

## Michigan Catholic Conference 2000 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

*This is a time to bring together the guidance of the Gospel and the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace.*

*Faithful Citizenship*  
U.S. Catholic Bishops

One of the most important duties of an American citizen is casting a ballot in an election. This November, Michigan's citizens will be voting to select the sixteen representatives and one senator who will be responsible for making sure the voices of the people of Michigan are heard in the United States Congress.

In order to help the voters of Michigan make an informed choice about their representation in Washington, D.C., the Michigan Catholic Conference has solicited the positions of the thirty-four Democratic and Republican candidates for the U.S. House and Senate on a variety of issues. We are pleased to make their answers available to you.

The questions are based on the *Faithful Citizenship* statement endorsed by the Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference. A copy of that statement was provided to each questionnaire recipient and is available from the United States Catholic Conference, the Michigan Catholic Conference, and the central offices of the seven Michigan Catholic dioceses.

The questions presented to the candidates are listed on pages two and three of this issue of *FOCUS*, and an answer key to the candidates' responses is on page three. The responses themselves are found beginning on page four.

This issue of *FOCUS* is part of a series of MCC publications aimed at helping Michigan voters make sound, informed decisions about the important issues that will determine the direction of public policy in our state and nation. Previous publications have explored the specific questions voters should ask the candidates (Volume 28, No. 2) and explained Proposal 1 (Volume 28, No. 3), which would guarantee per child public school funding, implement regular teacher testing, and provide vouchers to children in failing school districts.

# Questions Presented to Congressional Candidates

## ***Abortion***

1. What is your position on legislation pending in this Congress which would ban partial birth abortion except to save the life of the mother?
2. What is your position on a constitutional amendment which would protect the right of unborn children (Human Life Amendment)?
3. What is your position on the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortion?

## ***Capital Punishment***

What is your position on efforts to:

4. abolish the death penalty?
5. end the use of the death penalty in cases where the defendant is a minor?
6. end the use of the death penalty when it is certain that the defendant will be confined to life imprisonment without possibility of parole?

## ***“Charitable Choice”***

7. What is your position on legislation to make it easier for churches and religiously affiliated institutions to participate in government funded programs intended to address problems in society such as poverty, unemployment and homelessness?

## ***Economic Help for Families***

What is your position on the Federal Government providing financial resources to low income persons:

8. to gain access to affordable, quality child care and programs for early child development?
9. through tax relief to low income working families with children to keep them above the poverty line (i.e., refundable children’s tax credit and/or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC))?

## ***Education***

What is your position on legislation to provide financial assistance to all parents enabling them to exercise their right to choose the elementary and/or secondary schools, including religiously oriented schools, which are best suited for their children such as:

10. legislation to provide tax benefits to both public and private school parents to offset the educational costs of their children?
11. legislation to provide education vouchers/scholarships to parents to pay for the cost of their children’s schooling?
12. legislation to provide financial support for services to private and religious school students with disabilities?

## ***Embryo Research***

13. What is your position on using taxpayer funds for research that involves destroying live human embryos to obtain their cells for experimentation (embryonic stem cell research)?

## ***Environment***

What is your position on:

14. legislation to further regulate and reduce pollution?
15. legislation to further regulate and reduce the harmful effects of pesticides and other chemicals on children’s health?

## ***Euthanasia***

16. What is your position on legislation that would allow a physician to prescribe a drug overdose to assist in the suicide of patients diagnosed as terminally ill?

## ***Food and Agricultural Policy***

17. What is your position on agricultural policies that encourage a broad-based system of small to moderate-sized family owned and operated farms over policies which favor the concentration of agricultural ownership?

## **Health Care**

18. What is your position on legislation which would assure universal and genuine access to affordable health care coverage through use of mandates, (e.g., individual, employer)?

## **Human Rights**

19. What is your position on making the defense of human rights – including religious liberty – a central concern of U.S. foreign policy, especially in places where human rights are most at risk, by linking other policies (e.g., trade preferences or military aid) to a country's performance on human rights?

## **Immigration**

- What is your position on legislation which would:
20. permit long-term permanent resident aliens, who have committed minor criminal offenses, to avoid deportation and remain in the United States if they can show that they have been rehabilitated and built ties to their communities in the U.S.?
21. restore benefit eligibility to legal immigrants who fall on hard times?
22. ease current restrictions that deny people at U.S. ports of entry the ability to seek political asylum in the United States?

## **International Debt Relief**

23. What is your position on legislation to fund substantial and rapid debt reduction for all heavily indebted poor countries that commit to using the benefits of debt reduction to relieve poverty?

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## **Key to Answers Provided by Congressional Candidates**

<b>KEY: S = Support</b>	<b>O = Oppose</b>	<b>NP = No Position</b>	<b>NR = No Response</b>	<b>C = Comment</b>
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Questionnaires approved by the United States Catholic Conference were sent out to every congressional candidate from the major parties in early August 2000. A reminder was sent to the candidates to alert them to the approaching deadline for submission of answers. Candidates were asked to mark whether their position was in support of, or in opposition to, the subject of the questions found on pages two and three. Candidates were also given the opportunity of noting where they had no position on an issue. Pages two and three of this issue of *FOCUS* contain the exact wording of the questions submitted to the candidates.

In some cases candidates provided comments or answers on questions unsolicited by the Michigan Catholic Conference. Because the MCC candidate questionnaire did not include a specific area for comment, these unsolicited comments and additions have not been reproduced here. However, upon request, the comments of the candidates will be provided.

The Michigan Catholic Conference does not endorse or oppose any candidates under any circumstances, and no inference of endorsement or opposition should be concluded as a result of information provided in this issue of *FOCUS*.

### **FOCUS**

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Candidate	Abortion			Capital Punishment			"Charitable Choice"	Economic Help for Families		Education		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
<b>U.S. Senate</b> R Spencer Abraham D Debbie Stabenow	S	S	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 1</b> R Chuck Yob D Bart Stupak	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 2</b> R Peter Hoekstra D Bob Shrauger	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 3</b> R Vernon Ehlers D Timothy Steele	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 4</b> R Dave Camp D Lawrence Hollenbeck	S	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	NP
<b>U.S. Congress District 5</b> R Ronald Actis D James Barcia	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 6</b> R Fred Upton D James Bupp				<i>Did Not Respond</i>								
<b>U.S. Congress District 7</b> R Nick Smith D Jennie Crittendon				<i>Did Not Respond</i>								
<b>U.S. Congress District 8</b> R Mike Rogers D Diane Byrum	S	S	O	O	NP	NP	S	S	S	C	C	NP
<b>U.S. Congress District 9</b> R Grant Garrett D Dale Kildee	S	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	S	NP	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 10</b> R Tom Turner D David Bonior	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 11</b> R Joe Knollenberg D Matthew Frumin	S	S	O	O	NP	O	S	S	NR	S	NR	NR
<b>U.S. Congress District 12</b> R Bart Baron D Sander Levin	S	NP	O	S	S	S	NP	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 13</b> R Carl Berry D Lynn Rivers	S	NP	O	S	S	S	C	S	S	O	O	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 14</b> R William Ashe D John Conyers, Jr.	S	NP	O	NR	NR	NR	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 15</b> R C. Boyd-Fields D Carolyn Kilpatrick	S	S	O	O	S	O	S	S	NR	S	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 16</b> R William Morse D John Dingell				<i>Did Not respond</i>								
	S	O	O	O	NP	O	S	O	O	O	S	O

Candidate	Embryo Research	Environment	Euthanasia	Food and Agricultural Policy	Health Care
<b>U.S. Senate</b> R Spencer Abraham D Debbie Stabenow	13 O	14 15 S NP <i>Did Not Respond</i>	16 O	17 NP	18 O
<b>U.S. Congress District 1</b> R Chuck Yob D Bart Stupak	O O	S S S S	O O	S S	S S
<b>U.S. Congress District 2</b> R Peter Hoekstra D Bob Shrauger	O O	S S S S	O NP	NP S	O S
<b>U.S. Congress District 3</b> R Vernon Ehlers D Timothy Steele	O S	S S S S	O S	S S	NP S
<b>U.S. Congress District 4</b> R Dave Camp D Lawrence Hollenbeck	O O	S S S S	O O	S S	O S
<b>U.S. Congress District 5</b> R Ronald Actis D James Barcia	O O	S S S S	O O	S S	O O
<b>U.S. Congress District 6</b> R Fred Upton D James Bupp		<i>Did Not Respond</i> <i>Did Not Respond</i>			
<b>U.S. Congress District 7</b> R Nick Smith D Jennie Crittendon		<i>Did Not Respond</i> <i>Did Not Respond</i>			
<b>U.S. Congress District 8</b> R Mike Rogers D Diane Byrum	O	C C <i>Did Not Respond</i>	O	S	C
<b>U.S. Congress District 9</b> R Grant Garrett D Dale Kildee	O O	S S S S	O O	NP S	NP S
<b>U.S. Congress District 10</b> R Tom Turner D David Bonior	O	S S <i>Did Not Respond</i>	O	NP	O
<b>U.S. Congress District 11</b> R Joe Knollenberg D Matthew Frumin	O	S S <i>Did Not Respond</i>	O	S	O
<b>U.S. Congress District 12</b> R Bart Baron D Sander Levin	O S	O S S S	O O	S S	S S
<b>U.S. Congress District 13</b> R Carl Berry D Lynn Rivers	O	S S <i>Did Not Respond</i>	NP	S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 14</b> R William Ashe D John Conyers, Jr.	O	C C <i>Did Not Respond</i>	O	O	C
<b>U.S. Congress District 15</b> R C. Boyd-Fields D Carolyn Kilpatrick		<i>Did Not Respond</i> <i>Did Not Respond</i>			
<b>U.S. Congress District 16</b> R William Morse D John Dingell	O	NP NP <i>Did Not Respond</i>	NP	O	O

Candidate	Human Rights	Immigration	International Debt Relief
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 21 22</b>	<b>23</b>
R Spencer Abraham	S	NP NP S	S
D Debbie Stabenow		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 1</b>			
R Chuck Yob	S	S S S	NP
D Bart Stupak	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 2</b>			
R Peter Hoekstra	S	NP NP S	S
D Bob Shrauger	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 3</b>			
R Vernon Ehlers	S	NP S S	S
D Timothy Steele	O	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 4</b>			
R Dave Camp	S	O O NP	NP
D Lawrence Hollenbeck	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 5</b>			
R Ronald Actis	S	S S S	S
D James Barcia	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 6</b>			
R Fred Upton		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
D James Bupp		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 7</b>			
R Nick Smith		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
D Jennie Crittendon		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 8</b>			
R Mike Rogers	C	C C C	C
D Diane Byrum		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 9</b>			
R Grant Garrett	S	S S NP	NP
D Dale Kildee	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 10</b>			
R Tom Turner	S	S S O	S
D David Bonior		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 11</b>			
R Joe Knollenberg	O	NP O S	O
D Matthew Frumin		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 12</b>			
R Bart Baron	S	S O O	S
D Sander Levin	S	S S S	S
<b>U.S. Congress District 13</b>			
R Carl Berry	NP	S O O	O
D Lynn Rivers		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 14</b>			
R William Ashe	C	O S O	C
D John Conyers, Jr.		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 15</b>			
R C. Boyd-Fields		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
D Carolyn Kilpatrick		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	
<b>U.S. Congress District 16</b>			
R William Morse	S	O O O	O
D John Dingell		<i>Did Not Respond</i>	