

The Clarion-Ledger

Miss. evangelicals should consider Eaves' positions

As the Mississippi gubernatorial race begins to heat up, the profile of the two candidates is starting to get attention in Mississippi and nationally. Evangelicals in the Deep South are for the first time faced with the decision between a secular Republican and a "born-again" Democrat in the race for the Governor's Mansion.

Gov. Haley Barbour has used his Washington, D.C., lobbyist connections to benefit the state, but his preference for the politics of big business and gambling - often at the expense of children and families - can be seen. Mississippi now has the highest infant mortality rate and casinos are popping up all over the Coast while area residents are still waiting for insurance checks to rebuild.

Conversely, John Arthur Eaves Jr. is a born-again evangelical who has reached out to evangelicals with his pro-life, pro-prayer, pro-family, fairer tax, and anti-gambling policy positions.

Barbour's nasty personal attack on Eaves' wife in front of their children at the Neshoba County Fair may add another element to this race for conservative evangelicals to consider.

On behalf of the millions of participants in Redeem the Vote nationwide and the 400,000 in Mississippi, we hope Christians will prayerfully engage the political process this fall.

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