



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
*Candidate Questionnaire Project*



2018 CANDIDATE RESPONSE  
Florida Senate District 20

**Tom Lee (REP)**

*Do you support or oppose...*

**ABORTION REGULATION:** Requiring parental consent before a minor child's abortion, notwithstanding previous judicial concerns?

**SUPPORT**

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:** Increasing access to care for uninsured Floridians, especially the working poor?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *The healthcare delivery system for the working poor is not functioning efficiently. The current system has reduced access to preventative care and forces many patients to seek expensive hospital emergency room treatment. The legislature needs to create greater competition and price transparency and continue to explore ways to offer affordable and customizable insurance to meet the needs of working Floridians.*

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

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *The Sadowski Act was created by the legislature 25 years ago to provide a dedicated funding source for affordable housing in Florida. However, the original funding formula was arbitrary and no one legislature can bind another into perpetuity. Under the FL Constitution, the legislature must appropriate state revenue annually in a balanced budget. As society evolves, so to can societal priorities and it is the responsibility of the legislature, elected by the people, to allocate these resources in their annual budget.*

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

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *However, I do support the wrongful incarceration statute and unanimous jury verdict legislation for death penalty cases. Our criminal justice system is the envy of the world, but it is imperfect and we all need to keep an open mind about common sense reforms.*

**END-OF-LIFE PROTECTION:** Preserving Florida law that bans physician-assisted suicide?

**SUPPORT**

**FREEDOM TO SERVE:** Allowing individuals and organizations the freedom to serve the public in accord with reasoned conscientious beliefs related to sexuality and marriage?

**SUPPORT**

**IMMIGRATION:** Urging Congress to undertake extensive immigration reform, rather than adopting piecemeal state policies?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *But it depends upon the circumstances. The power of the individual state is the organizing principle of American democracy and that principle is well established in the US Constitution. In many cases, the courts have allowed the federal government to intrude into the regulation of matters reserved under the US Constitution to the states and for which they are poorly equipped to regulate. Unless, there is a US Constitutional question at stake, the authority to regulate should remain with the states as intended by our founding fathers.*

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** Establishing that children under 14 shall not be transferred to the adult criminal justice system?

**SUPPORT**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *This is a complicated societal question and, while there may be unique exceptions to the rule, Florida has a well-developed Juvenile Justice system that is best positioned to deal with the health, safety and welfare of young offenders.*

**PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT:** Creating education savings accounts to use for nonpublic school tuition?

**SUPPORT**

**SAFETY OF SCHOOLCHILDREN:** Expanding existing legislative initiatives to harden the physical security of nonpublic schools?

**OPPOSE**

**Optional Candidate Comment:** *The FL Constitution guarantees every child of a Florida citizen domiciled within the state access to a public education. Parents have a right to know that their children are safe in our public schools and it is the responsibility of the legislature and local school districts to create a safe learning environment for children in public schools. The Legislature has established the Office of Safe School within the Department of Education. Private institutions should have access to the best practices and protocols for school safety as they are developed by the state, but off hand, I cannot think of an appropriate role for the state in providing capital outlay dollars to implement school hardening strategies for private schools.*