



VCC VOTE CHARTS – 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

During the 61-day Virginia General Assembly session (January 13 to March 14), the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) took formal positions on about 50 bills and budget amendments. An integral facet of the VCC's mission is to keep Catholics throughout the Commonwealth informed of key decisions made by the state legislature on respect life, social justice, education, and family life issues. As part of that mission, the VCC compiles, at the conclusion of each year's General Assembly session, the results of votes taken by members of the Senate and House of Delegates on matters of particular interest to many Catholics involved in state advocacy. Appearing below are two charts that record eight Senate floor and committee votes and nine House floor votes on policy measures that were focal points of VCC advocacy.¹

¹ These charts have been prepared for Diocese of Arlington residents and therefore include only those General Assembly members whose districts are within the Diocese.

Senate

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Senator did not vote

■ : Senator not on Committee

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes			Committee Votes				
	Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion	Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion	Rental Assistance	Abortion Clinic Licensing	Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Preventing Fire & Emergency Personnel Death Penalty Expansion	Scholarship Tax Credit
Barker, George L. (D-39)	X	X	√	X	X	■	■	■
Colgan, Charles J. (D-29)	√	√	√	■	■	■	■	X
Herring, Mark R. (D-33)	X	X	√	■	■	■	■	■
Houck, R. Edward (D-17)	X	X	√	X	X	■	■	X
Howell, Janet D. (D-32)	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	X
Marsden, David W. (D-37)	√ X	X	√	■	■	■	■	■
McDougle, Ryan T. (R-4)	X	X	√	■	■	X	X	■
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	X	X	X	■	■	X	X	■
Petersen, Chap (D-34)	√	X	√	■	■	√	√	■
Puller, Toddy (D-36)	√	√	√	■	■	√	√	■
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	√	X	X	√	√	X
Stuart, Richard H. (R-28)	X	X	X	■	■	■	■	■
Ticer, Patricia S. (D-30)	√	√	√	■	■	■	■	■

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	Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion	Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion	Rental Assistance	Abortion Clinic Licensing	Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Preventing Fire & Emergency Personnel Death Penalty Expansion	Scholarship Tax Credit
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R-27)	X	X	√	■	■	■	■	■
Whipple, Mary Margaret (D-31)	√	√	√	X	X	■	■	X

Descriptions of Senate Floor Votes

Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion: VCC-opposed legislation allowing the death penalty for the murder of an auxiliary police officer or an auxiliary deputy sheriff passed the General Assembly.

Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion: VCC-opposed legislation allowing the death penalty for the murder of a fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or EMS personnel passed the House of Delegates (see House chart) before being amended to apply solely to fire marshals and assistant fire marshals in the Senate. The bill, as amended, passed the General Assembly.

Rental Assistance: VCC-supported legislation which would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a three-year rental assistance pilot project passed the Senate but failed to win approval in the House Committee on General Laws.

Descriptions of Senate Committee Votes

Abortion Clinic Licensing: A VCC-supported bill to require abortion clinics to be licensed and regulated by the state, inspected at least once every two years, and have emergency equipment on hand passed the House of Delegates (see House chart). The bill was then rejected 11-4 by the Senate Committee on Education and Health.

Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy: VCC-endorsed legislation requiring that, prior to receiving an abortion, a pregnant woman be given information about the effects an abortion may have on future pregnancies passed the House (see House chart) but then failed 11-4 in the Senate Committee on Education and Health.

Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation: For the fourth straight year, the General Assembly considered VCC-opposed legislation that would have permitted, under a wide range of circumstances, murder accomplices to receive death sentences (which under current law are reserved for the actual perpetrators with few exceptions). This legislation passed the House (see House chart), but failed 9-6 in the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice.

Preventing Fire & Emergency Personnel Death Penalty Expansion: VCC-opposed legislation allowing the death penalty for the murder of a broad range of fire and emergency personnel failed 10-5 in the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice.

Scholarship Tax Credit: Legislation advocated by the VCC would have established income tax credits for businesses and individuals for their donations to K-12 scholarship programs that help lower-income families afford tuitions at nonpublic schools. This proposal passed the House (see House chart) before being defeated 9-6 in the Senate Committee on Finance.

House of Delegates

√: Vote supported by the VCC
 NV: Delegate did not vote

X: Vote opposed by the VCC
 *: Delegate not yet elected

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Ban on Abortion Funding	Abortion Clinic Licensing	Informed Consent – Ultrasound	Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy	Bioethical Safeguards	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion	Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion ²	Scholarship Tax Credit
Albo, David B. (R-42)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Anderson, Richard L. (R-51)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Athey, Clifford L., Jr. (R-18)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X/NV	√
Bell, Robert B. (R-58)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Brink, Robert H. (D-48)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√ / X	X
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Cole, Mark L. (R-88)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Comstock, Barbara J. (R-34)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-49)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Englin, David L. (D-45)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Filler-Corn, Eileen (D-41)	*	*	*	*	X	*	*	* / √	*
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Greason, Thomas A. (R-32)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√

² Votes on this matter occurred on two separate occasions. A single notation appears for all Delegates who cast the same vote both times. A double notation appears only for those Delegates whose two votes were not identical.

House of Delegates

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Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Ban on Abortion Funding	Abortion Clinic Licensing	Informed Consent – Ultrasound	Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy	Bioethical Safeguards	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion	Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion ²	Scholarship Tax Credit
Herring, Charniele L. (D-46)	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Hope, Patrick A. (D-47)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Howell, William J. (R-28)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Hugo, Timothy D. (R-40)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X / NV	X
Keam, Mark L. (D-35)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Kory, Kaye (D-38)	X	√	X	√	X	√	X	√ / NV	X
LeMunyon, James M. (R-67)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R-31)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Marshall, Robert G. (R-13)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
May, Joe T. (R-33)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Miller, Jackson H. (R-50)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Orrock, Robert D., Sr. (R-54)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Peace, Christopher K. (R-97)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Plum, Kenneth R. (D-36)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Pollard, Albert C., Jr. (D-99)	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	X	X

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Rust, Thomas Davis (R-86)	√	√	√	NV	NV	X	X	X	X
Scott, Edward T. (R-30)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Scott, James M. (D-53)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Sherwood, Beverly J. (R-29)	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Surovell, Scott A. (D-44)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Torian, Luke E. (D-52)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	X

Descriptions of House Floor Votes

Ban on Abortion Funding: The House approved a VCC-supported budget amendment to prohibit state funding of abortions. This measure, however, was not included in the final General Assembly budget sent to the Governor.

Abortion Clinic Licensing: A VCC-supported bill to require abortion clinics to be licensed and regulated by the state, inspected at least once every two years, and have emergency equipment on hand passed the House. The bill was then rejected 11-4 by the Senate Committee on Education and Health (see Senate chart).

Informed Consent – Ultrasound: A VCC-supported bill requiring that, prior to receiving an abortion, a pregnant woman be given an opportunity to view an ultrasound image of her unborn child passed the House but did not receive committee action in the Senate.

Informed Consent – Future Pregnancy: VCC-endorsed legislation requiring that, prior to receiving an abortion, a pregnant woman receive information about the effects an abortion may have on future pregnancies passed the House but then failed 11-4 in the Senate Committee on Education and Health (see Senate chart).

Bioethical Safeguards: Economic development legislation designed to stimulate investment in biotechnology companies included a VCC-endorsed provision to ensure that the bill's tax benefits would not apply to investments in companies that perform research in Virginia on embryonic stem cells or aborted fetuses. During floor debate on this bill, a VCC-opposed amendment was offered to allow the tax benefits to apply to investments in companies performing embryonic stem cell research in Virginia. This amendment was defeated, thus preserving the full extent of the legislation's ethical safeguards.

Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation: For the fourth straight year, the General Assembly considered VCC-opposed legislation that would have permitted, under a wide range of circumstances, murder accomplices to receive death sentences (which under current law are reserved for the actual perpetrators with few exceptions). This legislation passed the House, but failed 9-6 in the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice (see Senate chart).

Preventing Fire Marshal Death Penalty Expansion: VCC-opposed legislation allowing the death penalty for the murder of a fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or EMS personnel passed the House of Delegates before being amended to apply solely to fire marshals and assistant fire marshals in the Senate. The bill, as amended, passed the General Assembly.

Preventing Auxiliary Police Death Penalty Expansion: VCC-opposed legislation allowing the death penalty for the murder of an auxiliary police officer or an auxiliary deputy sheriff passed the General Assembly.

Scholarship Tax Credit: Legislation advocated by the VCC would have established income tax credits for businesses and individuals for their donations to K-12 scholarship programs that help lower-income families afford tuitions at nonpublic schools. This proposal passed the House before being defeated 9-6 in the Senate Committee on Finance (see Senate chart).