

## What is a Legitimate Rape?

Written by Eryn Roberts  
Thursday, 30 August 2012 00:00

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**Issue:** In an effort to explain his stance on abortion, Rep. Todd Akin, the Republican Senate nominee from Missouri, said that in instances of what he called “legitimate rape,” women’s bodies somehow blocked an unwanted pregnancy. Akin, a six-term member of Congress who is backed by Tea Party conservatives, made it clear that his opposition to the practice was nearly absolute, even in instances of rape. “It seems to me, from what I understand from doctors, that’s really rare,” Mr. Akin said of pregnancies from rape.

“If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down. But let’s assume that maybe that didn’t work or something: I think there should be some punishment, but the punishment ought to be of the rapist, and not attacking the child.” Democrats are trying to tie Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to GOP Rep. Todd Akin’s claim that victims of “legitimate rape” rarely get pregnant, accusing Republicans of trying to drag women back to “the Dark Ages.” “Akin’s choice of words isn’t the real issue here,” Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said in a fundraising email. “The real issue is a Republican Party—led by Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan—whose policies on women and their health are dangerously wrong.” The Romney campaign put out a statement distancing itself from the remarks. “Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan disagree with Mr. Akin’s statement, and a Romney-Ryan administration would not oppose abortion in instances of rape.”

**Question: What do you think of Akin’s statement?**



Jamie Fowler

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### Jamie Fowler

I don't see how it could matter if you're a democrat, republican, or a Martian that anyone could vote for t



**Briana Foster**

### Briana Foster

“If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down?” So if the victim



**Flynn Erickson**

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### Flynn Erickson

The sad thing is he didn't make a mistake. He really believes pregnancies are rare among raped women



**Niles Sam**

### Niles Sam

Men really don't need to be talking about female issues and if you have to, then you need to know what

□ **{jcomments on}**