



# KANSAS CATHOLICS AND THE 2020 ELECTION

## YOUR VOTE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT

As Catholics and as Kansas citizens, we are called to faithful citizenship, which carries a civic and moral responsibility to vote. As with all life decisions, we should seek direction from Catholic Teaching.

The Catholic Church does not tell anyone how to vote. Your vote should come from a properly formed conscience. Ask questions and see where candidates stand or how they may have voted on the critical public policy questions.



With that in mind, we offer the following for your consideration.

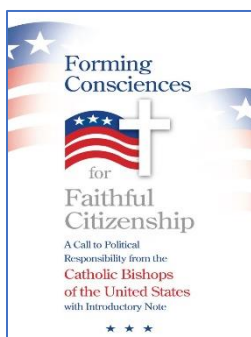
**Question: Does the Catholic Church give all issues equal weight?**

**Answer: No.**

Most political issues have a moral dimension. A select number of issues now being debated directly involve matters of intrinsic moral evil including abortion, embryonic stem cell research, racism, physician-assisted suicide, and same-sex marriage. The unique gravity of these issues does not diminish the importance of other concerns, but it does require that Catholics give them precedence.

In their introduction to the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops declares:

**“The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.”**



USCCB's *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm>



# CATHOLIC QUESTIONS FOR KANSAS CANDIDATES

In Kansas, as the August primary and November general elections approach, candidates want to hear from you. Ask them where they stand on the important moral and justice issues of the day.

## “DID YOU (OR WILL YOU) SUPPORT THE PRO-LIFE ‘VALUE THEM BOTH’ STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?”

**EXPLANATION:** A Kansas State Supreme Court ruling cleared a path for nearly unlimited abortion in our state. Bans on taxpayer-funded abortion, parental consent for minors seeking an abortion and virtually all other pro-life laws will almost certainly be rendered unenforceable. In response, the Kansas Catholic Conference supported the Value Them Both state constitutional amendment for life as their top public policy priority.

### MORE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

#### *Right to Life & Dignity of the Human Person*

Do you support legislation eliminating or restricting abortion, combatting racism, bans on physician assisted suicide, human embryonic research, commercial surrogacy and similar key offenses to the dignity of the human person?

#### *Religious Freedom*

Do you support the right of individuals and organizations to serve the public in accord with reasoned conscientious beliefs? Do you support protection of religious freedom? Do you support the Adoption Protection Act of Kansas that allows organizations to place children in foster homes or adoptive families in accordance with their deeply held religious beliefs?

#### *Family Life*

Do you support empowering parents to choose the best educational setting for their children? Will you oppose policies that force government agencies, businesses, charities, and schools to accept false gender ideologies? Will you support legislation that treats all immigrants, especially families, with dignity and respect?

#### *The Community*

Do you support access to healthcare that respects human life, human dignity and the deeply held religious beliefs of healthcare providers? Do you support providing social and community services to those in need, including those living with a disability, mental illness, and addictions? Do you support criminal justice reform focusing on restoration, rehabilitation, prevention, and opportunity?

#### *The Economy*

Do you support justice and charity in legislation regarding wages and economic initiatives? Do you support the right of workers to form associations to collectively represent their interests (i.e., labor unions)? Do you support policies to foster family farms, rural communities, good stewardship of natural resources, and the right of local communities to regulate for the common good?



Prepared by the Kansas Catholic Conference, a non-partisan organization serving as the public policy voice of the Kansas Catholic Bishops. Chuck Weber, Executive Director, email: [Chuck@KansasCatholic.org](mailto:Chuck@KansasCatholic.org) website: [www.KansasCatholic.org](http://www.KansasCatholic.org)