



2022 Candidate Survey

Smith, Patrick (RD36)

1. *The Delaware Constitution should be amended to protect the right of parents to the control, custody, and care of their children from government interference, which requires the government to prove that it has a strong, compelling reason to restrict that right, such as in cases of abuse and neglect. (HB 319, 2022)*
 - a. Support; I support legislation (HB 319) that further legitimizes parents' rights to their children. I was a social worker in Sussex County so I witnessed first-hand the importance of good parenting and parents who want to take responsibility of their children. We need leaders who have these first-hand experiences to curtail legislation - not ballot pushers. The government should not intervene in the bond between parents and their children unless grave or imminent danger to the child exists. Let parents decide for their children - not the government.
2. *Public schools should seek to strengthen the parent-child relationship, and should not be required to implement or integrate expansive and comprehensive sex education curriculum that includes LGBTQIA+ role play, sexual practices, and identities. (HB 199, 2021)*

- a. Support; Public schools are supplemental to the guidance and education that parents provide their children. Public schools should focus on core subjects and refrain from culturally sensitive curriculum that is not considered to be significant historical topics or topics dealing with personal health. Children's knowledge of sexual education should be restricted to what impacts their immediate health and safety. And done so without introducing to them relationship dynamics, lifestyles, or voluntary choices made by adults.

In 2021, my opponent voted for HB 155 which establishes new legal definitions for gender and sexual orientation. This bill continues the legal redefinition of gender and sexual orientation within Delaware.

3. *Delaware law should protect fairness and the integrity of women's sports. (HB 199, 2021; SB 227, 2022)*
 - a. Support; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was written to protect and promote women's athletics. This legislation is critical to assure the survival of women's athletics. I support protections against biological males participating in women's sports. Biological men participating in women's sports is a clear and definitive advantage as we have seen in recent history.

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4. ***Individuals and faith-based entities should have the right of conscience to freely live out their sincerely held convictions regarding human sexuality and conception, without fear of government infringement or retaliation. (HB 199, 2021)***
 - a. Support; Private organizations that are self-sustaining should be protected from government infringement into their teachings and convictions. This includes private schools and churches. People who make the choice to attend these institutions should be able to freely and without government interference. I went to a private Catholic school for grade school so I understand the position of faith of and convictions.
5. ***Abortion is the act of violently ending the life of another human being. Lawmakers should work to promote the value of and protect human life from conception to natural death, versus expanding abortion access through all 9 months of pregnancy. (SR 24, 2022; HB 40, 2022; SB 235, 2022; HB 140, 2022; HB 455, 2022; SB 343, 2022; HB 460, 2022)***
 - a. Support; Lawmakers should focus more on the birth and raising of children in our state than the abortion of innocent American lives while still in the womb. We need more resources directed towards pregnant Mothers who are in crisis and need choices besides abortion. I believe we should revamp and reinvigorate our foster and adoption services. There is too much of a spotlight put on abortion and not enough on alternative options.

I am quoted as saying "first trimester" as an acceptable limit for abortions because, for me personally and morally, I can not see the killing of a five-month old fetus as tolerable. I would be more prone to creating and supporting legislation aimed to preserve life.

While SB 347 is definitely a starting point to restricting abortion and has excellent points that I agree with - I would not be satisfied with myself on the 20-week abortion stipulation as my opponent is. I will still state what I believe to be right. My opponent is on record stating 20-weeks as being appropriate.

My opponent also voted 'YES' to HB 31(2021) - This bill repeals certain provisions in Title 11 relating to abortion including provisions which treat abortion differently than other medical procedures, and provisions which criminalize women and the sale of medical devices and medicines.

So how my opponent can support SB347 and still vote for HB31 is remarkable.

6. ***Assisted Suicide, the act of deliberately assisting or cooperating in helping someone terminate his or her life, should not be legalized in Delaware as an end of life option. (HB 140, 2022)***
 - a. Support; I would have voted against HB 140 which would have allowed assisted suicide in Delaware.
7. ***A State of Emergency declaration extended beyond 30 days should depend on the consent of the people of Delaware through the General Assembly. (HB 49, 2021; HB 247, 2021)***
 - a. Support; I would have gladly sponsored HB 49. Our governor should not have the right to extend State Of Emergencies without approval from our house or senate or both. COVID revealed the tyrannical tendencies of our government and legislation should be passed to prevent this in the future. Our community was devastated while the elites continued the emergency declaration to pander to specific agendas.

Eight Republican State Representatives sponsored HB49; my opponent was NOT one of them.

8. *The right of Delawareans to keep and bear arms, as protected by the US and DE Constitutions, should not be infringed. Better enforcement of current laws to prevent crime versus more restrictive gun control is needed to protect public safety. (HB 450, 2022; SB 8, 2021)*

a. Support; I fully advocate for the right of the People to keep and bear Arms. And that shall not be infringed. I would NOT have supported any gun legislation that would remove the rights to citizens to bear arms including HB 450, HB 451, and SB 8.

As a gun owner, outdoorsman, and community activist for Second Amendment Rights it is incredibly important to me to uphold these rights. I was there in Dover at the Capital in support for our 2A Rights. We need leaders who speak up and lead by example on issues as important as the Second Amendment.

9. *To preserve the integrity of our elections, the legislature should strive to eliminate opportunities for fraud in the election process. (HB 15, 2022; HB 25, 2022; SB 320, 2022)*

a. Support; I will not support HB 15 if voted into office. Absentee ballots were intended for the deployed or unwell. I would also NOT have voted in support of HB 25 nor SB 320. I believe in a free and fair election with votes being cast on one day.

My opponent voted against Voter ID for Mail-In Ballots in 2020 (HB 346 HA1). This would have required photo ID for Mail-In voting. My opponent was the ONLY Republican to vote against Voter ID in 2020. A year when election integrity was most in question.

My opponent voted in support of HB 73 (2019) which repealed restrictions on the reasons a person could vote by absentee. This was in violation of the Delaware Constitution.

My opponent voted in support of HB 35 (2019) which authorize early voting locations for in-person voting of primary, general, and special elections at least 10 days prior to an election, up to and including the Saturday and Sunday immediately before an election. The Delaware Constitution designates a single day for elections. Again, the legislation my opponent supported violated Delaware's Constitution.