a panel to determine the costs involved in holding such a convention. In the meantime, you can go to HawaiiConCon.org for information concerning the merits of holding or not holding the convention. Gay marriage has been legalized in California and Massachusetts. What is your stance on that? That is an issue that would be put before members of the constitutional convention. The Catholic Church supports traditional marriage as a means of bringing forth new life. Although the Church is against sanctifying gay marriages, we are reminded that all beings deserve respect, compassion and sensitivity.

Taking that issue to a national level, our leading Presidential candidates provide these positions:

John McCain: Marriage should be between a man and a woman. He opposed a federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage because he is a strong believer in state's rights. On a state level, he endorsed a 2006 Arizona ballot initiative to limit marriage to be between a man and a woman. He supported the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Barack Obama: Personally feels that "marriage is between a man and a woman" but says that "equality is a moral imperative" for gay and lesbian Americans. He favors the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and supports granting civil unions for gay couples.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! Aloha-

Maup B.