

**POLICY ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS  
AND ELECTIONEERING  
IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW ORLEANS**

All printed materials handed out on church property or distributed through church offices must have originated from one of three sources (1) the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, (2) the Louisiana Catholic Conference, or (3) the local bishop.

This policy specifically prohibits the distribution of voter guides by organizations that represent themselves as Catholic but are not officially part of the Church. While these groups may be well intentioned, they frequently do not represent the full range of issues that the church formally takes positions on. It is important that the Church be seen as impartial with respect to the election of candidates for political office.

Additionally, no church property may be used for partisan electioneering purposes by political candidates. However, parishes can hold nonpartisan candidate forums, parish voter education programs, and voter registration drives on church property.

Practical advice on how to conduct such activities can be found in the Faithful Citizenship portion of the USCCB website at [www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship](http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship). The diocesan attorney should be contacted for a review of planned activities. There are specific Internal Revenue Service regulations that must be followed. Activities must be scrupulously nonpartisan.

*(This policy will be carried out at the diocesan level  
in accordance with local diocesan policy.)*

*Approved by*  
Louisiana Catholic Conference  
February 13, 2007