



Practical Suggestions on How a Catholic May Prepare to Vote

1. Read “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” the pastoral statement of the U.S. Bishops. (Both full text and summary available at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.) Also, become informed about the writings and teaching of Bishop Richard G. Lennon on Faithful Citizenship.
2. Read the relevant paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church pertaining to the formation of conscience. (Available at www.vatican.va, nos. 1776-1802)
3. Read the Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching that serve as principled Catholic engagement in political life.
4. Make use of the resources and materials provided by the Diocesan Social Action Office, the Catholic Conference of Ohio and the U.S. Conference of Bishops.
5. Study the various positions of the candidates who are running. Take time to visit candidate web sites, as well as, other media reports and outlets. (Also measure these candidates’ “commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue.”)
6. Attend a presentation or forum on Faithful Citizenship at your parish, sponsored by the Diocesan Social Action Office. Encourage and attend discussions using guides by the USCCB (www.faithfulcitizenship.org and click on lesson plans) or the Diocesan Social Action Office (Phase 2 Resource). (Take the Pledge for Civil Dialogue prior to the program).
7. Pray often that the Holy Spirit will guide you in making an informed and prudential choice that is consistent with Church teaching.
8. Guided by a well formed conscience, exercise your responsibility to vote.

Resources: Catholic Catechism @ www.vatican.va; Faithful Citizenship @ www.faithfulcitizenship.org; Diocesan Social Action Office @ www.catholic-action.org; Catholic Conference of Ohio @ www.ohiocathconf.org. For further information, call 888-620-5280.