



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

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To: All Priests and Deacons of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
From: Mr. Kenneth A. Gavin
Chief Communications Officer
Date: September 26, 2024
Re: 2024 Election Voter Information Resources/Guidelines for Parishes

Introduction

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024 general elections will take place with various federal, state, and local offices on the ballot. This year features a presidential election, which typically leads to increased voter turnout and attention to faithful citizenship.

It is important to note that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, inclusive of its related entities, neither endorses nor opposes any candidate for political office. Rather it seeks to assist Catholics as they prepare to vote with well-formed consciences.

Informational Resource Materials for Use in Parishes

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has produced a Presidential Candidate Comparison document and a document illustrating the stances of candidates for office at the state level in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They seek to educate the faithful about candidates and their positions on issues of importance to Catholic voters.

Those resource documents are attached to this email and will be posted to archphila.org and CatholicPhilly.com, the official website and the official digital news agency of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, respectively.

In addition, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is once again offering *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. This teaching document focused on civic responsibility in the political arena is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), with an updated Introductory Note ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

You may also wish to visit <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship> for a broad array of other voter information resources designed to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth.

Kindly consider utilizing and sharing these resources in your parish communities in the manner you deem most appropriate. The materials are the only ones sanctioned for distribution within parishes and other Archdiocesan entities.

Please bear in mind that, like the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, neither the PCC nor the USCCB endorse or oppose any candidate for political office.

A Pastoral Resource for Navigating a Divisive Political Environment (Webinar from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference)

In response to requests for a pastoral resource to help navigate an often tense and divisive political landscape with Christian charity and civility, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has joined forces with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the New Jersey Catholic Conference to host a free webinar on this theme.

It will be broadcast live on Wednesday, October 9th at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin with an introduction and opening prayer by Archbishop Pérez.

Those interested in participating should register in advance by visiting bit.ly/46ZEW3F.

The panelists will seek to engender understanding about Catholic teaching on important societal issues and share ways that we can listen to one each other with open hearts while speaking truth with charity. Your assistance in making information about this webinar known is appreciated.

Requests from Third Parties to Distribute Election Materials or to Utilize Parish Facilities

In the coming weeks, you may receive requests from various organizations to disseminate election-based materials on parish property. Only materials emanating from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the PCC, or the USCCB are sanctioned for distribution.

In a like manner, you may receive requests from groups or candidates to hold gatherings related to the election. As a general rule, no such gatherings should take place within a 60 day window of an election.

If you receive requests of this nature, please contact the Secretariat for Communications at 215-587-3747 or commof@archphila.org and we will be happy to assist you.

Please be assured of my continued prayerful gratitude for your generous and dedicated service to all those entrusted to your pastoral care.