



Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

General Election Day – Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 8

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington encourages all eligible Catholics in the District and in the Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St Mary's, to participate as Catholic citizens in the political life of our nation. Each election cycle offers us the opportunity to share our moral values and our vision for a loving and just society. When we cast our ballots, we also have the obligation to make informed voting decisions. Remember, *the bishops neither support nor oppose candidates and do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote*. The responsibility to make those choices rests with each individual in light of a properly-formed conscience.

Before voting, Catholics are called to consider a wide range of issues, weighing each according to its moral importance. Becoming familiar with candidates' positions on issues involving human life and dignity is essential to responsible, faithful citizenship. It is beneficial to research the ballot ahead of time and gather the facts for every proposal and race.

For those living in the District and seeking guidance before casting votes for Mayor, DC Council, Congress and other offices, please go to the DC Catholic Conference website and read what the Church teaches on important policy issues such as Life, Education, Social Justice and Religious Freedom. The DC Catholic Conference is linked [here](#).

Marylanders looking for guidance on the governor, state senators and delegates, and U.S. Representatives, please go to the Maryland Catholic Conference website and use their resources, such as the candidate surveys, before you vote.

Those links are here: <https://www.mdcatholic.org/parish-elections/>
<https://www.mdcatholic.org/elections-surveys/>

Also remember, civic engagement is about more than voting in elections. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing life of our communities. After the election, as our elected government leaders engage their work, they need to hear from their constituents so they can properly address the concerns of the people they represent.

Pastors are encouraged to share this information with their communities in the way you determine is best. Should you have any questions, please be in touch with Andrew Rivas, Manager of Policy and Advocacy at 202-683-1721 or Rivasa@adw.org.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan websites, adw.org and adw.org/es, are updated regularly with current information for you to share with your community. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to Covid-19. Daily news and information about our parishes, schools, and ministries are also available at cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office, please know that you can email me at FarrellT@adw.org or call my office line at 301-853-4507 or my cell at 202-531-4550.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,

Terence J. Farrell

Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia



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