

FamilyVoice Australia Candidates Survey for WA State Election 2008

Please indicate how you would vote on each of these issues by answering each question - by ticking the appropriate box. If you are bound by party policy on a particular question, please provide an answer in accordance with that policy.

1. Prayers in parliament

Prayers in parliament are an important daily reminder that we must all ultimately answer to the higher authority of Almighty God. The prayers, which consist of the Lord's Prayer and a request for God's guidance, are an expression of the Christian foundation of our nation. According to the latest census, about 60% of Western Australians identify with Christianity.

Would you vote to support the continued opening of parliament with Christian prayers?

No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

2. Adoption

Children have the right, all things being equal, to know the love and care of their natural mother and father. When children are relinquished for adoption, their right to grow up in an intact family with a mother and father who are married to one another should be upheld wherever possible. Same-sex couples cannot provide a child with both a father and a mother.

Would you vote to repeal the WA law which currently allows same-sex and unmarried couples to adopt babies?

No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

3. Reproductive Technology

Same-sex couples cannot naturally produce children together. Artificial reproduction should not be allowed to be used to produce children where it is intended to deny the child the right to either a father or a mother, as is the case where a single woman or a woman in a lesbian relationship is allowed to use this technology. Birth certificates should state the name of the mother, and of the father if his identity is known. A woman should not be falsely described as a "parent" in the place of a father.

Would you vote to repeal the WA law which currently allows single women and lesbians to access reproductive technology?

No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

4. Abortion

The WA abortion toll of over 8000 deaths per year - about one third of all births - is a tragedy. Studies show that pregnant women who abort their unborn babies - often because the women wrongly believe they have no other option - are more likely to suffer depression, other illness, accidents and even death in the months or years that follow. Centres supporting pregnant women with abortion alternatives deserve funding for ultrasound scanners and other assistance, and the law needs to protect unborn children from abortion.

Would you vote to restore protection for unborn children from abortion?

No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

5. Cannabis

There is increasing evidence of the harm done by cannabis use to the human brain, causing greatly increased risks of depression, short-term memory loss, schizophrenia and psychotic episodes. The WA government should send a clear message that cannabis is dangerous, enforcing significant penalties for possession and growing plants, as well as providing rehabilitation programs for addicts.

Would you vote to make the possession of cannabis and the growing of any number of cannabis plants criminal offences with substantial penalties?

No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

6. Age of consent

Homosexuals often target teenage boys, plying them with gifts, pornography and alcohol or drugs in order to "groom" them to accept homosexual activity. Increasing the age of consent for homosexual activity to 18 would provide an important protection for such boys.

Would you vote to increase the age of consent for homosexual acts from 16 to 18?

- No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

7. Prostitution

Prostitution problems - including drug abuse, street and child prostitution - have escalated in states which have legalised or decriminalised the prostitution trade. A law permitting brothels was passed in 2008 but has not yet come into effect. This law permits two person brothels in residential areas and may be used to force local councils to accept larger brothels in other areas even if local communities do not want them.

Would you vote to repeal the law permitting brothels?

- No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

8. Euthanasia

Human life is precious from conception until natural death. Doctors need training in palliative care, which is able to relieve the pain and emotional distress some dying patients experience, and the right of all patients to refuse treatment which is burdensome. This is not the same as euthanasia, which means the provision of drugs with the deliberate intention of killing the patient, and should never be legalised.

Would you vote against any proposal to allow doctors to intentionally kill their patients?

- No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

9. Sunday trading

West Australians do not need to shop every day. Families need at least one day in the week when they can be reasonably sure that every one can be together, to worship or to relax. The "day of rest" is an important part of our heritage. Its abolition would put further pressure on the already fragile family unit.

Would you vote to support the continued restriction on Sunday trading to provide one "family day" per week?

- No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

10. Gambling

WA has fewer problem gamblers than all other states and territories for one reason - poker machines, the most highly addictive form of gambling, are not available in local pubs and clubs. Restrictions on poker machines should be kept, and other even more highly addictive types of machines should not be allowed into the Burswood Casino.

Would you vote to retain the ban on pokies in any part of WA outside the Burswood Casino?

- No Comment Definitely Not Unlikely Unsure Probably Yes Definitely

CANDIDATE NAME:

ELECTORATE: PARTY:

SIGNATURE: DATE:

*Please return to FamilyVoice Australia, GPO Box 9894, Perth WA 6848
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