

2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: _____

Candidate for: _____ District: _____ Party: _____

Name of Campaign Committee: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Name of Campaign Manager: _____

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 by phone at 212.274.7288 or via 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.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York's Message for Candidates

Planned Parenthood believes in access to family planning, reproductive healthcare and choice. We believe that every woman – regardless of income, age or marital status – has the fundamental right to decide when and whether to have a child. 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:**

The US Congress, through the Hyde amendment and the recent Executive Order associated with Health Care Reform legislation, has singled out certain classes of women and restricted their access to legal abortions because their health care is funded in part by the federal government. In contrast, New York provides state dollars to fund abortion services for women who cannot afford them. This funding becomes even more critical after the more onerous restrictions are implemented as a result of the federal Health Care Reform bill passed in 2010. Public funding is critical to ensure all women have access to the full range of legal reproductive health services.

Do you support continued New York State funding of abortion services 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 clinics 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 6 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 public funding for family planning services? Yes No

4. **FUNDING WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS:**

In addition, a small but vocal group of family planning opponents would like to see public funding for family planning dismantled or restricted so that public health organizations including Planned Parenthood would be unable to provide women with *uncensored information about abortion* or abortion services.

Do you support family planning funding without such restrictions? Yes No

5. **RESPONSIBLE SEX EDUCATION:**

Research shows comprehensive sex education is effective at helping young people make healthier decisions. A 2009 survey of registered voters shows that more than 85 percent of New Yorkers believe comprehensive sex education should be taught in schools. After a decade of spending over \$1 billion of federal funding on failed abstinence-only education programs, the federal government's recent financial commitment to programs that reduce teen pregnancy is a great first step to addressing the educational needs of our youth. However, there is much more work to be done to ensure all young people have access to the information and skills they need to grow into healthy adults.

Do you support efforts to facilitate the teaching of responsible, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, in public schools?

Yes No

6. **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC):**

In 1998, the FDA approved the first packaging of emergency contraception, also known as "the morning after pill" or Plan B. EC is a high dose combination of oral contraceptives that if taken within days of unprotected sex, can safely prevent a pregnancy from occurring. In 2006, EC was FDA-approved for sale behind-the-counter. However, many women still experience barriers to accessing this important contraceptive method (e.g. teens and those without legal proof of age). (*NOTE: EC does not affect an established pregnancy. EC is not the abortion pill.*)

Do you support efforts to increase access to emergency contraception for *all* women?

Yes No

7. **ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES:**

Some pharmacists insist that they should be able to deny women access to basic reproductive health care because they have religious objections to the care being sought. There is a growing 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

8. **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 U.S. 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 access the abortion method she and her physician deem safest for her individual health and needs?

Yes No

9. **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. The Reproductive Health Act has been introduced to ensure that New York State 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

10. **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

11. **VIOLENCE AGAINST 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 this legislation creates a separate legal status for the fetus.

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

Yes No

12. **Insurance Coverage for Reproductive Health Care**

As a result of the federal Health Care Reform legislation, decisions about coverage for abortion care in state health care exchanges will be left to individual states. Anti-choice advocates are hard at work in many states introducing and passing legislation aimed at restricting private insurance coverage of abortion care. Most health insurance plans currently cover the full range of reproductive health care services for women, including abortion care. Women who have health insurance now and those who will have insurance as a result of health care reform should have the full range of reproductive health care services covered through their health plans.

Do you support efforts to ensure that women and families of New York State will be able to purchase coverage for abortion care in private health insurance plans?

Yes No

13. **Access To Reproductive Health Clinics**

There are current 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. There are legislative ways to strengthen these laws – for example, in April 2009 the New York City Council enacted 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

Candidate Signature

Date