



# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida*

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## Vote with an Informed Conscience - General Election, November 4, 2014

*"We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes to help build a better world."*

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility  
from the Catholic Bishops of the United States with Introductory Note, 2011

The Church affirms that every Catholic is called to prayerful, active, and responsible participation in the political process. Therefore, we urge all Catholics who are eligible, to register and vote, while being faithful to what is truly authentic and supporting that which best serves the common good. As is true of those who are called to vote, those who are ineligible can offer valuable contributions during the election season through concerted study of the social teachings of the Church and the candidates, insightful dialogue with others, involvement in campaigns, and heartfelt prayer.

The issues that officials and the general public face are varied, so at times, choosing candidates may seem difficult or overwhelming. As such, it may be helpful to remember that not all issues are equally important or urgent. Some are more fundamental such as those related to life and dignity of the human person. Matters of intrinsic evil, such as abortion and euthanasia, must always be rejected or opposed. Additionally, Catholic teaching impels us to elevate human dignity and support the common good.

To assist with choices in the voting booth, we suggest you review the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops' **Candidate Questionnaire Project**, which polls candidates on important issues that are likely to come before them as elected officials. Responses to this year's eight questions are available at [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org), and bulletin inserts are also available online for distribution by parishes.

It is through such study, discussion, and prayer that our consciences are properly formed and prepared for voting. After such preparation, let us apply our values in the voting booth and help shape a society that defends human life and dignity, preserves the family, protects religious freedom, and assists the poor and vulnerable. Beyond the voting booth, let us proactively learn more about our faith and our role in society. One positive way to do so is to join the **Florida Catholic Advocacy Network** available at [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org).

May God grant us wisdom as we seek his love and blessings on our cherished state and country.

**Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch**  
Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane**  
Diocese of Venice

**Most Reverend John G. Noonan**  
Diocese of Orlando

**Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez**  
Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino**  
Archdiocese of Miami