

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
PA Governor Questionnaire - Primary Election 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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON d.
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER c.
CAWLEY d.*
* *In addition, under the current laws I oppose any taxpayer-funded abortions.*
MCCUE b.*
* *Life is sacred so I oppose all abortion under any circumstances.*
KENNEDY d.
URBAN c.
METCALFE b.

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

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE*
* *Cash assistance grants are for temporary relief. Public money is best allocated to programs that focus on job training.*
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY OPPOSE*
* *This is not fiscally responsible given that our state budget is currently running a deficit.*
MCCUE OPPOSE*
* *Proper stewardship of public funds requires private intervention.*
KENNEDY OPPOSE
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE OPPOSE

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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON SUPPORT
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT
MCCUE SUPPORT*
** I enthusiastically support school vouchers, explicitly including Catholic schools.*
KENNEDY SUPPORT
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE SUPPORT

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER OPPOSE
CAWLEY OPPOSE*
** While I realize that this area of science provides hope of overcoming many terrible diseases, it is my continued understanding that the real advances in this area are from adult stem cells coming from procedures that do not destroy life.*
MCCUE OPPOSE*
** I oppose it because it is gravely immoral and unnecessary.*
KENNEDY OPPOSE
URBAN OPPOSE
METCALFE OPPOSE

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

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond



REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON SUPPORT
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT
MCCUE SUPPORT*
** Marriage is between a man and a woman. Period!*

KENNEDY SUPPORT
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE SUPPORT*
** I am a leader on this issue.*

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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON SUPPORT
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT*
** I support legal immigration that fosters a respect for the rule of law.*

MCCUE OPPOSE*
** We believe immigration is the responsibility of the federal government.*

KENNEDY SUPPORT
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE SUPPORT

What is your position on the death penalty in Pennsylvania?

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON SUPPORT
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT
MCCUE OPPOSE*
** All death sentences would be commuted to life in prison.*

KENNEDY SUPPORT
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE SUPPORT

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

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE*
*Churches and volunteer organizations should take a greater role in helping.
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT*
* *In these tough economic times, there must be strict needs-based criteria for any possible restoration of such services.*
MCCUE OPPOSE*
* *Proper stewardship demands that Catholic Charities increases their involvement.*
KENNEDY Did not indicate*
* *Undecided*
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE OPPOSE

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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER OPPOSE
CAWLEY OPPOSE*
* *I generally oppose imposing additional mandates on businesses.*
MCCUE OPPOSE*
* *You should not be forced to pay for anything counter to your beliefs.*
KENNEDY OPPOSE
URBAN OPPOSE
METCALFE 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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON b.
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER b.
CAWLEY b.
MCCUE b.*
* *Faith alone cannot provide for safety.*
KENNEDY b.
URBAN b.
METCALFE c.

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

DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER OPPOSE
CAWLEY OPPOSE*
* *Rather than further increase government debt, we must look for measures that will lower costs for everyone.*
MCCUE OPPOSE*
* *Government cannot create resources out of thin air.*
KENNEDY OPPOSE
URBAN OPPOSE*
* *I support expanding Adult Basic Health Insurance to cover more people.*
METCALFE 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

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON OPPOSE
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER OPPOSE
CAWLEY OPPOSE
MCCUE OPPOSE*
** Nobody should be forced to act against their conscience.*
KENNEDY OPPOSE
URBAN OPPOSE
METCALFE 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

REPUBLICANS
DEMOCRATS

SMITH-RIBNER Did not respond
CONKLIN Did not respond
SAIDEL Did not respond

REPUBLICANS

JOHNSON SUPPORT
PEPPER Did not respond
DIAMOND Did not respond
BEILER SUPPORT
CAWLEY SUPPORT*
** I have always been a strong supporter of Educational Improvement Tax Credits.*
MCCUE SUPPORT*
** EITC is an excellent way to help fund private education, including Catholic schools.*
KENNEDY SUPPORT
URBAN SUPPORT
METCALFE SUPPORT