



Washington State Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Washington State

YOUR FAITH, YOUR VOTE 2018 Helpful Resources

As Catholics, we have an obligation to participate in the democratic process by voting with an informed conscience. While the Catholic Church does not endorse candidates for elected office, it does seek to share Catholic teaching on relevant issues and to encourage Catholics to vote.

Visit WACatholics.org/vote to:

- Register to vote or update address: We provide quick links to ensure your county's election department sends you a ballot in time for the November election.
- Access Official Voter Guides: An important companion as you fill out your ballot and learn more about the candidates and initiatives up for consideration.
- Find Questions for Candidates: Be prepared to ask questions of candidates that come to your door. Be prepared to ask questions of candidates that come to your door. Their answers will give insights to their commitments and credentials. (see reverse)
- Read Statements by the Bishops of Washington State: Our bishops believe that Catholics can help transform public policy for the greater benefit of the common good.
- Join the WSCC's Advocacy Network TODAY: Keep up to date on important issues facing the Washington State Legislature and US Congress. Make your voice heard!

Act Now: Deadline for online registration is October 8th



The WSCC represents the Catholic Bishops of Washington in their efforts to support public policies that promote the common good. These efforts include:

- Developing a public policy agenda and coordinating the advocacy efforts of the Catholic community in the state of Washington.
- Engaging with public authorities, legislative bodies, and other civic organizations.
- Working in coalition with other advocacy groups on issues of shared concern.
- Creating advocacy resources for use in our faith communities throughout the state.

The WSCC is providing the following set of questions for you to use as you prayerfully consider your vote.

Visit WACatholics.org/vote to access to voting resources and to join our advocacy network!

RESPECT LIFE

Catholic Church Position: Life is God's gift to us and a right that cannot be taken from any human. The Church encourages policies that respect and protect all human life, including efforts to repeal the death penalty as well as those to reduce or eliminate abortions.

Questions for Candidates:

Do you support the effort to repeal the death penalty in Washington state? Do you support efforts to reduce or eliminate abortions?

POVERTY

Catholic Church Position: Food assistance efforts, like the federal SNAP program, and housing programs, like the State Housing Trust Fund, are critical to ensuring everyone can live a life of dignity.

Questions for Candidates:

Will you support legislation that assures access to food, medicine, and housing for the most vulnerable? Do you support funding the Housing Trust Fund to assist the homeless in finding housing?

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Catholic Church Position: The freedom of religion is enshrined in Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Constitution. A person's faith is closely bound to his or her conscience and warrants respect and protection.

Question for Candidates:

Will you support policies to ensure that individuals and employers, including religious organizations, will be free to live according to deeply held religious beliefs and/or moral consciences?

IMMIGRATION

Catholic Church Position: The U.S. Catholic bishops have declared that America's immigration system is broken and in need of comprehensive reform. Among other measures, the Church supports congressional legislation that would help ensure the dignity and protection of all children who have entered the country.

Question for Candidates:

Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that includes expedited family reunification and a path to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants?

EDUCATION / SCHOOL SAFETY

Catholic Church Position: Ensuring the safety of school children is critical. Public policies should be adopted that bring appropriate safeguards to schools, including coordinated emergency notifications for all public and private schools.

Question for Candidates:

Do you support policies that require emergency coordination and communication between first responders and all schools (including Catholic and other private schools)?