



VOTING QUESTIONS 2008

The Catholic Conference of Ohio encourages voters to carefully study and prayerfully consider their voting choices. The United States Catholic Bishops' 2007 Statement, "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*," calls for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good.

A voter is called to properly form their consciences in preparation for voting and for the continued advocacy for just laws and policies required after the vote is exercised. This process requires constant prayer, understanding of Church teaching, discernment that goes beyond campaign rhetoric and partisan politics and that focuses on a candidate's consistency with moral principles, sincerity, integrity and the ability to effect the policies that he or she promotes.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio has prepared the following reflection questions to assist voters.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR VOTERS

1. How does my Catholic faith inform my politics?
2. How does my faith call me to move beyond individual self-interest to promotion of the common good?
3. How do my spirituality, understanding of Catholic Social Teachings, and acts of charity and justice shape my involvement in public life?
4. What views do I hold that are challenged by my faith and Catholic Social Teachings?
5. How will my vote help protect and/or enhance the life, dignity and rights of the human person, prioritize the poor, and advance the common good?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS ON CHOOSING CANDIDATES

1. What is the candidate's commitment to protect all human life, from conception to natural death?
2. What is the candidate's commitment to those things that make life truly human – such as poverty reduction, faith and family, education and work, housing and health care, child protection, economic justice, freedom and peace?
3. How does the candidate measure up in both words and actions with the totality of Catholic Social Teaching?
4. What is my assessment of the candidate's personal integrity and governing philosophy?
5. Has the candidate demonstrated sufficient competency to hold such an elected position?

**PLEASE REFER TO THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO'S WEBSITE,
WWW.OHIOCATHCONF.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.**