

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



GHAZALA HASHMI



JOHN REID

ABORTION

In 2025, as a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi was a chief co-sponsor of, and voted for, a proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine a "right" to abortion in Virginia's constitution. In a June 2025 interview, she stated, "I helped to draft the language in that constitutional amendment."

In 2025, she also introduced and voted for a bill to designate abortion as a "protected health care activity." Hashmi also introduced similar legislation in 2024 (the "Virginia Abortion Care and Gender-Affirming Health Care Protection Act") that did not receive a vote.

At a June 2025 press conference, Reid said he opposes the proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine a "right" to abortion in Virginia's constitution. Reid's website states, "John Reid is prolife and has boldly spoken out...against... radical unlimited any time-any place, day of birth abortion proposals."

ASSISTED SUICIDE

As a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi was the chief sponsor of legislation to legalize assisted suicide in 2022, 2023, and 2024. She voted for the measure each of the five times it was brought to a vote – in 2022 in committee, in 2023 in committee, and in 2024 in two committees and on the Senate floor. Hashmi also provided extensive remarks in favor of the bill during the Senate floor debate.

According to his website, "Reid believes in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, and is also one of the leading voices against the growing human euthanasia movement."

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In 2025, as a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi was the chief co-sponsor of, and voted for, legislation to require health plans to cover contraceptives. She voted against a proposal by Governor Youngkin to add a provision to the bill specifying that "no private institution or physician...shall be prohibited from refusing to provide contraception or contraceptive procedures, supplies, or information if such refusal is based upon religious or conscientious objection."

Reid's website states, "Even in controversial and very personal debates over gay rights John has always defended the rights of churches and private individuals to follow their own consciences. Good and moral people may disagree and in a free society we must defend the right of the individual and the religious institution to follow their own beliefs."

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JOHN REID

ECONOMY

In a June 2025 interview, Hashmi emphasized "safe and affordable housing and childcare" as "issues of economic opportunity," especially for women. In a June 2025 article, Hashmi said, "All Virginians deserve safe, habitable, and affordable housing. I will continue my work to expand higher density housing development, more affordable housing, financial products that help first-time homebuyers, protections for tenants, and to decrease eviction rates." In 2020, as a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi voted to increase the minimum wage incrementally to \$15 per hour by 2026.

In July 2025, Reid released a policy plan to lower the cost of childcare. His plan includes expanding state childcare tax credits, incentives for employer-sponsored childcare, investing in community-based childcare networks, converting underused properties into childcare facilities, streamlining licensing and zoning rules, and expanding vocational and trade-based education for childcare workers. On X (formerly Twitter), Reid stated in June 2025, "I know exactly what businesses need: lower taxes, fewer burdensome regulations, and a government that gets out of the way so they can hire, build, and thrive."

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In 2025, as a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi voted against legislation that would have established the Virginia Opportunity Scholarship Grant program. The bill sought to award eligible students \$5,000 grants for "qualified educational expenses [including tuition] of attending an accredited private school."

In a June 2025 article, Reid stated, "Providing options for parents and kids must be a priority and we need to reverse the recent trend of making opting out more difficult for parents. Charter, church, and home school opportunities and funding must be expanded."

ENVIRONMENT

In a December 2021 editorial, Hashmi wrote, "By transitioning to clean energy and improving energy efficiency, we can lower the pollution levels that are driving increasingly extreme temperatures and protect the livelihoods of all Virginians." On her website, she states, "Key concerns include reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to renewable energy, shoring up coastal resiliency programs, protecting communities from the threats of flooding, and addressing the concerns of environmental justice."

Commenting on the high price of gas in a January 2022 interview, Reid stated, "I think a lot of them [people in Washington] are driven by this climate change concept that even if it harms you right now, it's worth it because in the end, we're going to get more cars off the road. I don't buy into that."

HEALTHCARE

As a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi introduced a budget amendment to prevent the automatic termination of Virginia's Medicaid Expansion health coverage if federal funding falls below 90% of the cost.

Commenting on recent federal cuts to healthcare in a July 2025 radio program, Reid said it "seems reasonable...to try to cut the spending and especially if someone is not supposed to be getting it in the first place, if they are here illegally."

PARENTS' RIGHTS

In 2022, as a Virginia Senate member, Hashmi voted against legislation that requires parental notification before sexually explicit content is presented, permits parental review of the materials, and requires the provision of non-explicit alternatives to any student upon parental request. The same year, Hashmi also voted against a bill that would have required that parents give written consent before their child participates in public school family life education courses.

Reid's website states, "Your children are yours. They do not belong to the government and are not the responsibility of the state. John Reid wants the government to provide opportunities for your kids but not mandates and indoctrination. Parents must – in almost all cases – be the final decision makers in their children's upbringing."