

# KNOW THE POSITIONS OF THE Candidates for U.S. Senate



In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information listed here was compiled as of August 31, 2018, from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites and other resources to help voters inform their consciences before heading to the voting booth. The issues do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. The underlined text below indicates a hyperlink to the source. Go to [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org) to view these links.

*“Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”*

– Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 49, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.

## Timothy M. Kaine Democrat



### ABORTION

Kaine’s Senate [website](#) states he “opposes efforts to weaken *Roe v. Wade* and defund Planned Parenthood.” In 2018, Kaine [voted](#) against the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would have banned most abortions at 20 weeks after fertilization.

### EDUCATION

Kaine’s [campaign website](#) states, “Tim will fight efforts to divert public school funding to private schools, and he supports raising teacher pay and providing teachers with the tools and resources they need in the classroom.”

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Kaine’s [campaign website](#) states, “Tim will continue to fight the Trump administration’s decision to abandon the Clean Power Plan. ... Virginia is uniquely threatened by sea level rise, which is why Tim has introduced legislation to make regions like Hampton Roads more resilient in the face of flooding and extreme weather events.” Kaine’s Senate [website](#) also states he supports “investing in renewable energy, including offshore wind and solar.”

### FREEDOM OF RELIGION

A July 9, 2014 Kaine [press release](#) states he introduced legislation “to restore the contraceptive coverage requirement guaranteed by the Affordable Care Act and protect coverage of other health services from employers who want to impose their beliefs on their employees by denying benefits.” The release states the bill was introduced in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 30, 2014 *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision. *Hobby Lobby* [held](#) that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, as applied to closely held corporations, violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

## Corey A. Stewart Republican



### ABORTION

Stewart’s [campaign website](#) states, “He will work to defund Planned Parenthood and fight for tougher restrictions on abortion. ... He will not only defend the right to life but will fight for it.” During a July 21, 2018 [debate](#) with Kaine, Stewart said he believes *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned “because it was wrongly decided.”

### EDUCATION

Stewart’s [campaign website](#) states, “Corey strongly believes parents need to be in charge of their education and will work to give them as many choices as possible including vouchers – that create competition that is good for all schools. He will work to remove D.C.’s bureaucracy from the equation, and return all purview over education back to Virginia.”

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Stewart’s [campaign website](#) states, “Corey will work to gain independence from foreign oil and foster the development of America’s natural resources including nuclear, solar, wind, and fossil fuels.”

### FREEDOM OF RELIGION

In a June 4, 2018 Facebook [post](#), in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* decision that day, Stewart stated, “This is great news for religious liberty in the U.S. No business owner should be forced to violate their deeply held religious beliefs.” The *Masterpiece Cakeshop* decision [held](#) that the Commission’s treatment of the case of a cakeshop owner who declined to make a cake for a same-sex couple’s wedding celebration violated the Free Exercise Clause.

## Matt J. Waters Libertarian



### ABORTION

Waters’ [campaign website](#) states, “I believe we must defund Planned Parenthood. ... While life begins at conception, it certainly doesn’t end there. I will personally work with ... maternity homes, adoption agencies, pregnancy centers, suicide prevention centers and hotlines to help grow their presence in local communities.” In a January 15, 2018 [interview](#) with *The Old Dominion Libertarian*, Waters said, “[O]n personhood, on a Life Amendment, etc, yes, I would support nearly anything that protects life.”

### EDUCATION

In an August 23, 2018 [interview](#) with the news organization 71 Republic, Waters stated, “[N]owhere in the Constitution does the US gov’t have a role in education. ... Ending the Dept of Education gets the gov’t out of the education business. Ending Student Loan programs (that are driving up the cost of a college education) gets the government out of the banking business.”

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

No statements on Waters’ position on the environment were found. On its [website](#), the Libertarian Party of Virginia lists “Solutions to a clean environment,” including recognition of and respect for private property rights, ending “corporate hood and the political protections it provides irresponsible people,” ending “government protections such as caps on liability if a disaster happens,” and reforming the patent system.

### FREEDOM OF RELIGION

On August 24, 2018 Waters [tweeted](#), “If you want Gov to: – Leave YOU alone – Leave your kids alone – Leave their education alone – Leave your paycheck alone – Leave healthcare alone – Leave small businesses alone – Leave churches alone & Let free markets work! Vote for me.”

The issues listed here represent a snapshot of the candidates’ positions as of August 31, 2018.

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## Timothy M. Kaine

Democrat

### GUN VIOLENCE

Kaine's campaign [website](#) states that Kaine "supports universal background checks, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and improving our mental health system." The website also states Kaine authored legislation that "would hold people responsible for selling or transferring a firearm to someone who is barred by federal law from possessing firearms, and he co-sponsored legislation that would close a loophole which currently allows gun sales to proceed if a background check is not completed after 72 hours."

### HEALTH CARE

Kaine's Senate [website](#) states, "[Tim] remains committed to protecting the Affordable Care Act and improving the health care system to give all Americans access to quality health care they can afford." Kaine's campaign [website](#) states, "Tim has also led efforts in the Senate to combat drug addiction, including the opioid and heroin epidemic that threatens Virginia and the rest of the country. He believes new treatments, including medical marijuana, can help address the crisis, and he has fought to expand federal funding for states, like Virginia, to dedicate new resources for drug treatment and prevention."

### IMMIGRATION

Kaine's Senate [website](#) states that Kaine "has spoken out forcefully against the Trump Administration's treatment of Dreamers, discriminatory travel bans, proposals to limit legal immigration, and attempts to tear families apart." The website also states he "strongly opposed President Trump's decision to end the DACA program" and is "a strong supporter of the *Dream Act*." In 2013, Kaine [voted](#) for comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

### MARRIAGE

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26, 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, Kaine released a [statement](#) welcoming the decision. *Obergefell* held that the Fourteenth Amendment requires states to license marriages between two people of the same sex and to recognize marriages between two people of the same sex when their marriages were lawfully licensed and performed out of state.

### SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS

In a July 7, 2018 campaign email (link unavailable), Kaine stated, "We are seeing every day that our young people are pushing back against the current direction of this country. These young people deserve a Supreme Court Justice who upholds the law. Who will defend a woman's right to choose, and marriage equality, and health care, and voting rights, and our workers' rights – and the many other issues they care deeply about."

## Corey A. Stewart

Republican

### GUN VIOLENCE

Stewart's campaign [website](#) states, "Our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms is under attack. That is unacceptable. Corey will defend Americans' Second Amendment rights by fighting to remove any unconstitutional restrictions already in place and proactively ensuring this right is safely protected going forward."

### HEALTH CARE

Stewart's campaign [website](#) states, "Corey will fight to repeal the [Affordable Care Act]. ... Obamacare is causing millions of Americans to lose their jobs, their doctors, their health insurance, and premiums are at a meteoric rise. Obamacare has failed. Corey will work to expand Health Savings Accounts, allow individuals to purchase insurance across state lines, and make healthcare more affordable, and free enterprise centered." According to an [article](#) in *The Daily Progress* reporting on a March 27, 2018 debate, "Stewart cited medical marijuana as a solution to prescription opioids and said building a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico would keep out illegal opioids."

### IMMIGRATION

Stewart's campaign [website](#) states, "Corey will fight illegal immigration, amnesty, and ban sanctuary cities as boldly as he did in Prince William County. Every illegal immigrant arrested should be deported – no questions asked." The [website](#) also states, Stewart will "fight to fund and build the border wall."

### MARRIAGE

According to the [ontheissues.org website](#), Stewart's Virginia Lieutenant Governor 2013 campaign [website](#) stated, "Corey believes strongly that marriage is between one man and one woman as he was a strong and vocal supporter of the marriage amendment in 2006."

### SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS

Following the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Kennedy, Stewart released the following [statement](#): "With Justice Kennedy's retirement, President Trump has an opportunity to nominate another strong young conservative ... who can serve for many years. ... I anticipate the President will take advantage of this opportunity to move the court further in a conservative direction that respects the Constitution and our freedoms."

## Matt J. Waters

Libertarian

### GUN VIOLENCE

Waters' campaign [website](#) states, "If we desire to reduce gun violence in America, we must address medical depression and we must end the failed War on Drugs policy that is a cause of violence in urban areas."

### HEALTH CARE

Waters' campaign [website](#) states his goal is to "Repeal ObamaCare." The website also states, "[W]e must strengthen ... Medicare and Medicaid." The [website](#) also states, "When the Drug Enforcement Agency started it had 1,500 employees. Today there are nearly 10,000. Their budget grew from \$75 million to more than \$2 billion. And guess what? The War on Drugs is a colossal failure. There are more people dying from drugs today than ever before, and drugs are easier to get. My campaign will call for eliminating the Drug Enforcement Agency and ending the War on Drugs."

### IMMIGRATION

Waters' campaign [website](#) states he is "in favor of broad reforms to the current broken system," opposes building a border wall, opposes overturning Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and believes "the US government must recognize that the largest percentage of 'illegal immigrants' are in fact refugees fleeing three gang infested, drug infested countries: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador." The [website](#) further states, "This humanitarian crisis will require US diplomacy and help from other Latin American countries."

### MARRIAGE

No statements on Waters' position on marriage were found. The Libertarian Party of Virginia states on its [website](#), "Libertarians do not believe it is the government's job to define marriage, however, as long (sic) the government is in the marriage business the law should not favor one group over another. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices, personal relationships and marry whomever they want regardless of sexual identity, preference, gender."

### SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS

No statements on Waters' position on Supreme Court appointments were found.

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