

# 2011 General Election - Candidate Survey Responses

Only candidates in contested races are included in the table.

## Key to Survey Table

- D** Running on democratic ballot
- R** Running on republican ballot
- DR** Running on both ballots
- Y** Yes    **N** No
- nr** No response to survey
- b** Blank; responded to the survey but did not answer the question
- ◆ See "Additional Comments"
- ▶ Did not respond this time, but did respond when running for office previously. See "Previous Survey"
- Pro-life or more strongly pro-life responses are listed in UPPER CASE.**

## Survey Questions

- 1. LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN ...** If changes to *Roe v. Wade* make it possible, would you favor the enactment of a law prohibiting abortion, or prohibiting abortion with exceptions? (Please specify what exceptions, if any.)
- 2. LATE TERM ABORTIONS ...** Should abortions be prohibited in all cases where the unborn child is mature enough to survive apart from his or her mother?
- 3. INFORMED CONSENT ...** Should abortion providers be required to offer basic information to a woman who is considering an abortion, such as information about the medical risks, alternatives to abortion, the probable gestational age of her unborn child, the availability of detailed information (provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) about fetal development and the possibility of medical assistance benefits if the woman decides to continue her pregnancy? (Currently required under Pennsylvania law.)
- 4. TIME FOR DELIBERATION ...** After initially consulting with a physician, should a woman who wants an abortion be given 24 hours to carefully consider her decision before an abortion is carried out? (Currently required under Pennsylvania law.)
- 5. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ...** If a woman seeking an abortion is less than 18 years old, should the consent of at least one parent be required unless a judge determines that extenuating circumstances are involved? (Currently required under Pennsylvania law.)
- 6. GOVERNMENT FUNDING ...** Should public funds be used to pay for abortions?
- 7. ASSISTED SUICIDE ...** Should physician-assisted suicide be allowed?
- 8. EMBRYO DESTRUCTIVE RESEARCH ...** Should government funds be used to pay for research that involves the destruction of human embryos (embryonic stem cell research)?

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Erie County Controller</b>								
Casimir J. Kaz Kwitowski (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	b◆	N	N
Mary E. Schaaf (R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Erie County Council District 1</b>								
No response: Phil Fatica (D), Rebecca Styn (R)								
<b>Erie County Council District 3</b>								
Darlene Kenny (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Fiore Leone (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>City of Erie School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
Robert S. Casillo (DR) ◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	b◆
Gary Kanonczyk (DR)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Thomas A. Spagel (DR) ◆	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
No response: Linda Aleksandrowicz (DR), Robbie Fabrizi (DR), John C. Harkins (D), Frank Petrungrar (DR)								
<b>Fairview School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
No response: Michael Dougherty (DR), Andrew C. Foyle (DR), Frances R. New (DR), Daniel Stroup (DR), Bradley J. Westfall (DR). Not on ballot for primary election; survey sent 10/19: Carla Del Feoco (D)								
<b>Fort Le Boeuf School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
John E. Ogden (DR)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response: William J. Bliley (DR), Benny W. Hunt (DR), Robert S. Oberlander (DR), Shirley Sackett (DR), Theodore A. Szall (DR)								
<b>General McLane School Board (only election of at-large directors contested)</b>								
Annette Rilling (DR)	Y◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
No response: Carrie Crow (D), (DR) John J. Streiff, Jr. (R)								
<b>Girard School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
Debra J. Brady (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Kathy Burke Craft (DR)	n	n	b	Y	Y	N	y	N
No response: Tom Eberle (DR), ▶ John Hughes (DR), Bob Lossie (DR), Kelly Munro Weidler (DR)								
<b>Harborcreek School Director (5 for 4-years / 1 for 2-years)</b>								
No response: Terri L. Brink (DR), Bryan Fife (DR), Christine Mitchell (DR), Jim Dolak (DR), Theresa A. Herrera (DR), Curt Smith (DR)								
<b>North East School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
Andrew Fynan (R) ◆	n◆	n	Y	Y◆	Y◆	N	N	N
No response: Jennifer DeGrosky (DR), Jim Mazza (R), Kathleen Weinheimer (DR). Not on ballot for primary election; survey sent 10/19: George R. Sucha (DR), Selena M. Uglow (D), Kris A. Slaughter (D)								
<b>Northwestern School Director (vote for 5)</b>								
Shelly Rea Rice (DR)	Y◆	Y	Y◆	Y	Y	N	N	N
Paula S. Ries (DR) ◆	Y◆	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	y	y
No response: Joan Baxter (DR), Becky Fehr (DR), Valerie Hoover (DR), Richard A. Sembower (DR)								

## Candidates' Comments

- Robert S. Casillo** ◆ "I believe in the sanctity of life. That is very important to me and is my personal belief." ◆ 8. "I am not qualified to answer this question, as I would need more information."
- Andrew Fynan** ◆ "Because a human life will be destroyed and another permanently changed, I am against abortion as birth control, always have been. But I also believe in personal liberty and freedom and that it comes with personal responsibilities so I don't believe that anyone or a government has the right to compel an adult woman to carry anything within her own body." ◆ 1. "Rape, incest. *Roe v. Wade* is not perfect by any means, but I agree with the first trimester part of the decision." ◆ 4. "Should be 36 hours." ◆ 5. "I see no reason to make criminals out of pregnant 16-year olds."

- Casimir J. Kaz Kwitowski** ◆ 6. "Where the life of the mother is involved and no insurance policy due to financial reasons"
- Shelly Rea Rice** ◆ 1. "Rape, incest possibly - fine line" ◆ 3. "All women should be required to view a sonogram of their child before provided an abortion."
- Paula S. Ries** ◆ 1. "Rape, risk of death"
- Annette Rilling** ◆ 1. "a. Case of rape  
b. Protect the mother"
- Thomas A. Spagel** ◆ "Thank you for providing me with this survey. I don't believe this applies to me as I am running for a school board director position, and the Erie school board does not make any decisions that affect any abortion or right to life issues."

## RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS SURVEY

- ▶ Although he did not respond to the current survey, John Hughes turned in a 100% pro-life questionnaire in 2009.

# Abortion: The main issue in every election

People for Life thanks all those who participated in our Candidate Survey. The Survey was conducted prior to the May Primary Election. Some candidates took the time to include additional comments and even, in a few cases, to challenge the propriety of the Survey itself. We appreciate any and all feedback.

We are not surprised when a candidate disagrees with us on the issues. But what is surprising is that some candidates seem to think that the public has no right to know where they stand on these issues, issues that are not only important but paramount for many people.

True, local public officials do not usually determine the laws and policies that are considered in the Survey, but the questions are still relevant. Polling companies ask even private citizens the same kinds of questions in order to accurately gauge where they stand on abortion and related human life issues.

## School Boards: Do they matter?

We will respond here in a general way to some of the additional comments that were submitted by some school board candidates.

There can be no doubt that certain elected offices are more crucial to the pro-life cause than others. The most crucial offices are those of U.S. President and U.S. Senator. The president nominates Supreme Court justices and the Senate confirms them.

The current Supreme Court is the main obstruction to legal protection for the unborn.

The issue of abortion might not figure prominently in a race for city dog catcher, but it should not be difficult to see why a voter might be concerned about a school board candidate's views on the subject. Nevertheless, some school board candidates do get upset when they receive our Survey. And they occasionally respond with an indignant, "None of your business!"

One school board candidate submitted pro-life responses to seven out of eight questions but still wrote that he "took exception" to the survey because abortion has "absolutely nothing to do with the position of school director." Just the day before, ironically, we heard from a former People for Life member, Farrah Morelli, who is running for school director in Delaware. She is doing so specifically to help keep Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider and promoter, from controlling the sexuality curricula of the middle and high schools in her community.

We depend on school boards to ensure that public schools treat the pro-life viewpoint – and those who hold it – with at least a moderate amount of fairness, balance, and respect. Cases from around the nation, unfortunately, show that this is not always the case.

Remember last year when a school maintenance man in Virginia passed out a handful of educational three-month fetal models to some students? Perhaps the man should have been advised not to pass things out at school, but his immediate suspension and the fierce howls of outrage and condemnation from school officials were telling.

Abortion can become a school issue in various ways. Students are sometimes forbidden to write or speak about abortion. Teachers sometimes feel pressured to hide their personal viewpoints, even though practically every other subject is up for discussion. Students have been ordered to remove shirts with pro-life messages or to turn them inside-out even though other messages, including unseemly ones, are routinely ignored.

But while students are being thus "protected" from the topic of abortion, at the other extreme in what are hopefully truly rare instances, school personnel have helped students obtain secret abortions. No school director, except a radically pro-abortion ideologue, would condone secret abortions. But in light of such experiences, who could honestly believe that abortion and human life issues have "absolutely nothing to do with the position of school director," as one respondent declared earlier this year?

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## Pennsylvania Judicial Candidates

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee (PAC) has recommended the following judicial candidates in the 2011 General Election.

### JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Vic Stabile for Pennsylvania Superior Court

Anne Covey for Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

### JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION

The PAC also recommended the retention of the following judges.

Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin

Superior Court Judge Mary Jane Bowes

Commonwealth Court Judge Robin Simpson

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**

(814) 882-1333 ★ (814) 459-1333

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