



2009 Statewide Candidate Questionnaire Responses

In anticipation of the November 3rd general elections, the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) sent (via certified mail, return-receipt requested) a 10-item questionnaire – as well as an additional question relating to Virginia’s economy – to all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General on July 27th. The VCC (www.vacatholic.org) 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 2010 General Assembly session Due to newspaper space limitations, only your ‘yes’ or ‘no’ responses to Items 1 through 10 will be printed. Qualifying explanations will not be printed. If you are uncertain whether to answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to a given item, you may choose to leave that item blank. In addition, you are invited to respond, in 250 words or less, to an additional question relating to Virginia’s economy. If your response exceeds 250 words, only the first 250 will be printed.”

Candidates were sent reminder letters on September 2nd and September 11th. Each candidate that did not submit responses was also contacted at least four other times (via phone and e-mail) by a VCC staff member.

Displayed below is the set of 10 questions provided to the candidates, followed by a chart containing the names of all candidates and their responses, or a blank line if no responses were received. After the chart containing candidates’ ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses to the 10 questions, an additional chart displays candidates’ worded statements (or blank space if no statement was received) in response to the additional question about the economy. In both charts, candidates’ names are listed in the same order as they appear on the Virginia State Board of Elections website.

Life Issues

1. **Abortion – Prohibiting Funding.** Should Virginia prohibit the use of state money for abortions? [Note: Under the Medicaid program, the federal government subsidizes abortions when the Medicaid-eligible woman’s life is at risk and in cases of rape or incest. State money is only used for abortions that fall outside these three categories.]
2. **Prohibiting Planned Parenthood Funding.** Should Virginia prohibit the provision of state money to Planned Parenthood?
3. **Research – Ethical Standards.** Should Virginia prohibit the use of state money for research that requires the destruction of a human embryo or fetus?
4. **Death Penalty – Limitation.** Given a choice between (a) preserving Virginia’s “triggerman rule” (which limits capital punishment to the actual perpetrator of a murder with few exceptions) or (b) permitting the execution of murder accomplices under a wider range of circumstances, would you preserve the triggerman rule?

Economic Issues

5. **Car-Title Lending – Rate Cap.** Should car-title lenders operating in Virginia be prohibited from charging more than 36 percent annual interest?
6. **Developing Affordable Housing.** Should Virginia create a state Housing Trust Fund for the development of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households?
7. **Health Care – Immigrants.** Should Virginia permit Medicaid eligibility for immigrants who have legally resided in the U.S. for five years and who meet the income criteria? [Note:

Currently, in most cases Virginia bars Medicaid coverage for legal immigrants who are not U.S. citizens unless they arrived in the U.S. before August 22, 1996. The federal government, however, gives states permission to grant eligibility to those who have legally resided in the U.S. for five years.]

Families & Children

8. **Marriage.** Do you support the provision on marriage that was added to Virginia’s constitution via a ballot initiative in November 2006? [Note: That provision reads as follows: “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.”]
9. **Tax Credits – Scholarship Donations.** Would you support the creation of a state income-tax credit for businesses and individuals who contribute either to public-school foundations or to scholarship foundations that provide financial aid for students who reside in Virginia and attend nonpublic primary or secondary schools?
10. **Tax Credits – School Supplies.** Would you support the creation of a state income-tax credit for the amount paid by parents (up to \$250 for taxpayers filing jointly) for school supplies for their children who attend primary or secondary schools (public or nonpublic) or who are home schooled?

Governor - Lt. Governor - Attorney General

Key: Y = Yes
N = No

D = Democrat
R = Republican

Candidate/Party

Additional Question

If elected, what policies would you promote to help families that are struggling in today's economy?

Candidates for Governor (Additional Question Response)

Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell (R) –

I will be a jobs Governor. My top priority will be bringing new jobs and greater opportunity to every corner of the Commonwealth.

We need to send a clear message that Virginia is open for business, with a pro-free enterprise climate that stands out because of low taxes, incentives for job creation, limited and sensible regulation, a predictable litigation climate, and a fiscally sound and efficient government that lives within its means. I will defend our pro-free enterprise Right to Work Law and strongly opposed "card check" legislation at the federal level.

The details of my proposals to help the private sector create jobs and expand opportunities to all Virginians are on my website (www.bobmcdonnell.com) but some of the highlights include:

- Expanding use of the Governor's Opportunity Fund by roughly doubling the funding so that we help bring more companies to Virginia and help those currently here expand
- Designating one Deputy Secretary of Commerce to focus solely on rural economic development
- Providing a \$1,000 tax credit per job to businesses that create 50 new jobs, or 25 new jobs in economically distressed areas
- Supporting policies to help small businesses - approving most routine business applications within 48 hours; enhancing the business one-stop website; updating and combining business start-up guides; and making it easier for business in good standing to expand in Virginia
- Ensuring our education systems (k-12 and higher education) are focused on preparing and training young people for the jobs of the 21st century

R. Creigh Deeds (D) –

Governor - Lt. Governor - Attorney General

Key: Y = Yes
N = No

D = Democrat
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Candidate/Party

Additional Question

If elected, what policies would you promote to help families that are struggling in today's economy?

Candidates For Lt. Governor

(Additional Question Response)

William T. "Bill" Bolling (R) –

Virginia's unemployment rate currently stands at 7.2% and 165,000 more Virginians are unemployed today than four years ago. This is the highest sustained rate of unemployment in 25 years. As a result, families are struggling to make ends meet and businesses are working overtime just to keep their doors open. Accordingly, the most important issue currently facing Virginia is the need to get the economy growing and create jobs. I have proposed a detailed Jobs for Virginians program that will do just that. Some of the key proposals include providing tax credits for businesses who create jobs in Virginia, reducing the regulatory burden on businesses, making Virginia the nation's energy leader and the best place in America to open and run a small business, investing in proven economic development and job creation strategies, improving the educational opportunities we provide to our children, and protecting our right to work law. A copy of my full Jobs for Virginians program can be viewed on my website at www.billbolling.com.

Jody M. Wagner (D) –

Candidates for Attorney General

(Additional Question Response)

Ken T. Cuccinelli II (R) –

If elected Attorney General, I think the best way to help families who are struggling in today's economy is to give them more opportunities to succeed, i.e. by creating jobs and maintaining a business-friendly environment. Supporting policies which bolster our economy and give business owners the resources they need to grow and create new jobs is the best way to provide more opportunities for families to improve their financial situations. Also, keeping taxes low on families is critical. As State Senator, I have opposed higher taxes. Although I will not be able to vote as Attorney General, I do look forward to supporting and helping pass legislation to keep Virginia a low-tax and low-regulation state.

Stephen C. Shannon (D) –

2009 House of Delegates Candidate Questionnaire Responses

The VCC also sent (via certified mail, return-receipt requested) its 10-item questionnaire to all candidates in contested House of Delegates races on July 27th. Like the statewide candidates, House candidates were informed that only ‘yes’ or ‘no’ responses would be printed, and that they could also choose to leave items blank. They were sent reminder letters on September 2nd and September 11th. Each candidate that did not submit responses was also contacted at least twice via phone by a VCC staff member (unless no phone number was available), and one additional time by e-mail.

Displayed below is a chart containing the names of all candidates in contested House of Delegates races in districts within the Diocese of Arlington and their responses, or a blank line if no responses were received. Within each district, candidates’ names are listed in the same order as they appear on the Virginia State Board of Elections website.

House of Delegates (Contested Races)

Key: Y = Yes N = No		Life Issues				Economic Issues			Families & Children		
Dist.	Candidate/Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	Robert G. “Bob” Marshall (R)	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
13	John J. Bell (D)	Y	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
15	C. Todd Gilbert (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
15	John D. Lesinski (D)										
18	C. L. “Clay” Athey, Jr. (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
18	Todd M. Jack (C)		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
28	William J. Howell (R)										
28	Craig E. Ennis (IG)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
29	Beverly J. Sherwood (R)										
29	Aaron N. Tweedie (I)	Y			Y	Y	Y			Y	Y

House of Delegates (Contested Races)

Key: Y = Yes C = Constitution D = Democrat
 N = No I = Independent IG = Independent Green
 L = Libertarian R = Republican

Dist.	Candidate/Party	Life Issues				Economic Issues			Families & Children		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	Edward T. Scott (R)										
30	Matt A. Carson (I)										
32	Thomas A. "Tag" Greason (R)										
32	David E. Poisson (D)										
34	Barbara J. Comstock (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
34	Margaret G. Vanderhye (D)										
35	James E. "Jim" Hyland (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
35	Mark L. Keam (D)										
36	Hugh M. "Mac" Cannon (R)	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
36	Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D)										
37	David L. Bulova (D)		N		N	Y	Y		N	N	Y
37	Anna M. Choi (IG)										
37	Christopher F. DeCarlo (I)										
38	Danny R. Smith (R)										
38	L. Kaye Kory (D)										
39	Joseph G. "Joe" Bury (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
39	Vivian E. Watts (D)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
39	James L. "Jim" Leslie (IG)										
39	Matt J. Cholko (L)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N		N	Y	
40	Timothy D. Hugo (R)	Y	Y	Y					Y		
40	Susan S. Conrad (D)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y

