2017 Values Voter Guide

For York County, PA, Primary Election of Tues., May 16, 2017

For all candidates for office (Judge & Other). Compiled by Conservative Christian Center (CCC). Info@ConservativeChristianCenter.org

A rating of A, B, C, D or F will be issued when this survey is tabulated. This information will be provided to the attendees of the Friday 5/5/17 Candidate Forum for their review before voting in a Straw Poll survey for their favorite candidates. The following is for publication as indicated at the end. These questions are designed to help church-going Christians choose the candidates they wish to vote for based on having an informed conscience and more information about the background, philosophy, experience and beliefs of those candidates seeking their vote in the May, 2017 GOP primary. Not all questions will be graded.

Name & Contact Info

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Seeking the office of Judge - Common Pleas

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Donations or inquiries may be sent to (for publication)

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Survey Questions. *See instructions for sending this to us at the end.*

I. Background & Experience (all candidates)

1. Date of birth 8/31/67
2. If attorney, law school name & date of your law degree Widener School of Law (2000)
3. If attorney, state your area of concentration Ethics, Employment, contracts, constitutional law
4. Military service? ☐No ☑~~If~~ Yes: Branch of service, rank & date upon separation from service Army, Sergeant 7/1992
5. What were your most recent work experience?

   Start & End Years: Firm Name and position:

   (a) 2008-Present PA House of Representatives, Deputy Chief Counsel

   (b) 2002-2007 Milliron Associates, LLC - Senior Associate

   (c) 2001-2002 PA Senate, Policy Director & Counsel
6. What are your most significant accomplishments in your most recent work experience? *(you may use separate paper if you prefer):*

   See Attached

7. What are your most significant lifetime work accomplishments?

See Attached +

8. What are your most significant lifetime achievements?

See Attached

9. What is your greatest strength? Strong Work ethic

10. What is your greatest weakness? I'm a perfectionist.

11. What do you wish to accomplish if you win the office you are seeking (use separate sheet if you prefer)

See Attached

12. What is your marital status? ☒ Married ☐ single ☐ divorced ☐ separated

13. How have your achievements, experience and strengths prepared you for the position you now seek?

See Attached

II. Philosophy and Faith

14. Which of the following U.S. presidents best represents your political philosophy?

☐ John F. Kennedy ☒ Ronald Reagan ☐ George Bush ☐ Bill Clinton
☐ George W. Bush ☐ Barack Obama ☐ Donald J. Trump

15. Please list the five organizations, charities or causes in which you are most involved as a member or supporter, through contributions and/or through volunteering your time.

1. Fishing Creek Salem Church
2. Boy Scouts of America
3. Central PA Food Bank
4. American Cancer Society
5. American Red Cross

16. What is your position on increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

☒ Favor ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided

17. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

☐ I support legalized abortion.
☐ I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
☒ I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

18. What is your position on amending Pennsylvania's anti-discrimination laws to include specific provisions to protect the religious liberties of religious institutions and the rights of conscience of business owners and employees.

☒ Favor ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided

19. Do you favor or oppose legislation that would make sexual orientation and gender identity, protected classes similar to other groups protected by law such as race, religion, sex?
☐Favor ☐Oppose ☒Undecided

20. Do you favor or oppose President Trump's stated goal of deporting illegal aliens who have been found guilty of criminal acts in the U.S.?
☒Favor ☐Oppose ☐Undecided

21. Should the federal government be required to disclose to local communities where and when they place unaccompanied minor illegal aliens (ie. DACA, or "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, ie. Executive amnesty for illegal alien children abandoned by their illegal alien parents to secure their future status in USA).
☐Favor ☐Oppose ☒Undecided

22. Do you support the proposal (Kate's Law) to impose a 5 year prison sentence on any illegal alien who returns to America after having been deported?
☐Favor ☐Oppose ☒Undecided

23. Do you favor cutting off federal and state funds to any locality which protects illegal aliens from law enforcement (ie. Sanctuary Cities, aka outlaw cities)?
☒Favor ☐Oppose ☐Undecided

24. What is your position on allowing illegal aliens to become U.S. legal residents with a "path to citizenship"?
☐Favor ☐Oppose ☒Undecided

25. What is your position on providing a tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?
☒Favor ☐Oppose ☐Undecided

26. President John F. Kennedy's well known "Separation of Church and State" 1960 speech, actually said that those who step out into the public square must be silent on this critical subject of what guides them in life when they seek office in the United States.
☐Agree ☒Disagree ☐Undecided

27. Things have changed since the time America's founding fathers believed that our rights come from God. Today there is a balance to be struck between those rights and the needs of government to provide for what people want.
☐Agree ☒Disagree ☐Undecided

28. How do you feel about the war against Christians which aims to force them to provide abortion services against their own teachings? Do you agree or disagree with this interpretation of the law as it is being enforced today?
☐Agree ☒Disagree ☐Undecided

29. Do you support the repeal of the Johnson Amendment, whereby a Pastor or Rabbi must refrain from criticizing the government, any elected official, or any policy such as abortion from the pulpit, because John F. Kennedy made a speech declaring a "separation of church and state" and also said this is "absolute." Do you favor this policy?
☒Favor Repeal ☐Oppose Repeal ☐Undecided

30. A candidate for President once affirmed "the centrality of his faith" in his making his decisions as a U.S. Senator and in public life. He was condemned by some for saying he used a moral compass, including his faith and belief in Jesus Christ, to determine his position on the issues of the day. They said that he had violated the "separation of Church and State". Do you agree with him, or his critics who say you should leave your faith out of public life?
☒My faith is my compass in public life & I will say so. ☐I agree with the critics, leave faith out of politics

31. Is it wrong to force a faith-based medical institutions to perform abortions and to carry insurance for abortion "morning after" pills for all their employees?
☒Yes it is wrong ☐No the law is OK as is ☐Undecided

32. The participation in the public policy process, including registering to vote, voting in primaries and voting in general elections, on the part of Church-going Christians, is diminishing every year, while the number of agnostics, atheists and Muslims, is growing. Would you prefer to reverse that trend by having more church going Christians participate, or is this trend a healthy thing? (source: Pew Foundation).

☒ More Church going Christians should participate & vote ☐ The trend is healthy and normal

33. There are reports of increased local deaths and crimes from drugs. What is the top reason for this (choose 1)?

☐ Drug distribution by illegal aliens who are part of Latin American gangs such as MS-13

☐ illegal aliens in general ☒ people are just using more drugs ☐ general increase in crime

☐ other – please indicate in 1 or several words _____

34. The number one failing of the administration of President Barack Obama was (please use one or several words):
A Lack of a Coherent Policy on any Front.

35. The most important achievement of President Ronald Reagan was (please use one or several words):
Bringing the country together, ending the cold war

36. The most important focus for President Donald J. Trump should be (please use one or several words):
The Economy

37. Do you agree that "sex" in Title IX refers to biological sex as established by one's DNA, or can "sex" in Title IX be redefined to include one's "gender identity" or an individual's understanding of whether that person feels male or female? Should one's sex be determined:

☒ at birth ☐ by a statement of belief

38. Do you regularly attend a church? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Occasionally

39. Your church (name and city/town) Fishing Creek Salem UMC, Ettcrs, PA

40. Are you formally signed up as a member of this church? ☒ Yes ☐ No

41. Please provide your Statement of Faith or your Life Philosophy (up to 100 words) (or attach a typed sheet):
See Attached

III. For Attorneys

42. Which U.S. Supreme Court Justice best reflects your judicial philosophy?

☐ Roberts ☐ Kennedy ☐ Ginsburg ☐ Kagan ☐ Thomas ☐ Breyer

☐ Sotomayor ☐ Alito ☒ (The late) Antonin Scalia ☐ Neil Gorsuch (unconfirmed)

43. If seeking a judicial position (only) rate your judicial philosophy on a scale of 1-10 with "living document" approach being a "1" and "strict construction" or "originalist" being a "10" (circle your answer).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (10)

44. Do you believe that Roe v. Wade U.S. 113 (1973), insofar as it recognizes a "right to privacy" that includes abortion under the United States Constitution, was correctly or incorrectly decided (Circle One)?

☐ Correctly decided ☐ Incorrectly decided ☐ Undecided/unsure

45. Do you believe that the Pennsylvania Constitution permits display of the Ten Commandments in courtrooms?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

☐ Decline to answer (why?)_____

46. If you have been an attorney, have you appeared in court regularly, occasionally or not at all in the last 10 yrs.?

☐Regularly ☒occasionally ☐not at all

47. What percentage of your legal practice, if an attorney, was 90 **civil**, versus 10 **criminal**?

☐Favor ☐Oppose ☐Undecided

Affirmation: *I do hereby warrant and affirm that the preceding survey questions have been answered truthfully by the undersigned & to the best of my knowledge are complete & do represent my personal views and knowledge.*

Signature _____ **Date** 4/28/17

(only the candidate listed on page 1 is eligible to sign

Please sign & fax by Friday, April 28 to (855) 788-1737

or as a PDF/email to Survey@ConservativeChristianCenter.org.

A PDF which you may enter your answers on (and then print out) is at:
ConservativeChristianCenter.org/2017MaySurvey

To reserve your speaking slot at the Candidate Forum (between 3 to 6 minutes per speaker, depending on how many respond) where your completed survey will be released together with your grade (A thru F for failing/no response) and where attendees will vote in a Straw Poll:
RSVP@ConservativeChristianCenter.org

Your Candidate Survey answers will be reported at

(1) YorkCountyAction.com* website (2) York County Action* Facebook page, (3) Conservative Christian Center (CCC)** website (4) CCC e-newsletter, (5) at the CCC Candidate Forum (free meeting) of 5/5/17, (6) released to local news media and (7) distributed as a CCC brochure to churches in York County and Cumberland County. Your response will also be shared with the Pennsylvania Family Institute in Harrisburg, PA to use as they determine.

We encourage campaign-capable candidates to make further use of this information on their own Facebook page, website, twitter and their own media news releases. Why not reach out to Church-going Christians? If you value the value voters TELL them so. 82% of Church-going Christians voted for Donald Trump for President because he appealed to them, and his record breaking performance with this population segment enabled him to carry Pennsylvania and several other battleground states, and become President. We welcome both donations to help pay for this literature distribution effort as well as volunteers to help distribute the finished 2017 Values Voter Guide for York County PA.

Several of these survey questions were also asked by the Pennsylvania Family Institute in 2015; we will send this to their office to save you the trouble, while also reporting as indicated below, your response to these and our questions as we have advised them in advance. Please be sure to sign your name at the end before returning this completed form).

Permission is hereby granted to reprint the information contained in this report on the condition that the full question must be provided with the candidate answer, and the name Conservative Christian Center and its website, http://ConservativeChristianCenter.org or a direct link to this website must be included if the reprint is any electronic medium.

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6. Significant accomplishments in most recent work experience:

a. Reforming the policies of the House Republican Caucus after the Bonusgate/Computergate scandals to protect taxpayer resources from waste, fraud and abuse.

b. Taking other branches of government to task when they attempt to violate the 'separation of powers' between the three branches of government.

c. Expanding the professional services offered by my office by bringing many legal services "in-house" and saving taxpayers millions of dollars over the years.

7. Lifetime work accomplishments:

Aside from the answers in #6, I am the primary draftsman for many laws that protect children, law enforcement and the general public from violent crime and the illegal use of firearms.

8. Lifetime Achievements:

a. I am most proud of my five children. Each of them are good, decent people who are productive members of our community. I see that as the highest goal of any parent.

b. I have worked my way through life, first with the Army, then through Penn State and law school. Every achievement along the way was achieved through faith, personal sacrifice and hard work.

11. What do I hope to accomplish if I win office:

As the only military veteran running for judge, I understand post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the difficulty of reintegrating into civilian life. I have also helped family, friends and co-workers in dealing with mental health and addiction issues. I hope to serve on the Veteran's Court to help fellow servicemen and women loosen the grip of addiction and achieve greater mental health and quality of life.

I'm a former foster parent and have seen first-hand the myriad of problems that families in crisis face. And, I have been an active adult leader in Boy Scouts for the past 14 years, mentoring youth to become productive members of the community and teaching them how to achieve their goals. Given how much of the York County dockets involve children and families, I will draw upon these experiences every day.

'One Family, One Judge' has been considered a judicial best-practice for years. Under this model, the same judge would hear all divorce, custody, support and dependency and delinquency issues for the same family. It has been proven to improve outcomes, reunite families more quickly and maximize the use of limited judicial resources. This same model could be used with York County's criminal dockets, as well.

We also need to continue expanding our use of technology. For example, police must now obtain a warrant to test a driver's blood for the presence of drugs or alcohol. We can find a better way to satisfy the accused's due process rights without taking a police officer out of service for hours, chasing down formalities, to obtain a warrant.

Finally, far too many people believe that justice is out of their reach because they simply cannot afford it. Hiring a lawyer and protecting their rights typically has a devastating financial impact on a person. The Bench and Bar in York County should dedicate more resources and put greater effort into dispelling that notion. One step in the right direction might be expanding and promoting the court's 'Self Help' Center.

13. How have my achievements, experiences and strengths prepared me for this position:

My faith and work ethic have made me who I am today. As the youngest of eight children, I realized that if I wanted to achieve any of my goals, I would need to find a way to do it on my own. Joining the Army and serving my country for seven years helped me to achieve them. The Army instilled in me a code of conduct. It taught me discipline; how to work as a team; and that every job should be done well or not at all. The Army enabled me to graduate from Penn State while I was a single dad. Then, while working a full-time and raising a family, I used those same skills to attend law school in the evenings.

After college, my wife and I settled in York County where we raised our five children and developed deep ties to our community over the 22 years we've lived here. As a judge, I plan to continue to stay connected to my community through volunteer service.

My promise to York County residents: As a judge, I will apply the same work ethic that I have since I first enlisted in the Army. I will honestly administer justice, follow the letter of the law, and earn your trust and respect every day that I serve.

41. Statement of Faith and Life Philosophy:

I believe that we are put on this earth to take our God given talents and improve ourselves so that we may better serve others. I have tried to live by that philosophy in everything that I do. While I was in the military, I was able to open my home to foster children when their families were in crisis. Now, as an active member of Boy Scouts, I give my time and talents to help young men realize their own potential to be decent, contributing members of society, to be reverent in all that they do, and to achieve their goals with integrity.