



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project



John Plante (DEM)
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 4

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE...

ABORTION LIMITS: Prohibiting abortion when a fetus has reached 20 weeks gestation and has the capacity to feel pain?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I don't know enough about this topic. However, I do think that if we really want to decrease the abortion rate in this country, we can do a number of things. 1) Stop stigmatizing teens and women who get pregnant. We lift others in crisis. 2) Help build solid economic foundations for women in our communities with need so women don't have to choose between stability and family 3) work for economic parity in terms of salaries for women. Abortion has been used as a wedge issue for too long to vote policy makers into office who suppress the ability of people to rise economically. It's been used to sidestep moral norms, excuse how we treat others & bypass our duty to treat others with compassion. Pope Francis has also indicated that ministering to the poor is as just a Holy endeavor. The effort spent on this making this an issue to mandate compliance could have helped so many more people like children in foster care, the sick, the elderly. Where is the fight to mandate any of that?

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: Increasing health coverage options for uninsured Floridians, especially the unemployed and the working poor?

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: I'm for Medicaid Expansion in Florida, particularly in this pandemic. The reliance on employer funded healthcare is showing its weaknesses during this pandemic as many groups find themselves unemployed.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Using all state housing trust funds as intended to address affordable housing needs in Florida?

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: We will additionally have to find ways to support landlords and tenants who are suffering during this time of crisis so they don't lose their homes/property

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Authorizing courts to impose a sentence less than the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for nonviolent crimes?

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: I think depending on circumstance that there should be alternative sentencing in the form of long term community service.

DEATH PENALTY REPEAL: Ending Florida's use of the death penalty while preserving the alternative of a life sentence without parole?

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: The Florida Supreme Court recently reduced the number of jurors needed to sentence someone to death. This to me shows a lack of due diligence and a higher risk of executing an innocent person. I'd rather we didn't have the death penalty on principle than have the risk of executing innocent persons.

END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION: Preserving Florida law that bans doctor-prescribed suicide?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I think there are more important issues right now than this fight, like helping people survive during this crisis, finding food, hanging on to shelter, not dying from disease. I'd rather see a fight that feeds children, helps the sick, the impoverished, that helps people see good deeds being done and encourages them to follow that example.

FREEDOM TO SERVE: Allowing health care providers and workers the freedom to serve in accord with their conscience?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I think this is too vague an item. You can excuse and hide many forms of discrimination on the basis of this statement. Healthcare institutions can be very dynamic places dependent at times on people being capable of stepping in at a moment's notice and performing a task; having someone be able to opt out on a moment's notice could be costly. I'd like to think caregivers approach all people with a need to shelter and provide compassion.

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT: Eliminating the requirement to attend public school the year prior to receiving a state scholarship for K-12 non-public schools?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: I don't think taxpayer money should go to private schools. That says to me we need to do more to strengthen our public school system if people are seeking alternatives.

PROTECTING WORKERS: Requiring drinking water, shade, and annual heat illness training be provided for farmworkers and other outdoor workers?

SUPPORT

Optional Comments: I also think we should make sure all workers have PPE.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Respecting the autonomy of non-public schools to maintain policies that distinguish dress codes and other aspects of student life on the biological basis of sex?

**NO
RESPONSE**

Optional Comments: Honestly, the primary thrust of my campaign is this: 1) get as many families financially stable as possible as quickly as possible 2) help promote safety in this time of crisis 3) help stabilize our state's support systems 4) help as many people come out of this pandemic alive and financially stable as possible. I would like to think however, that the moral character of a person's soul is more important than what covers it. People often tends to judge based on what they see but not on the reality of what they experience from others.