



Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops 2026 Voter Guide

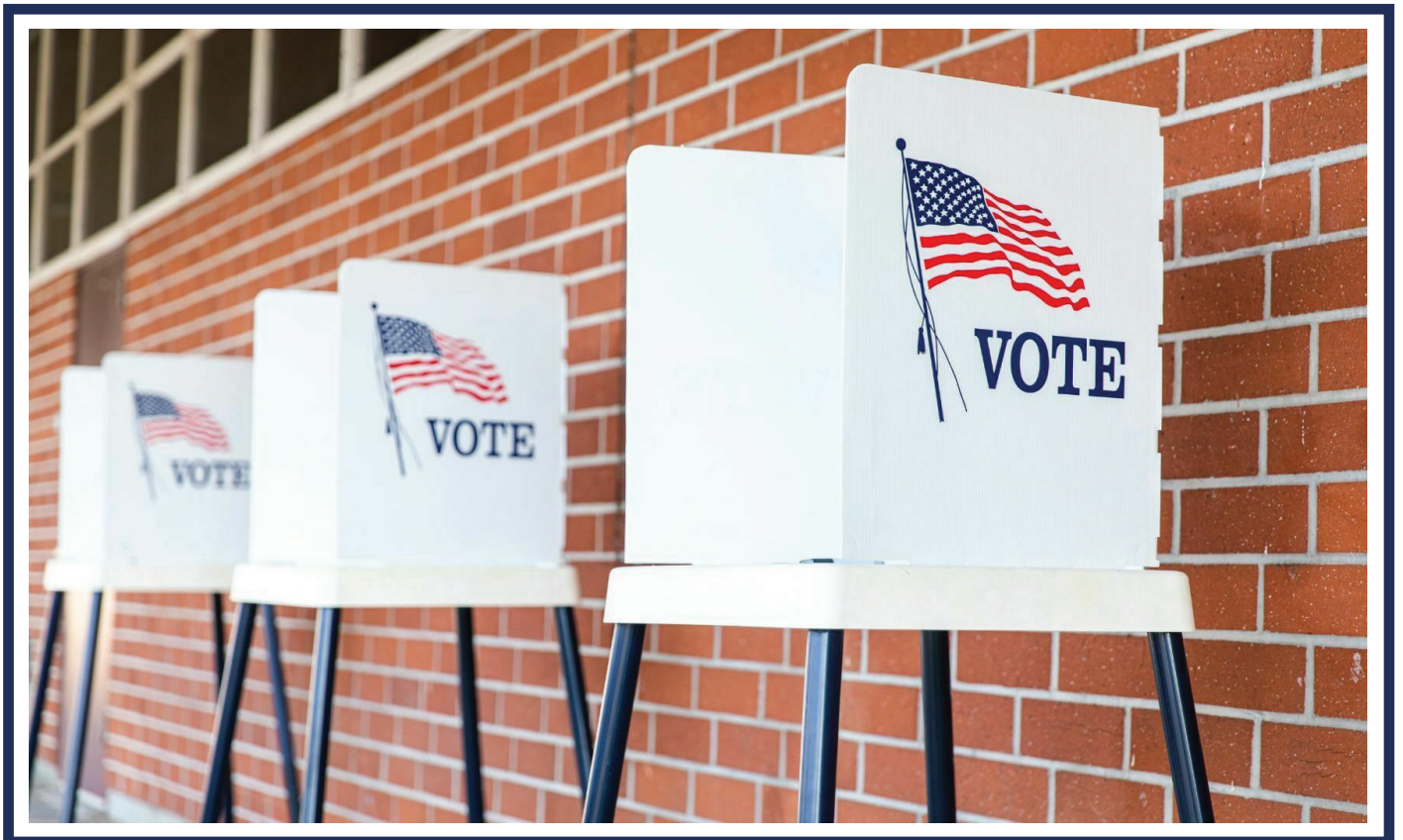
*“We are called to bring together our principles
and our political choices, our values and our votes
to help build a civilization of truth and love.”*

Forming Consciences For Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility with New Introductory Note, USCCB, 2023.

Florida voters have the right and responsibility to participate in selecting their elected officials from those candidates who have come forward to serve their communities. Candidates for the following offices will be on the ballot for Primary Election Day, Aug. 18, 2026 and/or General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. For dates and times of early voting, visit your [County Supervisor of Elections](#).

- **Federal:** One of two United States senators and all 28 United States representatives in Florida’s Congressional delegation
- **State:** Governor, Florida senators in even-numbered districts and all 120 Florida representatives

View the list of candidates running in each race/district and their contact information by visiting the [Florida Division of Elections](#) website. *Note: Some candidates have been elected with no opposition.*



Before voting, Catholics are called to consider a wide range of issues important to the common good, weighing each according to its moral importance. It is beneficial to research the ballot ahead of time and gather the facts for every proposal and race. This guide offers information about Catholic teaching and questions regarding current issues to assist voters in evaluating candidate positions or political party platforms. Consider using this resource for prayer and reflection before casting your ballot.

HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

Every human being has God-given value, from conception to natural death. The dignity and sanctity of all human life must be recognized and protected, beginning with the preborn child in the womb. The threat of abortion remains a preeminent issue, given the sheer number of lives taken. Other crucial priorities include addressing serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism and gun violence, human trafficking, physician-assisted suicide, and the death penalty. As Christians, we all have a duty to respect life and work toward a society free from violence and marginalization of any kind.

- *Does the candidate support protecting the preborn, as well as policies that assist pregnant women?*
- *Does the candidate support protecting life from conception to natural death, such as by ending the use of the death penalty, preventing human trafficking, and opposing efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide?*

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The U.S. Constitution guarantees each individual the right to freely exercise his or her religion. To some in the political arena, this sacred principle is no longer paramount. While the Constitution prohibits the government from establishing a state religion, neither does it permit the government to establish a purely secular public square by excluding all religions. Elected officials are urged to re-invigorate religious liberty for all by promoting the active civil engagement of all religious peoples and protecting the participation of religious institutions in government programs.

- *Does the candidate support the right of religious individuals and institutions to operate and/or participate in government programs while serving according to their deeply held beliefs regarding life, marriage, and family?*

JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

In recent years, the justice system has learned it is more effective to be “smart on crime” rather than relying on harsh punishments alone. A Catholic approach to criminal justice begins with calling for all to be safe from crime and violence, while pursuing just solutions that encourage rehabilitation over retribution.

- *Does the candidate support resources to provide a reasonably dignified environment for incarcerated persons?*
- *Does the candidate support rehabilitation programs for the incarcerated to help them assimilate and become productive members of society upon release?*

EDUCATION

Parents are the first and primary educators of their children and have the fundamental right to choose the educational environment that best suits their children. Florida has a robust system of school choice. Elected officials have a duty to preserve and strengthen this system and to provide public, charter, private, and home school educational options that promote the common good, right reason, personal responsibility, and genuine human flourishing.

It is important for lawmakers to support policies that protect these values in the realm of both private and public education, where so many Catholic young people are educated.

- *Does the candidate support the right of parents to educate their children in the most suitable environment including by strengthening Florida’s vibrant school choice system?*
- *Does the candidate support education policies that promote objective truth about biological sex, the dignity of the human person, and human virtue?*

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strong communities are formed when stable and loving families are supported and encouraged. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage – the love of a man and woman in a life-long commitment – is a vocation for the purposes of rearing children and spousal unity. Public officials can support marriages and families through their positions and policies.

- *Does the candidate support policies that acknowledge the reality of biological sex and promote a holistic understanding of the human person?*
- *Does the candidate support policies that remove obstacles to family formation, and support maternity care?*
- *Does the candidate support policies that provide resources to families in need, especially single-parent families, or children in foster care?*

IMMIGRATION

The Church is sensitive to the reasons why families flee their home country and migrate to the United States, such as war, dire poverty, unjust governments, lawlessness, gang violence and authoritarian regimes that suppress religious freedom. A lack of food, water, health care, or other necessities also play a role. Comprehensive reform of our broken immigration system is needed, which would offer a path to citizenship or “legal status”, treat workers fairly, and promote expedited family reunification while protecting border integrity and addressing root causes of migration.

- *Will state candidates leave immigration policy to Congress where the courts have indicated responsibility resides so as to avoid an unconstitutional patchwork of state policies?*
- *Will federal candidates take action to reform our insufficient immigration system?*

HEALTH CARE

The Church considers healing a central ministry of the Church and has long supported the right to quality, affordable, and life-affirming care.

- *Does the candidate support adequate access to health care, including mental health care, for all Floridians?*
- *Does the candidate support the right of health care workers to exercise their conscience in regard to their deeply held beliefs?*

CARE FOR CREATION

Florida’s beautiful beaches, iconic Everglades, and delicate ecosystems reflect the beauty of God’s creation and represent a vital economic resource. Environmental degradation, pollution, sea-level rise, and over-development threaten the well-being of all Floridians, especially the more vulnerable among us.

- *How will the candidate address environmental issues, particularly their impact on the poor?*
- *Does the candidate support policies that will protect the state’s natural resources and promote human flourishing?*

LABOR AND ECONOMY

Jesus saw the dignity and value of every person and called His followers to care for those on the margins. His example of sacrificial love is one we should embody by serving the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Catholics are called to consider how candidates will support policies that improve economic conditions and address structural causes of poverty.

- *Does the candidate promote policies that foster economic participation and job creation to provide decent working conditions and just wages?*
- *Does the candidate support policies to allow increased access to basic needs such as education and health care?*
- *Does the candidate support increasing the supply of housing, especially for families?*

“The primary task of any political action is to offer an ideal vision, for politics requires a broad view of the future, without fearing to make difficult and even unpopular choices when necessary for the common good. In this sense, politics is the ‘highest form of charity’ because it can be completely committed to the building up of the common good.”

Pope Leo XIV, Address to Political Representatives, April 25, 2026

CONSCIENCE FORMATION

In the context of the upcoming election and the conscience formation process, the Catholic Church reminds people of faith that they are not alone. While the Church does not endorse candidates or instruct parishioners how to vote, it has particular responsibilities: sharing the moral truth about issues and encouraging believers to develop prudence. Prudence is a virtue that, if cultivated, assists individuals in “[discerning] our true good in every circumstance and [choosing] the right means of achieving it.”¹ Developing a well-formed conscience is not a one-time exercise, but requires ongoing prayer and commitment. For more information, see [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#) by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FAITH AND POLITICS

In the days and weeks leading up to the election, Florida Catholics have a responsibility to consider how they can best serve their communities through election choices and contribute to a climate of civility in the face of divisiveness and disagreement. During the election, and perhaps just as importantly in their daily lives, Catholics are reminded to allow their faith to guide their politics. The principles of faith that govern daily life should also guide political viewpoints, and when necessary, “transform the political party to which we belong.”²

Prior to casting their ballots, Catholics have the opportunity to ask:

- What does God want me to do?
- How will my voting choice help to promote the common good and protect human life and dignity?
- How can I speak up about the issues that matter in a respectful way?
- Am I being influenced by partisan interests and media commentary such that I neglect to remember the teachings of the Church and the individual lives affected by public policies?

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, it is the lifelong responsibility for Catholics “to do good and oppose evil,” including in election choices.³ To distinguish between right and wrong, people of faith turn to their conscience: a tool that relies on the “judgment of reason” and Scripture to offer guidance for decision-making.⁴ Each Catholic is called to develop a “well-formed” conscience, internalizing their faith and the Word of God so they can apply it to real-life situations daily.⁵

FLORIDA CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK

- The Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN) is a statewide, online community established by the bishops of Florida that exists to educate and mobilize Catholics across Florida’s seven dioceses on public policy issues pertaining to human life, dignity, and the common good.
- Subscribers receive via email: action alerts on key bills at both the state and federal levels that allow for quick and easy messaging to elected officials; reports, summaries, and educational materials that identify legislative proposals affecting issues important to our faith; and calls to prayer for the people of our state and nation, and for our elected leaders.
- Those who are interested can sign-up by visiting <https://flaccb.org/join-flcan>. There is no cost to join, and the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops does not share subscriber information with any other individuals, groups, or organizations.

2, 3, 5. [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#), USCCB 2023 | 1, 4. [Catechism of the Catholic Church \(CCC\)](#), Second Edition, no. 1778 and 1806.