

# Faithful Citizenship

[www.iowacatholicconference.org](http://www.iowacatholicconference.org)



“The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition ... the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election. Pray often, letting faith inform your political participation.” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

## As faithful Catholics, how should we vote?

1

### ISSUES

We should consider issues through the lens of God's Word and principles of Catholic social teaching.

2

### LEADERSHIP SHOULD ...

“share fully in the destiny of the people and to seek solutions to social problems ... authority exercised with those virtues that make it possible to put power into practice as service.”\*



### Dignity of the Human Person

Acting on the principle that every person is created in the image of God.



### Common Good

Working that all can access the necessities of a dignified life.



### Catholic Schools

Offering academic excellence in a faith-filled community.

## Our role in politics

As Catholics, our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable.

The defense of human life and dignity must begin with the fundamental right to life from natural conception to natural death. From there it extends to fair access to productive work and fair wages, food and shelter, education and health care, protection from harm and freedom to emigrate if necessary. All people have a right to these, and therefore we have a duty to help protect life and to provide for the common good. Most especially, we have a duty to safeguard the family as the basic unit of society, and to support mediating institutions such as churches and other professional and charitable organizations that help society cope with its biggest challenges.

Civic engagement is a moral obligation and we have a duty to inform ourselves about issues and vote conscientiously. Our choice of how to vote in every instance must follow our best understanding of what is the good for all, following a time of reflection and prayer. Our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Of course, our commitment to the common good does not end with voting. We can start solving problems at the local level by organizing with others in charitable work to help meet the basic needs of individuals. Another way is to work together on legislation that addresses the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.

The message of our Catholic teaching is one of hope, grounded in faith and reason. Making decisions in the light of our faith will not be easy, and it may lead us to a place we don't want to go. But it is our life-long obligation to say "yes" to God in all things, and listen for His voice sounding in our heart.

You can sign up for Iowa Catholic Conference news and alerts at [www.votervoices.net/icc/home](http://www.votervoices.net/icc/home).

## Questions to ask candidates

Do you support:

Protecting human life from conception until natural death as a foundational principle?

Protecting the human rights of all immigrants?

Using an ethical framework to regulate AI so it can benefit all of humanity?

Educational Savings Accounts for parents who wish to send their children to a nonpublic school?

Adequately funding programs that address hunger, healthcare and joblessness, and help people rise above poverty?

Measures to protect and improve the quality of the air, water, and land in Iowa?

**Voting begins in mid-October in Iowa.**  
**For more information visit [sos.iowa.gov](http://sos.iowa.gov).**

*\*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. (410)*



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