



# CANDIDATE SURVEY JANUARY 2012

## CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATE

Congressional candidates' responses are on last page.

*Would you support granting amnesty to illegal aliens*

*What is the purpose of government?*

<b>Lauren Cummings</b>	NO	Protect and defend the Constitution
<b>John Kensinger</b>	NO	Provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty. The government must obey the constitution to ensure individual rights are not infringed upon.
<b>Sam Rohrer</b>	No. I do not support amnesty for illegal aliens for a couple of reasons: 1) it undercuts our lawful citizenship process; 2) It de-legitimizes the citizenship earned by all those who have gone through the process lawfully.	As William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania stated the purpose of government is to: 1) praise those who do well and; 2) terrify those who do evil. In simple terms, the purpose of government is limited. *
<b>Marc Scaringi</b>	No. I oppose amnesty for illegal aliens. I support deportation for illegal aliens. A nation without borders is no longer a nation. I will do everything I can to secure our borders and stop all illegal immigration.	The purpose of government is to secure our freedoms. Our individual rights are bestowed upon us by our Creator. We citizens come together to form a government and we empower that government to secure our freedoms and protect our individual, God-given rights.
<b>Tom Smith</b>	I believe in the rule of law – illegal means illegal. I would oppose amnesty for illegal aliens. We should not offer special privileges to those who broke the law by coming here.	I believe that the proper role of government is to protect the rights bestowed by the Constitution of the United States and provide for the common defense. *
<b>Steve Welch</b>	I would not support granting amnesty to illegal aliens. We are a nation of laws and we cannot reward people who have broken the law.	The purpose of the federal government is to 1) adhere to the Constitution; 2) protect the safety and security of its citizen; and 3) ensure free markets.

After numerous attempts by ACTION of PA to encourage participation, **NO ANSWERS WERE PROVIDED** from the following candidates for U. S. Senate: **Dave Christian, Robert A. Mansfield, and John Vernon.**

(Tim Burns responses were received after the print deadline: his statements are available online.)

\* While the essence has been accurately conveyed, some answers have been truncated due to space limitations. Full answers may be found online at [www.ACTIONofPA.org](http://www.ACTIONofPA.org)



# CANDIDATE SURVEY JANUARY 2012

## CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATE

*How do you characterize your position on abortion?*      *Do you support or oppose extending medical benefits to same sex and domestic partners of government employees?*      *Do you support or oppose a Balanced Budget Amendment?*

<b>Lauren Cummings</b>	<b>Pro-Life</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	It depends on what the amendment says. I would support it as long as it does not require taxes to be raised to meet spending increases imposed by the government.
<b>John Kensinger</b>	<b>Pro Life. Life begins at conception.</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	Support. I believe my bill limiting increases in government spending the the current rate of inflation will be a step toward making this Balanced Budget Amendment a reality.
<b>Sam Rohrer</b>	I have always been opposed to abortion by conviction. I have voted against abortion and have voted for the defunding of it. For me, life begins at conception and concludes in natural death. Abortion, the man-made/induced taking of life is wrong.	I oppose extending medical benefits. My primary reason for opposing extended taxpayer funded benefits is because public policy best remains encouraging the traditional family, of one man, one woman, and children in lawful marriage. *	I have always supported a balanced budget as a matter of integrity and fiscal responsibility. *
<b>Marc Scaringi</b>	I am 100% pro-life and will fight to protect the right to life of the innocent unborn from the moment of conception until natural death. *	I oppose extending medical benefits to same sex and domestic partners of government employees.	I support a Balanced Budget Amendment. It is item number one on my Free America Agenda. It is the only tool we the people have to constrain, restrain and prohibit our career politicians from continuing to borrow and spend our nation into bankruptcy. *
<b>Tom Smith</b>	I am absolutely pro-life, period. As senator I would support a Constitutional amendment defining life as beginning at conception.	I believe marriage is between one man and one woman. The assignment of medical and visitation rights should be left to the states.	I support a Balanced Budget Amendment because it is time that government started to live within its means. We need to stop the out of control spending that threatens to mortgage our children's future in order to pay for the waste of today.*
<b>Steve Welch</b>	I am proudly pro-life.	I strongly believe marriage is between one man and one woman and should be legally defined as such. Policies on medical benefits should be a state issue, not a federal one.	I support a balanced budget amendment, with spending capped as a percentage of GDP.

\* While the essence has been accurately conveyed, some answers have been truncated due to space limitations. Full answers may be found online at [www.ACTIONofPA.org](http://www.ACTIONofPA.org)



# CANDIDATE SURVEY JANUARY 2012

## CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATE

*If you could, would you add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" to the protected classes of race, color, age, or national origin, in state anti-discrimination laws for employment, housing and public accomodation?*

*Do you support the use of human embryos for stem cell research?*

*Would you support banning the use of public funds for organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the largest providers and promoters of abortion in the U.S.?*

	<i>If you could, would you add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" to the protected classes of race, color, age, or national origin, in state anti-discrimination laws for employment, housing and public accomodation?</i>	<i>Do you support the use of human embryos for stem cell research?</i>	<i>Would you support banning the use of public funds for organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the largest providers and promoters of abortion in the U.S.?</i>
<b>Lauren Cummings</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>John Kensinger</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Sam Rohrer</b>	No. In simple terms, these new categories do not rise to the same level as the acknowledged 'unchangeables' of life, such as, race, color, age, and national origin. They therefore should remain in a separate category.	No. While I fully support stem cell research, to support embryonic stem cell research is to support the destruction of life in its earliest stages.	Yes. I have supported such attempts while in the PA House. I would do so in the US Senate as well.
<b>Marc Scaringi</b>	No. I would not add "sexual orientation" or "gender identity or expression" to the list of protected classes.	No. The use of human embryos for stem cell research causes the destruction of innocent, human life.	Yes. I support the banning of all public funding for Planned Parenthood - the country's single, largest abortion mill.
<b>Tom Smith</b>	No	Stem cell research offers amazing advances in medical technology that can extend and improve the quality of life for Americans. Recent advances in medical technology means that we do not need to harvest human embryos to acquire stem cells for research.	Yes. The United States Government needs to protect our most vulnerable citizens, unborn children. We should not be sending tax payer money to organizations such as Planned Parenthood whose agenda is completely opposite.
<b>Steve Welch</b>	I do not support placing Americans into different classes as a way to divide us against each other. Merit must be the only basis for decision making and protection in society.	No	I oppose taxpayers funding of abortions, and therefore I support banning the use of public funds for organizations like Planned Parenthood. That position stands in opposition to Sen. Bob Casey*

\* While the essence has been accurately conveyed, some answers have been truncated due to space limitations. Full answers may be found online at [www.ACTIONofPA.org](http://www.ACTIONofPA.org)



# CANDIDATE SURVEY JANUARY 2012

## CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATE

*Would you support a legal prohibition on human cloning, including the creation of human embryos by cloning?*

*Would you vote to make English the official language?*

<b>Lauren Cummings</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>John Kensinger</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Sam Rohrer</b>	Yes. While I am a strong supporter of medical research, I believe there are serious ethical issues that arise when there are attempts to 'create life'. I believe this is an area reserved to our Creator alone – as acknowledged by our Founders.	Yes. I strongly supported efforts to make English the official language while I was in the PA House. I would support such efforts in the US Senate.
<b>Marc Scaringi</b>	Yes. I support a legal prohibition on human cloning, including the creation of human embryos by cloning.	Yes. I would vote to make English the official language.
<b>Tom Smith</b>	I would support any legal prohibition on human cloning. Man is not meant to play god. Human cloning is a dramatic and frightening step in that direction.	Yes I would vote to make English the official language of the United States. English has been the de facto language of this nation since our founding. Our most important documents that have shaped the form of our republic were written in English. Making English the official language of the United States protects our common culture and heritage.
<b>Steve Welch</b>	Yes	Yes



# CANDIDATE SURVEY JANUARY 2012

## CANDIDATES FOR U. S. CONGRESS

	Jim Gerlach	Pat Meehan	Joe Pitts
<i>Would you support granting amnesty to illegal aliens</i>	I oppose amnesty for illegal aliens, and have repeatedly voted against Democrat attempts to grant it in past sessions of Congress.	While we are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws, and those laws must be respected. I do not support amnesty.*	No
<i>What is the purpose of government?</i>	The purpose of government is as so eloquently stated in the Preamble to the US Constitution.	to secure the unalienable rights that are endowed by our creator, and then guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.*	...to create an environment that fosters free market entrepreneurship, individual responsibility, and a family centered society.*
<i>How do you characterize your position on abortion?</i>	I am pro-life, except in cases of rape, incest or for the preservation of the life of the mother. I have consistently received the endorsement of the National Right to Life Association.*	I am Pro-Life. I was honored to be endorsed by National Right to Life in 2010 and had a 100 percent pro-life voting record in Congress in 2011.*	Pro-Life
<i>Do you support or oppose extending medical benefits to same sex and domestic partners of government employees?</i>	I oppose unless the partnership is a legally recognized civil partnership in the state of residence.	Please see my answer to question #6.	Oppose
<i>Do you support or oppose a Balanced Budget Amendment?</i>	I support a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, have co-sponsored such legislation, and voted for it four times in 2011.*	Not only do I support a Balanced Budget Amendment, but I cosponsored the measure and voted for it in the House.*	Support
<i>If you could, would you add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" to the protected classes of race, color, age, or national origin, in state anti-discrimination laws for employment, housing and public accomodation?</i>	It's up to states to decide their discrimination laws, but I oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation.	Any changes to anti-discrimination law or federal medical benefits must be done consistent with the Constitution and our community's values... I support conscience exceptions for faith-based hospitals and institutions from federal mandates that violate their values.*	No
<i>Do you support the use of human embryos for stem cell research?</i>	I oppose use of embryos for such research unless the parents of the embryos 1) consent to the research in writing, 2) certify that the embryos would otherwise be destroyed and discarded, and ...*.	I oppose the creation of embryos for the purpose of stem cell research or cloning,	No
<i>Would you support banning the use of public funds for organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the largest providers and promoters of abortion in the U.S.?</i>	Yes, and I voted for that ban in 2011 (Roll Call Vote 93).*	I voted to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood because it reflects the deep concern of many citizens in the 7th district that taxpayer money not be used to support an organization that promotes abortions.*	Yes
<i>Would you support a legal prohibition on human cloning, including the creation of human embryos by cloning?</i>	Yes, I oppose human cloning.	I would support a legal prohibition on human cloning.	Yes
<i>Would you vote to make English the official language?</i>	Yes, and I am a cosponsor of HR 1164, the National Language Act, which would declare English as the official language of the government of the United States.	I am a cosponsor of the bill to make English our national language.*	Yes

\* While the essence has been accurately conveyed, some answers have been truncated due to space limitations. Full answers may be found online at [www.ACTIONofPA.org](http://www.ACTIONofPA.org)