

In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of August 14th, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The VCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

*"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, 2023



JAY JONES

JASON MIYARES



ABORTION

The "Protecting the Right to Abortion in Virginia" section of Jones' website states that Jones "was proud to expand abortion rights in the Virginia Legislature and to serve on the Virginia Planned Parenthood board." In 2020, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Jones voted for a bill that allowed non-doctors to perform first trimester abortions, removed most sections of the informed consent law, and removed regulations for abortion facilities. In 2021 Jones voted for a bill that expanded abortion coverage on Virginia's health exchange.

In a May 2023 interview, Miyares stated his support for Gov. Youngkin's effort to limit abortion to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions thereafter in cases of rape, incest and when the mother's life is at risk. In 2020, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Miyares voted against a bill that allowed non-doctors to perform first trimester abortions, removed most sections of the informed consent law, and removed regulations for abortion facilities. In 2021 Miyares voted against a bill that expanded abortion coverage on Virginia's health exchange.

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In 2021, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Jones voted to eliminate Virginia's conscience law for private child-placing agencies. The conscience law provides that an agency shall not be required to participate in a foster care or adoption placement "when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies."

In 2021, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Miyares voted to preserve Virginia's conscience law for private child-placing agencies. The conscience law provides that an agency shall not be required to participate in a foster care or adoption placement "when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies."

ECONOMY

In a 2021 interview, Jones cited the need to "prioritize affordable and equitable housing" and "address the root systemic causes for inaccessibility." In a June 2025 interview, Jones stated he would "aggressively go after companies that break the law to make a buck - whether through collusion, predatory lending, or digital exploitation." In 2020, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Jones voted to increase the minimum wage incrementally to \$15 per hour by 2026.

As Attorney General, Miyares helped form the Eastern District of Virginia Equal Access to Banking Task Force. In an April 2025 news release about the Task Force, Miyares stated, "No American should ever be denied access to basic financial services because of their political views, religious beliefs, or lawful activities." In 2020, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Miyares voted against increasing the minimum wage incrementally to \$15 per hour by 2026.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In 2019, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Jones voted against a bill that expanded the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits program to include income-eligible pre-K students.

In 2019, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Miyares voted for a bill that expanded the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits program to include income-eligible pre-K students. As Attorney General, Miyares supported families in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Carson v. Makin*. The families successfully challenged Maine's policy that had prohibited them from using funds from a state tuition program at religious schools.



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ENVIRONMENT

In a 2021 interview, Jones stated he has "been an ardent advocate for coastal resiliency efforts...as my region and, more specifically, my district are greatly affected...and disproportionately affecting black and brown people." On his campaign website, Jones says he will "target corporate polluters to clean up Virginia's air, water, and soil, and fight back against corporate-funded attempts to roll back clean air and water laws by opposing lawsuits and court decisions that will hurt Virginians."

As Attorney General, Miyares joined lawsuits against stricter EPA regulations on vehicle emission allowances, against expanded EPA regulations on liquid waste produced by meat and poultry processing plants and against an SEC mandate forcing businesses to track and report greenhouse gas emissions. On the American Flood Coalition website, Miyares stated, "Virginia Beach flooding continues to get worse as sea levels rise. We need to be proactive, not reactive." Regarding a 2023 suit against Monsanto over PCBs, which are carcinogenic chemical compounds, Miyares said PCBs have "harmed public health, our land, wildlife, fish, and our beloved waterways."

HEALTHCARE

Jones' website states he "will deploy the Office of the Attorney General to help Virginians navigate complex healthcare billing schemes so they can be sure they aren't getting taken advantage of by insurance companies or unscrupulous providers. We'll specifically target resources toward seniors to make sure they are prepared with the information they need to understand their dealings with drug and insurance companies and healthcare providers, from workshops to easy to digest briefings."

As Attorney General, Miyares and 38 other state attorneys general urged Congressional leaders to prohibit Pharmacy Benefit Managers ("PBMs") from owning or operating pharmacies. The April 2025 letter states, "The rise of PBMs as middlemen...has resulted in patients facing fewer choices, lower quality care, and higher prices." In his accompanying news release, Miyares said PBMs have "become powerful gatekeepers, operating without transparency or accountability," and urged Congress "to help restore balance to the prescription drug marketplace."

PARENTS' RIGHTS

In 2020, as a Virginia House of Delegates member, Jones voted for legislation requiring that the Department of Education, then under Gov. Northam, issue model transgender regulations. The bill required that every school district adopt those model policies by the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year. The resulting DOE regulations included the following provision: "There are no regulations requiring school staff to notify a parent or guardian of a student's request to affirm their gender identity." The regulations also permitted students – based on their "gender identity" – to use bathrooms, locker rooms and showers not corresponding to their biological sex.

In *Parents Protecting our Children v. Eau Claire*, parents are challenging a school district's policies allowing children to seek so-called gender transition in school without parental consent. Miyares spearheaded a 16-state amicus brief in support of parents. In a July 2025 statement, Miyares said, "Parents have the right to be involved in major decisions affecting their children's lives. This case presents an opportunity for the U.S. Supreme Court to provide much-needed clarity and reaffirm that government officials cannot override parents' fundamental rights simply because they believe they know better. It is essential that schools work with parents, not against them, to support a child's wellbeing."

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