





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON • DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

2005 GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

On August 12th, the Virginia Catholic Conference, the public-policy representative of the Commonwealth’s Catholic bishops, sent (via certified mail, return-receipt requested) an 11-item questionnaire to each of the three candidates in this year’s gubernatorial race. All questionnaire items (which appear below) address legislative or budgetary policies monitored by the Conference. Along with the questions, each candidate received a cover letter signed by the Conference’s Executive Director, Jeff Caruso. In that letter, the candidates were given the following instructions: “This questionnaire has been sent to all three gubernatorial candidates, and responses to the questionnaire will be printed in Virginia’s two Catholic diocesan newspapers – the *Arlington Catholic Herald* and the *Catholic Virginian* (Diocese of Richmond) – within a few weeks before the November 8 election. In addition, parishes throughout both dioceses will be encouraged to make the questionnaire responses, as printed in the diocesan newspapers, available directly to their parishioners; the responses will also be posted on [the Conference’s] website (www.vacatholic.org). Due to newspaper space limitations, only your ‘support’ or ‘oppose’ responses will be printed. Qualifying explanations will not be printed. If you are uncertain whether you would support or oppose a given item, you may choose to leave that item blank. To ensure sufficient time for the newspapers to prepare a chart display, please return your completed, signed questionnaire to our office (by fax or mail) no later than Friday, September 30. There is no guarantee that responses received after that date will be included in the newspapers.” On September 22nd, a second letter was sent to the three candidates (by certified mail, return-receipt requested, as well as by e-mail), reminding them that their responses were due by September 30th.

Before the specified date (September 30th) expired, the Conference received completed, signed questionnaires from two of the three candidates. Their “support” and “oppose” responses are displayed below.

<p>S = Support O = Oppose * = Did not respond to questionnaire</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS</h2>	 Timothy Kaine (D)	 Jerry Kilgore (R)	Russell Potts (I)
HUMAN LIFE			
<p>1. <u>Stem-Cell Research:</u> Do you support or oppose:</p>			
<p>a. Prohibiting the use of state funds for research on stem cells obtained by destroying human embryos?</p>	O	S	*
<p>b. Increasing state funding, over the course of your four-year term as Governor, earmarked exclusively for research on stem cells that were not obtained by destroying human embryos (e.g., adult stem cells and stem cells from umbilical-cord blood)?</p>	S	S	*

<p>2. <u>Abortion:</u> Do you support or oppose:</p> <p>a. Requiring that, prior to receiving an abortion, a pregnant woman be given information about an unborn child's ability to experience pain by 20 weeks gestation, in accord with the provisions of legislation (HB 1524) considered but not enacted by the General Assembly earlier this year?</p>	S	S	*
<p>b. Requiring abortion clinics to be licensed by the state and regulated as outpatient surgical hospitals, in accord with the provisions of legislation (SB 839) considered but not enacted by the General Assembly earlier this year?</p>	O	S	*
<p>c. Prohibiting state funding (except for Medicaid reimbursements required by federal or state law) for non-governmental organizations that provide abortions or abortion counseling?</p>		S	*
<p>3. <u>Death Penalty:</u> Do you support or oppose:</p> <p>a. Legislation that would abolish the death penalty in Virginia (<i>e.g.</i>, HB 1879, considered by the General Assembly in 2005 but not enacted)?</p>		O	*
<p>b. Limiting the use of Virginia's death penalty to the circumstances under which it is currently permitted (<i>e.g.</i>, maintaining the current requirement that only the "triggerman" can receive a death sentence)?</p>	S	O	*
SOCIAL JUSTICE			
<p>4. <u>Affordable Housing.</u> Do you support or oppose including \$2.3 million in your proposed fiscal-year 2007 budget to initiate a pilot program that would provide rental assistance to working families whose rent payments exceed 30 percent of their income?</p>	S	O	*
<p>5. <u>Minimum Wage.</u> Do you support or oppose increasing the state's minimum wage by at least one dollar (<i>i.e.</i>, from \$5.15 per hour to at least \$6.15 per hour)?</p>	S	O	*
<p>6. <u>Labor Protections.</u> Do you support or oppose preserving the eligibility of undocumented laborers for worker's compensation benefits in the event of workplace injury or death?</p>	S	O	*

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

<p>7. <u>Marriage.</u> Do you support or oppose the inclusion of the following provision (approved by the General Assembly this year) in the Constitution of Virginia: “That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage.”?</p>	S	S	*
<p>8. <u>Low-Income Families.</u> The refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal credit for low-income working families; workers whose incomes are too low to pay taxes can receive a refund through the EITC. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have also established their own EITC programs – modeled after the federal program -- that are “partially refundable” (<i>i.e.</i>, with state rebates capped at certain amounts). Do you support or oppose creating a partially refundable Virginia EITC program for low-income workers?</p>	S	S	*
<p>9. <u>Education.</u> Do you support or oppose:</p> <p>a. Permitting local school districts to provide bus transportation to non-public-school students, in accord with the provisions of legislation (HB 1589) considered but not enacted during the 2005 General Assembly session?</p>	S	S	*
<p>b. Establishing a Virginia Nonpublic School Textbook Program to provide state assistance to parents of nonpublic-school children for the purchase of non-religious textbooks approved by the state?</p>	O	S	*
<p>c. Continuing to permit the children of undocumented immigrants to attend state colleges and universities?</p>	S	O	*

CONSCIENCE PROTECTIONS

<p>10. <u>Employers.</u> Do you support or oppose preserving the ability of employers who provide prescription-drug coverage to their employees to avoid (for reasons of conscience) providing coverage for prescription contraceptives?</p>	S	S	*
<p>11. <u>Pharmacists.</u> Do you support or oppose legislation to protect pharmacists from termination of employment if they decline (for reasons of conscience) to fill prescriptions for RU-486, the “morning after” pill, or oral contraceptives prescribed for “birth control” purposes?</p>	O	O	*