

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Political Advocacy Policy

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Our parishes, schools and diocesan entities are not to engage in any form of partisan politics or give the appearance that a particular politician or political party is being endorsed by the Diocese of Dallas or the Catholic Church. Therefore:

- While clerics, especially priests, are called to proclaim the gospel and articulate proper moral teachings in line with the Magisterium of the Church, even when such statements relate to politics, **they are to refrain entirely from public endorsement or advocacy for any politician or political party, whether in a parish, school, at public events or through various forms of social media.** For additional guidance, please see pages 60-61 of the following: http://www.clerus.org/clerus/dati/2013-06/13-13/Direttorio_EN.pdf#page=60
- Pastors and other administrators of parish or diocesan **entities should not distribute political materials, except for those provided by the Diocese of Dallas or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**, particularly those found at the following link: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/Forming-Consciences-Faithful-Citizenship-bulletin-insert.pdf>
- As the Catholic Church does advocate responsible civic action, parishes and diocesan entities may provide Voter Registration materials, so long as it is appropriate for the time and place, and so long as there is no appearance of partisan support for any politician or political party.
- Politicians and political advocates **may not** give presentations **on any subject matter** at parishes, schools or diocesan entities. These restrictions should be followed regardless of political party or group, whether the politician or political advocate is a Catholic or a member of any parish, or whether the individual is currently in political office, running for office or has been appointed to an office.
- Retired politicians or those no longer in political office may be invited to give presentations at a parish, school or diocesan entity **so long as they do not address matters of a political nature.**
- Non-politicians may give presentations at parishes, schools or diocesan entities concerning moral issues and how those moral issues might relate to politics generally, but statements which advocate for a specific politician or political party, even implicitly, are prohibited.
- No political banners, yard signs or similar are to be displayed on parish, school or diocesan grounds or on social media managed by parishes, schools or diocesan entities.
- Parish buildings, school buildings or other diocesan buildings may not be rented or leased to politicians, political parties or political groups.

- Non-Parish Based Organizations **may not** endorse, advocate or campaign for any political candidate or political party. Doing so will result in forfeiture of NPBO status.

This policy is not intended to prevent politicians or their advocates from properly participating in church or school events, meetings or organizations in their roles as parents or members of parish or school councils and boards. It is only intended to limit the appearance of advocacy for politicians or political parties at parish, school or diocesan entities.