

# AOH VOTES



*Freindship, Unity, and Christian Charity*



# Responsibility to Vote

**Should Catholics take into account their own faith at the moment of voting?**

It only makes sense that if Catholics are supposed to live their faith in all of their daily activities that they should also take their faith into account while voting. As noted in the Second Vatican Council's teaching, "every citizen ought to be mindful of his right and his duty to promote the common good by using his vote" (Gaudium et Spes, 75). In preparing to vote, Catholics need to understand their faith so that their consciences are properly formed. Subsequent to this formation, it is important to research all of the important issues and candidates that will appear on the ballot. Only after sufficient preparation and prayer, is a Catholic fully ready to discharge his or her responsibilities as a faithful citizen and cast a meaningful vote.

**Can Catholics honestly disagree in matters of politics, social or cultural issues?**

In 2002, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document entitled Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding Participation of Catholics in Political Life that addresses the existence of political matters in which Catholics may disagree. There are, indeed, many issues upon which Catholics may legitimately differ such as the best methods to achieve welfare reform or to address illegal immigration. Conversely, however, there are other issues that are intrinsically evil<sup>(1)</sup> and can never legitimately be supported. For example, Catholics may never legitimately promote or vote for any law that attacks innocent human life.<sup>(1)</sup> Traditionally, the Church has referred to such moral acts as "intrinsically evil." Such acts can never result in good, no matter the circumstances.

# Vote Responsibly

**Are all political and social issues equal when it comes to choosing a political candidate?**

Absolutely not! The Catholic Church is actively engaged in a wide variety of important public policy issues including immigration, education, affordable housing, health, and welfare, to name just a few. On each of these issues we should do our best to be informed and to support those proposed solutions that seem most likely to be effective. However, when it comes to direct attacks on innocent human life, being right on all the other issues can never justify a wrong choice on this most serious matter. As Pope John Paul II has written, “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination” (Christifideles Laici, 38).

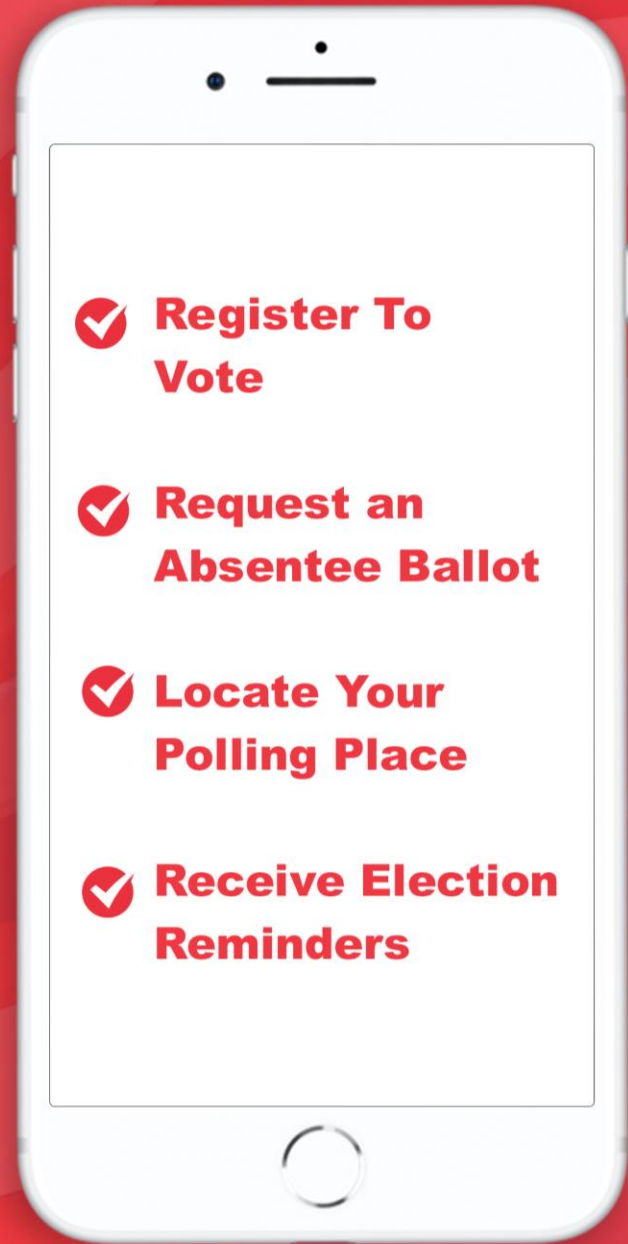
**How would you define a “candidate who is a faithful Catholic?”**

There are a large number of candidates or politicians in our country that label themselves as Catholic. Regrettably, however, some of these are an embarrassment to the Church and a scandal to others by virtue of their support of issues that, given their nature, can never be morally justified. A candidate who is authentically Catholic is one who always defends the dignity of every human person and who puts the welfare of the common good over various partisan or self interests. His personal and public life is shaped by faith in Christ and His teachings. Such a candidate can be from any political party, but will never support matters that are “non-negotiable” such as abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, or “same-sex marriage.”

# **VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

**TEXT “iVOTE” TO 73075**

**TO ACCESS THE  
PERSONAL VOTING ASSISTANT**





# A Comparison of the Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues  
of concern to the electorate  
Quotes taken from platforms  
in effect 2020-2024

## REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

## KEY ISSUE

## DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

"The Constitution's guarantee that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth." (p.13)

### Human Life

"Democrats believe every woman should be able to access ... abortion. We oppose and will fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to women's reproductive health and rights, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment and protecting and codifying the right to reproductive freedom." (p.42)

"We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare." (p.13)

### Planned Parenthood

"We will repeal the Title X domestic gag rule and restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood" (p.32)

"We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life." (p.13)

### Judges

"We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who look like America ... and will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including ... Roe v. Wade." (p.39)

"We support options for learning, including home-schooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools. We especially support the innovative financing mechanisms that make options available to all children: education savings accounts (ESAs), vouchers, and tuition tax credits." (p.34)

### Education/ School Choice

"Democrats oppose private school vouchers and other policies that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from the public school system." (p. 67)

"We renew our call for replacing "family planning" programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior." (p.34)

### Sex Education

"We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care; medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family." (p.32)

"The integrity of our country's foreign assistance program has been compromised by the ... [Obama] Administration's attempt to impose on foreign recipients, especially the peoples of Africa, its own radical social agenda while excluding faith-based groups — the sector with the best track record in promoting development — because they will not conform to that agenda. We pledge to reverse this course...." (p.52)

### Foreign Assistance

"We will support the repeal of the global gag rule (also known as the Mexico City Policy) and measures like the Helms Amendment, which limit safe access to abortion. We will also restore and expand American contributions to the United Nations Population Fund" (pp. 82-83)



Donald Trump

## Where do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?

### For President



Joe Biden

### Abortion on Demand

The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States, resulting in more than 61 million abortions.

#### President Trump has proven his pro-life commitment.

As president he has appointed pro-life advocates in his cabinet and administration, restored the "Mexico City Policy," and he has pledged "to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life."

#### Joe Biden supports the current policy of abortion on demand.

Joe Biden voted for the Harkin Amendment to endorse *Roe v. Wade*, which allows abortion for any reason. Joe Biden supports the Democratic platform of unlimited abortion even through birth.

### The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act would prohibit abortions after the unborn child is capable of feeling pain from abortion.

In his 2019 State of the Union speech, President Donald Trump called on Congress to "pass legislation to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother's womb."

When asked about prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks when the unborn child can feel pain, Joe Biden said, "I'm not going to interfere with that," which would allow abortion through birth.

### Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

**President Trump opposes using tax dollars to pay for abortion.** His administration issued regulations to ensure Title X funding does not go to facilities that perform or refer for abortions. He also cut off funding for the UNFPA due to their involvement in China's forced abortion program.

**Joe Biden supports using tax dollars to pay for abortion.** Joe Biden says he supports elimination of the Hyde Amendment. Joe Biden voted for taxpayer funding of overseas pro-abortion organizations.

### Nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court

The fundamental documents of American democracy and freedom, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, have given us essential principles to be respected by the courts such as the "unalienable" right to life. The next president may have the opportunity to appoint one to three justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Donald Trump has appointed Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. These appointments are consistent with the belief that federal courts should enforce rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution.

Joe Biden pledges that his judicial nominees would "support the right of privacy, on which the entire notion of a woman's right to choose is based."

This flier and the full texts of the party platforms may be found at [www.VotingInfo.net](http://www.VotingInfo.net).

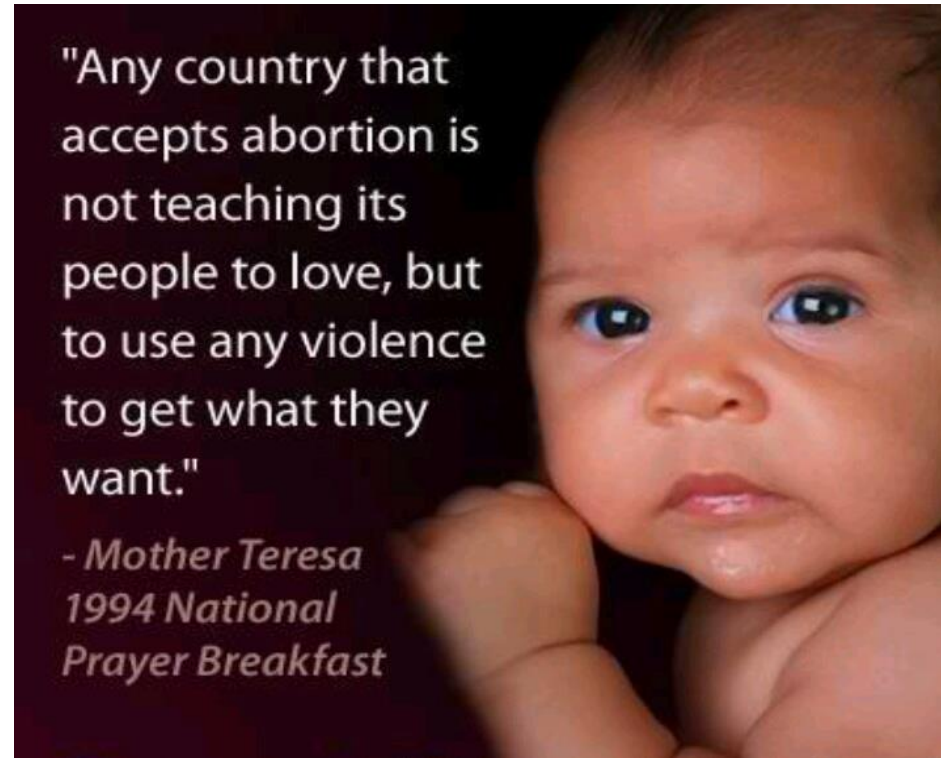
This guide has been legally approved for distribution by Churches and 501-(c)-3 organizations.  
Legal letter and online version at [VotingInfo.net](http://VotingInfo.net). The Republican Party reaffirmed their 2016 platform without change.

“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,”

**US Conference of Catholic Bishops**

“ I take this opportunity to appeal to all politicians, regardless of their faith convictions, to treat the defense of the lives of those who are about to be born and enter into society as the cornerstone of the common good”.

**Pope Francis**



“As a physician, I can say without hesitation: Life begins at conception. While what I have to say may be difficult for some to hear, I am saying it because I am not just pro-life, I am pro-eternal life. I want all of us to end up in heaven together someday.”

**Sister Deirdre Byrne**

America you are beautiful . . . and blessed . . . . The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life.

**Pope St John Paul II**



The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag, rendered in shades of red. The stars and stripes are visible but monochromatic, creating a patriotic and urgent atmosphere.

**PRAY. THINK. VOTE.**

**text “iVote” to 73075**

# VOTE



# Pro-Life



[PriestsforLife.org](http://PriestsforLife.org)

**UNBORN BABIES** KILLED BY ABORTION  
**WILL NEVER** HAVE THE  
**RIGHT TO VOTE!**

## AOH VOTES

### Important North Carolina Election Dates:

- Absentee Vote by Mail (Begins 9/4/2020)
- Last Day to Register to Vote (10/9)
- Early Voting for General Election (10/15-10/31)
- Deadline to Request Absentee Ballots (10/27)
- General Election Day (11/3)

**#BETHEIRVOTE**  
**VOTE FOR LIFE**



**FRFRANKPAVONE**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PRIESTS FOR LIFE