**Catholic Voting with Faith and Conscience:**

**Guidance and Resources**

“**Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**”, U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>

The Catholic bishops of the United States have once again provided the Catholic faithful their teaching document on the political responsibilities of Catholics,  [*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*](https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm). This statement represents the bishops’ guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. They ask that faithful Catholics and ministers use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach, to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election.

**“We Are Called to Form our Conscience in Accord with Catholic Teaching”:**

[https://www.archstl.org/serve-the-lord-with-gladness-were-called-to-form-our- conscience-in-accord-with-catholic-teaching-5755](https://www.archstl.org/serve-the-lord-with-gladness-were-called-to-form-our-%09conscience-in-accord-with-catholic-teaching-5755)

Archbishop Rozanski’s Letter from the St. Louis Review, October 1, offering his perspective on the U.S. Bishops guidance, and on our ongoing mission to give witness to the gospel beyond the election.

**“A Prayer for the Election”,** Fr. James Martin, S.J.

https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/10/01/2020-election-prayer-catholic-voting

**“The Catholic Way to Vote”,** Archdioces of Cincinnati; <https://ivotecatholic.org/>

A comprehensive review of the principles of Catholic social teaching, the US Bishop’s Catholic voting guidance (described above) and providing many other resources

“**Catholic Voter's Guide”.** from EWTN, Global Catholic Network. <https://www.ewtn.com/vote/>

A comprehensive survey of general moral principles, forming conscience according to Church teaching, the role of prudence, the citizen’s responsibility for society.

“**Document ‘Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship’ Examined”**, Amy Uelmen,

Catholic News Service: <https://www.catholicnews.com/document-forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-examined/>

This article describes the difficulties and dilemma involved in applying the US Bishop’s guidance. She points out that a clear-cut answer to the question of “how should I vote” is not provided. However, the document does offer “a rich and beautiful vision of the values and principles that inform” Catholic participation in public life.

**“Conscience, Candidates and Discipleship in Voting”,** Bishop Robert McElroy, Harpst Center for Catholic Thought, University of San Diego, February 2020

https://www.sdcatholic.org/bishops/bishop-mcelroy/conscience-candidates-and-discipleship-in-voting/

Bishop McElroy emphasized that voting is the primary means by which Catholics “rooted in conscience and in faith” can participate in “the just ordering of society and the state,” noting that the pope says that political lives “must be seen as an essential element of our personal call to holiness. He also made the point that, “Prudential judgment is not a secondary or deficient mode of discernment in the Christian conscience. It is the primary mode.”

**Additional Articles and Resources**

**“Voting Catholic”,** Podcast from America Magazine

<https://www.americamagazine.org/voting-catholic-podcast>

**“Trump or Biden? What’s a Catholic Voter to Do?”**, *America Magazine,* August 31, 2020

 [Thomas J. Reese](https://www.americamagazine.org/voices/thomas-j-reese), S.J

**“Hyper Focus on Abortion Issue Obscures Call of Common Good”**, María Teresa (MT) Dávila, Theology en la Plaza

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/theology-en-la-plaza/hyper-focus-abortion-issue-obscures-call-common-good>

**“What’s a Catholic Voter to Do”;** Webinar sponsored by “Seeds of Justice”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG5t0u73lDs&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2ayjGGTGLkZLCiTrrjlXWBohKN7LAu_8ju-Wq_FXzauddQEa3rAdCJZO8>

**“Bishop Laments Questioning of Biden’s Faith”,** Christopher White, National Catholic Reporter. October 13, 2020

https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/bishop-laments-questioning-bidens-faith-due-abortion-policies