



Washington State Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Washington State

WSSCC Newsletter for Catholic Schools

Fall Quarter 2022

As the public policy voice of the five bishops of Washington state, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSSCC) advocates for policies that serve the common good and recognize the dignity of every human person. Our advocacy is guided by Catholic Social Teaching, and supporting Catholic schools and education is a key goal of our mission.

Faithful Citizenship: Remember to Vote



Election day is around the corner! Click [here](#) to register to vote or update your voter information. The 18-day voting period begins on October 21. Deposit your ballot by Tuesday, November 8 at 8 pm in an official ballot box, or be sure your ballot is postmarked by November 8 if sending it through the mail. Contact your [county elections](#)

[department](#) to locate official ballot box locations near you. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States](#), a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. The publication includes Church teachings on numerous public policy issues, including respecting life, promoting peace, economic justice, immigration, racial justice, caring for creation, religious liberty, and more. Additionally, as polarization permeates politics, the USCCB invites you to join their [Civilize It](#) campaign. Civilize It seeks "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good," as Pope Francis calls for in *Fratelli Tutti*.

The 2023 State Legislative Session

The 2023 state legislative session will begin on January 9 and run for 105 days. Advocating for Catholic schools is one of the legislative priorities of the WSSCC. [Sign up](#) to stay informed of legislative issues via our [Catholic Advocacy Bulletin](#). During the session we will include quick links to sign in electronically for or against bills. We will also provide ways to contact your legislators at key moments when they are considering bills of importance to Catholic Social Teaching. The Catholic Advocacy Bulletin is currently emailed monthly, and during the state legislative session it is sent weekly.



Supreme Court Rules In Favor of Catholic Schools

In June the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Catholic Schools and religious liberty in *Carson v. Makin*. The Supreme Court found that it was unlawful for the state of Maine to prevent students at faith-based schools from accessing state tuition assistance. In certain rural areas of Maine, public secondary school is not available, and families are given tuition assistance to attend private schools. Prior to the ruling, funds could not be used to attend religious schools. WSCC's Bishop Thomas Daly of the Diocese of Spokane is the chair of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education. He was among signers of this [USCCB statement](#), which praised the court's decision that supported religious liberty and by extension the mission of Catholic schools.



USCCB Action Alerts



Visit the [USCCB's Action Alert](#) page for quick links to send letters to your US legislators on timely national legislative issues including support for DACA recipients, assisting refugees from Afghanistan, protecting churches against vandalism, supporting pregnant workers, and more.



Synod: USCCB Releases *National Synthesis Document*

Last October, Pope Francis invited the worldwide Catholic Church to participate in two-year "Synod on Synodality" and to reflect on walking together and listening to one another. Earlier this month the USCCB released the [National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America](#), a compilation of the voices of hundreds of thousands of Catholics who participated in listening sessions. Learn more about the next steps of the Synod [here](#).



WSCC Staff

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Apply Now!

WSCC Seeking a Communications Specialist

The WSCC is looking to hire Communications Specialist to do part-time contract work. Click [here](#) for more information.

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