



Faithful Citizenship 2014

Sixth in a seven-part series

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”

Faithful Citizenship

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States (2011), discusses the moral dimensions of public policies and the responsibility that all Catholics share to form their consciences in light of their faith.

As the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin, we urge you to exercise your fundamental right to vote, but equally important, become actively engaged in the life of your community. Bring to bear all the wisdom and experience that Catholic social teaching and our faith have to offer. Ask yourself and those who govern our nation, “Does this social program, economic plan, or public policy respect the dignity of the person, created in the image and likeness of God? Does it further the common good?”

The questions on the reverse of this card are intended to help guide you in your efforts to make moral and prudential decisions about candidates and public policies. Please use this card when contacting candidates for local and state public office.

To obtain more information on Catholic social teaching, public policy issues, and ideas for engaging *Faithful Citizenship*, please contact the **Wisconsin Catholic Conference** (608-257-0004) or your local diocesan office at the number below:

Green Bay Office of Social Concerns: 920-272-8299
La Crosse Office of Ministries and Social Concerns: 608-791-2667
Madison Office of Evangelization and Catechesis: 608-821-3161
Milwaukee Office of Social Justice Ministry: 414-758-2286
Superior Office of Diocesan Consultation: 715-394-0204

To find out who is running for office in your area, contact your county or city clerk’s office, or the Government Accountability Board at <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting> or call 608-266-8005.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference
608/257-0004, www.wisconsinatholic.org

Candidate Questions 2014

Every Human Life Is Created in God’s Image and therefore Sacred

Where does the candidate stand on:

- Protecting human life from conception to natural death?
- Preserving state limits on abortion?
- Preserving the state ban on assisted suicide and euthanasia?
- Prohibiting research that destroys human embryos?
- Banning the cloning of human embryos?
- Preserving the state ban on the death penalty?
- Treating all refugees and immigrants with dignity and respect?
- Ensuring that the state protects religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all?

The Family is the Domestic Church

Where does the candidate stand on:

- Preserving marriage as a lifelong union between a man and a woman?
- Increasing support for pregnant women in need?
- Respecting parents as the first and primary educators of their children?
- Expanding educational choice for all families?
- Creating tax credits for families that utilize private schools?
- Allowing a state tax credit for adoption expenses?

God Has a Special Love for the Poor and Vulnerable; Workers Collaborate in the Development of God’s Creation

Where does the candidate stand on:

- Increasing the state minimum wage to keep pace with inflation?
- Assuring basic support for people living in poverty?
- Maintaining access to health care for low-income persons?
- Increasing funding for safe and affordable housing?
- Providing treatment instead of incarceration to non-violent drug and alcohol offenders?
- Supporting the right of workers to organize collectively?

Respect for the Creator is Shown by Our Care for His Creation

Where does the candidate stand on:

- Supporting farmers and business owners who implement environmentally sound management practices?
- Promoting conservation and alternative, renewable energy sources?
- Protecting our state’s natural resources?