

You Can Decide What Kind of Pennsylvania We Live in This November



This resource outlines several state-level bills introduced during this legislative session that could dramatically affect Pennsylvania and all who call our Commonwealth home. Consider how candidates' positions on these questions align with Catholic teaching and the common good.

Do you want to live in a Pennsylvania where the dignity of human life is respected or where this precious gift is cast aside?

Abortion remains a critical legislative issue in Pennsylvania because it involves the deliberate termination of the lives of children in the womb. State courts continue to hear appeals in *Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*. This case concerns public funding of abortion and could have broad consequences for abortion policy in the Commonwealth.

House Bill 1957 proposes a constitutional amendment addressing personal reproductive liberty. There are other issues to consider as well, including support for pregnancy resource centers, maternal and infant support, adoption services, housing and food insecurity relief, and financial assistance for families living in poverty.

Do you want to live in a Pennsylvania where families maintain the freedom to choose the best education for their children or where obstacles prevent parents from doing so?

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program supports school choice and is critical to the continued existence of Catholic schools while also benefiting public school students. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed House Bill 2632, which would change the EITC and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs.

EITC and OSTC scholarships are funded by companies and individuals who see value in providing families with educational choice. These programs reduce taxpayer burdens while helping educate young people, particularly those from challenging financial circumstances and underserved communities. Parents should have the ability to choose the educational environment that best meets their children's needs.

Do you want to live in a Pennsylvania where children can safely participate in athletic programs?

Pennsylvania legislators continue to debate policies concerning biological male participation in school athletic programs designated for females. The Pennsylvania Senate passed Senate Bill 1293, which would restrict biological males from playing on girls' sports teams. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has not passed this legislation.

“...the voice of the Church has every right to be heard in the public square. By its nature, it possesses a prophetic authority. Even if it is not always understood, her voice is nonetheless needed. Even when her teaching is not followed, particularly on essential questions touching the foundations of civilization, it remains necessary. Do not doubt this.”

— Pope Leo XIV

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FAITHFUL

For Catholics, voting with a formed conscience is critical to ensuring that public policies protect and preserve all human life with dignity from natural conception to natural death, educational liberties, the family and the common good.

Faithful citizens share a responsibility to learn how candidates' positions affect these critical issues. There are also many matters at the national level that concern Catholic voters, including just immigration policy and ongoing conflict in the Middle East, that demand our attention and require us to make our voices heard.

Casting votes with formed consciences in our state elections is critical. The Church does not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties; each voter is responsible for learning the facts and making a prayerful decision guided by Catholic teaching.

You can decide what kind of Pennsylvania we live in.

The examples on the preceding page are only a few of the state legislative efforts that could have a dramatic impact on our Commonwealth. There are countless more. Throughout the year, the faithful are called to research and prayerfully discern how legislation will affect our communities. This November, it is critical to determine which candidates embrace a vision of Pennsylvania whose laws respect life and the dignity of all, preserve religious liberty, strengthen families, and allow us to live our faith publicly as beacons of compassion and hope.

Research • Pray • Vote

PREPARE FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

- Learn about Catholic teaching and what it means to vote with a formed conscience.
- Research candidates' stated positions and review nonpartisan voter resources.
- Examine their voting records when they currently hold public office.
- Pray and reflect before casting your ballot.

OCTOBER 27 5 p.m. deadline to request a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

NOVEMBER 3 General Election Day; polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Completed mail ballots must be received by the voter's county election office by 8 p.m. November 3.



CATHOLIC TEACHING AND VOTER RESOURCES

Scan the code or visit

hbgdiocese.org/voter-resources

Candidate information • Pennsylvania voting resources • Prayer before an election

The Diocese of Harrisburg neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. This material is provided for nonpartisan civic education. Verify current election information with the Pennsylvania Department of State at vote.pa.gov.