



# 2007 General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire Responses

In anticipation of the November 6<sup>th</sup> general elections, the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) sent (via certified mail, return-receipt requested) a 16-item questionnaire to all candidates for Virginia General Assembly seats on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The VCC is the public-policy representative of the Commonwealth's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses.

Accompanying the survey was a letter that advised, "Each question represents an issue that is part of the Conference's policy agenda. Most, and quite possibly all, of these issues are expected to receive consideration during the 2008 General Assembly session. . . . 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." Candidates were also sent reminder letters on August 20<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. All candidates who did not respond by September 7<sup>th</sup> (the originally indicated date for guaranteed inclusion in the *Arlington Catholic Herald*) were also contacted by VCC staff by phone, or by e-mail if no phone number was available, during the week of September 10<sup>th</sup> to provide an additional opportunity for their participation.

Displayed below is the set of questions provided to the candidates, followed by two charts. The first chart contains the names of all candidates in contested Senate and House of Delegates races in districts within the Diocese of Arlington, followed by their responses or by a blank line if no responses were received for publication. The second chart, also pertaining to districts within the Diocese, contains the responses submitted by unopposed candidates, followed by a list of unopposed candidates from whom the VCC did not receive responses for publication.

To find your House and Senate districts, go to: <http://capwiz.com/vacatholic/home/>.

## BEGINNING OF LIFE

1. **Abortion – Prohibiting Funding.** Do you support or oppose *prohibiting* the use of state funds for providing abortions, except as required by federal statute?
2. **Research – Ethical Standards.** Do you support or oppose *prohibiting* the use of state funds:
  - a) for research on stem cells obtained from human embryos?
  - b) for research on cells or tissues derived from deliberately induced abortions?
3. **Abortion – Clinic Licensing.** Do you support or oppose requiring abortion clinics to be licensed by the state and subject to the requirements for operating an ambulatory surgery center, in accord with the provisions of legislation (HB 1883) considered but not enacted by the General Assembly earlier this year?
4. **Abortion – Informed Consent.** Do you support or oppose adding to Virginia’s “informed consent” law a requirement that a pregnant woman be given an opportunity to view an ultrasound image of her unborn child before receiving an abortion?

## DEATH PENALTY

5. **Death Penalty – Moratorium.** Do you support or oppose legislation that would suspend use of the death penalty in Virginia until potential flaws in the state’s death-penalty system (*e.g.*, possible racial, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities in death sentencing) can be studied and addressed?
6. **Death Penalty – Limitations.** Do you support or oppose limiting the use of Virginia’s death penalty to the circumstances under which it is currently permitted (*e.g.*, maintaining the current requirement that only the “trIGGERMAN” can receive a death sentence)?

## ECONOMIC CONCERNS

7. **Developing Affordable Housing.** Do you support or oppose establishing a Virginia Housing Trust Fund, which would earmark a dedicated source of state revenue for affordable housing developments for low-income households?
8. **Rental-Housing Subsidies.** Over 40 percent of those who live in homeless shelters in Virginia have jobs, but their wages do not enable them to afford

housing. Do you support or oppose creating a three-year rental-assistance pilot program (at a cost of \$4.8 million), which would provide grants to roughly 800 working families to bridge the gap between their wages and the cost of housing?

9. **Payday Lending – Rate Cap.** Do you support or oppose requiring Virginia’s payday-lending industry to operate under the same annual-percentage-rate cap (36 percent) as other small-loan lenders operating in Virginia?
10. **Low-Income Families.** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal program for low-income working families. For a worker whose EITC exceeds his tax liability, the credit is “refundable” – that is, the worker can receive an income supplement from the federal government. At least 12 states and the District of Columbia have also established their own EITC programs – modeled after the federal program – that are “partially refundable” (*i.e.*, with income supplements from the state that are capped at certain amounts). Do you support or oppose creating a partially refundable Virginia EITC program for low-income workers?

## EDUCATION

11. **Tax Credits.** Do you support or oppose legislation establishing income-tax credits for business entities and individuals who make contributions to public-school foundations or scholarship foundations, in accord with the provisions of legislation (HB 1843) considered but not enacted by the General Assembly earlier this year?
12. **School Transportation.** Do you support or oppose the Virginia law (§ 22.1-176.1 of the Code of Virginia) that permits any local public-school board the option to offer student transportation to and from nonpublic schools that are within the school division and that agree to all terms and conditions established by the school board for transporting their students (*e.g.*, terms relating to cost-sharing, fees, insurance, and liability)?

## IMMIGRANTS

13. **Labor Protections.** Do you support or oppose preserving the eligibility of undocumented laborers for worker’s compensation benefits in the event of workplace injury or death?
14. **Higher Education.** Do you support or oppose permitting undocumented immigrant children to receive in-state tuition at Virginia’s public colleges and universities if they have graduated from a Virginia high school, make a commitment to pursue legal permanent U.S. residency, have parents who have filed Virginia income-tax returns for at least three years prior to enrollment, and meet the other requirements set forth in legislation (SB 1204) considered but not enacted by the General Assembly earlier this year?

# HEALTH

15. **Prenatal Care.** The federal poverty level in 2007 for a single-member household is \$10,210 in gross yearly income. Under Virginia's FAMIS Moms program, pregnant women at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for government-subsidized prenatal care to improve birth outcomes. Do you support or oppose increasing the program's eligibility level to 200 percent of

poverty (e.g., increasing the eligibility ceiling from \$18,889 to \$20,420 in gross yearly income for pregnant women who have no other household members)?

16. **Funding Ethical Research.** Do you support or oppose increasing state funding earmarked exclusively for research on stem cells that were not obtained from human embryos (e.g., adult stem cells and stem cells from umbilical-cord blood or amniotic fluid)?

## Senate – Contested Races

Key: S = Support O = Oppose		D = Democrat IG = Independent Green L = Libertarian					I = Independent R = Republican		Beginning of Life				Death Penalty		Economic Concerns		Education		Immigrants		Health	
Dist.	Candidate/Party	1	2(a)	2(b)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
17	R. Edward "Edd" Houck (D)																					
17	Chris J. Yakabouski (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	O	S	S	O	O	O	S				
26	Mark D. Obenshain (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	O			S	S	O	O		S				
26	Maxine Hope Roles (D)	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S				
27	Donald C. Marro (I)	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
27	Karen K. Schultz (D)																					
27	Jill Holtzman Vogel (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	O	S	S				
28	Albert C. Pollard, Jr. (D)																					
28	Richard H. Stuart (R)	S	O	O	S	S	O	O	O	O		O		S	O	O	O	S				
29	Charles J. Colgan (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S				
29	Robert S. FitzSimmonds (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	O	S				
31	Samuel D. Burley (IG)	O	O	O		S	O	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S				
31	Mary Margaret Whipple (D)	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S		S	O	O	S	S	S	S				
33	Mark R. Herring (D)																					
33	Patricia B. Phillips (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	O	O	O	O				
34	Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S				
34	J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D)																					
35	Mario T. Palmiotto (IG)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	O	O	O				





## Senate – Unopposed Candidates

Key: S = Support O = Oppose							Death Penalty		Economic Concerns				Education		Immigrants		Health	
		Beginning of Life																
Dist.	Candidate/Party	1	2(a)	2(b)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
32	Janet D. Howell (D)	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S

## House of Delegates – Unopposed Candidates

37	David L. Bulova (D)		O		O	S	O	O	S	S			O	S		O	S	S
41	Dave W. Marsden (D)		S			O	S	S	S	S		S	S		S		S	O
97	Christopher K. Peace (R)	S	S	S	S	S	O	O			S	S	S	S		O		S

**The Virginia Catholic Conference did not receive responses for publication from the following unopposed candidates for Senate:** Ryan T. McDougale (R-4), Patricia S. “Patsy” Ticer (D-30) and Linda T. “Toddy” Puller (D-36).

**The Virginia Catholic Conference did not receive responses for publication from the following unopposed candidates for the House of Delegates:** C. Todd Gilbert (R-15), C. L. “Clay” Athey, Jr. (R-18), Beverly J. Sherwood (R-29), Edward T. Scott (R-30), Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum (D-36), Robert D. “Bob” Hull (D-38), David B. Albo (R-42), Mark D. Sickles (D-43), Kristen J. Amundson (D-44), Brian J. Moran (D-46), Albert C. Eisenberg (D-47), Robert H. Brink (D-48), James M. “Jim” Scott (D-53), Robert B. Bell III (R-58) and Robert J. Wittman (R-99).