

# Voters' Guide

## Pennsylvania Primary 2016

### Primary Election Day is April 26, 2016

The *Catholic Witness* presents here a Voters' Guide in anticipation of the April 26 Primary Election. The questions were prepared by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of the Pennsylvania Catholic bishops. Questionnaires were mailed by *The Catholic Witness* to candidates for Congress and Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives whose districts are within the Diocese of Harrisburg to give them an opportunity to participate. The Penn-



sylvania Catholic Conference surveyed candidates for Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer and United States Senate. The names of those who responded are printed in bold in the candidate list; survey questions and responses follow.

Only those candidates who have contested races were surveyed.

*The Catholic Witness* and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference neither support nor oppose any candidate.

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas. *But being 'right' in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life.* Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the 'rightness' of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand

the human person as the 'temple of the Holy Spirit' -- the living house of God -- then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. *All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house's foundation.* These directly and immediately violate the human person's most fundamental right -- the right to life.

— From *Living the Gospel of Life*,

No. 22 with original emphasis

(Pastoral Statement, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998)

## CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE, SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### State Attorney General Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Stephen A. Zappala, II (D), **Joshua D. Shapiro (D)**, **John Morganelli (D)**, **John C. Rafferty, Jr. (R)**, **Joseph C. Peters (R)**

### State Auditor General Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Eugene A. DePasquale (D), **John A. Brown (R)**

### State Treasurer Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Joseph M. Torsella (D), **Otto W. Voit, III (R)**

### U.S. Senator Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Joseph A. Sestak, Jr. (D), John K. Fetterman (D), Katie McGinty (D), Patrick J. Toomey (R)

### State Senate Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Gregory Paulson (D-13), **Ethan Demme (R-13)**, **Scott Martin (R-13)**, Neal Rice (R-13), Robert Teplitz (D-15), Alvin Taylor (D-15), **John DiSanto (R-15)**, **Andrew Lewis (R-15)**, **Jon Ritchie (R-31)**, Michael Regan (R-31), Brice Arndt (R-31), **Scott Harper (R-31)**

### State House of Representatives Candidates

**(Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey)**

Nancy Dean (D-13), John Lawrence (R-13), Melinda Fee (R-37), Timothy Reedy (R-37), **Nicholas Selch (D-41)**, Brett Miller (R-41), **Steven Elliott (D-43)**, **Keith Greiner (R-43)**, Richard Rogers (D-81), Richard Irvin (R-81), Mary Ann Buckley (R-81), **Greg Rothman (R-87)**, Michael Travis (R-87), Christopher Cowan (D-88), Sheryl Delozier (R-88), Christine Tolbert (D-89), Robert Kauffman (R-89), Denise Weldon-Siviy (D-91), Daniel Moul (R-91), Dawn Keefer (R-92), Kraig Bruder (R-92), Anthony Pugliese (R-92), Kevin Schreiber (D-95), Joel Sears (R-95), Michael Sturla (D-96), Robert Bigley (R-96), **Charles Klein (D-97)**, Steven Mentzer (R-97), **Dale Hamby (D-100)**, Bryan Cutler (R-100), Lorraine Scudder (D-101), **Pier Hess (R-101)**, Jeffrey Griffith (R-101), **Frank Ryan (R-101)**, John Dissinger (R-101), Jacob Long (D-102), **Russ Diamond (R-102)**, **Thomas Houtz (R-102)**, Patty Kim (D-103), Richard Soto (D-103), Jody Rebarchak (D-104), Susan Helm (R-104), Nathaniel Curtis (R-104), Thomas Mehaffie (R-106), **Jonathan Keeler (R-106)**, Deborah Albright (R-106), **Chris Pfaff (D-107)**, **Michael Krankowski (D-107)**, **Kurt Masser (R-107)**, Melody Fleck (D-171), **Kerry Benninghoff (R-171)**

**What is your position on increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?**

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Morganelli (D):** Support.

**Shapiro (D):** Support.

**Peters (R):** Support.

**Rafferty (R):** Support. This is a terrific program and I have always supported.

### AUDITOR GENERAL

**Brown (R):** Support. I support this program because I believe that families deserve this support to pursue a religious education.

### STATE TREASURER

**Voit (R):** Support. I believe that families deserve this support so they can take advantage of opportunities presented by religious schools.

### STATE SENATE

**Demme (R-13):** Support. I support more choices for parents and the EITC and OSTC are excellent tools to increase the availability of educational choice for parents.

**Martin (R-13):** Support. As a graduate of St. Anne's Elementary and Lancaster Catholic High School, I appreciate the need for expansion of EITC and will fight for school choice.

**DiSanto (R-15):** Support.

**Lewis (R-15):** Support. I support increasing EITC/OSTC caps to expand school choice and educational opportunities.

**Ritchie (R-31):** Support. This is a very good program to benefit families of students that attend religious schools.

**Harper (R-31):** Support. I support programs that cut business taxes.

### STATE HOUSE

**Selch (D-41):** Support. Statewide funding for education must be increased across the board, including through the use of EITC and OSTC.

**Elliott (D-43):** Support. With state support barely covering these programs, these tax incentives can provide additional funds to provide innovative and enriching programs for students with ever increasing needs. It's a win-win proposition.

**Greiner (R-43):** Support. I have strongly supported this while working as a certified public accountant, and as a legislator.

**Rothman (R-87):** Support.

**Klein (D-97):** Support. If the public school system was failing a child, that child deserves the opportunity of a quality education independent of his/her parents' financial situation as long as that private school had a proven track record of offering a better education. My priority would be to understand why any public school would be failing any child and to set forth funding or assistance to that school to ensure that every child receives a high quality education.

**Hamby (D-100):** Support.

**Hess (R-101):** Support.

**Ryan (R-101):** Support. I am in favor of school choice.

**Diamond (R-102):** Support.

**Houtz (R-102):** Support.

**Keeler (R-106):** Support. I support tax-credit programs that allow families to place their children in the best educational settings.

**Pfaff (D-107):** Oppose. Instead, I favor direct income tax credits to offset tax due (or increase refund) of PA state tax. (This is fair across the board.)

**Krankowski (D-107):** Support. Any funding increase to public, Catholic or private schools in PA I will also support.

**Masser (R-107):** Support.

**Benninghoff (R-171):** Support. Terrific program which I have supported since its inception and voted yes to expand it each budget I can.

**Which statement reflects your position most accurately?**

a. I support legalized abortion.

b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.

c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Morganelli (D):** c.

**Shapiro (D):** a.

**Peters (R):** c.

**Rafferty (R):** c.

**AUDITOR GENERAL****Brown (R):** c.**STATE TREASURER****Voit (R):** c.**STATE SENATE****Demme (R-13):** b. All life, from conception to natural death, is created in the image of God and as such deserves full legal protection regardless of the circumstances.**Martin (R-13):** c.**DiSanto (R-15):** c. I believe in the grave immoral nature of abortion, however I also believe that the choice on how to proceed here must be retained to the individual, who in these extreme circumstances, were robbed of their own choice to consent or to life.**Lewis (R-15):** b., except when life of mother is in danger. We must fight to protect unborn children, and work to promote a culture of life.**Ritchie (R-31):** c.**Harper (R-31):** I don't support abortions, but I understand that a woman will still get one illegally if they can't get one legally.**STATE HOUSE****Selch (D-41):** a. Abortion should be safe, legal and rare.**Elliott (D-43):** a. I personally accept the Church's position on abortion, but as a representative for all, I cannot insert my personal beliefs into a discussion that should remain between a woman and her spouse or a woman and her doctor.**Greiner (R-43):** c.**Rothman (R-87):** c.**Klein (D-97):** a. The ultimate decision of a woman to have an abortion stands with that woman and her doctor in the private office of that doctor. Being Catholic, having friends that were adopted and family members that have adopted children, I believe there are better options than abortion. My family faced that decision when my wife was pregnant with my son. The doctors at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia told us that our son will be born with a heart defect and may have many other complications that may result in sickness and hardship. We chose life for my son and today have a beautiful, smart precious 6 year old boy. As an elected representative, I would fight to strengthen social programs to support that woman and her choice no matter what she was to decide.**Hamby (D-100):** a.**Hess (R-101):** c.**Ryan (R-101):** b. Life begins at conception and must be protected. I am a Knight of Malta and chair of a school for the Sisters of Good Shepherd.**Diamond (R-102):** b.**Houtz (R-102):** c.**Keeler (R-106):** c.**Pfaff (D-107):** c. Abortion, as well as euthanasia, is murder. Thus, all abortion must cease.**Frankowski (D-107):** c. I always admired former Gov. Casey of PA for being a Democrat and being pro-life.**Masser (R-107):** c.**Benninghoff (R-171):** c. As an adoptee I am very sensitive to this issue.

**What is your position on expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide health insurance to children in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants?**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL****Morganelli (D):** Oppose.**Shapiro (D):** Support.**Peters (R):** Oppose.**Rafferty (R):** Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars but this is where charities need to step in.**AUDITOR GENERAL****Brown (R):** Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.**STATE TREASURER****Voit (R):** Oppose. I oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants, but I believe that this is an opportunity for private charities to step in to offer support.**STATE SENATE****Demme (R-13):** Support. Children should not be restricted from life giving medical care because of the actions of their parents.**Martin (R-13):** Oppose. This is a difficult question, because I have compassion for children in need. However, I know our state faces significant financial challenges already for PA citizens. The vast majority of the residents I would represent have expressed opposition to this idea.**DiSanto (R-15):** Oppose. As a country, we must fundamentally follow our Federal immigration laws. If a child's life is in danger, of course we should protect that. I do not support U.S. citizens paying for any undocumented person's basic health care.**Lewis (R-15):** Oppose. We must uphold the rule of law. People who are here illegally should not qualify for taxpayer funded programs.**Ritchie (R-31):** Oppose. Taxpayer money should only be used for U.S. citizens. In this case, private charity is needed.**Harper (R-31):** Support. Sure, but CHIP may expire soon. I'm for a single-payer healthcare system.**STATE HOUSE****Selch (D-41):** Support. All children residing in Pennsylvania should have access to purchase CHIP health insurance. Proof of residence should be the only requirement. Pennsylvania has a responsibility to care for all the children in our state. Healthy children benefit us all.**Elliott (D-43):** Support. We have an obligation to care for those who cannot care for themselves and this includes children, all children, regardless of the status of their parents.**Greiner (R-43):** The commonwealth has many financial challenges, yet I am compassionate to the needs of children. Many of my residents have concerns and I would have to review at a wholistic level.**Rothman (R-87):** Oppose. I believe all children should have health insurance. However, I am concerned about the cost of providing free health insurance to undocumented immigrants when we are struggling to afford the costs of providing health insurance to American children.**Klein (D-97):** Support. All children deserve access to quality healthcare. All parents independent of their income need to be aware of CHIP programs to help support the medical needs of their children.**Hamby (D-100):** Support.**Hess (R-101):** Oppose.**Ryan (R-101):** Oppose. I believe my faith and church should provide this safety net.**Diamond (R-102):** Oppose. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on illegals.**Houtz (R-102):** Oppose.**Keeler (R-106):** Oppose.**Pfaff (D-107):** Oppose. Emergency room service excepted, illegal and undocumented immigrants must pay or get non-governmental insurance.**Frankowski (D-107):** Support. Children are children and all children should have health care and insurance.**Masser (R-107):** Oppose.**Benninghoff (R-171):** Oppose. Laws are made to obey.

**What is your position on amending Pennsylvania's anti-discrimination laws for housing, employment and public accommodation to include sexual orientation?**

**a. They should include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" as protected classes, no exceptions.****b. They should contain specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners.****c. No change is necessary.****ATTORNEY GENERAL****Morganelli (D):** a.**Shapiro (D):** a.**Peters (R):** b.**Rafferty (R):** c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.**AUDITOR GENERAL****Brown (R):** c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.**STATE TREASURER****Voit (R):** c. If there is to be a law, this provision should definitely be included.**STATE SENATE****Demme (R-13):** b.**Martin (R-13):** c. However, we must continue to strive to protect religious liberties and rights of conscience of our citizens.**DiSanto (R-15):** b. I oppose discrimination in all forms and would not vote for anything that would undermine religious liberty.**Lewis (R-15):** c. No change to this law is necessary, and the proposed change will only undermine religious freedoms.**Ritchie (R-31):** b.**Harper (R-31):** I would eliminate the Human Relations Commission entirely because they try to extort money from employers – I know well.**STATE HOUSE****Selch (D-41):** a. No one in Pennsylvania should be discriminated against for any reason.**Elliott (D-43):** a. While churches may be exempted based on church doctrine, in the business and public sector, religious liberty cannot be a shield for discrimination, bigotry and hate.**Greiner (R-43):** c.**Rothman (R-87):** b.**Klein (D-97):** a. Every person deserves dignity.**Hamby (D-100):** a.**Hess (R-101):** b.**Ryan (R-101):** b.**Diamond (R-102):** b.**Houtz (R-102):** b.**Keeler (R-106):** b.**Pfaff (D-107):** b. It must be illegal to discriminate against Christian religious beliefs.**Frankowski (D-107):** b. I strongly believe in religious liberties!!**Masser (R-107):** I oppose discrimination in all forms.**Benninghoff (R-171):** c.

**What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?**

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Morganelli (D):** Support.

**Shapiro (D):** Support.

**Peters (R):** Support.

**Rafferty (R):** Support. Health care professionals deserve a fair reimbursement and the poor deserve care.

#### **AUDITOR GENERAL**

**Brown (R):** Support. The poor deserve care and I believe that health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated.

#### **STATE TREASURER**

**Voit (R):** Support. Health care professionals deserve to be adequately compensated for caring for the less fortunate and I believe our society has an obligation to help those who can't help themselves.

#### **STATE SENATE**

**Demme (R-13):** Oppose. I support looking for market driven, patient centered approaches to bring down the cost of healthcare rather than increase government spending.

**Martin (R-13):** I believe we need to implement solutions that reduce the cost of care so current Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and coverage. This is an issue that needs to be looked at in a holistic manner, including cost-shifting that has driven up costs on the privately insured as well.

**DiSanto (R-15):** This is a federal issue. We must get our fiscal house in order before increasing benefits. I am available to discuss with anyone and will work hard to cut wasteful spending within state government so that we can invest in important programs.

**Lewis (R-15):** Oppose. Medicaid spending in PA is out of control, and increasing rates will only worsen the problem. We must drive down healthcare costs in PA through innovation, public-private partnerships, and utilizing technology.

**Ritchie (R-31):** Support. Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals deserve to be fairly compensated when providing care for the less fortunate. Society has a responsibility to help those that truly can't help themselves.

**Harper (R-31):** Oppose. PA should opt out of Medicare Medicaid and implement a single-payer system so everyone has access to healthcare.

#### **STATE HOUSE**

**Selch (D-41):** Support. Low Medicaid reimbursement rates force patients to a limited number of care providers. Patients must travel far from their home to get basic care, especially from rural areas or are forced into expensive acute care facilities. Raise the reimbursement rates to obtain care from more local providers.

**Elliott (D-43):** Support. I believe that we have an obligation to protect and care for those who need it most and expanding access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals supports that belief.

**Greiner (R-43):** We need to find ways to reduce costs of care to start, so that we can determine if Medicaid reimbursement rates provide adequate access and coverage. It has to be looked at in a holistic manner.

**Rothman (R-87):** Support. As long as the increased reimbursement rates do not result in tax increases for hardworking Americans.

**Klein (D-97):** Support. I support increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates. All people deserve access to quality healthcare. Low reimbursement rates to physicians result in overburdened offices and physicians. The higher payments will entice more providers to accept Medicaid and offer quality healthcare to all people independent of their financial standing.

**Hamby (D-100):** Support. Provided it can be financially supported.

**Hess (R-101):** Support.

**Ryan (R-101):** Support. Medicaid rates deny coverage – however the ACA does not provide healthcare.

**Diamond (R-102):** Oppose. We can't afford it at this time.

**Houtz (R-102):** Support.

**Keeler (R-106):** Support. I support if H.H.S. will allow federal money earmarked for Medicaid expansion to pay for private insurance.

**Pfaff (D-107):** Support. Home health care needs greater rate(s) or reimbursement.

**Krankowski (D-107):** Support.

**Masser (R-107):** Our state is currently facing a fiscal crisis due to the mismanagement of Governor Wolf and his inability to compromise. We need to get our fiscal house in order before we increase funding for any items in the budget. However, as we get our fiscal house in order I will keep an open mind to increased funding requests such as this.

**Benninghoff (R-171):** Support.

**What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?**

**Perry (R-4):** Support.

**Costello (R-6):** Support.

**Meehan (R-7):** Support.

**Marsicano (D-11):** Support.

**Smucker (R-16):** Support.

**Beiler (R-16):** Support.

**Which statement reflects your position most accurately?**

a. I support legalized abortion.

b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.

c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

**Perry (R-4):** c.

**Costello (R-6):** c.

**Meehan (R-7):** I am pro-life. I have a 96% pro-life rating from National Right to Life. I oppose partial-birth abortion, and I have voted to prevent pain-capable abortions after 20 weeks. I have repeatedly voted to prevent taxpayer funding of abortions.

**Marsicano (D-11):** c.

**Smucker (R-16):** b.

**Beiler (R-16):** c.

**What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?**

**Perry (R-4):** Oppose. We must secure the border first. Secondly, we are a nation of laws. While I empathize with the intent of this question, my oath is to uphold and defend the laws of this country and its citizens, and I feel for these illegal immigrants, let us please not forget they are here illegally. After we secure our borders, we can work on rights to earning citizenship.

**Costello (R-6):** The U.S. is the most generous and compassionate nation on the face of the Earth. I believe we need to continue to show respect and compassion to our fellow citizens. However, we must also deal with the reality that there are people in this world who wish to do us harm and there are entities out there who seek to exploit other humans for profit or political gain. We must secure our borders and recognize those who respected our immigration process while simultaneously working with those who broke the law in a humane and realistic manner.

**Meehan (R-7):** I do not support amnesty. There should be penalties for breaking the law and certain restitutions would need to be made before allowing illegal immigrants to begin the naturalization process.

**Marsicano (D-11):** Oppose.

**Smucker (R-16):** Oppose. I do not support amnesty for illegal immigrants. Only after our borders are secure can we develop a comprehensive, fair and compassionate strategy to address those living in our country illegally that positions our country for success.

**Beiler (R-16):** Support. I support legal status but not citizenship.

**What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?**

**Perry (R-4):** Oppose. I believe in no form of discrimination whatsoever – to include laws like this that only protect certain classes – which inherently discriminates against someone else's beliefs.

**Costello (R-6):** I am opposed to discrimination of any kind.

**Meehan (R-7):** I oppose discrimination. I would have to review any proposed legislation to ensure it protects everyone's constitutional rights.

**Marsicano (D-11):** Support.

**Smucker (R-16):** Oppose. Nobody should ever be discriminated against. I oppose efforts to force faith-based institutions from implementing and executing policies which run counter to their faith.

**Beiler (R-16):** Oppose.

**What is your position on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates as a means to provide greater access to care for Medicaid-covered individuals?**

**Perry (R-4):** Oppose. Rates should be based on the area and rates of service.

**Costello (R-6):** I support efforts to provide greater access to quality healthcare for all Americans, especially for those individuals most in need. However, I would need to review the specifics and better understand any proposal to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates, in particular, with respect to how such increases would be distributed and justified given the demand and need for care. Until I see the specifics of such a proposal, it is difficult to identify a "SUPPORT/OPPOSE" position to this question.

**Meehan (R-7):** I support ensuring states have the flexibility to set Medicaid provider reimbursement rates that ensure the state's residents have access to necessary primary and specialty care.

**Marsicano (D-11):** Support.

**Smucker (R-16):** Support. Before rates are increased, we must eliminate the nearly \$100B of annual waste, fraud and abuse. Furthermore we must ensure that physicians and medical providers are rewarded for keeping people healthy.

**Beiler (R-16):** (Did not respond)

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS

### United States Congress Candidates

(*Bold denotes candidates who responded to survey*)

Joshua Burkholder (D-4), **Scott Perry (R-4)**, Michael Parrish (D-6), Lindy Li (D-6), **Ryan Costello (R-6)**, Mary Ellen Balchunis (D-7), William Golderer (D-7), **Patrick Meehan (R-7)**, Stanley Casacio (R-7), Arthur Halvorson (R-9), William Shuster (R-9), **Michael Marsicano (D-11)**, Lou Barletta (R-11), Richard Daugherty (D-15), Charles Dent (R-15), Christina Hartman (D-16), Gary Wegman (D-16), **Lloyd Smucker (R-16)**, **Chester Beiler (R-16)**