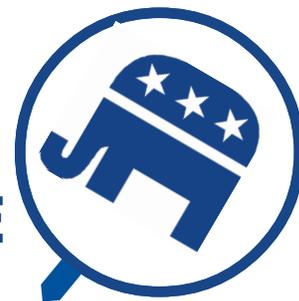


VIEWPOINT

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference



General Election - November 2, 2010

PENNSYLVANIA CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE

As part of an effort to educate citizens 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 issues. All four statewide candidates also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. The complete questionnaires and full interview transcripts are posted on www.pacatholic.org. The answers to the questionnaire are listed here for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

U.S. Senator



REPUBLICAN
Pat Toomey



DEMOCRAT
Joe Sestak

■ Do you support or oppose legislation to continue and expand current federal laws that provide educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on an equitable basis in comparison to the benefits received by public school students and teachers?

TOOMEY SUPPORT*
* I have been a long term advocate for expanding parents' choice in schools through different funding mechanisms.

SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

TOOMEY OPPOSE
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

...continued on page 2...

PA Governor



REPUBLICAN
Tom Corbett



DEMOCRAT
Dan Onorato

■ 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?

ONORATO Did not indicate*
* I support, and would expand, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.

CORBETT SUPPORT*
* Funding should follow the student through avenues such as vouchers.

■ Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

ONORATO Did not indicate*
* I oppose the creation of embryos for stem cell research.

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

...continued on page 3...



What is the PCC?

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania. There are 10 Catholic dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Eight are Latin Rite dioceses, fully contained within the Commonwealth. Two are Byzantine Rite dioceses with Apostolic Sees in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

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...U.S. Senator continued...

■ 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?

TOOMEY DID NOT INDICATE*
** I have been a long term supporter of PA's EITC program that is very similar.*
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose 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?

TOOMEY OPPOSE*
** I support higher levels of legal immigration but oppose granting legal status to those who have broken our laws.*
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose legislation that would expedite the issuance of permanent resident visas for immediate family members, such as children, siblings, and spouses, of U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents?

TOOMEY DID NOT INDICATE*
** I would support this in some cases, but it must be done in a way that respects the rule of law and protects the security of our country.*
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Will you support or oppose significant annual increases in poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

TOOMEY OPPOSE*
** Our perilous budget situation does not allow for this.*
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose the overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

TOOMEY OPPOSE
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose legislation to increase aid for refugees who are fleeing from persecution abroad and to provide adequate funding for the U.S. refugee admissions and resettlement programs?

TOOMEY DID NOT INDICATE*
** I support aid for refugees fleeing persecution, but I don't know if an increase in aid is necessary at this time.*
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose legislation that would amend the new federal health care law to clearly prohibit funding for abortions in federally qualified health clinics and coverage for abortions in high-risk insurance pools?

TOOMEY SUPPORT
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose 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)?

TOOMEY SUPPORT
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care providers and health care institutions?

TOOMEY SUPPORT
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND

■ Do you support or oppose 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.)?

TOOMEY OPPOSE
SESTAK DID NOT RESPOND



More election resources are available online at www.pacatholic.org/faith-politics.

...PA Governor continued...

■ 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.

ONORATO Did not indicate*

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

CORBETT d.

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

ONORATO OPPOSE*

** I support the current law, which includes this definition.*

CORBETT SUPPORT*

** A Constitutional amendment would help safeguard marriage against an alternative agenda.*

■ 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?

ONORATO Did not indicate*

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

CORBETT SUPPORT*

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

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

ONORATO SUPPORT

CORBETT SUPPORT*

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

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

ONORATO SUPPORT*

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

CORBETT SUPPORT*

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

■ 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?

ONORATO Did not indicate*

** I would consider on a case-by-case basis with religious exemptions.*

CORBETT OPPOSE*

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

■ 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.

ONORATO b.

CORBETT c.*

** Providers should develop services appropriate for their faith community.*

■ Do you support or oppose legislation that would restrict taxpayer funding of abortion in Pennsylvania's health insurance exchange created by the federal health care law?

ONORATO SUPPORT*

** I support the longstanding restriction against using public funds.*

CORBETT SUPPORT*

** Pennsylvania taxpayers should not be required to fund abortion.*

■ 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?

ONORATO Did not indicate*

** We should protect both religious institutions and patient rights.*

CORBETT OPPOSE*

** I support safeguarding the moral conscience of Pennsylvania's healthcare providers.*



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Viewpoint is published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops. For more information, contact Amy B. Hill, APR, editor, at (717) 238-9613 or e-mail at abhil@pacatholic.org. Visit our website at www.pacatholic.org.

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