



Secretariat of Catholic Education

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July 6, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The elections are right around the corner! We are sending this resource to you now and we will also send it again at the beginning of the academic year.

During election season, you will inevitably be asked questions about the Church's role in political life. To prepare you for such questions and to help Catholics form their consciences, the Catholic bishops have made available dozens of resources at www.faithfulcitizenship.org, including:

- The text of the statement, [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#), which the bishops describe as "our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics."
- [Do's and Don'ts Guidelines](#) and [Tips for Conducting Candidate Forums](#) as well as [Political Activity Guidelines](#) to help you understand legal restrictions for non-profit institutions.
- Lesson plans for [elementary](#) and [high school](#) students, and for [adults](#).
- [Learning activities](#) for Jr. High and high school teachers, and for [Campus Ministers](#).
- Simple, two-page handouts on important topics such as [Conscience Formation](#), [Civil Dialogue](#), [Contacting Your Elected Officials](#), and the [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) summaries of the statement.
- [Videos](#) summarizing the statement, on civil dialogue, and on the call to participate.

There are many additional helpful resources at www.faithfulcitizenship.org. The majority of these resources are also available in Spanish.

To encourage year-round, ongoing efforts to put faith in action, you may also wish to visit the WeAreSaltAndLight.org website, which contains Catholic social teaching [learning activities](#), interactive [resources](#), and stories such as:

- [Students lead social action days, learning, advocacy](#)
- [As executions continue, youth pray for life and dignity](#)
- [Youth use art to fight landmines](#)
- [Catholic school teaches care for God's creation](#)
- [Youth put faith in action through global solidarity](#)
- [A school that builds bridges](#)
- [Teens put Catholic social teaching in action at retreat](#)

Thank you for your help in forming the consciences of Catholics for faithful citizenship. Together, our community of faith can respond to God's call to bring our convictions into the public square and to build a world more respectful of the life and dignity of every human person and more fully committed to family, justice, solidarity and peace.

Sincerely,

Sister John Mary Fleming, OP

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Executive Secretary of Catholic Education

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops