

2009 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: _____

Party: _____

Office Running For: _____ **District:** _____

Name of Campaign Committee: _____

Name of Campaign Manager: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Website: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Contact: _____

If you do not want Planned Parenthood's endorsement, check here and sign:

The Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund is the political arm of Planned Parenthood of New York City and is a not-for-profit 501(C)(4) organization that engages in legislative education and electoral activity, including voter education campaigns, grassroots organizing and legislative advocacy. The Action Fund encourages public and political support for reproductive health and rights.

Please indicate your response to each question with an X or a check mark in the appropriate box. If you would like additional information or have questions that you would like answered before completing this questionnaire, please contact Caroline Mello at 212.274.7288 or by email at caroline.mello@ppnyc.org.

The completed questionnaire can be returned by fax to 212.274.7276, or by mail to PPNYC Action Fund, 26 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012.

The Action Fund will contact your campaign manager to arrange for a personal interview.

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Planned Parenthood of New York City Action Fund's Message for Candidates

Planned Parenthood believes in access to family planning and reproductive healthcare and choice. We believe that every woman deserves to be treated as a morally capable decision maker entitled to make her own sexual and reproductive decisions, free from condemnation, coercion, or violence. It is Government's role to support personal childbearing decisions with medically accurate reproductive health information including sex education and access to contraceptives and safe, legal abortion.

1. RIGHT TO CHOOSE:

Planned Parenthood believes that women have the right to obtain a *confidential*, medically safe, legal abortion under the standards set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Do you support this position? Yes No

2. ABORTION ACCESS:

In contrast to NYS the US Congress, through the federal Hyde amendment, has singled out women and restricted their access to legal abortions because their health care is funded in part by the federal government. New York provides state dollars to fund abortion services for women who cannot afford them even though there is no federal participation in funding.

Do you support continued access to abortion services in NYS for women who otherwise could not afford them?

Yes No

3. FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING:

Each year more than 400,000 low-income women in NYS receive family planning services from health centers that receive public funding from state programs. These services fill an otherwise unmet need for women who often have inadequate or no health insurance. Services offered at these health centers include: contraceptive services; family planning counseling; breast and cervical cancer screening; pap tests; screening for anemia, diabetes, and high blood pressure; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections; HIV testing; safer sex counseling; basic infertility screening; and referrals to specialized health care.

According to a new report recently published by the Guttmacher Institute, more than six in 10 women who obtain care at a family planning center consider the center to be their usual source of medical care. As our nation's economic crisis worsens, more women are turning to women's health centers for basic health care, including family planning. An investment in family planning provides vital health care services to New York families and cost savings to the State.

Do you support an increase in funding for family planning services?

Yes No

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4. RESPONSIBLE SEX EDUCATION:

Despite the fact that 85% of Americans support responsible, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education in schools, Congress has allocated millions of dollars for “abstinence-only” sex education programs, which exclude any mention of contraception, family planning, or disease prevention. These programs required a match of state funds. In 2008, New York State rejected federal Title V dollars and used its state match for effective adolescent pregnancy prevention programs.

The New York City Department of Education has a recommended (but not mandated) comprehensive, age appropriate sex education curriculum.

Do you support requiring that all students receive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, each year in public schools?

Yes No

5. ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES:

Some pharmacists insist that they should be able to deny women access to basic reproductive health care because they have religious or moral/ethical objections to the care being sought. There is a nationwide trend of pharmacists refusing to fill valid, legal prescriptions for certain contraceptives, including emergency contraception (EC). Laws permitting pharmacies to refuse to fill prescriptions for contraception and/or EC are dangerous to women’s health because they interfere with the doctor-patient relationship and ignore a woman’s medical needs and decisions.

Do you support policies requiring pharmacies to ensure that valid, legal prescriptions, including emergency contraception are filled in a timely manner?

Yes No

6. BANS ON ABORTION:

Planned Parenthood believes that in all cases, women, their families and their doctors should be able to make decisions about the best way to protect a woman's health. Anti-choice organizations have tried to erode the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision (which ensures a woman's constitutionally protected right to choose) by advancing vaguely worded and deceptive bans on abortion procedures. *The ban on so-called “partial birth abortion” is an example.*

Do you support a woman's right to choose the abortion method she and her physician deem safest for her individual health and needs?

Yes No

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7. PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH:

In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ignored 35 years of legal precedent and upheld a ban on an abortion procedure that did not contain an exception to protect the health of a woman. New York lawmakers have introduced legislation that continues to protect and respect women's health and the right to make personal, private reproductive health care decisions.

Do you support efforts to strengthen New York's abortion laws to reflect current medical practice and to protect women's health and safety?

Yes No

8. CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MINORS:

Planned Parenthood believes that minors' health and safety is best protected by ensuring their confidential access to reproductive health services, including family planning, disease prevention, and abortion.

Do you oppose government-mandated parental consent and parental notification requirements?

Yes No

9. PROTECTING WOMEN:

Planned Parenthood believes it is crucial to protect all women, including pregnant women, from violence. The loss of a wanted pregnancy is a tragic event for a woman. Criminal acts against women that result in termination of pregnancy should be charged under existing provisions of the criminal code. Although on its face, so-called "unborn victims of violence" legislation criminalizes violent acts that result in a woman losing her pregnancy, the reality is "unborn victims of violence" legislation creates a separate legal status for the fetus, thereby undermining the legal underpinnings of abortion established in Roe v. Wade.

Do you oppose legislation that creates separate legal rights for fetuses, distinct from those of the pregnant woman?

Yes No

10. AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE:

Making health care more accessible and affordable is one of the most important issues facing our country. Planned Parenthood's health centers are an integral part of New York State's health care safety net. Many women, including the majority of Planned Parenthood patients, do not have a general practitioner and rely on their reproductive health care provider as their primary source of health care. Through reproductive health care services, women have access to a broad range of health care, which promotes and protects their general health and well-being.

Do you support including the full range of reproductive health care as a part of any health care reform agenda?

Yes No

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11. ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINICS:

There are current NYC laws protecting patient and provider access to reproductive health care facilities. However, many activities engaged in by anti-choice activists are not covered by current clinic protection laws, but nonetheless upset patients, invade their privacy and even cause harmful physical conditions such as elevated blood pressure.

In April 2009 the New York City Council passed, and Mayor Bloomberg signed into law, legislation to protect individual's access to reproductive health care centers by prohibiting activities that prevent individuals access to reproductive health care centers and at the same time protect the First Amendment right to peacefully protest.

Do you support legislation that protects individual's access to reproductive health clinics?

Yes No

12. DOCTOR TRAINING

The number of abortion providers in the United States is decreasing. In fact, 87% of U.S. counties lacked an abortion provider in 2005; 35% of women live in those counties. In 1995, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) made access to abortion training a requirement of Ob/Gyn residency programs, allowing those with moral objections to opt out of such training. Unfortunately, many Ob/Gyn residents are still not being sufficiently trained in abortion procedures. The first step to reversing the national provider shortage is to ensure that residents have ready access to appropriate and comprehensive training during their residency. It is critical for the future of safe and accessible abortion care in this country that ACGME's requirement is fully implemented and enforced.

In 2002, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) sent a memorandum to all of its residency directors and department chairs stating that routine and modern abortion training would be expected for residents.

Do you support continuing the current NYC policy that commits New York City administrative and financial resources to the HHC for the integration of abortion care into medical residency training programs?

Yes No

Candidate Signature

Date