



Your Faith and Your Vote

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

The questions on this sheet are to help guide Catholics in their efforts to make moral and prudential decisions about candidates and public policies. Please use this sheet when contacting candidates for local and state public office. 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 obtain more information go to www.yourfaithyourvote.org or contact the North Dakota Catholic Conference (1-888-419-1237).

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. To find out who is running for office in your area and where to vote, contact the Secretary of State at www.nd.gov/sos/ (800-352-0867)

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. One way to get involved is by joining the Legislative Action Network at ndcatholic.org.

Where Does the Candidate Stand On:

Right to Life & Dignity of the Human Person

- Protecting human life and preserving state abortion restrictions?
- Ensuring that state participation in health care respects the life, dignity, health, and consciences of all?
- Preserving the state ban on assisted suicide and euthanasia?
- Preserving the state ban on the death penalty?
- Preserving the state ban on research that destroys or clones human embryos?

Family Life

- Preserving marriage as a lifelong union between a man and a woman?
- Supporting pregnant women in need and the centers that serve them?
- Respecting the freedom of parents to educate their children, especially in matters of moral development?
- Expanding educational choice for all families?
- Treating all immigrants with dignity and respect?

Poor & Vulnerable / Dignity of Workers

- Policies that ensure a just wage?
- Assuring basic support for families with children living in poverty?
- Maintaining access to health care for low income persons and those with disabilities, mental illness, or addiction problems?
- Providing safe and affordable housing?
- Allowing workers to form associations to represent their interests?
- Protecting religious liberty and freedom of conscience for workers and religious institutions?

Care of God’s Creation

- Supporting family farmers who implement environmentally sound management practices?
- Ensuring responsible energy development and the equitable distribution of its benefits?
- Protecting our state’s natural resources?