



Washington State Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Washington State

WSSCC Newsletter for Catholic Schools

Spring-Summer 2024

As the public policy voice of the five bishops of Washington state, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSSCC) advocates for policies that serve the common good and recognize the dignity of every human person. Our advocacy is guided by Catholic Social Teaching, and supporting Catholic schools and education is a key goal of our mission.

Get Ready to Vote!

It's a presidential election year! Are you registered to vote? This year, all state representative positions are up for election, as are about half of the state senate seats. Washington will also elect a new governor and attorney general, and US Senator Maria Cantwell's seat is up for re-election. Now is a good time to [register](#) to vote. If you register to vote in a timely manner, you will receive your ballot via mail. Some [deadlines](#) to note:



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| July 19 | First day of the 18-day voting period for primary elections. |
| July 29 | If you would like to vote in the primary, online and mail registrations must be received 8 days before Election Day. |
| August 6 | Primary day. Primary ballots must be postmarked or dropped in an official drop box by 8 PM. |
| October 18 | First day of the 18-day voting period. |
| October 28 | Online and mail voter registrations must be received by this day. |
| November 5 | Election Day. Ballots must be postmarked or dropped in an official drop box by 8 PM. This is also the final day to register to vote <i>in person</i> , but the WSSCC advises that you register ahead of this date. |



Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

As you prepare to vote this fall, you are invited to read *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This document is published by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The faithful are called to exercise their rights and duties as participants in democracy, form their consciences,

and contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue. Additionally, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* applies Catholic teaching to public policy issues, including respecting life, promoting peace, religious freedom, economic justice, migration, unjust discrimination, and more. The [introductory letter](#) to this publication was updated last year.

Vote NO on Initiative 2117

You will have the opportunity to vote for or against Initiative 2117 (I-2117) on the November ballot. I-2117 would repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a state climate bill passed in 2021, and it would bar implementation of any similar cap and trade programs in the future. Care for creation is one of the WSCC's legislative priorities, and the WSCC recommends that advocates vote NO on I-2117. Read more [here](#).



Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics

During this election year, all are invited to engage in “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good,” (no. 154) as Pope Francis articulates in *Fratelli Tutti*. As polarization permeates politics, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops designed a [Civilize It](#) campaign to draw Catholics to faithful citizenship. Read [Five Tips from Pope Francis on How to Engage in “a Better Kind of Politics”](#) and take the Civilize It [pledge](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2024
CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES!

THE WSCC WISHES ALL A
BLESSED & SAFE SUMMER!



WSCC Staff

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