



POLICY ON POLITICAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES ON CHURCH PROPERTY

All printed political materials distributed on church property or through church offices must have originated from one of three sources:

- (1) the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *or*
- (2) the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops *or*
- (3) the local bishop.

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

Also, church property may not be used for partisan electioneering by political candidates. However, parishes may 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 by accessing USCCB's website dedicated to *Faithful Citizenship* at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship.

The diocesan attorney should be consulted 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 Board of Directors
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