

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

Name Clyde W. Vedder, Esq.

Seeking the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of York County, Pennsylvania

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Donations or inquiries may be sent to (for publication) PO Box 149, York, PA 17405

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

I. Background & Experience (all candidates)

1. Date of birth October 14, 1955
2. If attorney, law school name & date of your law degree University of Pittsburgh School of Law (1980)
3. If attorney, state your area of concentration Trial attorney, practicing in all Court Divisions: Family, Civil, Criminal and Orphan's Court.
4. Military service? No If Yes: Branch of service, rank & date upon separation from service _____
5. What were your most recent work experience?
 Start & End Years: Firm Name and position:
 (a) 1980 to present Morris & Vedder, partner
 (b) _____
 (c) _____
6. What are your most significant accomplishments in your most recent work experience? (you may use separate paper if you prefer):
Represented the Secretary of Education in the York City Charter School case, by which the York City School District was placed into receivership by President Judge Linebaugh (subsequently countermanded after change of administration). Hired due to local litigation expertise.

7. What are your most significant lifetime work accomplishments?

Successful trial attorney in all Courts for 35 years, making an important difference in peoples lives by helping them resolve and settle contested matters. Received 2011 PA Bar Assoc. Pro Bono award and two prior York County Pro Bono awards for providing free legal service to the disadvantaged.

8. What are your most significant lifetime achievements?

Married to my wife, Beth, for 27 years. Father to daughter, Emma, age 22, NCAA Division III - National Champion, Swimming, 100 yard butterfly. Led life by example, by following YMCA motto of "Spirit, Mind and Body" as well as swim program's "Self-Discipline Breeds Excellence."

9. What is your greatest strength? Principled integrity.

10. What is your greatest weakness? Over-extending myself out of altruism and work ethic.

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

Making a greater impact and difference in our York County community by serving as a judge in public service, by dispensing efficient, insightful and objective justice that benefits our community as a whole.

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?

The cornerstone of my career had always been to give back to my community in ways that improve it. My spirituality will serve to infuse my character on the bench. My competitive nature will be integral toward assisting me in becoming an outstanding judge.

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. York YMCA Community Development Corp., 90 N. Newberry St., York, PA
2. The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 140 N. Beaver St., York, PA
3. Covenant Moravian Church, 901 Cape Horn Rd., York, PA
4. York YMCA Competitive Swim Team, Graham Aquatic Center, York, PA
5. York County Bar Association Pro Bono Program, 137 E. Market St., York, PA

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 If enacted as law, I will enforce it.

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. (am not in favor of)

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 If enacted as law, I will enforce it.

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 If enacted as law, I will enforce it.
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 If enacted as law, I will enforce it.
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 If enacted as law, I will enforce it.
24. What is your position on allowing illegal aliens to become U.S. legal residents with a "path to citizenship"?
 Favor Oppose Undecided If enacted as law, I will enforce it.
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 ~~sure~~ sure about the predicate.
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 ~~sure~~ sure about the predicate. Pastors are free to preach on social and political issues of concern. IRS enforcement has not been active.
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
- In my view, being a judge includes having a moral compass grounded in faith, but a judge must be apolitical.
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 ~~sure~~ sure about the predicate.
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

All citizens should be exercising their civic duty and taking full advantage of their right to vote.

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 Heroin/Opiod Epidemic in York County.

34. The number one failing of the administration of President Barack Obama was (please use one or several words):

Obamacare.

35. The most important achievement of President Ronald Reagan was (please use one or several words):

Two actually: Ending the Cold War and Reaganomics.

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

Reinvigorate our society with common decency and spiritual/moral values.

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

It would be inappropriate to comment on this case pending before the Supreme Court.

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

39. Your church (name and city/town) The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 140 N. Beaver St., York, 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):

I am a man of faith. More specifically, I am a mainline protestant and a "cradle to grave" Episcopalian, practicing my faith at St. John's Church in downtown York, where I have served on the Vestry and Lector once a month. In my view, religion provides an essential source of guidance about moral culpability for wrongful conduct. If elected to serve as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, I will take my spirituality along with me as a character trait. Fundamentally, my core values are knowing the difference between right and wrong, integrity, responsibility, accountability, work ethic, self-determination and independent thinking.

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

Arguably, the 14th Amendment may compel a different result, since the concept of a "right to abortion" (cont.*)

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

Yes

No

Undecided

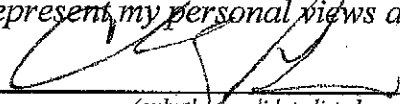
Decline to answer (why?) _____

* would establish a preference for a mother's liberty interests over a child's life, but it is precedent which must be followed. This is a personal, moral and spiritual issue, not just a contentious constitutional one. I believe in the sanctity of all human life and the rights of the unborn.

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 Two to three times a week. Sometimes twice daily.
47. What percentage of your legal practice, if an attorney, was 85% civil, versus 15% 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 05.04.17

(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 Word for Windows Document which you may enter your answers on (and then print out) is at:
<http://conservativechristiancenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170419CandidateSurvey.docx>

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.

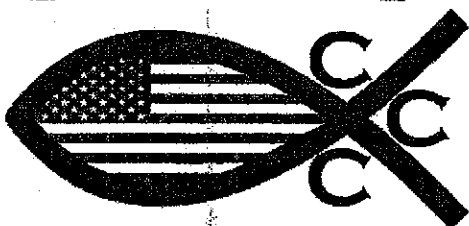
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