

2010 Vermont Candidate Survey

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England's Action Fund VT-PAC is conducting this survey to gauge the opinions of candidates about the critical reproductive health issues facing our state today. Thank you for your participation.

Candidate Name: _____

Party Affiliation: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Contact: _____

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

In Vermont, Planned Parenthood provided health care to over 34,000 Vermont women, men, and teens in 14 health centers last year alone. These services fill an unmet need for women who often have inadequate or no health insurance. Demand for services increases every year, yet state and federal funding remain far below what is needed. 95% of the services PPNNE provides are preventative. Services offered at our health centers include: family planning services and counseling; pelvic, breast and testicular exams; screening for anemia, diabetes, and high blood pressure; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; safer sex counseling; basic infertility screening; and referrals to specialized health care. Additionally, every dollar spent toward family planning saves \$3.74 in pregnancy and birth-related costs for Medicaid alone.

1. Will you oppose cuts in Vermont State spending aimed specifically at family planning services?

Yes No

2. Will you support Planned Parenthood's continued role as an essential community provider under the new health care reform law?

Support Oppose

3. Will you publicly oppose any effort to strip Planned Parenthood of federal and state health care funding?

Yes No

4. Do you support efforts to protect and expand access to emergency contraception?

Yes No

MEDICALLY ACCURATE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Polls show that 85% of Americans support responsible, age-appropriate, medically-accurate sex education in schools. Vermont teens need to know how to make responsible decisions and stay healthy. The best way to help them is to give them comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education.

5. Do you support the practice of the law that requires teaching age-appropriate, medically-accurate sex education, including information about contraception, and safer sex practices in Vermont public schools?

- Yes No

ACCESS TO SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION CARE

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England believes that in all cases women, their families, and health care providers should be able to make personal health care decisions. Planned Parenthood encourages parents to talk to their children about pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection prevention. Access to reproductive health services and the legal underpinnings of legal abortion have been attacked through abortion bans, mandatory ultrasound bills, and legislation that would elevate the legal status of a fetus at any stage of development, to that of an adult.

6. Do you support the right of a woman and her provider to determine the abortion method that best protects her health?

- Yes No

7. Do you support minors' access to confidential health care services and would you vote against any bill that would mandate parental notification or consent for minors' reproductive health services?

- Yes No

8. Would you oppose legislation that seeks to undermine *Roe v. Wade* by elevating the legal status of fetuses?

- Yes No

9. Would you oppose legislation that would make it mandatory for women to undergo ultrasounds and/or counseling scripted by state legislatures prior to an abortion procedure?

- Yes No

Environmental Health

In 2010, Vermont enacted An Act Relating to Bisphenol-A (BPA), which will phase out BPA in reusable food and beverage containers and in the plastic containers, jars or cans that store infant formula or baby food, in favor of safer alternatives. BPA is a chemical which mimics human sex hormones and can lead to infertility, miscarriage, cancer, and many other health problems.

10. Would you support legislation that would reduce or eliminate harmful chemicals from consumer goods?

- Yes No

Your Perspective (please attach additional pages if necessary)

1. Please share your perception of Planned Parenthood's services: _____

2. Please share any personal stories, experiences or beliefs that inform your thinking and positions about reproductive health care: _____

3. Please share anything else you would like Vermont voters to know about your candidacy:

4. I would like more information on the following issues: _____

Candidate Signature

Date