

From:
Subject: Fwd: Form Confirmation (County)
Date: December 29, 2011 6:11:09 PM EST
To: Karen Byrne <rtlkaren@cinci.rr.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: site@cincinnatirighttolife.org
Date: December 29, 2011 3:46:31 PM EST
To: mail@cincinnatirighttolife.org
Subject: Form Confirmation (County)

Below are the results of a form (County) posted 12/29/2011 at 3:46:26 PM:

Candidate ID
Response: HC29

Candidate Name
Response: Todd Portune

Phone
Response: [REDACTED]

Email
Response: [REDACTED]

Position & District sought
Response: Hamilton County Commissioner

Have you previously held any public office? (Please specify)
Response: Yes - Cincinnati City Council, January 3, 1993 - December 1, 2000

1. The 1973 Supreme Court decisions in Roe v. Wade, and Doe v. Bolton did more than just 'legalize' abortion-on-demand; they prohibited virtually any federal, state or local laws from protecting pre-born children from death by abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Do you support reversal of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton?

Response: Comments

Response: Roe and Doe do not prohibit virtually any federal or state laws from protecting pre-born children throughout all nine months of pregnancy as your question assumes. Accordingly, I cannot answer it with the choices given. On the contrary, they permit considerable legislation as the potential for the fetus to survive outside of the womb increases. Given that the U.S. Supreme Court was called upon to decide an issue that fundamentally deals with the question of 'when does life begin?', and given that people of various faiths [each of which the Supreme Court and the US Constitution protect, as they do for people of no faith] disagree on the answer of that question, the Supreme Court did its best to balance all of those competing interests. Having said that, I personally believe that Roe and Doe need to be revisited in light of advances made in medicine since their decision.

2. Do you support federal and state legislation to ban abortion-on-demand from fertilization to birth?

Response: Comments

Response: Your printed questionnaire offers a third choice of "Yes, with exceptions" which I would support. I believe there must always be an exception to restrictions on abortion from fertilization through birth where the life of the mother is at stake.

3. Do you support legislation that prohibits distributing tax money for any reason to organizations that promote or perform abortions?

Response: No

Comments

Response: I do support legislation so long as there are exceptions allowed for rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at stake.

4. Do you support removal or prevention of county-provided health insurance benefits from including abortion coverage?

Response: Yes

Comments

Response: Current county policy excludes county-provided health insurance benefits from including abortion coverage except where the life of the mother is at stake or in cases of rape and incest. I support that policy and have consistently voted for that policy in my 11 years as Commissioner.

5. Do you support exclusion of abortion coverage from indigent care and other countywide tax levies?

Response: Yes

Comments

Response: That is also current county policy and I have consistently voted in favor of that policy during my 11 years as county commissioner.

6. Do you support legislation prohibiting the killing of human embryos used for scientific research?

Response: Comments

Response: This is not an issue that will come before the county commission, and as such, I have not formulated a firm opinion on the subject, nor taken the time to consider all aspects of such legislation. Having said that, I support legislation that prohibits the creation of human embryos solely for the purpose of scientific research. I am uncertain about whether such legislation should prohibit the use of existing fertilized eggs sitting in frozen storage that have either been abandoned and will never be implanted for purposes of birth.

7. Do you support legislation prohibiting all cloning of human beings?

Response: Yes

Comments

Response:

8. Do you support legislation prohibiting assisted suicide in Ohio?

Response: Yes

Comments

Response: In saying so, I do not want such to become a slippery slope that would prevent Hospice care for the terminally ill.

9. List all organizations to which you have contributed time or money in the past four years.

Response: I cannot recall every organization that I have given time and/or money to over the past four years. In some cases I am certain that my political campaign committee has also donated money to organizations. However, the following is a non-exhaustive sample of organizations that I have personally donated to with my time or out of my personal funds: Impact Church, the City Gospel Mission, the United Way, the Fine Arts Fund, Hospice of Cincinnati, Cheviot United Methodist Church, the Jewish National Fund, the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, the Greater Cincinnati Building Trades, the NAACP, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cincinnati, the Amos Project, CLASS Action USA, the Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, the Fraternal Order of Police, Oberlin College, the John W. Heisman Club, Colerain High School, Oak Hills High School, Bridgetown Middle School, Dulles Elementary School, virtually every local catholic church via contributions at church festivals, the Human Rights Campaign, the Urban Morgan Institute on Human Rights, various candidates for public office and political action committees.