



## Voting like a Catholic

For Catholics, the voting process is simply a variation of the process we should use in making all of our life decisions: if we turn to God in prayer, He will open our ears and our eyes, and through us he will cause His justice to flourish. Isaiah 35:4-7a

This process will work particularly when the choices are tough.

### 1 Register!

The very first step is to confirm that you are registered as a voter. Instructions can be found at: [elections.ab.ca](https://elections.ab.ca)

### 2 Pray.

We must pray devoutly throughout the entire voting process, asking for guidance as we try to decide which party or which candidate to support. We should share our hopes and fears for society, our neighbors, our selves, and the world.

If we do that devoutly, God will open our ears and eyes, guiding us to the vote He wants us to cast – whether or not it is the same vote He might desire from others: our thoughts are not God’s thoughts, we have no idea what God’s plans are. As with the loaves and fishes, God can make whatever He wants of just a few votes.

### 3 Look, learn, listen & chat.

We are called to inform ourselves responsibly concerning (a) the teachings of the Church and (b) issues relevant to the election. This involves identifying and consulting responsible news sources and familiarizing ourselves with the principles and values of Catholic Social Teaching. Comprehensive information concerning Catholic teaching and party positions on the issues can be found at the Catholic Conscience website: [CatholicConscience.org/Canada/Alberta](https://CatholicConscience.org/Canada/Alberta)

As we learn, we should seek out those around us, at home, church, and work, and discuss the issues with others, listening respectfully and evaluating all appropriate options.

### 4 Choose confidently.

If we pray devoutly, God will open our ears, eyes, and hearts, and will lead us to the choice He wants from us, so that we can help accomplish His plan. We can vote with confidence!

### 5 Vote.

Instructions for finding your polling place or voting by mail can be found at the Elections Alberta website: [elections.ab.ca](https://elections.ab.ca)

### 6 Stay engaged.

Once the election is over, stay actively and respectfully engaged with those who have been elected – whether they are your own preferred candidates or not. This is important if we hope to improve our choices in the future. While gently sharing with them our concerns about problems, we should remember to thank them for the sacrifices they have made to serve!



*Catholics should consider a broad range of issues in voting.*

We are called to inform ourselves on the positions of the candidates and parties on the full range of issues, including the following.

For a side-by-side comparison of party positions on these issues, visit [CatholicConscience.org/Canada/Alberta](https://CatholicConscience.org/Canada/Alberta)



### The Sanctity of Human Life: from Conception to Natural Death

Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives | Human Engineering | Population Control

### Stewardship of Creation

Climate Change | Species, Diversity & Wildlife | Energy & Resources | Sustainable Development

### Family, Community & the Common Good

Role of the Family | Healthcare | Education & Young Workers | Culture Arts & Tourism

### An Economy for All

The Dignity of Work | Poverty Reduction | Labour, Employment, Corporations, & Industries

### The Individual & Society: Rights, Responsibility, & Subsidiarity

Civil Liberties | Human Rights | Responsibilities: Participation & Subsidiarity

### Solidarity

Supporting the Marginalized | Indigenous Peoples | Rural Communities | Refugees & Newcomers

### Good Government: Democracy, Justice, & Peace

Role & Purpose of Government | Stewardship & Reform | Provinces, Territories, Municipalities | International Relations & Defense | Public Safety