

CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP 2016 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

1. Would you vote to repeal the transgender laws passed in 2011 and 2016 that have been used to open bathrooms to all genders in the public schools, and women's locker rooms to men?

No. As a Catholic informed by the teachings of Jesus Christ, I am compelled to understand the plight of children and adults who believe they are in the wrong body and therefore I would not vote to repeal these laws. Also, there is no evidence that a transgender person has ever used these laws to force themselves on another person in states where these laws have existed. In fact transgender people are much more likely to victims of violence.

2. Would you support the elimination of all tax-payer funding for Planned Parenthood, redirecting those dollars to the community health centers?

No, Planned Parenthood is a community health center that provides many services to low income women that are not available at public hospitals.

3. Would you support the repeal of the Common Core curriculum and the elimination of the PARCC test, returning Massachusetts to its pre-2010 educational standards?

What does this have to do with the Catholic Church and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the New Testament? Currently, I don't have enough information about the issue.

4. Do you support the Clinic Safety Bill, which requires any health clinic that performs an abortion to be licensed and inspected by the state?

No, the law would make it more difficult for women to receive the health care that they need. This bill is a product of pro-life organizations.

5. Do you support mandating the Health Curriculum Framework, which would teach students how to obtain an abortion without parental consent, as well as expose children to topics of human sexuality at a very young age, as a graduation requirement?

I support comprehensive sex education that will help children lead healthy and happy lives.

6. Would you support “Justina’s Bill,” which would protect parents given two differing medical courses of treatment for their child, and affirm their rights to choose the most appropriate care without threat of being overruled by the state?

I would have to learn more about the subject before taking a stand on this bill.

7. Do you support Laura’s Law, which would require that women considering abortion receive more complete information about their pregnancies, so that women can give more informed consent, as is required of every other medical procedure?

State government could make this an easier decision for unmarried and/or low income women by providing more support services for them and their children after they are born. If you want to be pro-life, be pro-life for the new born child.

No, as the definition of “complete information” is not defined. Women don’t need legislators to remind them that having an abortion is a serious issue and a decision that should not be made lightly. It is a decision to be made between them and their doctors after a careful consideration of all the facts.

8. Should the Massachusetts sales tax rate be reduced back to 5%?

I fail to see how this is a concern for the Catholic Church. In the New Testament, I remember Jesus said something to the effect of, give everything away and follow me. Is the Church now concerned about tax policy? If they are I hope it is in the liberal sense. To quote Pope Francis, “Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities.” Read more at: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/p/pope_francis.html

9. If the Supreme Court sends the issue of same-sex marriage back to the states, would you vote yes to allow Massachusetts voters to decide on a Constitutional Amendment that would define future marriages as between one man and one woman?

No, it was decided by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, that Marriage Equality is a basic human right and therefore it is beyond the rights of the majority to vote to amend the Constitution to take those individual rights away. If it were possible to do this, we could find in the future that the majority of people could ban, for example, the Moslem or Catholic faiths by amending the Constitution.

10. Do you support state tax-dollars funding the “Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Commission,” which promotes alternative sexualities in the public schools and in public policy?

Yes, to the best of my knowledge, the Commission does not “promote” living a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender life, as confirm that there is nothing wrong with them if that is who you are. It is not a lifestyle choice. It is a genetically linked reality.

11. Do you support the legalization of euthanasia, otherwise known as doctor assisted suicide, or doctor-prescribed death?

Yes, I believe there are situations when living becomes so much of a burden that people would choose to die if they could. When prolonging their life becomes cruel, it is time to give them the right to end their life.

12. Should the children of non-citizens residing in MA illegally be given the taxpayer-subsidized in-state tuition rate for state colleges and universities?

Again, I fail to see the interest of the Catholic Church in this issue, but, yes, I believe any person who has been able to learn a new language and become a student good enough to be accepted into one of our colleges is an exceptional person who will go on to be a productive tax paying member of our Commonwealth if given the chance. This is not a free education. It is an instate tuition rate. Pledging to become a citizen is a requirement.

13. Would you vote yes on a constitutional amendment creating an income tax surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million?

Yes, using the revenue stream from this tax will be used to bolster our education system, rebuild our infrastructure and mass transportation. It will address economic inequality in Massachusetts by creating good paying jobs and stimulating the economy which will be good for all the citizens of the Commonwealth. It's a minor charge to those fortunate enough to have become successful by using the infrastructure and educated workers of Massachusetts previously paid for by taxpayers.

Pope Francis says, *"While the income of a minority is increasing exponentially, that of the majority is crumbling. This imbalance results from ideologies which uphold the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation, and thus deny the right of control to States, which are charged with providing for the common good. A new, invisible and at times virtual, tyranny is established, one which unilaterally and irremediably imposes its own laws and rules."* --

[Address to new Vatican ambassadors](#), May 16

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August 18, 2016

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