

**INDIANA RIGHT TO LIFE JUDICIAL
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

INTRODUCTION

In *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White*, 122 S. Ct. 2528 (2002), the U.S. Supreme Court recently held unconstitutional a canon of judicial ethics that prohibited candidates for elective judicial office from announcing their views on disputed legal or political issues. The canon violated the First Amendment because it prohibited speech on the basis of content and burdened speech of political candidates – a category of speech at the core of First Amendment freedoms. **Judicial candidates may now clearly express their views on legal and political issues without fear of being sanctioned by judicial or legal ethics authorities for doing so.**

Indiana Right to Life, Inc., certainly recognizes that judicial candidates should maintain actual and apparent impartiality. Thus, Indiana Right to Life recognizes that judicial candidates should not pledge or promise certain results in particular cases that may come before them. Nevertheless, in judicial elections, voters need to know the views of judicial candidates in order to make intelligent and conscientious decisions regarding candidates' general views on the law and personal values. This questionnaire is intended to elicit candidates' views on issues of vital interest to the constituents of Indiana Right to Life without subjecting candidates answering its questions to accusations of partiality or requiring candidates to recuse themselves in future cases.

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1. **VALUE OF EARLY HUMAN LIFE.** While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, in accord with the position of Indiana Right to Life, **I believe that the unborn child is biologically human and alive and that the right to life of human beings should be respected at every stage of their biological development.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

2. **LEGAL ABORTION.** Indiana Right to Life believes that unborn children should be protected by law and that abortion should be permitted only when necessary to prevent the death of the mother. While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, state your personal view on when, if ever,

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abortion should be legal.

a. **I believe that abortion should be permitted only to prevent the death of the mother.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

b. **I believe that abortion should be permitted only to prevent the mother's death, in cases of incest, and in reported cases of forcible rape.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

Other (please explain) _____

3. **FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION.** In its 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), the U.S. Supreme Court found a "right to abortion" under the U.S. Constitution that invalidated the abortion statutes of all 50 states. While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I believe that *Roe v. Wade* was wrongly decided.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

4. **STATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION.** Aside from the federal constitutional "right to abortion" recognized in *Roe v. Wade*, several *state* courts have held that there is a *state* right to abortion under their *state* constitutions. Thus far, the courts of Indiana have not recognized a "right to abortion" under the Indiana Constitution. While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I believe that there is no provision in our current Indiana Constitution which is intended to protect a right to abortion.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

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5. **STATE RIGHT TO ABORTION FUNDING.** In several decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld under the U.S. Constitution the decisions of federal, state, and local governments to prohibit the use of public funds or facilities for abortion when the mother's life was not at stake. However, several *state* courts have held under *state* constitutions that public funds and facilities must be made available to fund and facilitate abortion when a physician deems abortion "necessary" for any reason. State Supreme Courts in New Jersey and Alaska have held that under state law abortion must be provided in even private non-religious facilities that serve the public at large or when abortion would otherwise be unavailable in a locale.

The Indiana Supreme Court, in *Humphreys v. Clinic for Women*, 796 N.E.2d 247 (Ind. 2003), held that the Indiana Medicaid program must pay "for abortions to preserve the lives of pregnant women and where pregnancies are caused by rape or incest, [and] it must also pay for abortions for Medicaid-eligible women whose pregnancies create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function." *Id.* at 260.

While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor *stare decisis*, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I believe that *Humphreys v. Clinic for Women* was wrongly decided.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

6. **STATE RIGHT TO ASSISTED SUICIDE.** In *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 117 S. Ct. 2258 (1997), the U.S. Supreme Court held that there is no right to assisted suicide under the U.S. Constitution. In a companion case, *Vacco v. Quill*, 117 S. Ct. 2293 (1997), the Supreme Court also held that equal protection of law under U.S. Constitution was not violated by a ban on physician assisted suicide for the terminally ill, although the law permits life-sustaining treatment to be withheld or withdrawn from the terminally ill. The state Supreme Courts of Florida and Alaska have held that their state constitutions do not protect a right to assisted suicide. While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor *stare decisis*, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I believe that there is no provision of the current Indiana Constitution which is intended to protect a right to assisted suicide.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

7. **DISPOSITION OF HUMAN BEINGS IN VITRO.** While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor *stare decisis*, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, in accord with the position of Indiana Right to Life, **I believe that human beings whose lives begin by in vitro fertilization or cloning and who exist outside the body**

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of a woman are not personal property and should be treated in accord with their best interests in any dispute over their disposition.

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

8. **WRONGFUL LIFE.** Suits have been brought in several states by infants born with disabilities through their parents, claiming that those responsible for maternal health care during pregnancy are financially liable for their "wrongful lives" because their mothers were not afforded the opportunity to abort them by being told that they would be born with a disability. While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I do not believe that a person should be able to sue another because he or she was born alive with a disability rather than aborted.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

9. **WRONGFUL BIRTH.** Suits have been brought in several states by parents of children born with disabilities against maternal health care providers for the care and upkeep of their disabled children because the mothers were not provided the opportunity to have their unborn children tested for disabilities so that a "wrongful birth" could have been avoided by aborting any disabled child.

The Indiana Supreme Court has accepted the following definition: "Wrongful birth" claims are generally described as causes of action brought by the parents of a child born with birth defects alleging that due to negligent medical advice or testing they were precluded from making an informed decision about whether to conceive a potentially handicapped child or, in the event of a pregnancy, to terminate it." *Bader v. Johnson*, 732 N.E.2d 1212, 1216 n.3 (Ind. 2000) (citation omitted). The *Bader* court held that "we have determined that this case should be treated no differently than any other medical malpractice case." *Id.* at 1220.

While recognizing the judicial obligation to follow binding precedents of higher courts and applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, to honor stare decisis, and to decide any future case based on the law and facts of that case, **I believe that *Bader v. Johnson*, 732 N.E.2d 1212 (2000) was wrongly decided.**

_____ Agree _____ Disagree _____ Undecided _____ Decline*

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