

Your Faith and Your Vote in 2008



Faith As people of faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life. Faith helps us see more clearly the requirements of a good society, namely respect for the dignity of all human life and a commitment to the common good.

Conscience A well-formed conscience equips us to address political questions. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778). We have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

Issues This card lists some moral issues at stake in this election. Some issues are more important than others. Some concern policies, like attacks on human life, that a Catholic can never support. Catholics can legitimately disagree about how to address some other issues. All the issues, however, deserve our attention. To discover what the Church teaches on these issues, go to www.faithfulcitizenship.org and ndcatholic.org.

Choices Find out the candidates' positions on each of the issues. Look beyond party politics, analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and choose political leaders according to the principles of your faith.

Vote Catholics have an obligation to participate in the democratic process. Remember to vote and, no matter what the outcome, become involved in the legislative process.

Find out more at ndcatholic.org!

Ask . . .



Does the Candidate Oppose:

- Abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and human embryo research?
- The death penalty?
- Laws and policies that dilute the unique and important role of marriage in civil society?

Does the Candidate Support:

- Immigration reform that humanely secures our borders, provides a path to citizenship, protects workers, and fosters family reunification?
- The right to provide public services without violating faith and conscience?
- Ending the war in Iraq through a responsible transition that minimizes loss of life and protects human rights?
- Helping the poor and most vulnerable members of our society?
- Extending health care as a right to all people?
- Enabling parents to choose the best educational setting for their children?
- Policies that ensure a just wage, the right of workers to unionize and collectively bargain, the right to economic initiative, and private property?
- Policies to protect and foster family farms, rural communities, good stewardship of natural resources, and the right of local communities to regulate for the common good?

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