

Issue: Republican Incumbent Voting Record

Delegate District 94-David Yancey-Voting Record

Background

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

David Yancey is an unmarried 44-year-old Caucasian Roman Catholic with no children.

On his campaign website in 2015 he stated: "I believe that life is precious and begins at conception. I will work to support the protection of innocent life."

(source = <http://votesmart.org/public-statement/969466/issue-position-life#.WPrvRVMrKqB>)

RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Yancey has consistently voted against a woman's right to choose. However, in 2017 he declined to cast a vote in three reproductive-choice House votes.

In 2012 he voted to:

- Establish life as beginning at conception. (HB1)(Bill failed)
- Repeal funding for abortions for low-income women in cases where the fetus has a gross and incapacitating physical deformity or mental deficiency. (HB62)(Bill failed)
- Require a woman to undergo an ultrasound before having an abortion. (HB462)(Bill enacted)

In 2016 he voted essentially to de-fund Planned Parenthood. He voted yes to:

- Prohibit the state Department of Health from spending any funds for abortion or providing any funds or grants to entities that perform abortions, and prioritize entities with whom the state contracts for family planning services. (HB1090)(Bill vetoed)

In 2017 he did *not* cast a vote on the following:

- Establish Day of Tears--a day of mourning for aborted fetuses. (HB268)(Bill passed House)
- De-fund Planned Parenthood. (HB2264)(Bill vetoed)(Same wording as HB1090 above in 2016)
- Attempt to override the veto on HB2264.
(Yancey was one of two Republican House members present who declined to vote on the override attempt, which was doomed regardless because Republicans don't hold a two-thirds majority in the legislature.)

CONTRACEPTION

Yancey's voting record on contraception implies that he supports birth control but perhaps doesn't want the state to spend any money to provide contraception to low-income women.

In 2017 he voted to:

- Allow pharmacists to provide women a full year of birth control pills at once if prescribed by a doctor. (HB2267) (Bill passed and signed by governor)

In the 2017 state budget (HB1500), the governor requested funding for a birth control program that would have provided low-income young women with long-acting contraceptives, such as IUDs. A similar program in Colorado showed a 40-percent drop in the state's teen birthrate after four years, according to a report from The Pew Charitable Trusts. This program was one of the items cut from the budget when the joint house and senate committee finished negotiations and issued the proposed budget on February 22, 2017. The House passed the budget by a vote of 96-Y 1-N on February 25, 2017. Yancey voted in favor of the budget as a whole (as did 95 other delegates, Democrats and Republicans alike), but Yancey's position on this specific program is not clear.

The Daily Press newspaper reported that the cost of the program was \$9 million:

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-ga-budget-sunday-20160221-story.html>

The NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia website reported that the cut was for \$6 million.

<http://www.naralva.org/media/press/20170223.shtml>

Excerpt from the organization's press release dated February 23, 2017:

Richmond, VA - Late last night, select members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees released their agreed-upon conference report for the Virginia state budget, after nearly a week of haggling over discrepancies between the House- and Senate-approved versions. On the chopping block was a \$6 million appropriation, championed by Governor Terry McAuliffe and Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, that would have provided funding for long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs).

The conference committee, composed of 10 Republicans and three Democrats from the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees, did eliminate a \$6 million federal block grant to create a pilot program for expanding access to LARCs like IUDs – some of the most effective and popular forms of birth control. Conservative legislators have frequently used debunked science to falsely claim that IUDs cause abortions.

A similar program in Colorado resulted in a 40% decrease in unintended pregnancy.

The elimination of the block grant follows on the heels of a rare bipartisan victory with the passage of HB 2267, which allows women to get a full year's supply of birth control pills at one time through their health insurance provider.

NOTE re point of weakness among Republicans in general: Since the Republicans are so opposed to abortion, they could reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and, therefore, the number of abortions, if they supported funding to provide contraception to low-income women. Again, Yancey's position on this specific issue requires further research.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Yancey's voting record on women's health is mixed.

In 2012 he voted to:

- Eliminate the requirement for female children to be vaccinated for HPV. (HB1112) (Bill died)

In 2015 he sponsored bills:

- Prohibiting employers from penalizing employees for taking time off for medical, legal, and other relief related to domestic violence or sexual assault. (HB2150) (Bill failed)
- Requiring employers, including government, to provide unpaid break time and private space for employees to express breast milk for the first year of the child's life. (HB2151) (Bill failed) (Yancey introduced the breastfeeding bill again in 2016 as HB1076 and again in 2017 as HB2210, but the bills failed again both times.)

Many women, especially low-income women, receive health care through Planned Parenthood (mammograms, pap smears, STD testing, etc.), so Yancey's vote on HB1090 in 2016 and his decision not to vote on HB 2264 in 2017 show lack of support for women's health.

In a debate in 2015 Yancey said he opposed the expansion of Medicaid, advocating instead for raising funding for the state's free clinics and expanding the Virginia Independent Clinical Assessment Program. According to his Democratic opponent, Medicaid expansion would provide health insurance coverage for 400,000 Virginians (which would obviously benefit substantial numbers of women).

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-elex-house-94-debate-20151027-story.html>

Yancey voted against Medicaid expansion in 2017.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Yancey's voting record on student discipline is mixed.

In 2013 he sponsored a bill that essentially would have provided a second chance and family support to truants. The bill stated that:

- If a juvenile truant has no prior truancy record, a petition for supervision would be deferred for 90 days, and the juvenile would be referred to a family assessment and planning team to develop a truancy plan; if noncompliant after 90 days, then the truancy petition for juvenile supervision would be filed. (HB2060)(Bill failed)

In 2015 he sponsored a bill that would have imposed enhanced penalties for three crimes:

- Certain drug offenses
- Having a firearm while committing certain drug offenses
- Being convicted of a second street gang crime (current law requires third conviction) (HB1240)(Bill failed)

Note: I included this bill because students might be affected by the drug and gang provisions.

In 2016 he:

- Sponsored a bill that gave tax credits to manufacturers who provide career training in schools for grades 6 through 12. (HB508)(Bill failed)
- Voted for a bill that directed the Board of Education to establish guidelines for alternatives to short- and long-term suspensions. (HB458)(Bill failed)
- BUT voted against a bill establishing that primary and secondary students cannot be guilty of disorderly conduct if the behavior occurs on school property, on a school bus, or during a school-sponsored activity. (HB1134)(Bill failed)

In 2017 he voted against:

- Reducing maximum suspension from 364 calendar days to 90 school days, and prohibiting suspensions beyond any 45-school-day period unless the principal or superintendent finds aggravating circumstances as defined by the school board. (HB1534/SB995)(Bill failed)
- Prohibiting the suspension or expulsion of students in preschool through fifth grade except for drugs, firearms, or certain criminal acts. (HB1536/SB997)(Bill failed)

Although not related to schools, one of Yancey's bills touches on the prison issue. He sponsored a bill in 2016 and 2017 that would have prevented the DMV from revoking or suspending the registration of tow truck drivers convicted of a violent crime if the governor has restored the driver's civil rights. (HB897) (Bill failed)

STUDENT DEBT

In 2016 HB400 was introduced in the House of Delegates and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor. The bill would have created a student loan refinancing authority to refinance student debt incurred by Virginia students who attended institutions of higher learning in Virginia. The bill failed in committee in 2017. The individual members' votes on the bill are unknown, but Yancey is a member of the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

A similar fate met a companion bill, HB401, which would have required companies servicing student loans to register with the state corporation counsel and would have prohibited them from misrepresenting the amount, nature, or terms of any fee or payment due, the terms and conditions of the loan agreement, or the borrower's obligations under the loan. They also could not knowingly misapply or recklessly apply student loan payments to the outstanding balance of a student loan. The same bill would have set up a state ombudsman to educate students about the essentials of getting a fair loan. This bill also died in the Commerce and Labor Committee.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Again, Yancey's record on school funding is mixed.

In 2016 and in 2017 Yancey voted against school vouchers, which would have allowed parents to take taxpayer money from the public schools and use it to pay for private religious or nonsectarian schools. (HB389 and HB1605)(Bills vetoed)

Yancey supports efforts to increase the number of charter schools, which will siphon off per-pupil funding from local public schools.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-ga-charter-amendment-20150210-story.html>

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-ga-charters-20160212-story.html>

In 2016 Yancey voted to allow students in public schools that have been identified as requiring improvement to transfer to another public school. (HB518)(Bill vetoed)

Such transfers would siphon off per-pupil funding from the failing school and redirect it to the transfer school. (Also, is it possible that this bill would have facilitated "white flight"?)

The 2017 state budget increases funding for K-12 education.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-ga-budget-sunday-20160221-story.html>

Yancey's voted in favor of the 2017 state budget.

NOTE:

In a debate in 2015, the Democratic challenger said that state funding for Newport News schools was down \$22 million from 2009. Yancey replied that the legislature was trying to boost funding in a difficult economy and said that he wanted to make sure that any increases went to the classroom and not to administration. The challenger rebutted that funding for teachers was down 11% and funding for central administration was down 17% from 2009 levels.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-elex-house-94-debate-20151027-story.html>



JP/KP
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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Two bits of info surfaced during my research—facts that Yancey could use to appeal to the African American community. He is a lifetime member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. And he sponsored a bill in 2015 that broadened the definition of minority-owned businesses to include historically black colleges for the purpose of procuring state contracts. (HB2148)(Enacted into law)