



# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS 2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 3

## DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...

**ABORTION FUNDING BAN:** Maintaining the prohibition on the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for elective abortions?

**NO  
RESPONSE**

*Optional Comments: My goal is to cut the abortion rate in this country in half. I grew up in the church and attended Christian school from middle school to college. We have provided a plan to do this and it can be found below: For the full answer to all questions including this one please go to - <https://www.forthemanynotjustme.com/florida-conference-of-catholic-bish>*

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:** Preserving the state option for Medicaid expansion, which would allow Florida to expand coverage in the future?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: The early church focused on healing and helping those in need. We have the opportunity to make sure everyone has healthcare and have a system that is cheaper than what we have now. In America we believe in Life, Liberty, And the Pursuit of Happiness. Right now, there are millions of Americans who do not have the right to life, because they don't have access to healthcare. Access to Healthcare should not be dependent on money, it should be a not-for-profit good. What we have learned from this pandemic is if one person doesn't have healthcare, then everyone is at risk. Medicare-For-All is cheaper, better, and allows for the free market to actually work. Anyone should be able to go to any doctor they want to, any hospital they want, and no one should ever be hit with a surprise bill. We need to remove insurance companies from the picture completely. If we do this, everything gets 30% cheaper and instead of worrying about insurance companies, we can actually focus on health.*

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** Capping the interest rate on consumer credit loans (e.g., payday loans and vehicle title loans) at 36%?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: Interest rates for all other industries are capped around 15%. We had Usury laws to prevent companies from preying on and scamming desperate people. When credit cards were invented companies lobbied to get those laws changed. We need to cap interest rates far below 36% to prevent people from being taken advantage of. Exodus 22:25 "If you loan money to my people, to the poor among you, don't be like a creditor to them and don't impose interest on them."*

**DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:** Repealing the federal government's use of the death penalty?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: The death penalty costs Florida \$51 Million more per year than if we just got rid of it. I also believe that it is immoral. We need to follow Jesus' lead by laying down our stones. John 8:1-11*

**ENVIRONMENT:** Investing federal funds in renewable energy innovation to mitigate harm to the natural environment?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: We have to, or else Hawthorne and Stark are going to be beach-front property. The market is also driving this push to renewable energy because oil is not a great industry to be in. Isaiah 24:4-6 "The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the exalted of the earth languish. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left." Day 6 - God created the animals to fill the earth. On day six, God also created man and woman (Adam and Eve) in his own image to commune with him. He blessed them and gave them every creature and the whole earth to rule over, care for, and cultivate.*

**GUN CONTROL:** Restricting access to firearms by requiring universal background checks?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: Universal Background Checks would not restrict access to firearms, it would just make sure that crazy people and felons don't have access to firearms. This would actually protect a lot of people. That's why responsible gun owners (98%) are in favor of it. This is a poorly framed question because it leads the person reading it to a biased answer.*

**HUMAN SEXUALITY:** Maintaining currently protected classes of individuals without adding new ones based on “sexual orientation” and “gender identity”?

**OPPOSE**

*Optional Comments: Jesus spent his time protecting those in society that others looked down upon. The Samaritan Women at the well for instance had no legal standing in Jewish society, and yet, Jesus treated her as an equal. (John 4) Jesus also stepped in to protect a prostitute from being stoned to death. We need to make sure that no one is taken advantage or harmed because of who they are. The best (most effective) way to do this is legally. It is simply the right thing to do, and I believe that it is something the early church would have advocated for.*

**IMMIGRATION:** Achieving comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification and worker visas, secure our borders, and establish humane enforcement?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: Absolutely. No kids should be in cages, no matter what party is in power in Washington. We need to remember that Jesus himself was a refugee for the first few years of his life. Matthew 2:13-15 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'*

**INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Maintaining funding for U.S. international humanitarian and development assistance, which currently represents 1% of the federal budget?

**SUPPORT**

*Optional Comments: Yes, Humanitarian efforts are far more effective and cost a fraction of what overthrowing countries does. We need to use the resources we have to affect the most good that we can.*

**PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT:** Providing individuals and businesses federal tax credits for donations to state-based scholarship programs for K-12 education?

**OPPOSE**

*Optional Comments: I attended private Christian schools my entire life, so I know this issue well. In the states that passed this it actually hurt overall education scores for the state because the budget shortfalls (from the tax breaks) were taken from predominantly poor and working-class families schools' budgets. I don't trust the state of Florida not to do the same here after they just gave giant tax breaks to the biggest companies in Florida right before the Pandemic and then claimed they didn't have any more money for unemployment benefits.*