

Know the Positions of the Candidates for LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

“Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”

~ Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 49, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015

In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information listed here was compiled as of Aug. 31, 2017, from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites and other resources to help voters inform their consciences before heading to the voting booth. The issues do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. The underlined text below indicates a hyperlink to the source. Go to www.vacatholic.org to view these links.



Justin E. Fairfax
Democrat

Abortion:

Fairfax's [website](#) states, “As Vice-Chair of Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington Action Fund, Justin is passionate about ensuring that women have the freedom to make their own reproductive and healthcare decisions. As Lt. Governor of Virginia, Justin will protect a woman’s right to choose.”

Death Penalty:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on the death penalty were found.

Educational Choice:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on educational choice were found.



Jill H. Vogel
Republican

Abortion:

In a *Bearing Drift* [op-ed](#), Vogel wrote, “In the almost ten years that I have served in Virginia’s Senate, I have maintained a 100% pro-life voting record – each and every year and have been in the front lines of attacks for my pro-life positions.”

Death Penalty:

In 2016, Vogel voted twice in favor of death penalty legislation. She [voted](#) for [HB 815](#), to allow executions to continue through use of the electric chair when the commonwealth runs out of lethal injection drugs. She then [voted](#) for the [amendment](#) which allowed the commonwealth to purchase lethal injection drugs from compounding pharmacies whose identities are kept secret from the public.

Educational Choice:

According to her [website](#), “Vogel has supported school choice legislation, charter schools, and education savings accounts to give parents more control and choice over the education of their children.” During the 2012 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) for [SB 131](#). That legislation established the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program, which provides a 65% state tax credit for donations that fund scholarships for income-eligible students to attend nonpublic K-12 schools.



Justin E. Fairfax

Democrat

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Fairfax stated, “Climate change is an existential threat to the commonwealth of Virginia and also to the country.” He said Virginia should work with military and economic partners and the public sector to find ways to reduce carbon emissions. He said Virginia should use clean energy and renewable sources of energy, and called on bipartisan solutions “as we deal with this very critical threat.”

Freedom of Religion:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on freedom of religion were found.

Immigration:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Fairfax said of local collaboration with federal immigration enforcement, “We need to make sure that we have law enforcement not be mandated to do certain things that actually distract from their mission of public safety.” He said it is important that policies do not “make our law enforcement less effective by giving mandates that have been placed on them and on local government.”

Marriage:

Fairfax’s [website](#) states, “Justin will continue the fight to ensure that marriage equality remains the law of the land.”

Poverty:

Fairfax’s [website](#) states that he favors raising the minimum wage: “Virginia workers deserve the right to earn a livable wage in order to support and create economic security for their families.” Fairfax also supports Medicaid expansion to accommodate working Virginians without health care.

Jill H. Vogel

Republican

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Vogel stated, “For sure, climate change is real. We know what the science tells us.” Because of threats caused by sea-level rise, she advocates for partnering with the military. She said, “It is critical that we make this a priority and make certain that we are directing the resources that we can to the communities that need it most, to address changes that are going to be necessary for infrastructure and support those communities now before it is too late.”

Freedom of Religion:

On her [website](#), Vogel states, “I will always ... promote freedom by opposing all discrimination and protecting religious liberty.” During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel voted for [SB 1324](#) in a Senate floor [vote](#). That bill sought to prohibit state government discrimination against clergy or religious organizations for following the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman. During the 2012 Virginia General Assembly session, in a Senate floor [vote](#), Vogel voted for [SB 349](#). That legislation, which became law, provides that no private child-placement agency shall be required to participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate the agency’s written religious or moral convictions or policies.

Immigration:

During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) for [HB 1468](#) and [voted](#) for [HB 2000](#). Both bills would have restricted the autonomy of local law enforcement as it relates to their actions regarding the treatment of undocumented immigrants. During the 2008 General Assembly session, Vogel introduced [SB 433](#), which would have deputized state and local police to serve in support of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Marriage:

During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) to keep the [definition of marriage](#) as a union between one man and one woman in the Virginia Constitution.

Poverty:

During the 2014 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) against a minimum wage [bill](#) that would have raised the wage to \$8.25 in 2014 and \$9.25 in 2015. *The Northern Virginia Daily* quoted her as saying she is “100 percent against” Medicaid expansion.

