

**CATHOLICS
UNITED TO
PROTECT AND
SUPPORT WOMEN,
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES**



Catholics United to Protect and Support Women, Children, and Families

No on Proposition 1

Every human life, including unborn human life, is unique and unrepeatable, a person with inherent dignity and an eternal destiny. The intentional taking of any innocent human life is a grave moral evil, and people of faith and goodwill have an obligation to protect human life and oppose all attacks against human life and dignity. In CA this year, voters are faced with a choice to keep abortion law in our state as it is or to vote in favor of a new constitutional amendment that would permanently expand and vastly increase abortions in our state, without doing anything to give vulnerable women a real choice.

While we pray and work for the day when every human life, born and unborn, will be protected in law and welcomed in life, today we work to defeat this ballot initiative. To that end, we offer the following talking points that will unite people across California to oppose this extreme initiative.

Sadly, California already has some of the most permissive abortion policies in the nation. Our law allows abortion for any reason up to viability (around 24 weeks of pregnancy) and late-term abortion to protect the life or health of the mother. Recent court decisions do not change that reality in California.

This year, our governor and legislative leaders have vowed to make California an “abortion sanctuary.” They are making good on their promise through 20 bills expanding access to abortion and by allocating \$200 million in the state budget to pay for abortions for women in California and those seeking abortion from out of state.

The California Legislature put **Proposition 1** on the November ballot – an extreme proposal that, if approved by voters, would over-ride current law and **will permanently allow taxpayer-funded late-term abortions without limit.**



Catholics United to Protect and Support Women, Children, and Families

No on Proposition 1

Proposition 1 would remove current reasonable limits on late-term abortion and enshrine an “abortion sanctuary” in California. Proposition 1 is unnecessary to protect women’s health or their reproductive freedom.

A “no” vote on Proposition 1 keeps existing California law on abortion the way it is now.

Recent polling shows there is much common ground among voters in California on the abortion issue. Most voters oppose taxpayer-funded abortions and support reasonable limits on late-term abortions. A full 70% of California voters believe human life begins at viability or conception.

1. Most California Voters Oppose Late-Term Abortions

A significant majority of California voters oppose late-term abortions and understand that there should be reasonable limits such as we have now. Prop 1 destroys these limits and will permit unrestricted abortion for any reason at any time – even up to the moment of birth. Most voters reject this.

2. Most California Voters Oppose Taxpayer-Funded Abortions

With California taxpayers already facing soaring inflation, sky-high gas prices, and unaffordable housing, most voters oppose taxpayer funding for abortions, especially to pay the expenses for abortion-seekers from other states. The Legislature has already increased abortion funding by \$200 million this year. If Proposition 1 passes, analysts predict that the number of abortion-seekers from other states coming to California could increase by tens of thousands – meaning millions more dollars will be needed.

3. Most California Voters Believe in Reproductive Equity

Most California voters believe there should be parity and equal access to services for women seeking abortions and those who choose to be mothers. Prop 1 gives top funding priority to abortion seekers at the expense of families who struggle to pay for housing, groceries, gas, safe neighborhoods, healthcare and childcare.

Opposing Proposition 1 makes the most sense for Californians.

Learn more about how to get involved below.

www.CAcatholic.org/prop1



Católicos Unidos para Proteger y Apoyar a Mujeres, Niños y Familias

No a la Proposición 1

Cada vida humana, incluso la vida humana por nacer, es original e irrepetible, una persona con dignidad inherente y un destino eterno. Por eso, la terminación intencional de una vida humana inocente es un delito grave contra la ley moral y las personas de fe y de buena voluntad tienen la obligación de proteger la vida humana y oponerse a cualquier ataque contra la vida y dignidad humana. En California este año, los votantes tendrán la opción de mantener la ley del aborto en nuestro estado tal como está o votar a favor de una nueva enmienda constitucional que expandiría permanentemente y aumentaría enormemente los abortos en nuestro estado, sin hacer nada para dar a las mujeres vulnerables una verdadera opción.

Mientras rezamos y trabajamos para que llegue el día en que toda vida humana, nacida o no, sea protegida por la ley y bienvenida en la vida, hoy nos dedicamos a vencer esta iniciativa electoral. Con ese fin, ofrecemos los siguientes puntos de discusión para unir a todos en California en oposición a esta iniciativa extrema.

Lamentablemente, California ya tiene políticas de aborto entre las más permisivas del país. Nuestra ley permite el aborto por cualquier motivo hasta la viabilidad fetal (cerca de 24 semanas de embarazo) y el aborto tardío para proteger la vida o la salud de la madre. Las decisiones judiciales recientes no cambian esa realidad en California.

Este año, nuestro gobernador y los líderes legislativos prometieron hacer de California un "santuario del aborto". Elaboraron su promesa con 20 proyectos de ley que amplían el acceso al aborto y asignaron \$200 millones en el presupuesto estatal para pagar abortos para mujeres en California y provenientes de otros estados.

La Legislatura de California presentó la **Proposición 1** en la boleta electoral de noviembre, una propuesta extrema que, si es aprobada por los votantes, anularía la ley actual y **permitiría permanentemente abortos tardíos sin límites, financiados por los contribuyentes.**



Católicos Unidos para Proteger y Apoyar a Mujeres, Niños y Familias

No a la Proposición 1

La Proposición 1 eliminaría los límites razonables actuales sobre el aborto tardío y consagraría un “santuario del aborto” en California. La Proposición 1 es innecesaria para proteger la salud de las mujeres o su libertad reproductiva.

Un voto de “no” a la Proposición 1 mantiene la ley de California existente sobre el aborto como está ahora.

Encuestas recientes muestran que los votantes de California tienen muchos valores en común sobre el tema del aborto. La mayoría de los votantes se oponen a los abortos financiados por los contribuyentes y apoyan límites razonables a los abortos tardíos. Un 70% de los votantes de California creen que la vida humana comienza con la viabilidad o la concepción.

1. La mayoría de los votantes de California se oponen a los abortos tardíos

Una mayoría significativa de votantes en California se opone a los abortos tardíos y entienden que debería haber límites razonables como los que tenemos ahora. La Proposición 1 derriba estos límites y permitirá el aborto sin restricciones por cualquier motivo en cualquier momento, incluso hasta el momento del nacimiento. La mayoría de los votantes rechazan esto.

2. La mayoría de los votantes de California se oponen a los abortos financiados por los contribuyentes

Dado que los contribuyentes de California ya enfrentan una inflación vertiginosa, precios de gasolina altísimos y viviendas inasequibles, la mayoría de los votantes se opone a que los contribuyentes financien los abortos, especialmente para pagar los gastos de las mujeres de otros estados que buscan abortos aquí. La Legislatura ya ha aumentado la financiación del aborto por \$200 millones este año. Si se aprueba la Proposición 1, los analistas predicen que la cantidad de solicitantes de aborto que vienen a California de otros estados podría aumentar en decenas de miles, lo que significa que se necesitarán millones de dólares más.

3. La mayoría de los votantes de California cree en la equidad reproductiva

La mayoría de los votantes de California cree que debería haber equidad e igualdad de acceso a los servicios para las mujeres que buscan abortar y aquellas que eligen ser madres. La Proposición 1 otorga la máxima prioridad de financiación a las personas que buscan abortar a expensas de las familias que luchan por pagar la vivienda, los alimentos, el gas, los vecindarios seguros, la atención médica y el cuidado de los niños.

El oponerse a la Proposición 1 tiene más sentido para los californianos.

¡Únete a nosotros!

NOVENA





Novena to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to Defeat Proposition 1*

Catholics United to Protect and Support Women, Children, and Families

1. Daily Novena Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our dearest Mother Mary,
behold us, your children, as we humbly come in prayer before you.
In you, the Author of Life assumed the fullness of human nature,
redeeming us by sacrificing his life for our salvation,
obtaining for us participation in eternal life through the Holy Spirit.

With you, we treasure every human life created in God's image,
and we grieve for any action or social structure that undermines that dignity.
We come before you today, led by the Holy Spirit and united
as one family in your Son, to offer this Novena as a spiritual bouquet,
with confidence in the power of your intercession before our Almighty God and Father.

May he hear and grant our earnest request that the hearts of voters in our state
be moved to reject and defeat Proposition 1, and may we be guided by the Holy Spirit
to rebuild and strengthen a culture of life in the hearts and minds of all we encounter.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Meditate on the Daily Theme with our Bishops: CAatholic.org/Prop1

3. Conclude by reciting a decade of the Rosary (see calendar on reverse)

This year, California voters will decide whether to ratify Proposition 1, an extreme constitutional amendment that would enshrine a permanent right to abortion without limits at taxpayer expense, for any reason, even for women from other states and up to moments before birth!

www.Catholic.org/Prop1

September 29 – Feast of the Archangels Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael

- Theme: Do Not Be Afraid! (Lk 1:30).
- Decade of the Rosary: 1st Joyful Mystery – The Annunciation

September 30 – Feast of Saint Jerome

- Theme: The dignity of human life is revealed in the mystery of God-with-us.
- Decade of the Rosary: 3rd Joyful Mystery – The Nativity

October 1 – Feast of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

- Theme: We humbly offer our whole selves to God.
- Decade of the Rosary: 4th Joyful Mystery – The Presentation

October 2 – Respect Life Sunday

- Theme: A faith that transforms everything.
- Decade of the Rosary: 2nd Luminous Mystery – The Wedding in Cana

October 3 – Feast of Saint Theodora Guérin

- Theme: God’s providential plan is unfolding in our midst, and we each have a role to play.
- Decade of the Rosary: 3rd Luminous Mystery – The Proclamation of the Kingdom

October 4 – Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

- Theme: Eucharistic devotion leads to care for all and social action.
- Decade of the Rosary: 5th Luminous Mystery – The Institution of the Eucharist

October 5 – Feast of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

- Theme: Prayerfully embrace suffering for the greater good, trusting in the divine mercy.
- Decade of the Rosary: 1st Sorrowful Mystery – The Agony in the Garden

October 6 – Feast of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher

- Theme: Devotion and love for our crucified Savior, through whom all things are made new.
- Decade of the Rosary: 5th Sorrowful Mystery – The Crucifixion

October 7 – Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

- Theme: Faith and steadfast prayer make the impossible possible.
- Full Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries

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www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1



Novena a Nuestra Señora del Santo Rosario para derrotar la Proposición 1*

Católicos Unidos para Proteger y Apoyar a Mujeres, Niños y Familias

1. Oración diaria de la Novena

En el nombre del Padre y del Hijo ✠ y del Espíritu Santo. Amén.

Nuestra queridísima Madre María,
Mira a nosotros, tus hijos, que venimos humildemente en oración ante ti.
En ti, el Autor de la Vida asumió la plenitud de la naturaleza humana
y nos redimió al sacrificar su vida por nuestra salvación,
obteniéndonos así la participación en la vida eterna por el Espíritu Santo.

Contigo apreciamos el valor inestimable de cada vida humana creada a imagen de Dios
y lamentamos cualquier acción o estructura social que socave esa dignidad.
Venimos ante ti hoy, guiados por el Espíritu Santo y unidos
como una sola familia en tu Hijo, para ofrecer esta Novena como un ramo espiritual,
con confianza en el poder de tu intercesión ante nuestro Dios y Padre Todopoderoso.

Pide que Dios escuche y conceda nuestra sincera petición de que los votantes de nuestro
estado rechacemos y derrotemos la Proposición 1, y que el Espíritu Santo nos guíe para
reconstruir y fortalecer una cultura de vida en los corazones y en las mentes de todos los
que encontramos.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

2. Medite sobre el tema diario con nuestros obispos: CAatholic.org/Prop1

3. Termine al recitar una década del Rosario (ver calendario al reverso)

Este año, los votantes de California decidirán sobre la Proposición 1, una medida electoral
costosa y engañosa que crearía un derecho permanente al aborto sin límites por cualquier
motivo, a expensas de los contribuyentes, ¡incluso para mujeres de otros estados y hasta
momentos antes del nacimiento!

www.CAatholic.org/Prop1

29 de septiembre – Fiesta de los Arcángeles Gabriel, Miguel y Rafael

- Tema: ¡No tengas miedo! (Lc 1,30).
- Década del Rosario: 1er Misterio Gozoso – La Encarnación del Hijo de Dios

30 de septiembre – Fiesta de San Jerónimo

- Tema: La dignidad de la vida humana se revela en el misterio de Dios-con-nosotros.
- Década del Rosario: 3er Misterio Gozoso – El Nacimiento del Hijo de Dios

1 de octubre – Fiesta de Santa Teresa del Niño Jesús

- Tema: Nos ofrecemos humilde y totalmente a Dios.
- Década del Rosario: 4º Misterio Gozoso – La Presentación de Jesús en el Templo

2 de octubre – Domingo de Respeto a la Vida

- Tema: Una fe que lo transforma todo.
- Década del Rosario: 2º Misterio Luminoso – Las Bodas de Caná

3 de octubre – Fiesta de Santa Teodora Guérin

- Tema: El plan providencial de Dios se está desarrollando ante nuestros ojos, y cada uno tenemos un papel que desempeñar.
- Década del Rosario: 3er Misterio Luminoso – El Anuncio del Reino de Dios

4 de octubre – Fiesta de San Francisco de Asís

- Tema: La devoción eucarística nos lleva a cuidarnos unos a otros y a la acción social.
- Década del Rosario: 5º Misterio Luminoso – La Institución de la Eucaristía

5 de octubre – Fiesta de Santa María Faustina Kowalska

- Tema: Abracemos el sufrimiento por el bien mayor, confiando en la misericordia divina.
- Década del Rosario: 1er Misterio Doloroso – La Oración del Señor en el Huerto

6 de octubre – Fiesta de la Beata María Rosa Durocher

- Tema: Devoción y amor por nuestro Salvador crucificado, quien hace nuevas todas las cosas.
- Década del Rosario: 5º Misterio Doloroso – La Crucifixión y Muerte de Nuestro Señor

7 de octubre – Fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Santo Rosario

- Tema: La fe y la oración constante hacen posible lo imposible.
- Rosario Completo: Los Cinco Misterios Gloriosos (La Resurrección del Señor, La Ascensión del Señor, La Efusión del Espíritu Santo, La Asunción de María y La Coronación de María)

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BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS





Bulletin Announcements – August 28, and September 4 and 11

Please Support Options United, Helping Women in Need

In today's world, Catholics are called to support unborn children and their mothers so that no woman feels she has no choice but abortion. Do you know someone facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy, in need of prenatal care, or support with young children? Share the Options for Pregnancy helpline: 877-398-7734, staffed by Options United trained call responders, or visit www.optionsforpregnancy.com

This critical support service connects women and families to the 170+ pregnancy centers and other life-affirming resources across the state, but it can only be provided with your help. The bishops in all twelve of our California dioceses have endorsed this pioneering service and are united in asking you to prayerfully consider making a monthly donation of any size at www.optionsunited.com/one

VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 1

Sadly, California is presently one of the most permissive states in the nation for abortion. Proposition 1 promotes an unlimited expansion of abortion here, while its defeat would keep all abortion laws as they are, including our common-sense limits on late-term abortions. Our bishops are calling us to unite in prayer and action to defeat Prop 1. Please visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 to find answers to common questions and resources to help defeat this misleading, expensive, and unnecessary ballot initiative.

[Check with the parish Prop 1 coordinator to find out whether there are any parish advocacy or fundraising activities that need to be announced, such as: breakfast or other fundraising activity in support of Options United, voter registration, etc.]



Bulletin Announcements – September 18 and 25, and October 2

VOTE “NO” ON PROPOSITION 1

Proposition 1 is a worst-case scenario for abortion in California. It is an expensive and misleading ballot measure that allows unlimited late-term abortions – for any reason, at any time, even moments before birth, paid for by tax dollars.

Prop 1 isn't needed. Sadly, California already has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation that would remain in effect without the amendment, including our current limit on late-term abortions that are permitted only for the life and health of the mother. Prop 1 destroys this common-sense limit.

California does not limit state spending on abortion, and with thousands more traveling from other states, the cost will be in the hundreds of millions. Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an “abortion sanctuary.”

To learn more, visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1

[Have the Prop 1 Pew Cards available in the pews or at the entrances to the church; check with the diocese for distribution and to receive sufficient quantities of the cards.]

Pray for the Defeat of Proposition 1 and to End Abortion

As we enter Respect Life Month, the bishops of California are inviting all Catholics to engage in prayer and fasting to end abortion and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to form the minds and hearts of California citizens to defeat Prop 1. With that in mind, our bishops are hosting a Novena to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to Defeat Proposition 1 from September 29 to October 7—see the Novena flyer and visit www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 for the daily video messages. At the same time, please join our interfaith friends of 40 Days for Life from September 28 to November 6 for their annual campaign to end abortion: www.40daysforlife.com .

[Insert the Novena to Defeat Prop 1 flyer in the bulletins and have some at the entrances to the church; ask the diocese whether they will print/distribute the flyers or if the parishes will photocopy them.]

[Check with the parish Prop 1 coordinator to find out whether there are any parish advocacy, service, or fundraising activities that need to be announced, such as: voter registration, Parish Baby Shower, breakfast or other service/fundraising activity in support of local pregnancy centers and Options United, etc.]



Bulletin Announcements – October 9, 16, 23, and 30, and November 6

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Anuncios de boletines – 28 de agosto; 4 y 11 de septiembre

Contribuyan a Options United para apoyar a mujeres necesitadas

En el mundo de hoy, los católicos están llamados a apoyar a los niños no nacidos y a sus madres para que ninguna mujer sienta que no tenga más remedio que abortar. ¿Conocen a alguien que enfrenta un embarazo inesperado o difícil, o que necesita atención prenatal o apoyo con niños pequeños? Compartan la línea de ayuda Opciones para Embarazos: 877-398-7734, atendida por gente capacitada de parte de Options United, o visiten a www.optionsforpregnancy.com

Este servicio de apoyo fundamental conecta a mujeres y familias con los más de 170 centros de embarazo y otros servicios que afirman la vida en todo el estado, pero solo se puede brindar con la ayuda de ustedes. Los obispos de las doce diócesis de California han aprobado este servicio pionero y están unidos en pedirles que, en oración, consideren hacer un donativo mensual de cualquier tamaño en www.optionsunited.com/one

VOTE "NO" A LA PROPOSICIÓN 1

Lamentablemente, California ya cuenta con políticas de aborto entre las más permisivas del país. La Proposición 1 promueve una expansión del aborto aquí sin límites, mientras que su derrota mantendría todas las leyes del aborto tal como están, incluso con nuestros límites de sentido común sobre los abortos tardíos. Nuestros obispos nos están llamando a unirnos en oración y acción para derrotar a la Prop 1. Visite a www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 para encontrar respuestas a preguntas comunes y recursos para ayudar a derrotar a esta iniciativa electoral engañosa, costosa e innecesaria.

[Consulte con el coordinador parroquial de la Proposición 1 para averiguar si habrá alguna actividad de promoción o recaudación de fondos que deba anunciarse, como: desayuno u otra actividad de recaudación de fondos en apoyo de Options United, inscripción de votantes, etc.]



Anuncios de boletines – 18 y 25 de septiembre; 2 de octubre

VOTE "NO" A LA PROPOSICIÓN 1

La Proposición 1 es el peor de los casos para el aborto en California. Es una medida electoral costosa y engañosa que permite abortos tardíos sin límites – por cualquier motivo, en cualquier momento, incluso momentos antes del nacimiento – a expensas de los contribuyentes.

La Proposición 1 no es necesaria. Lamentablemente, California ya cuenta con políticas de aborto entre las más permisivas del país que seguirían en efecto sin la enmienda, incluso con sus límites importantes para el aborto tardío, que se permite por la vida y la salud de la madre. La Proposición 1 derriba estos límites de sentido común.

California no limita el gasto estatal en aborto, y con miles viajando desde otros estados para procurar un aborto tardío, el costo será de cientos de millones. No entregue a los legisladores un cheque en blanco para pagar los abortos y no permita que hagan de California un "santuario del aborto".

Para obtener más información, visite a www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1

[Tenga las Tarjetas de Banco sobre la Proposición 1 disponibles en los bancos o en las entradas de la iglesia; verifique con la diócesis para recibir cantidades suficientes de las tarjetas.]

Ore por la derrota de la Proposición 1 y para terminar con el aborto

Al entrar al Mes de Respeto a la Vida, los obispos de California están invitando a todos los católicos a orar y ayunar para terminar con el aborto y por un derramamiento del Espíritu Santo para abrir las mentes y los corazones de nuestros ciudadanos para derrotar la Prop 1. Con ese propósito, están ofreciendo una Novena a Nuestra Señora del Santo Rosario para Derrotar la Proposición 1 del 29 de septiembre al 7 de octubre—ver el volante de la Novena y visite a www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1 para mirar los videomensajes diarios. A la vez, están invitados a unirse con nuestros amigos interreligiosos de 40 Días por la Vida del 28 de septiembre al 6 de noviembre en su campaña anual para terminar con el aborto: www.40daysforlife.com .

[Inserte el volante Novena para derrotar la Proposición 1 en los boletines y tenga copias en las entradas de la iglesia; pregunte si la diócesis distribuirá los volantes o si la parroquia deba fotocopiarlos].

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Anuncios de boletines: 9, 16, 23 y 30 de octubre; 6 de noviembre

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PROP 1 FLYER





CALIFORNIA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1

Catholics United to Protect and Support Women, Children and Families

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Prop 1 isn't needed. Sadly, California already has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation, but with reasonable limits on late-term abortions – which will still be allowed without the amendment for the life and health of the mother. **Prop 1 destroys this common-sense limit.**

California does not limit state spending on abortion, and with thousands more traveling from other states, the cost will be in the hundreds of millions. **Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an "abortion sanctuary."**

"NO" ON PROP 1

Extreme, Expensive, Unneeded



**Scan to Donate or
to Get Involved**



CALIFORNIA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1

Católicos Unidos para Proteger y Apoyar a Mujeres, Niños y Familias

La Proposición 1 es un desperdicio extremo e inútil de los impuestos, que permite abortos tardíos sin límites a expensas de los contribuyentes - por cualquier motivo, en cualquier momento, incluso momentos antes del nacimiento.

La Proposición 1 no es necesaria. Lamentablemente, California ya tiene políticas de aborto entre las más permisivas del país, pero con límites importantes para el aborto tardío. La Proposición 1 derriba estos límites de sentido común.

No entregue a los legisladores un cheque en blanco para pagar los abortos, y no permita que hagan de California un "santuario de aborto" para mujeres de otros estados que buscan un aborto tardío a expensas de nuestros contribuyentes.

“NO” A LA PROPOSICIÓN 1
Extrema, costosa e innecesaria



**Escanea para donar
o involucrarse**



California Catholic Conference

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes
On Advocacy and Political Action



The California Catholic Conference of Bishops has prepared the following instruction on political advocacy for use by Catholic clergy and parishioners:

In a 2013 reflection entitled Pray for Politicians that They Govern Us Well, Pope Francis wrote:

“We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear ‘a good Catholic is not interested in politics.’ This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader[s] can govern.”

As disciples of Christ, we are called to share the richness of our faith in the public square, as Pope Francis states in Gaudete et Exsultate:

“Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . .You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.”

Catholic Social Teaching

The principles and themes of Catholic social teaching should be the moral framework from which we address all issues in the political arena. Among those principles are:

- The life and dignity of the human person,
- Human rights and responsibilities,
- The call to family and community,
- The dignity of work and the rights of workers,
- The preferential option for those who are poor and vulnerable
- Solidarity, and
- Care for God’s creation.

Guidelines for Advocacy and Political Action

While it is increasingly accepted that major public issues have moral dimensions and that religious values have public consequences, there is often confusion and controversy over the participation of religious individuals and groups in public life.

The following are some practical guidelines for pastors and parishes on advocacy and political action that will clarify what is allowed on an individual basis and an institutional basis. Since these are only guidelines, each (arch) diocese, (arch) diocesan agency and parish, in consultation with its bishop, remains free to make its own determination as to what activities are proper for its personnel and committees.

1. Individual citizens are free to fully engage in partisan politics. The Church encourages all citizens to vote. In light of that, the Church urges voters to examine the positions of candidates for public office on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity and performance. (Making Practical Decisions)

Religious leaders, however, should avoid taking public positions on candidates or publically participating in political party matters even when acting in their individual capacity. Although not prohibited, it may be difficult to separate their personal activity from their public role as a Church leader.

2. Unlike individuals, Churches and other institutions, which qualify for tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code, may in no way engage in partisan politics such as supporting or opposing individual candidates for office.

That means that no diocesan or parish entity or organization or other 501 (c) (3) exempt Church organization should engage in voter education which directly or indirectly suggests that a particular candidate or party should be supported or opposed. That also means that no one candidate should be invited to a parish function during an election campaign unless all candidates for that office are invited. And if all are invited yet not all attend, mention of the candidacy of the candidates in attendance must not be made, and a non-partisan environment must be maintained, so as not to misconstrue this as political campaign intervention (promoting the candidacy).

Advocacy on “issues” is not a partisan activity. Therefore, Church organizations may take positions on public policies such as proposed legislation and ballot initiatives, which can be referendums, constitutional amendments, or changes to statutes. If this advocacy takes place in close proximity to voting for political candidates, it is advised that a broad range of issues be advocated so as not to be misconstrued as indirect campaign intervention.

3. Parishes and other Church organizations should, in some cases, engage in issue-oriented activities and political action.

The local diocesan attorney should be consulted for local guidelines but limitations on the extent of such political action and advocacy are not generally a problem for parishes or active institutions, since that activity would be an insubstantial part of their total work.

The following are examples of such acceptable activity:

- Conducting meetings and gatherings designed to share the Catholic Church's teaching regarding the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues and/or legislation;
- Preaching to parishioners about the sanctity and dignity of human life and the concept of the common good and exhorting them to "faithful citizenship;"
- Organizing participation in Catholic Advocacy Day and/or diocesan-sponsored issue-oriented events;
- Distributing fliers containing both a statement about issues before the Congress, the California Legislature or local government and the names and addresses of elected representatives;
- Encouraging individuals to contact their state or federal legislators in order to educate them and to develop support/opposition for legislation.

The following types of activities may be conducted with appropriate advice from the California Catholic Conference or from your (arch)diocese:

- Urging parishioners to register, to vote and to participate actively in Church-sponsored "get-out-the-vote" drives and other nonpartisan voter-education initiatives;
- Sponsoring multi-issue candidate forums to which all candidates for a particular office are invited;
- Conducting single-issue forums which present both sides of the issue objectively.

4. No (arch)diocesan or parish entity or organization may endorse, oppose or evaluate any political party or candidate for public office. No such organization can contribute in any way to a political candidate, party, campaign or political action committee. Church property or personnel should not be used in campaign ads. (Why the Church does not Endorse Candidates)

The following are examples of activities which are not allowed:

- Urging readers or listeners to vote for or against a particular candidate or party;
- Labeling a candidate or party as “pro-school aid” or “anti-life”; such a practice removes objectivity by not allowing readers to evaluate a candidate’s position themselves;
- Using plus (+) and minus (-) signs, or checkmarks (✓) and “Xs” (✗) to evaluate a candidate or party;
- Rating candidates or parties on a scale of “1 to 10” for example, or otherwise saying “X is good,” “Y is better”;
- The use of marked sample ballots.

5. Although Churches have no jurisdiction over public sidewalks and other public property in their vicinities, Church parking is ordinarily private property and the general public has no right to distribute partisan materials thereon. This may be difficult to control, but parish leaders should nevertheless deny permission for any such activity. Lack of enforcement here may be construed as institutional support for partisan activities.

6. The California Catholic Conference staff reviews all of the statewide ballot initiatives and referenda. The bishops, after appropriate consultation, may choose—either individually or as a conference—to support, oppose, or take no position on each measure.

When neither the California Catholic Conference nor the (arch)diocese has taken a public position on a specific measure, a parish or Catholic organization should not do so without previous consultation with the bishop.

Granting the use of Church facilities to supporting or opposing groups should rarely be allowed. Only with the specific permission of the diocesan bishop and the local pastor should Church facilities be used for signature gathering to place an initiative on the ballot.

All public policy materials distributed in parishes must be prepared by the (arch)diocese, the California Catholic Conference (CCC) or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).