

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

PA Governor Questionnaire - Primary Election May 18, 2010

As part of a statewide effort to educate people about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues. The answers they provided are listed here for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- a. I do not oppose legalized abortion.
- b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
- c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.
- d. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*

* *As governor, I would support Pennsylvania's current law.*

WAGNER d.*

* *If Roe v. Wade were overturned and the decision to protect unborn human life were returned to the states, I would support a state law to protect unborn children with an exception to protect the life of the mother. It is likely that any law passed by the General Assembly would also include exceptions for the cases of rape or incest; I would support such a law.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL a.*

* *I trust women to make their own personal, private decisions regarding reproductive health issues.*

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT d.

ROHRER b.

What is your position on providing annual cost of living increases for low-income Pennsylvanians receiving cash assistance grants?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*

* *I would support COLAs if the state's financial condition allows.*

WAGNER Did not indicate*

* *Support, if such increases are both necessary and fiscally responsible.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL SUPPORT

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT SUPPORT*

* *I would prefer to promote financial independence through economic recovery.*

ROHRER OPPOSE*

* *This issue is purely a fiscal matter. To provide COLAs is nice but when the state is insolvent it is not doable.*



What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including nonpublic schools?

DEMOCRATS

- ONORATO** Did not indicate*
* *I support, and would expand, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.*
- WAGNER** Did not indicate*
* *I have always been open-minded about new and innovative ways to strengthen the quality of education. I voted for both the Charter School Law and the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. I would want to review the details of this legislation.*
- WILLIAMS** Did not respond
- HOEFFEL** OPPOSE*
* *I believe public money should be spent on public schools.*

REPUBLICANS

- CORBETT** SUPPORT*
* *I favor the EITC and promotion of greater educational options.*
- ROHRER** SUPPORT*
* *I support school choice in many ways. I would pursue the methods that would not entangle or compromise the independence of our private schools.*

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

DEMOCRATS

- ONORATO** Did not indicate*
* *I oppose the creation of embryos for stem cell research.*
- WAGNER** OPPOSE*
* *Oppose generally, but I would want to review the details of such legislation.*
- WILLIAMS** Did not respond
- HOEFFEL** SUPPORT

REPUBLICANS

- CORBETT** OPPOSE*
* *Promising research can be pursued without creating or destroying embryos.*
- ROHRER** OPPOSE

What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?

DEMOCRATS

- ONORATO** OPPOSE*
* *I support the current law, which includes this definition.*
- WAGNER** Did not indicate*
* *I voted for Act 124 of 1996 as a State Senator.*
- WILLIAMS** Did not respond
- HOEFFEL** OPPOSE*
* *I support full marriage equality for same-sex couples.*

REPUBLICANS

- CORBETT** SUPPORT*
* *Constitutional amendment would help safeguard marriage against an alternative agenda.*
- ROHRER** SUPPORT



Do you support or oppose legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or the provision of healthcare or government services to the undocumented?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*

* *This issue is best addressed at the federal level.*

WAGNER Did not indicate*

* *These issues will generally be decided at the federal level. I am open-minded about these issues at the state level and would want to see the details of such legislation.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL OPPOSE

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT SUPPORT*

* *Pennsylvania has a responsibility to ensure eligibility of all participants.*

ROHRER SUPPORT

What is your position on the death penalty in Pennsylvania?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO SUPPORT

WAGNER SUPPORT*

* *I am open-minded to finding ways to validate the process of how the death penalty is applied, such as DNA testing.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL SUPPORT*

* *I support the death penalty only for murders that were pre-meditated.*

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT SUPPORT*

* *It's needed as a disincentive and penalty for heinous crimes.*

ROHRER SUPPORT*

* *This is a matter of the view of the sacredness of life. If any person chooses to take another's life, that life should be forfeited.*

What is your position on restoring state funding to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the aged, blind and disabled Pennsylvanians?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*

* *I support this restoration once the state's financial condition allows.*

WAGNER SUPPORT

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL SUPPORT

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT SUPPORT*

* *Supporting targeted populations should be prioritized while reducing overall spending.*

ROHRER Did not indicate*

* *This again falls into the matter of fiscal availability. There is no funding available and won't be for a number of years.*



What is your position on legislation requiring employers to provide employee benefits to which they are morally opposed, for example, mandating coverage for contraceptives or benefits to same-sex partners of employees?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*
* *I would consider on a case-by-case basis with religious exemptions.*

WAGNER Did not indicate*
* *I generally believe that employers should make these decisions. I would want to see the details of such legislation.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL SUPPORT

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT OPPOSE*
* *I oppose mandates contrary to the moral conscience of employers.*

ROHRER OPPOSE

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- a. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.
- b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.
- c. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be free from government regulation.

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO b.

WAGNER b.

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL b.

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT c.*
* *Providers should develop services appropriate for their faith and community.*

ROHRER c.*
* *This question could possibly be answered as (b.) also with clarity on the definition of "health and safety." "Health and Safety is broad and can invite government intrusion.*

Indicate your position on this statement: The government should assume financial responsibility for providing affordable, accessible health care for the uninsured.

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*
* *The national government should ensure access to quality affordable healthcare.*

WAGNER Did not indicate*
* *I am open-minded to any proposal to expand access to health care for the uninsured in a fiscally responsible way. I would want to review the details of such legislation, which may be unnecessary in light of the recently enacted federal health care reform law.*

WILLIAMS Did not respond

HOEFFEL SUPPORT*
* *I support establishing a single-payer system modeled on Medicare to provide health care for all Pennsylvanians.*



REPUBLICANS

CORBETT OPPOSE*
* *I oppose public option but support greater access to healthcare.*
ROHRER OPPOSE

What is your position on legislation that forces health care providers to provide, pay for or refer for services contrary to their conscience for moral or religious reasons?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO Did not indicate*
* *We should protect both religious institutions and patient rights.*
WAGNER OPPOSE
WILLIAMS Did not respond
HOEFFEL OPPOSE

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT OPPOSE*
* *I support safeguarding the moral conscience of Pennsylvania’s healthcare providers.*
ROHRER OPPOSE

Do you support or oppose increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) if the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

DEMOCRATS

ONORATO SUPPORT*
* *I support an increase if the state’s financial condition allows.*
WAGNER SUPPORT*
* *As long as both sets of increases are fiscally responsible. I voted to create the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program and, later, to expand and increase funding to the program.*
WILLIAMS Did not respond
HOEFFEL SUPPORT

REPUBLICANS

CORBETT SUPPORT*
* *EITC is crucial to preserve an array of educational options.*
ROHRER SUPPORT