



# Vote NO on Measure 1 Protect Churches and Charities

The Catholic Church believes that ethics and integrity should be the hallmark of the political process. Measure 1, however, is not about whether someone supports more integrity and ethics in government. It is about the actual language of the measure. After careful consideration and analysis, North Dakota's Catholic bishops are asking Catholics to oppose Measure 1.

Churches and charities do not support or oppose political candidates. They do not make contributions to public officials. They do, however, sometimes speak out on issues and partner with state agencies to serve the public. Though well-intentioned, Measure 1 is poorly drafted and unnecessarily threatens the good work of churches, charities, and social service agencies. It also interferes with your personal decision to support the church's mission.

## Measure 1:

- Forces churches and charities to publicly name every member who contributed, even if only a small fraction of the total budget was used to "influence government action" or to speak out on a ballot measure. Anonymous donations would no longer be allowed.
- Makes social service agencies provide the name of every contributor as the "admission fee" for partnering with state agencies to provide important social services like health care, foster care, guardianship, and sheltering victims of domestic violence.
- Gives bad actors tools to harass churches, charities, and their members. One of these tools is a new right to sue that bypasses state laws.
- Makes it difficult for representatives from charities and social service organizations to serve on state boards and commissions.
- Prevents churches and charities from asking former public officials for help on a government issue, even if it is for a short time and on a voluntary basis.

There is no guaranty that the legislature will or even can fix these problems. In fact, the measure appears to prohibit exempting churches and charities from the new mandates.

Everyone wants greater integrity in government. Measure 1, however, is not the answer.