

# 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 listed here are to help guide Catholics in their efforts to make moral and prudential decisions about candidates and public policies. Please use this 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](http://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/](http://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](http://ndcatholic.org).

# Where Does the *State* Candidate Stand?

## ***Right to Life & Dignity of the Human Person***

- Protecting unborn human life and ending abortion?
- Keeping bans on assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, human embryo research, and commercial surrogacy?
- Preventing tax funding for abortion and abortion advocacy?

## ***Religious Liberty***

- Stopping the government from substantially burdening the exercise of religion?
- Protecting the right of religious organizations to serve the public in accordance with their beliefs?

## ***Family and Education***

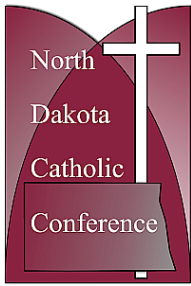
- Enabling parents, financially and in other ways, to choose the best educational setting for their children?
- Opposing policies that mandate acceptance of false gender ideologies?
- Ensuring that COVID-19 relief equitably includes nonpublic schools?

## ***Poor & Vulnerable***

- Prioritizing the poor and vulnerable in COVID-19 relief?
- Ensuring access to health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom?
- Providing services to those in need, especially families facing financial hardship and persons with disabilities, mental illness, and addictions?
- Reforming the criminal justice system so that it focuses on restoration, rehabilitation, and prevention, while eliminating racial and ethnic bias and undue use of force?
- Providing safe havens for properly-vetted refugees, regardless of race, nationality, or religious affiliation?

## ***Economy and Environment***

- Ensuring a just wage, economic initiative, and a pro-family work policies?
- Promoting family farms, rural communities, and a just food system?
- Respecting the right of local communities to manage their own affairs for the common good?
- Protecting our natural resources?



## Your Responsibility

In Catholic teaching, the laity has the primary responsibility in political affairs. That means it is your responsibility to find out where the candidates stand on the issues. It is also your responsibility to make sure the candidates take a stand on the issues.

Don't let the campaigns, newspapers, and special interest groups determine the issues. In North Dakota, most candidates still go door to door and make community appearances. Don't pass up any opportunity to ask the candidates where they stand on the important moral and social justice issues of the day.

The questions listed here can help Catholics make moral and prudential decisions about candidates and public policies. Please use this when contacting candidates. Some issues are more important than others. Some concern policies, like attacks on human life, that a Catholic can never support. Others involve an obligation to seek the common good. Catholics can legitimately disagree about how to address some other issues. All the issues, however, deserve our attention.

***Email your state candidates!***

***The Your Faith Your Vote website has an easy to use tool to send the questions to your local candidates.***

***( [www.yourfaithyourvote.org](http://www.yourfaithyourvote.org) )***

## Where Does the *Federal* Candidate Stand?

### ***Human Life***

- Protecting unborn human life and ending abortion?
- Repealing the federal government's use of the death penalty?
- Prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for or provide insurance coverage for abortion?

### ***Religious Liberty***

- Stopping the government from substantially burdening the exercise of religion?
- Protecting the right of religious organizations to serve the public in accordance with their beliefs?
- Making religious freedom a priority in dealing with other nations?

### ***Family and Education***

- Enabling parents, financially and in other ways, to choose the best educational setting for their children?
- Opposing policies that mandate acceptance of false gender ideologies?
- Ensuring that COVID-19 relief equitably includes nonpublic schools?

### ***Immigration***

- Achieving comprehensive reforms that offer a path to citizenship for the undocumented who live in the U.S. and do not have a criminal record, expand family reunification, secure our borders, and establish humane enforcement?
- Providing safe havens for properly-vetted refugees, regardless of race, nationality, or religious affiliation?

### ***The Poor and Vulnerable***

- Prioritizing the poor and vulnerable in COVID-19 relief?
- Ensuring access to health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and the conscience rights of health care workers?
- Providing services to those in need, especially families facing financial hardship and persons with disabilities, mental illness, and addictions?
- Maintaining and increasing funding for poverty-focused development assistance to poor countries?

### ***Economy and Environment***

- Ensuring a just wage, economic initiative, and a pro-family work policies?
- Promoting family farms, rural communities, and a just food system?
- Protecting our natural resources?