

Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Legislative Commission Report
June 2021, Convention; Patty Johnson, Chair

Catholics Care. Catholics Vote “We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: A good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not True: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” Pope Francis.

A statement of the United States Bishops for A Catholic Framework for Economic Life. “As followers of Jesus Christ and participants in a powerful economy, Catholics in the United States are called to work for greater economic justice in the face of persistent poverty, growing income gaps and increasing discussion of economic issues in the united states and around the world.”

How should you as an individual participate in the political process? On the local level, try to attend city, town, or county council meetings. In some areas these are broadcast live on local television or online. On the state level, contact your State Catholic Conference for advice on reliable resources on pending legislation, candidates, legislative advocacy and how to sign up for legislative alerts. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB.org) should be contacted to verify reliable resources for information on pending national legislation.

Contact with your political officials is also important and can be done in a variety of ways. Make an appointment and meet with them to discuss issues when they are in your area. Letters, email, phone calls are other forms of communication. You will receive a response that you can share with your group when you communicate with your elected officials.

A NCCW affiliated organization should be careful how it participates in the political process. Stay focused on the issues and do not allow your words or actions to deteriorate into personal attacks. Be informed on key issues in preparation of communicating and voting. Catholic organizations should not support or oppose any candidate, but should seek to focus attention on the moral and human dimensions of issues.

Tennessee Catholic Public Policy Commission YOU do make a difference!

Join the swelling swarm of Catholics and others who advocate social reform and participate in the TN Legislative process. Google Tennessee Catholic Public Policy Commission (TCPPC) for information.

When there is a critical law in the making, we send you an alert with:

- > a summary of the bill,
- > a link for more details, AND
- > a fast and easy way to contact your Legislator.

Literally, with the push of the button, you can email, snail mail, or...give your representative a buzz on the phone. (AND, as an added benefit, we supply suggested message/content and details on the legislation that you can use, or not.)

NOW is a good time to review critical legislation that will impact the common good of all Tennessee citizens—especially our most vulnerable sisters and brothers.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17