

10 Steps to Voting with a Clear Conscience

1. Vote!

First, make sure you actually vote: voting is a moral obligation!

2. Know the candidates.

Be sure you *know where the candidates stand* on the issues.

3. Reject the Disqualified.

If a candidate came forward and said, "I support terrorism," you wouldn't say, "I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?" Similarly, those who permit the destruction of innocent life by abortion disqualify themselves from consideration.

4. Distinguish Policy from Principle

Most disagreements between candidates and political platforms do not have to do with *principle* ("Is there a 'Right to Crime?')", but rather with *policy* ("How do we reduce crime?"). But the dispute over whether there is a right to life *does* deal with principle, and is therefore more fundamental.

5. Weigh other issues properly.

Not all issues have equal weight. War, for example, may be morally justified, but abortion and euthanasia never are.

6. Keep your loyalty focused on Jesus.

Your loyalty to Jesus Christ must be stronger than your loyalty to any political party.

7. Remember, the Party Matters.

Elections do not only put *individual candidates* into power; they put *political parties* into power. Consider what the parties stand for, and how the outcome of the election affects the balance of power.

8. Distinguish "choosing evil" from "limiting evil."

If two opposing candidates both support abortion, then ask: *Which of the two candidates will do less harm to unborn children?* This is *not* "choosing the lesser of two evils," but rather choosing to *limit an evil*, and that is a *good*.

9. Support the candidate/issue with more than a vote!

Additional activities include donating, volunteering for the campaign, handing out literature, making phone calls, using yard signs and bumper stickers, and praying.

10. Mobilize as many other voters as possible!

Adapted from *Voting With a Clear Conscience* by Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life.

Right To Life of Northeast Ohio

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