

Primary Election 2018: Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

In our commitment to follow Jesus Christ we must do more than just show up for Mass on Sunday morning, we must bear Christian witness in all we do – in our homes, in our work and recreation, in our interaction with the world around us, and in the public square.

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas. *But being 'right' in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life.* Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the 'rightness' of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the 'temple of the Holy Spirit' -- the living house of God -- then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. *All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house's foundation.* These directly and immediately violate the human person's most fundamental right – the right to life.

– From [Living the Gospel of Life, No. 22](#) with original emphasis (Pastoral Statement, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998)

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. In an effort to educate voters, the PCC gave the statewide candidates the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues important to Catholics. On *Tuesday, May 15, 2018*, the members of PA's two major political parties will choose their candidates to vie for U.S. Senate in the fall. Here are the responses from **Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)** and **Louis J. Barletta (R)**. James J. Christiana, III (R) did not respond. Joseph Vodvarka withdrew from the race.

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

CASEY (D) OPPOSE*
BARLETTA (R) SUPPORT

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- a) I support 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 or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

CASEY (D) c.*
BARLETTA (R) c.

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 a life in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

CASEY (D) SUPPORT
BARLETTA (R) DID NOT INDICATE*

* Comments provided by the candidate. See footnotes



**Primary Election Day
May 15, 2018**

- See reverse side for more -

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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.)?

CASEY (D) SUPPORT
BARLETTA (R) OPPOSE

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- a) Congress should maintain federal funding for the Medicaid program to strengthen it as a safety-net for low-income, elderly and disabled people.
- b) Congress should cap federal funding and issue block grants for Medicaid giving more responsibility to the states.

CASEY (D) a.
BARLETTA (R) b.*

Find out about voter registration and polling place locations at:



www.votespa.com

Learn more:

Bob Casey for Senate
bobcasey.com

Lou Barletta for U.S. Senate
www.loubarletta.com

Jim Christiana for U.S. Senate
jimchristiana.org

Comments:

Question 1: Casey - * I do not support such a tax credit. Businesses can already deduct charitable contributions.

Question 2: Casey - * I am a pro-life Democrat, which means I am in favor of policies that support women and children before and after birth. This means making a commitment to protect programs like WIC, Pregnant Women Support Act, SNAP, Medicaid, and the Nurse-Family Partnership.

Question 3: Barletta - * Before we discuss what to do with people in our country illegally we must secure our borders, end the diversity visa lottery, end chain migration, and prove to the American people that this problem will not happen again.

Question 5: Barletta - * I support an improved Medicaid program that gives states the flexibility to provide better quality care for those in need.

Get the latest election information and news about Catholic issues in the public square at www.pacatholic.org.