

Michigan Catholic Conference 1998 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

If decent people do not like the way politicians behave, they should either get into politics or refrain from complaining about anything the politicians do.

■ Theodore Roosevelt

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 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 representatives in Washington, DC, the Michigan Catholic Conference has solicited the positions of the thirty-one Democratic and Republican candidates for the U.S. House on a variety of issues. We are pleased to make their answers available to you.

The questions are based on the Political Responsibility 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. To aid voters in identifying the Congressional district in which they live, a map delineated by county and by diocese is also included. MCC staff can provide additional help in locating one's Congressional district and/or state house district.

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 26, Number 2) and explained Proposal B, which would legalize physician assisted suicide in Michigan (Volume 26, Number 3). Copies of these publications are available from MCC at no charge.

Questions Presented to Congressional Candidates

Abortion

1. What is your position on a constitutional amendment which would protect the to life of unborn children (Human Life Amendment)?
2. What is your position on legislation which would ban partial birth abortions?
3. What is your position on the use of taxpayer funds for abortion?

Arms Trade and Landmines

What is your position on:

4. legislation to ban U.S. production, export and use of anti-personnel landmines in conformity with the Ottawa treaty?
5. legislation to restrict or limit arms sales from the U.S. to other nations?

Capital Punishment

What is your position on efforts to:

6. encourage and/or extend the use of the death penalty?
7. end the use of the death penalty in cases where the defendant is mentally disabled?
8. end the use of the death penalty in cases where the defendant has committed the crime as a minor?

Economic Help for Families

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

9. to gain access to affordable, quality child care and programs for early child development?
10. 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)?

11. by preserving the guarantee of health care for poor and working poor families and children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities?

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:

12. legislation to provide tax benefits to parents to offset the educational costs of their children?
13. legislation to provide education vouchers to parents to pay for the cost of their children's schooling?

Environment

14. What is your position on policies that seek to arrest, reverse, and prevent environmental pollution and to promote sustainable development for all, recognizing regulation, investment and sacrifice are necessary to promote the common good in this area?

Euthanasia

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

Food and Agricultural Policy

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

Human Rights

17. 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:

18. reduce legal immigration numbers by one-third?
19. make it more difficult for immigrants to become naturalized citizens of the U.S.?
20. ease current restrictions that deny people at U.S. ports of entry the ability to seek political asylum in the United States?

Key to Answers Provided by Congressional Candidates

Questionnaires approved by the United States Catholic Conference were sent out to every Congressional candidate from the major parties in early August 1998. 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 statements found on pages two and three. Candidates were also given the opportunity of noting where they had no position on an issue. The questions on pages two and three of this issue of FOCUS are the exact wording of the questions put to the candidates.

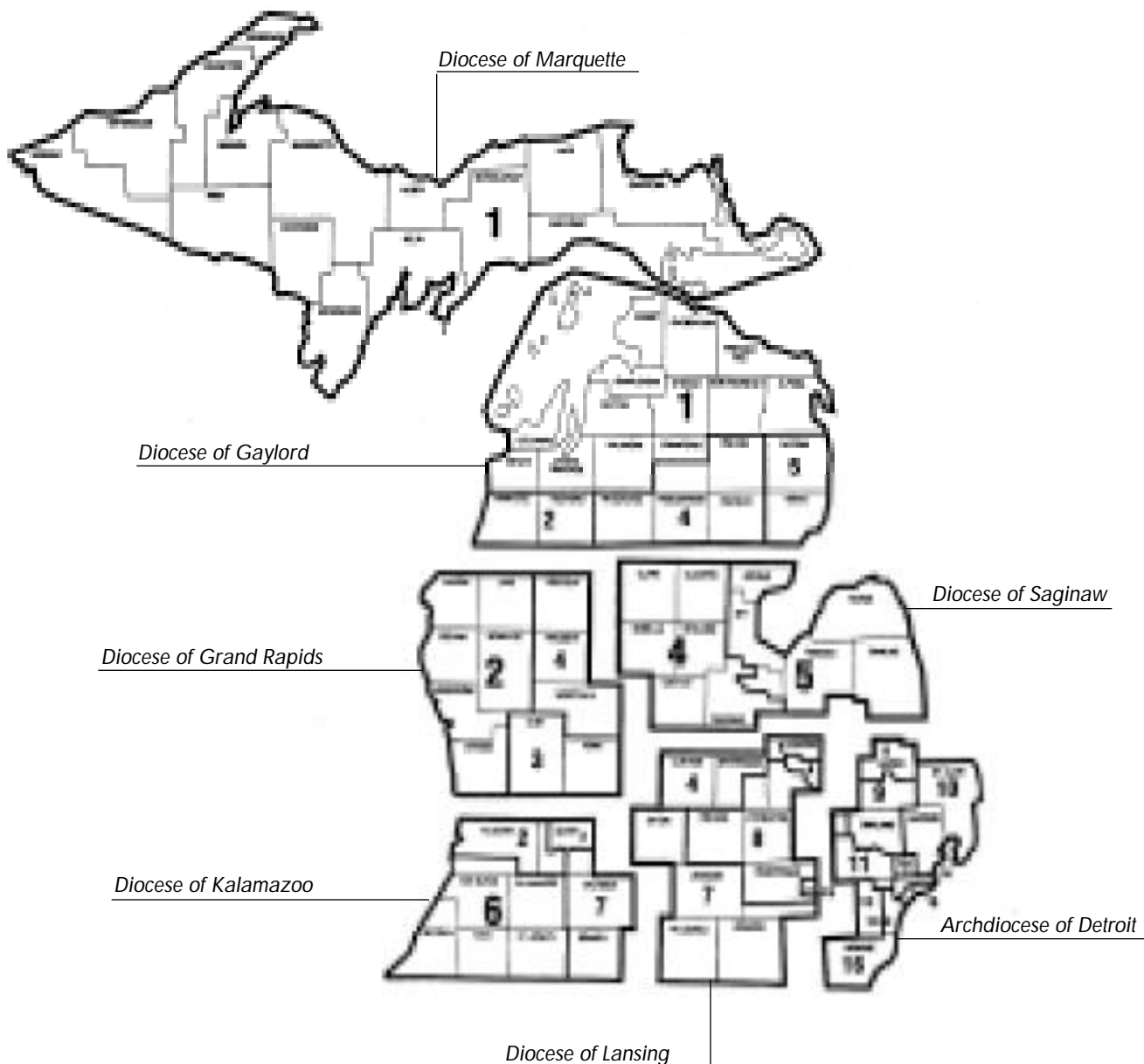
In some cases, candidates provided comments or answers on questions unsolicited by the Michigan Catholic Conference. Because the MCC candidate questionnaire did not include a specific area for comment, these unsolicited comments and additions have not been reproduced here. However, upon request, the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

An "S" in an issue box shows that the candidate has checked the "Support" box in the questionnaire returned to the MCC. "O" indicates that the candidate opposes the issue. "NP" shows that the candidate has indicated he or she has not taken a position on a specific issue. In the case where a questionnaire was returned but a specific question was not answered, "NR," signifying no response, is indicated in the box. Some candidates chose not to respond by selecting one of the choices provided, but instead wrote an unsolicited explanation of their position. In this case, "C" appears in the issue box. Candidates who did not return the survey by Friday, September 18, 1998 are noted by the notation "Did Not Respond".

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.

Candidate	Education	Environment	Euthanasia	Food & Agriculture	Human Rights	Immigration
U.S. Congress District 1	12 13	14	15	16	17	18 19 20
R Michelle A. McManus	S NP	S	O	S	S	O O S
D Bart Stupak	NP NP	S	O	S	S	O O S
U.S. Congress District 2						
R Peter Hoekstra	S S	S	O	NP	S	O O NP
D Bob Shrauger	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 3						
R Vernon Ehlers	S S	S	O	S	S	NP O NP
D John Ferguson, Jr.	NP NP	S	O	NP	S	NP O NP
U.S. Congress District 4						
R Dave Camp	S S	S	O	S	S	NP O NP
D No Candidate						
U.S. Congress District 5						
R Donald W. Brewster	S S	S	O	S	S	NP S S
D James A. Barcia	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 6						
R Fred Upton	S S	NR	NR	NR	S	NR NR NR
D Clarence J. Annen	O O	S	S	S	S	O O O
U.S. Congress District 7						
R Nick Smith	S S	C	O	S	S	O O O
D Jim Berryman	S O	S	S	S	S	O O NP
U.S. Congress District 8						
R Susan Grimes Munsell	Did Not Respond					
D Debbie Stabenow	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 9						
R Tom McMillin	S S	NR	O	S	S	NR NR NR
D Dale E. Kildee	NR NR	S	O	S	S	O O S
U.S. Congress District 10						
R Brian Palmer	S S	S	O	S	S	O O S
D David E. Bonior	O O	S	NP	S	S	O O S
U.S. Congress District 11						
R Joe Knollenberg	S S	S	O	S	O	O O O
D Travis M Reeds	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 12						
R Leslie A. Touma	S O	S	O	NP	NP	O O S
D Sander Levin	C C	S	C	S	S	O O C
U.S. Congress District 13						
R Tom Hickey	S S	S	O	S	S	O O S
D Lynn Nancy Rivers	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 14						
R Vendella M Collins	Did Not Respond					
D John Conyers, Jr.	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 15						
R Chrysanthea Boyd-Fields	Did Not Respond					
D Carolyn Kilpatrick	Did Not Respond					
U.S. Congress District 16						
R William Morse	S S	S	S	O	S	NP NP S
D John D. Dingell	Did Not Respond					

Michigan Congressional Districts 1998 Apportionment Plan



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