

# 2026 Gubernatorial Candidates Answer Pro-Life Survey

## Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life



Candidates for governor of Minnesota were asked the following questions. A short explanation precedes each question. See the candidates' responses on the next page.

1. Minnesota is temporarily limited, but not completely blocked, in what it can do through the law to protect mothers and unborn children because of a 1995 state Supreme Court decision, *Doe v. Gomez*, which claimed a general right to abortion in Minnesota's Constitution. Like the federal case of *Roe v. Wade*, *Doe v. Gomez* is made-up law: There is no mention of abortion in Minnesota's Constitution. *Doe v. Gomez* is thus a political decision rather than a judicial one. **Will you appoint only justices who will interpret and rule based upon what the state Constitution actually says, rather than creating law not found in the Constitution, which is the proper role of the legislature and not the judiciary?**

2. The legal term "settled law" refers to what a high court has stated, not to a permanent state that the law will always remain. For example, *Brown v. Board of Education* overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* overturned *Roe v. Wade*. While the Minnesota case of *Doe v. Gomez* claimed a general right to abortion, it did not rule on issues such as whether the state can save babies from later abortions, abortions when an unborn baby is developed enough to feel pain, etc. **Will you support and sign legislation in these and similar circumstances where the state Supreme Court might uphold protections that help women and protect unborn lives?**

3. The most deadly scenario for unborn children would be an amendment to our state Constitution that enshrines a right to abortion. It could make it hard or impossible to restore protection to even some unborn children. While a governor cannot veto a proposal to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot, a governor's voice as a moral force against such an evil, and his or her lobbying of legislators, could be critical to preventing it. **Will you work with MCCL to convince legislators to reject any constitutional amendment that enshrines the killing of any unborn children in our state's highest document?**

4. A state court and the 2023 legislature and governor blocked or repealed lifesaving laws such as parental notice for minors seeking abortion, enhanced informed consent for women seeking abortions, some abortion reporting requirements, and providing grants to organizations that offer positive alternatives to abortion. **Will you support and sign efforts to restore these lifesaving laws?**

5. One extreme change passed by the 2023 legislature was to remove the obligation of medical personnel to attempt to save the life of a newborn who either survived an attempted abortion or who has a disability. Only Minnesota and China have written into their legal code a policy allowing newborns to die of medical neglect. **Will you support and sign MCCL-backed legislation to restore a duty to treat newborns whose medical condition would allow them to survive with treatment?**

6. Too many women are coerced to have abortions. It happens through violence and threats of violence, through abuse of the abortion pill as a type of "date" drug, and when sex traffickers force their victims to have abortions if they become pregnant. **Will you support and sign MCCL-backed legislation to protect women and girls from these common forms of coerced abortion?**

7. Certain biological-related research offers promise, but some require that a human life at an early stage of development be harmed or killed, such as embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning. (Note that adult and other forms of stem-cell research do not destroy a human life and are successfully—and ethically—used to treat illnesses.) **Will you sign a bill providing protections for nascent humans against life-taking biological research and technologies?**

8. MCCL works with elected officials to protect vulnerable Minnesotans and those who are nearing the end of their lives. We support protections in statute such as the prohibition on assisted suicide or assisting an attempted suicide (MN Statute 609.215) and a provision requiring health care providers to "take all reasonable steps" to comply with requests for nutrition, hydration, or health care that "has a significant possibility of sustaining" a patient's life and allowing transfer of such patients to receive care elsewhere if the provider is unwilling to provide the care (MN Statute 145C.15). **Will you veto any bills that would weaken the MCCL-supported laws above?**

9. Legislation has been introduced to legalize assisted suicide (HF2998 and SF3215). **Will you oppose and veto the legalization of assisted suicide in Minnesota?**

10. MCCL respects the right of patients and/or their proxies to make medical decisions. MCCL is opposed to any efforts that seek to force medical decisions on others that are based on quality-of-life criteria. **Will you oppose efforts that replace the patient (or his or her chosen proxy) with government standards in regard to medical decision-making, resulting in rationing of care?**

11. As a grassroots advocacy organization that is committed to working within the legislative process, MCCL has always had an interest in issues that affect elections. We are strongly committed to maintaining free-speech rights in order to maximize our ability to communicate with our members and the public without restrictive administrative burdens, and we support fair, secure elections between competing candidates. **Will you support MCCL in maintaining free-speech rights for non-profits and PACs and insisting on fair, secure elections between candidates?**

# Candidate Responses

*Below are the candidates' answers to MCCL's pro-life survey. Please see the questionnaire on the previous page for each numbered question.*

**Y indicates a yes (pro-life) response. NR indicates no response.**

Candidate	Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Peggy Bennett	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lisa Demuth	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Raul Estrada	GOP	NR										
Patrick Knight	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y
Brad Kohler	GOP	NR										
John Krhin	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mike Lindell	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Phillip Parrish	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kendall Qualls	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kristin Robbins	GOP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bill Gates	DFL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Amy Klobuchar	DFL	NR										
Kobey Layne	DFL	NR										
Christopher Seymore	DFL	NR										