Know the Positions of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

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

**Indicates comments*

Tom Smith (R) | Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)

What is your position on legislation that provides equitable educational benefits to students and teachers in nonpublic schools as compared to those received by public school students and teachers?

SMITH (R) Support*

** Education decisions are best made at the local level. However, I believe private and religious schools should receive the same benefits as public schools.*

CASEY (D) Oppose*

** I attended and taught at Catholic schools. We can't divert funding from public schools.*

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

SMITH (R) Support

CASEY (D) Oppose

What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

SMITH (R) Oppose*

** Those who have come here illegally should not be given special treatment over those who have come here legally.*

CASEY (D) Support*

** I have supported comprehensive immigration reform with increased enforcement.*

What is your position on keeping current levels of poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increasing the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed to foreign aid?

SMITH (R) Oppose

CASEY (D) Support

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Election Day is November 6

- See reverse side for more questions & answers -

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What is your position on keeping current levels of aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and providing adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

SMITH (R) Support

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

SMITH (R) Support

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on embryonic stem cell research?

SMITH (R) Oppose*
** I support stem cell research that does not involve embryonic stem cells, such as research using adult or amniotic stem cells.*

CASEY (D) Oppose*
** I support increased funding for research that does not utilize embryonic stem cells.*

What is your position on legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience and religion for health care professionals, providers and institutions?

SMITH (R) Support*
** I do not believe anyone should be punished for opposing abortions.*

CASEY (D) Support*
** I voted for the Blunt amendment to protect religiously-affiliated institutions.*

What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

SMITH (R) Oppose

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

SMITH (R) Oppose*
** I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.*

CASEY (D) Did Not Indicate*
** I have not cosponsored legislation to repeal DOMA.*

Exercise your faithful citizenship
Vote on November 6

- See reverse side for more questions & answers -

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