



Oklahomans For Life Letter

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State Candidate Survey

In anticipation of the Special Election on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, Oklahomans For Life asked the twelve questions below of candidates for the District 55 seat in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives. The most important question is No. 1, and the candidate's answer to that question is written in capital letters. For House District 55, the counties or partial counties (marked by an asterisk) in the district are indicated after the district number. The initial after a candidate's name represents party affiliation (Republican, or Democrat). On each question, a "yes" answer indicates agreement with the position of Oklahomans For Life.

- 1) Upon reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, will you vote for a law that would protect the lives of unborn children and prohibit abortion except to prevent the death of the mother?
- 2) If efforts to enact such a law failed, will you vote for a law that would prohibit abortion except when necessary to prevent the death of the mother, or when the pregnancy is the result of forcible rape (reported to law enforcement authorities within seven days), or when the pregnancy resulted from an act of incest committed against a minor (with the perpetrator reported to law enforcement authorities)?
- 3) Will you vote for a law to prohibit sex-selection abortions?
- 4) Will you vote for a comprehensive abortion-reporting law that would provide an understanding of the prevalence of abortion in Oklahoma, the reasons abortions are sought, the complications that result, and that would monitor, and ensure compliance with, our existing abortion statutes?
- 5) The right to life of human beings must be respected at every stage of their biological development. Nevertheless, some have proposed taking living human embryos from in vitro fertilization clinics and harvesting their stem cells, thereby killing these embryonic human beings. While we support research on stem cells obtained without killing human embryos – e.g. stem cells harvested from umbilical-cord blood or from adult tissue – we oppose killing embryonic human beings. Would you vote for a law to protect living human embryos from being used for medical experiments that harm or kill them, including so-called "embryonic stem-cell research" that would require the killing of human embryos?
- 6) Some researchers have proposed creating human life through cloning, a process wherein genetic material would be artificially transferred into an egg cell from which the nuclear material has been removed, thereby beginning the life of a new human individual. Cloning is being promoted in order to perform destructive experiments on embryonic human beings, which would cause their deaths, or to scavenge cloned humans' bodies for cells, tissue, and organs, resulting in their deaths. Would you vote for a law to prohibit all use of cloning to create any human beings, including human embryos?

7) Would you oppose the establishing or funding of school-based "health" clinics, unless they are explicitly prohibited from doing abortion counseling or making abortion referrals or referring students to any other entity which counsels for, refers for, or performs abortions?

8) There is currently an aggressive drive underway to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide across the United States. Causing the starvation or dehydration deaths of persons with disabilities and of incompetent patients who are deemed to be a burden on others or to have a diminished "quality of life" is the euthanasia movement's interim goal while they seek eventual public acceptance of killing by lethal injection or by lethal overdose of controlled substances/dangerous drugs. Oklahoma's Hydration and Nutrition for Incompetent Patients Act protects incompetent persons who have not directed that they be deprived of food and water so they will not be victims of death by starvation or dehydration. Will you oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken this protective law?

9) Oklahoma law protects against the involuntary denial of life-saving medical treatment by requiring that if a health-care provider's refusal to comply with a decision made by or on behalf of a patient to receive life-saving medical treatment would, in reasonable medical judgment, be likely to result in the patient's death, then the health-care provider must provide the life-saving treatment pending transfer of the patient to a willing provider. Will you oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken this protective law?

10) Will you oppose the legalization of lethal prescriptions or lethal injections to intentionally kill an innocent person or to "assist" someone in committing suicide ("active euthanasia")?

11) Oklahoma's advance directive (living will) law recognizes the particular importance of food and water. In order to ensure truly informed consent, our law requires a separately-initialed paragraph in an advance directive in order for artificial administration of food and water to be rejected. Some proposals have been made that would, instead, combine food and water with "medical treatment" such as respirators or surgery, so that choosing to forego life-sustaining medical treatment would be assumed to mean the individual wanted to die by starvation and dehydration. In order to avoid confusion and protect individuals who expect to die from their underlying illness or injury, not from starvation or dehydration, will you vote against any bill that would repeal or weaken the existing requirement for a separately-initialed provision in an advance directive to indicate the rejection of food and water?

12) Will you vote for a bill to establish an advance directive (living will) registry on the Department of Health website so that a patient's instructions could be more easily accessed by a health-care provider?

State House of Representatives

(To check your House District number, go to our website www.OkForLife.org and click on "ID Your Legislators," or phone your County Election Board.)

Question numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

DISTRICT 55 - *Caddo, *Canadian, *Kiowa, Washita

Todd Russ	R	YES	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Larry W. Peck	D	Survey	not	returned	to	us							