



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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2016 ELECTIONS: DISCERNING YOUR VOTE

Primary Election, August 30 – General Election, November 8

The right to vote carries with it a responsibility to study and know the candidates. As citizens of faith, we are led to question how each candidate if elected will address issues that protect or threaten the dignity of every human life. There are moral and ethical dimensions to every public policy. However, issues carry different moral weight and urgency. Some involve intrinsically evil acts that can never be approved, such as the intentional destruction of innocent human life. Others involve an obligation to seek the common good. The following questions are offered to assist in discerning where the candidates stand on important issues in light of our foundational beliefs.

How will each candidate:

- Address the preeminent requirement to protect the weakest in our midst - innocent unborn children - by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion?
- Keep our nation from turning to violence to address fundamental problems, such as euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability, the destruction of human embryos in the name of research, and the use of the death penalty to combat crime?
- Protect the fundamental understanding of marriage as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman and as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies?
- Achieve comprehensive immigration reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries?
- Ensure full respect for individuals and groups and their right to address social needs in accord with their basic moral and religious convictions?
- Help families and children overcome poverty: ensuring access to and choice in education, as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty around the world?
- Provide health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system?
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force - examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost?
- Join with others around the world to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation?

This information based on the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States with Introductory Note*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015 is provided for educational purposes only and does not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party.