

Know the Positions of the Candidates

PA Governor

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. Both candidates for governor also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. More questions and answers 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.



DEMOCRAT
Dan Onorato



REPUBLICAN
Tom Corbett

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?	DID NOT INDICATE <i>I support, and would expand, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.</i>	SUPPORT <i>Funding should follow the student through avenues such as vouchers.</i>
Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?	DID NOT INDICATE <i>I oppose the creation of embryos for stem cell research.</i>	OPPOSE <i>Promising research can be pursued without creating or destroying embryos.</i>
What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?	OPPOSE <i>I support the current law, which includes this definition.</i>	SUPPORT <i>A Constitutional amendment would help safeguard marriage against an alternative agenda.</i>
What is your position on providing legal protection for unborn children from the moment of conception if <i>Roe v. Wade</i> is overturned? If support, what exceptions, if any, would you require?	<i>As governor, I would support Pennsylvania's current law.</i>	<i>I oppose legalized abortion, except when the mother's life is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.</i>
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?	DID NOT INDICATE <i>This issue is best addressed at the federal level.</i>	SUPPORT <i>Pennsylvania has a responsibility to ensure eligibility of all participants.</i>
What is your position on the death penalty in Pennsylvania?	SUPPORT	SUPPORT <i>It's needed as a disincentive and penalty for heinous crimes.</i>
What is your position on restoring state funding to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the aged, blind and disabled Pennsylvanians?	SUPPORT <i>I support this restoration once the state's financial condition allows.</i>	SUPPORT <i>Supporting targeted populations should be prioritized while reducing overall spending.</i>
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?	DID NOT INDICATE <i>I would consider on a case-by-case basis with religious exemptions.</i>	OPPOSE <i>I oppose mandates contrary to the moral conscience of employers.</i>
What is your position on government regulation of religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers?	<i>Religious childcare/pre-K providers should follow state standards for health/safety, but be free to determine their own educational content based on their faith tradition.</i>	<i>Religious childcare and pre-K providers should be free from government regulation. Providers should develop services appropriate for their faith community.</i>
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?	SUPPORT <i>I support the longstanding restriction against using public funds.</i>	SUPPORT <i>PA taxpayers should not be required to fund abortion.</i>

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U.S. Senator

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. Both candidates for U.S. Senator also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. More questions and answers 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.



DEMOCRAT
Joe Sestak



REPUBLICAN
Pat Toomey

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?	DID NOT RESPOND	SUPPORT* <i>* I have been a long term advocate for expanding parents' choice in schools through different funding mechanisms.</i>
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?	DID NOT RESPOND	OPPOSE* <i>* I support higher levels of legal immigration but oppose granting legal status to those who have broken our laws.</i>
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?	DID NOT RESPOND	OPPOSE* <i>* Our perilous budget situation does not allow for this.</i>
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?	DID NOT RESPOND	SUPPORT
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)?	DID NOT RESPOND	SUPPORT
Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?	DID NOT RESPOND	OPPOSE
Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care providers and health care institutions?	DID NOT RESPOND	SUPPORT
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.)?	DID NOT RESPOND	OPPOSE
Do you support or oppose the overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?	DID NOT RESPOND	OPPOSE