

In anticipation of the November 2nd general elections, the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) prepared and sent an 8-item questionnaire to all candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives. This candidate survey sought to address issues of particular interest to the Virginia bishops and many parishioners throughout their two dioceses.*

Accompanying the survey was a letter that advising each candidate that, "Responses to the questionnaire will be displayed via a chart... The chart will only display "yes" or "no" responses (qualifying explanations will not be displayed or printed). However, in the case of uncertainty regarding a given item, that item may be left blank."

The questionnaire and the candidates' responses are provided herein.

*For a more detailed explanation of how the candidate survey was conducted, and to [sign up for e-mail alerts and updates from the VCC](#), please visit the VCC website at www.vacatholic.org.

1. In March, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Parts of this bill – designed to reform the nation's health care system – did not include longstanding policies limiting the use of taxpayer funds for abortion and longstanding policies protecting the conscience rights of health care providers who decline involvement in abortion. To incorporate these policies into the PPACA, members of the U.S. House of Representatives have recently introduced the Protect Life Act (H.R. 5111). Do you support H.R. 5111?
2. Over the past decade, Congress has debated, on several occasions, whether to restrict or expand (e.g., H.R. 4808) federal funding of research that depends on the destruction of human embryos. Do you support *banning* federal funding of *embryonic* stem cell research?
3. In 1996, the 104th Congress passed H.R. 3396 (The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA), which states, in part, that "No State... shall be required to give effect to any public act, record or judicial proceeding of any other State... respecting a relationship between persons of the same sex that is treated as a marriage under the laws of such other State... or a right or claim arising from such relationship." Do you support DOMA?
4. Over the past several years, Congress has considered many measures intended to reform our nation's immigration system. Do you support legislation that would provide (a) a new worker visa program that protects labor rights and creates avenues for migrant workers to fill positions in the U.S. workforce; (b) a program that gives undocumented workers already in the U.S. an opportunity to earn legal residency and eventual citizenship; and (c) restoration of due process protections for immigrants, including asylum-seekers?
5. Do you support legislation that would provide sufficient funding for naturalization, expedite the issuance of permanent visas for immediate family members (e.g., children, siblings and spouses of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents) and eliminate current backlogs in the naturalization process?
6. In late May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 4213) that included a provision described by the Ways and Means Committee as "a one-time capitalization of the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), which will provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for very low income households." Do you support funding for the National Housing Trust Fund?
7. In March, the U.S. Department of Education released its proposal for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Since 1965, ESEA has sought to provide certain educational benefits (e.g., Title I, Parts A, B and C; and Title II, Parts A, B and D) to students and teachers in nonpublic schools on a basis equitable to that of public school students and teachers. Should this policy of equitable participation be part of the ESEA when it is reauthorized?
8. Sudan is in the final year of implementing its Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended 22 years of civil war in 2005. As part of this Agreement, Southern Sudan is to hold a referendum on secession in January 2011. However, many scheduled elements of the CPA have yet to be enacted, and the failure to establish these components threatens to destabilize the country and possibly the region after the referendum is held. Do you favor enhancing U.S. efforts to ensure that all Sudanese signatories of the CPA implement all of its provisions?

