



Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

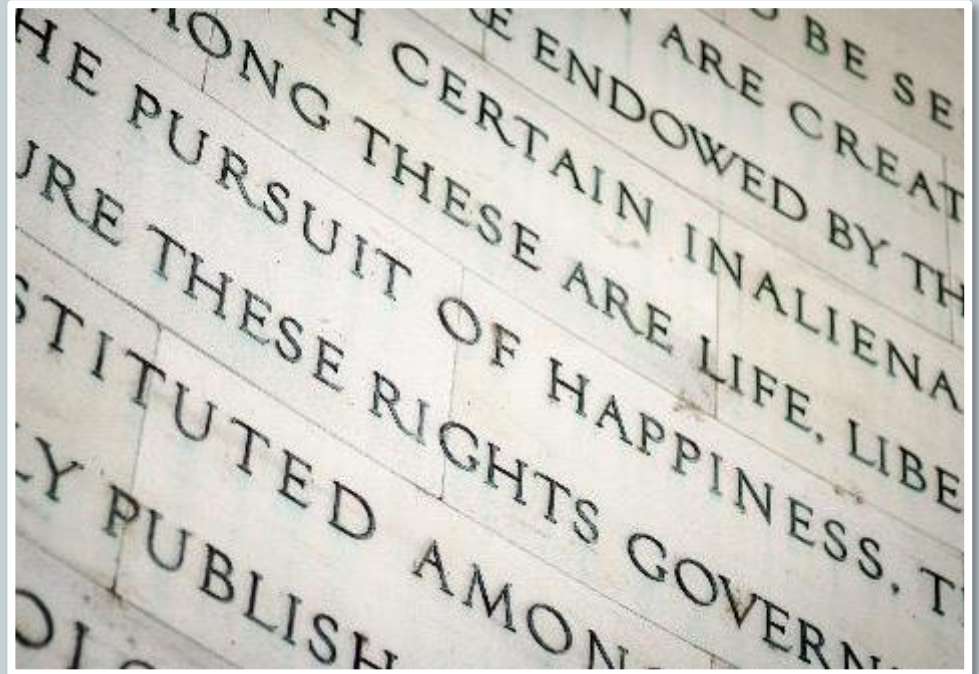
THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH



Why we advocate:



- Our baptismal call is to follow and bear witness to Christ in all we do.
- Participation in the political process is a moral obligation.



WHEN WE DRINK THIS CUP

When we drink the cup of communion, we become the community of Christ in a unique and powerful way. Our “Amen” when offered the Body and Blood of Christ is an Amen to the Church, a sign of our commitment to the Body of Christ. When we make commitments, we have responsibilities and obligations.



Church Teaching



- “It is the **duty** of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community.” –CCC #2239.



“The Eucharist demands that we be members of the one body of the Church... We must not forget that the mysticism of the sacrament has a social character. When those who receive it turn a blind eye to the poor and suffering... the Eucharist is received unworthily.”

Amoris Latitia #186



Guidance from Bishops



- **“The Catholic community brings important assets to the political dialogue about our nation’s future. We bring a consistent moral framework—drawn from basic human reason that is illuminated by Scripture and the teaching of the Church—for assessing issues, political platforms, and campaigns. We also bring broad experience in serving those in need—educating the young, serving families in crisis, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless, helping women who face difficult pregnancies, feeding the hungry, welcoming immigrants and refugees, reaching out in global solidarity, and pursuing peace.”** –*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 12



It is true that there is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor it is helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.

- Amoris Latitia, #34



How can we advocate?



Pray



Call



Write



Rally & Visit



Follow-up!



Advocacy Day



What is Advocacy Day?



**Participate in the political process
with Catholics from around the state**

Participants are invited to visit the State Capitol and meet with legislative staff to discuss the Bishops' legislative concerns regarding issues that affect the life and dignity of the people of Texas.



Key Dates



11/12: Bill filing begins

01/08: Session begins

Feb.: Committees Assigned

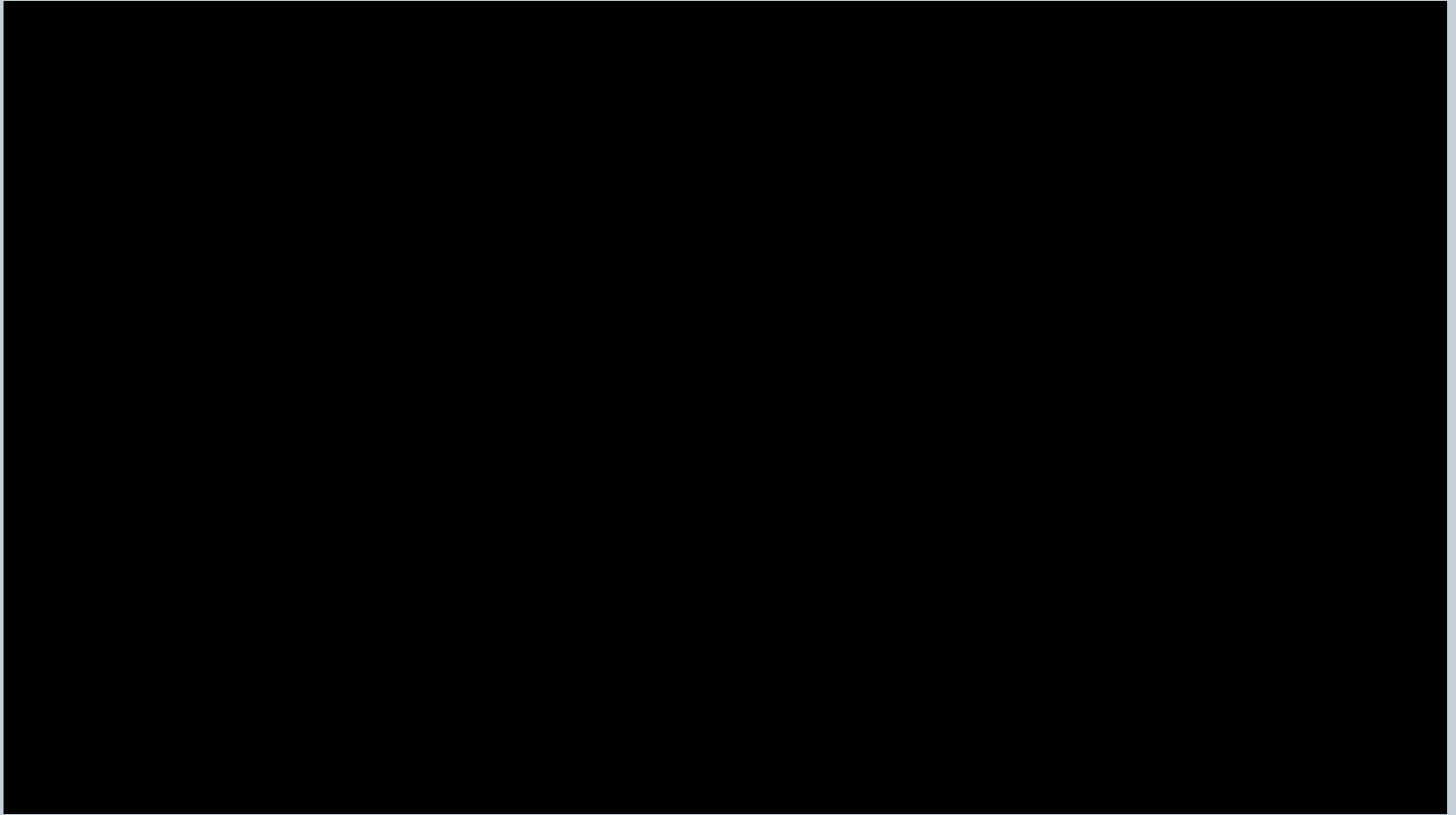
03/08: Bill filing ends, passing
begins

03/25-26: Advocacy Day!

05/27: Session ends



Advocacy Day Video



Advocacy Day 2019



Who?

- Catholics!

What?

- Support the 2019 legislative agenda through a rally and visits with your lawmaker's office.

When?

- Mon., 03/25, we will celebrate Mass
- Tue., 03/26, we will have Advocacy Day

Where?

- Mass will be at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Advocacy Day will be at the Texas Capitol

Why?

- To advocate for our Catholic faith and improve our laws.



What are Legislative Visits?



- Diocesan Advocacy Day
Coordinators will schedule legislative visits.
- With a team leader, teams of 3-5 Catholics visit 1 - 3 legislative offices.
- Teams discuss at least one specific bill on the 2019 legislative agenda.
- This is an opportunity educate, inform, and witness to our faith.



How to continue advocacy in person:



- Introduce yourself as constituents.
- Explain:
 - that you have a meeting with _____, or
 - explain the topic you'd like to talk about; ask who to talk to.
- Explain your position on the topic.
- Provide examples from local experience.
- Listen to their feedback.
- Thank staff before leaving.
- Explain you'll be watching for a good vote.



How to be ineffective:



- Be angry, hostile, or threaten.
- Be disrespectful.
- Ignore comments and concerns.
- Overwhelm with too much information.
- Forget to thank helpful staff.



Advocacy Day Agenda (Tentative)

- Monday, March 25 at St. Mary's Cathedral

- 6:00 pm Rosary
- 6:30 pm Mass

- Tuesday, March 26 at Texas Capitol

- 8:00 am Coordinators check-in (Lege. Conference Center, E2.002)
- 8:15 am Legislative team visits begin
- 8:15 am Register support or opposition to bills (in LCC)
- 9:00 am Student mock hearing #1 (Capitol Auditorium, E1.004)
- 10:15 am Student mock hearing #2 (CA, E1.004)



Advocacy Day Agenda (cont.)



- Tuesday, March 26
 - 10:00 am House Opening Prayer
 - 11:00 am Assemble on South Steps for Rally
 - 11:00 am Senate Opening Prayer
 - 11:30 am Rally on South Steps
 - 12:15 – 2:00 pm Lunch
 - 12:15 – 1:15 pm Student mock hearing #3 (CA, E1.004)
 - 12:30 pm Legislative meetings resume
 - 1:30 – 2:30 pm Student mock hearing #4 (CA, E1.004)
 - 2:30 – 4:00 pm Buses depart



2019 Legislative Agenda



Life and Family Life

Human life is intrinsically valuable and should be protected by law from fertilization to natural death.

Moreover, the family is the sanctuary of life in which parents teach children how they ought to live.



Topic 1: Protect Human Life



- Oppose abortion and euthanasia;
- eliminate funding for abortion providers;
- increase funding to abortion alternatives;
- eliminate wrongful birth lawsuits;
- recognize the sacredness, fidelity, and permanency of marriage;
- improve foster care through a community-based model; and
- increase recruitment and support of foster, adoptive, and biological parents.



Immigration

The Church supports immigration reform that is merciful to those here simply working for a better life and recognizes the responsibility of the government to maintain its sovereignty.



Topic 2: Immigration



- Oppose efforts to reduce access by immigrants to IDs, birth certificates, drivers' licenses, education, and healthcare;
- support care for unaccompanied minors and alternatives to family detention;
- support enforcement measures which are targeted, proportional, and humane; and
- support the reunification of immigrant families.



Restorative Justice

In response to crime, the state has primary responsibility to uphold justice, with the goals of achieving restitution, protecting the common good, deterring offenses, and rehabilitating offenders.



Topic 3: Restorative Justice



- Oppose the death penalty;
- support bail reforms;
- rehabilitate non-violent state jail offenders;
- raise the age of criminal responsibility;
- support parole review of juveniles with lengthy sentences; and
- recategorize rent-to-own defaults as a civil offense.



Education

The overall education of children is a most serious duty and at the same time a primary right of parents. The State must support parents in their indeclinable role.



Topic 4: Education



- Support school choice;
- create a statewide “do-not-hire” registry;
- support student-based education finance;
- increase Tuition Equalization Grant funding;
- protect of the autonomy of private schools; and
- support access to PK and child care.



Healthcare

The Church promotes healthcare in accord with the principles of bioethics, especially offering care to those who have special needs because of age, addiction, and physical or mental disability.



Topic 5: Healthcare



- Support care which respects patient dignity and physician conscience;
- support access to palliative care and monitor changes to the advance directive act;
- increase access to health insurance and healthcare;
- improve the health of Texas mothers;
- support preventative care and enhanced education to help patients manage their health; and
- increase access to treatment for addiction.



Social Concerns

The Church serves the poor
and the vulnerable by
providing services and
advocating for the common
good. Those unable to help
themselves are in
particular need of aid.



Topic 6: Social Concerns



- Reduce marriage penalties in public assistance;
- oppose usurious payday / auto-title loans;
- incentivize self-sufficiency in public assistance;
- support care for persons with disabilities;
- alleviate food insecurity and hunger; and
- combat human trafficking, care for victims, and reunify families.



Religious Liberty

Society itself profits by
the moral qualities of
justice and peace which
have their origin in
people's faithfulness to
God and to His holy will.

Dignitatis Humanae #6



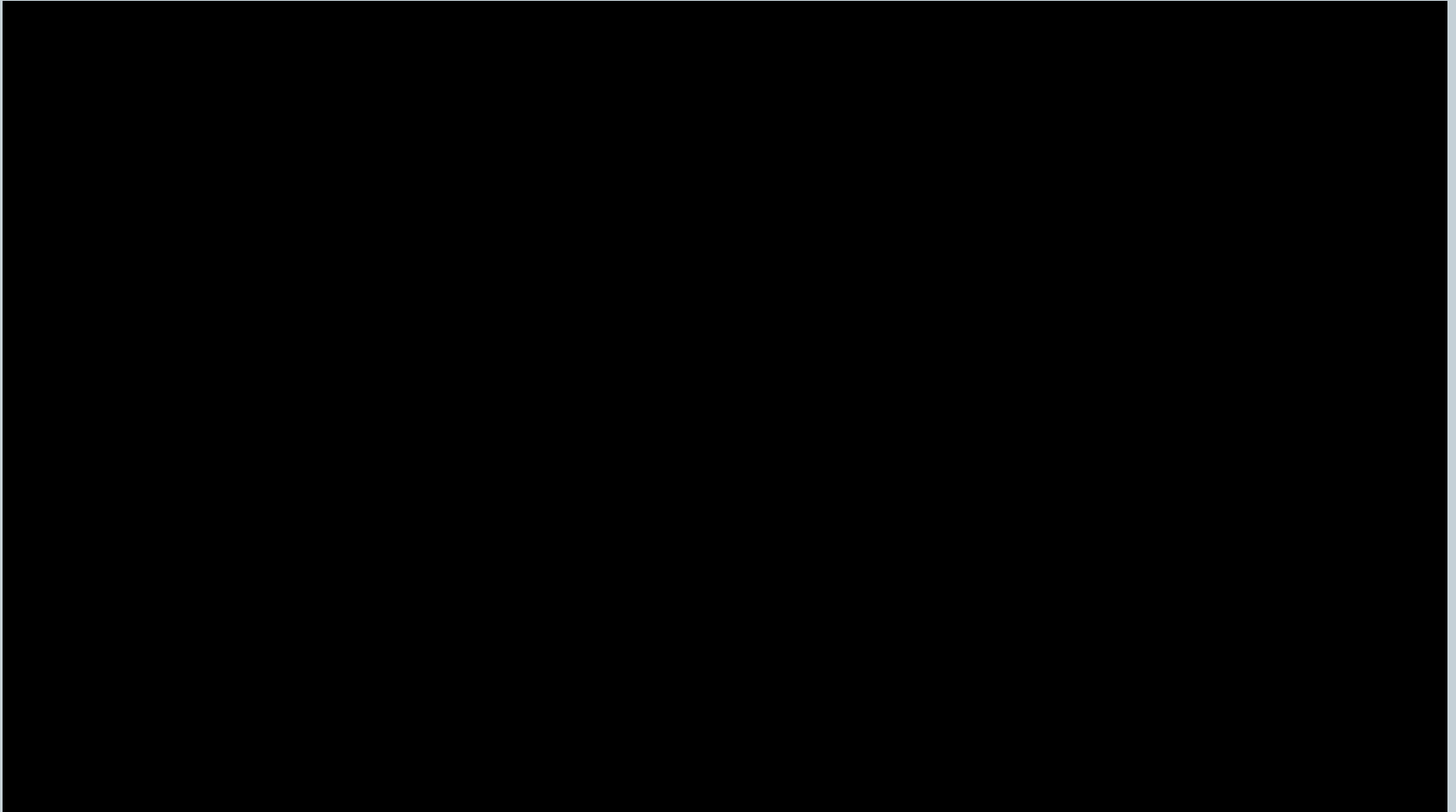
Topic 7: Religious Liberty



- Protect religious liberty, especially as it pertains to human life, marriage, and the family;
- support conscience protection for government contractors, especially in healthcare, education, and social services; and
- support incentives for donations by taxpayers to faith-based nonprofits.



Religious Liberty Video



Creation

We should see nature
with awe and wonder,
but too often we tend
to merely view
ourselves as nature's
masters, who employ
it to satisfy our ever-
multiplying desires.



Topic 8: Creation



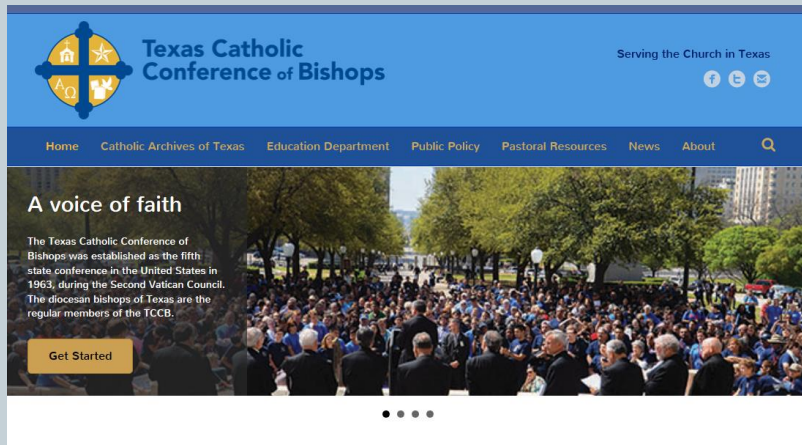
- Increase understanding of Texas' water availability;
- increase efficiency and conservation in water use to maintain availability for irrigation and drinking;
- increase efficiency and conservation in energy use and efforts to mitigate pollution; and
- increase efficiency in disaster recovery coordination among non-profits.



Conclusion



- Join the Texas Catholic Network at txcatholic.org.
- Contact your lawmaker through txcatholic.org.
- Use OneClick Politics to advocate!



When you are finished editing the fields below, click "Submit!"

Timothy Kaine
US SENATOR FOR VIRGINIA (D)

Robert J. Wittman
US REPRESENTATIVE FOR VIRGINIA (DISTRICT 1) (R)

Email (Click here to expand) _____

Editable Subject _____

Dear [name],

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vestibulum faucibus massa ac ipsum imperdiet, vel venenatis justo finibus. In sed augue quis sem vehicula fringilla. Morbi ac justo libero. Sed maximus eget tellus vitae commodo.

Sincerely,
Your Name _____

Tweet _____
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Post to FB _____
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Submit

