

# VIEWPOINT

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

## ★ 2006 ELECTION EDITION ★

The candidates for U.S. senator, governor and lieutenant governor received a written questionnaire from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) asking for their positions on issues important to Catholics. The candidates' responses are listed in this special voter guide edition of *Viewpoint*. These are the words of the candidates themselves as supplied to the PCC. They do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions and positions of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

This guide is provided for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office. The text of the questionnaire responses and face-to-face interviews with these candidates are available on PCC's website, [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org). Candidates for U.S. Congress and Pennsylvania House and Senate were questioned by the Catholic diocese(s) in which the district is located. Results of those questionnaires will be published in diocesan newspapers before the November 7 election.

### U.S. SENATOR



(l to r) Rick Santorum (R), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)

**1** If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, what is your position on providing legal protection for unborn children from the moment of conception?

**Santorum (R): Support**

**Casey (D): Support**

**1a.** If support, what exceptions, if any, would you require?

- a) would not require exceptions
- b) life of the mother
- c) life of the mother, rape, and incest

**Santorum (R): B**

*I would not vote against otherwise pro-life legislation if it also included exceptions for rape and incest.*

**Casey (D): B**

*If the U.S. Supreme Court were to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the issue was returned to the states, and if the PA General Assembly passed an abortion bill, that bill would contain exceptions for rape, for incest, and for the life of the mother. I would strongly support that bill because it would have the effect of reducing the number of abortions in PA.*

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### PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR



(l to r) Ed Rendell (D), Lynn Swann (R)

**1** If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, what is your position on providing legal protection for unborn children from the moment of conception?

**Rendell (D): Oppose**

**Swann (R): Support**

**1a.** If support, what exceptions, if any, would you require?

- a) would not require exceptions
- b) life of the mother
- c) life of the mother, rape, and incest

**Rendell (D): Did not indicate**

*I believe abortion should be legal but as rare as possible. My efforts to improve our adoption services have been recognized with two national awards.*

**Swann (R): C - life of the mother, rape, and incest**

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## U.S. SENATOR CONTINUED

**2.** What is your position on research that involves destroying live human embryos to obtain their cells for experimentation (embryonic stem cell research)?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*I do support adult stem cell research and introduced the Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Research and Enhancement Act to find other alternatives.*

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*I will strongly support increased funding for research on umbilical and placenta stem cells, adult stem cells, and other forms of stem cell research that do not harm the embryo.*

**3.** What is your position on suspending all federal executions?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*I have supported the death penalty in very limited circumstances, with strict enforcement of due process rights, ensuring that innocent individuals are not subjected to this ultimate penalty.*

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*I support the death penalty for heinous crimes. But I support federal legislation that provides access to relevant DNA evidence.*

**4.** What is your position on a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman?

**Santorum (R): Support**

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*Marriage can only be between a man and a woman. I believe PA State law is clear on that. And I do not believe Washington should take this*

*decision away from state legislatures. I understand that many good people support this amendment because of their legitimate concern about protecting the definition of marriage. Yet far too many in Washington are using this amendment to divide our nation for political gain. I will not be a part of such efforts.*

**4a.** If support, which constitution should be amended?

- a.) U.S. Constitution
- b.) PA Constitution
- c.) Both

**Santorum (R): C**

*I strongly believe in defending traditional marriage and have spoken on the Senate floor in support of this measure.*

**Casey (D): N/A**

**5.** What is your position on expanding the federal school voucher program (e.g. the Washington, DC voucher program) to other jurisdictions to further study its effects on at-risk children?

**Santorum (R): Support**

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*I was educated in Catholic schools. I taught at a Catholic school. My girls attend Catholic schools, but I cannot support any program that drains money from public schools.*

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

**Santorum (R): Support**

*I have introduced a bill that would turn the PA EITC program into a federal law.*

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*Same as above. Tax credits would drain revenue for public education.*

**7.** What is your position on legislation that forces Catholic health care providers to provide, pay for or refer for services contrary to their conscience and moral teachings?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*I introduced the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act to address this problem.*

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*I am for exemptions that provide adequate provision for individuals to get care elsewhere.*

**8.** What is your position on mandating employers and health insurance plans, regardless of their religious beliefs or moral convictions, to cover contraceptives in their prescription plans for employees?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*I also oppose the FDA's recent decision to sell the "Morning-After Pill" over-the-counter, while my opponent favors it and calls for it to be "widely available."*

**Casey (D): Support**

*I do not believe that employers should be able to deny their employees coverage for legal contraceptive services, especially since those services are proven to significantly reduce abortion rates in this country.*

**9.** What is your position on comprehensive immigration reform efforts (such as the McCain/Kennedy proposal) which outline steps for undocumented workers to earn US citizenship or legalization?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*Unlike my opponent, I oppose amnesty. I believe we must first secure our borders, so I introduced the Border Security First Act.*

**Casey (D): Support**

*I would have voted for this bill over doing nothing at all. However, as I have said, the bill is not perfect. My top priority is to pass legislation that emphasizes border security and punishment for employers who hire illegal immigrants. And I will never support efforts to criminalize priests, nuns, and lay workers for trying to help immigrants.*

**10.** What is your position on comprehensive health care reform efforts that include providing coverage for immigrants?

**Santorum (R): Support**

*I support patient-centered proposals to expand access to quality and affordable health care for all Americans, not increasing dependency on government programs. I do not support providing government benefits to illegal immigrants who do not pay taxes.*

**Casey (D): Did not indicate**

*My priority is to expand health care coverage and reduce the cost of health care for children and working families. I oppose efforts by some to deny health care access for legal immigrants.*

*...continued on back page...*

■ What is your position on research that involves destroying live human embryos to obtain their cells for experimentation (embryonic stem cell research)?

**Rendell (D): Support**  
**Swann (R): Oppose**

■ What is your position on a provision in the state budget to fund contraceptive services?

**Rendell (D): Support**  
*I have also increased funding for abstinence education.*

**Swann (R): Oppose**

■ What is your position on mandating employers and health insurance plans to cover contraceptives in their prescription drug plans?

**Rendell (D): Support**  
**Swann (R): Did Not Indicate**  
*The specific health services provided by a certain employer or health insurance plan should be left to the discretion of those providers and employees.*

■ What is your position on a moratorium on the death penalty in Pennsylvania?

**Rendell (D): Oppose**  
*Capital defendants must have access to experienced and able counsel and to DNA testing, even if they cannot afford it.*

**Swann (R): Oppose**

■ What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman and prevent civil unions or another functionally equivalent legal status?

**Rendell (D): Oppose**  
*I agree with our existing legal definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman, and I therefore believe the amendment is unnecessary to protect marriage. I have always supported giving same-sex couples in a committed relationship functionally equivalent benefits.*

**Swann (R): Did Not Indicate**  
*I support a clear and unequivocal amendment to the state constitution that defines marriage between one man and one woman.*

■ What is your position on legislation that allows only single individuals or married couples to adopt children?

**Rendell (D): Oppose**  
**Swann (R): Support**

■ What is your position on school choice legislation in the form of direct grants, or vouchers, to students to attend the school of their choice?

**Rendell (D): Oppose**  
*I have, nonetheless, doubled funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.*

**Swann (R): Support**  
*We must allow children in perpetually underperforming schools to have other academic options.*

■ What is your position on increasing funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), which encourages businesses to donate to K-12 scholarship programs?

**Rendell (D): Support**  
*EITC scholarships have doubled since I took office.*

**Swann (R): Support**

■ What is your position on giving more public dollars to state-funded preschool (ages 3-4) program available to all students regardless of family income and administered exclusively by public school districts?

**Rendell (D): Did not indicate**  
*I strongly support pre-kindergarten funding for school districts AS WELL AS for high quality community providers.*

**Swann (R): Oppose**  
*All providers of preschool should be available for state funds.*

■ What is your position on legislation to create a registration system for religious child care providers that includes health and safety requirements (but not licensure by the Department of Public Welfare) and preserves their religious freedom (i.e., in curricula and hiring practices, and discipline)?

**Rendell (D): Did not indicate**  
*I believe that staff/child ratios, corporal punishment and staff qualifications ARE issues of health and safety.*

**Swann (R): Support**

■ What is your position on using more public money to make assisted living/personal care more affordable and provide more health care options for the elderly so that they may choose the setting best suited to their needs (i.e., home care, assisted living/personal care, nursing home)?

**Rendell (D): Support**  
*I have nearly doubled the number of seniors able to live at home and in dignity while receiving needed services.*

**Swann (R): Support**

■ What is your position on legislation establishing a review board to impose standards that ensure scientific research in Pennsylvania adheres to ethical principles?

**Rendell (D): Did not indicate**  
*I am willing to consider any evidence of the need for such a board.*

**Swann (R): Support**  
*We should build off the model in the tobacco settlement legislation.*

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## U.S. SENATOR CONTINUED

**11.** What is your position on cuts or program changes to Medicare and Medicaid that restrict access to health care for low income citizens?

**Santorum (R): Oppose**

*I strongly support efforts to reform Medicare and Medicaid to root out fraud, waste, and abuse so that our hard-earned tax dollars are spent on services for those that need them the most.*

**Casey (D): Oppose**

*If elected to the U.S. Senate, I would be strongly supportive of a*

*number of other initiatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including protecting Social Security, especially for individuals and families whose resources are already very limited; environmental protection, especially as it affects children's health; increasing the minimum wage; expanding children's health insurance; supporting child care initiatives, including the Family and Medical leave law; and supporting children's health and nutrition programs including food stamps and WIC.*

## PA GOVERNOR CONTINUED

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

**Rendell (D): Did not indicate**

*My position would depend on the specific service.*

**Swann (R): Oppose**

*Each provider's policy should be made clearly known to the insured associated with the institution.*

What is your position on the appointment of a task force to examine Pennsylvania's long-term care policy and funding needs for senior care services so Medicaid-funded home and community based alternatives are carried out in partnership with all types of long-term care providers?

**Rendell (D): Support**

*My Long Term Living Council is soliciting input from stakeholders.*

**Swann (R): Support**

To review completed questionnaires, read the text of PCC's candidate interviews and more election information, log on to:

[www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org)



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