



Washington State Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Washington State

WSSCC Newsletter for Catholic Schools

Fall Winter 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 for Superintendent!

Are you registered to vote? While much of the focus is on the presidential election, multiple state offices are up for election, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent can impact our Catholic schools through, for example, his role in teacher certification and his use and support of the state required private school advisory committee. Learn more about the candidates for state Superintendent, Chris Reykdal and David Olson in the [Online Voter Guide](#). In addition, all state Representatives and half of the Senate are up for election. These individuals will consider legislation that may result in unfunded mandates on Catholic schools or restrict our ability to teach from our faith. Learn more about the candidates in your area and vote!



If you haven't already, please [register](#) to vote. If you register in a timely manner, you will receive your ballot via mail. Some [deadlines](#) to note:

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.



Funding A Catholic Education

While Washington state remains unfriendly to vouchers and other programs that provide public funding for parents to choose the right education for their students, options do exist to help parents save

and pay for a Catholic education. Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and the state's Dream Ahead program provide investment opportunities for parents to save for tuition and other education expenses. Learn more [here](#).

Register for Our Oct. 10 Webinar

Political engagement for Catholics can be complicated. Neither major party fully represents our position on issues of the day, so how do we make voting decisions or share our stances on political questions? [Join the WSCC](#) for a discussion of Catholic social doctrine, conscience formation and political participation in anticipation of the November elections and 2025 legislative session. Interpretation into Spanish will be provided.



The 2025-2026 Legislative Biennium

The 2025 legislative session is expected to bring challenges and opportunities for our Catholic schools. The WSCC will be part of multiple efforts to ensure that our schools are not harmed by unfunded mandates, our teachers can engage in diversity, equity and inclusion training consistent with our faith, and our students remain safe, healthy and receive a high-quality education without undue state interference. [Sign up](#) for our Catholic Advocacy Bulletin to stay informed and for opportunities to advocate for Catholic schools.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

THE WSCC WISHES ALL A
BLESSED & SAFE SCHOOL
YEAR!



WSCC Staff

We invite you to contact us at any time.

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Join the [Washington State Catholic Conference](#) in year-round advocacy. Receive our monthly Catholic Advocacy Bulletin and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

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