

Texas Leadership Institute for Public Advocacy

Promoting Civic Awareness and Sound Public Policy

From the desk of

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OPEN LETTER TO CATHOLIC VOTERS

Thank you for your interest in the Guide for Catholic Voters published by TLIPA. Many Catholics are extremely conflicted about the presidential elections this year. The American people voted in the 2016 primary elections for Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as the presidential candidates representing the two major national political parties. A great number of Catholic and evangelical voters were disappointed by the results of the primaries. Many continue to be undecided voters, dismayed by their limited choices. Candidates on the ballot from second tier parties do not offer a viable alternative; no third party candidate has ever won the presidency in the general election.

Numerous Catholic voters believe the two major presidential candidates do not hold principles that are comprehensively in accord with Catholic moral principles. Many have been offended and have observed that Mr. Trump has often failed to meet basic standards of civility, behaving disrespectfully and uncharitably towards his opponents and other public figures during the primary season.

Voters are also disturbed that Mrs. Clinton has not been truthful during investigations into her unlawful use of unsecured private communications servers when she was Secretary of State and what appears to be systemic corruption involving the Clinton Foundation and "pay-to-play" agreements with foreign parties. Recently it was revealed in [leaked emails](#)¹ that her campaign chairman and Democratic Party activists discussed fomenting "revolution" in the Catholic Church inciting Catholics to demand the "end of middle ages dictatorship and ... respect gender equality in the Catholic Church." Clinton Campaign Chairman John Podesta reveals that his "progressive pals" created *Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good* and *Catholics United* to infiltrate the Catholic Church with the help of influential Catholics like Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, daughter of Robert Kennedy.

The Board of the Texas Leadership Institute of Public Advocacy, a Political Action Committee established in San Antonio, are all members of the Catholic Church. We do not condone Mr. Trump's occasional vulgar and crude behavior and language especially towards women and political opponents. His inflammatory language has alienated potential voters.

We believe Mr. Trump should not only seek competent and experienced political advisors to help guide his thinking in matters of state but, more importantly, spiritual direction which we hope results in a sincere desire to seek forgiveness from many individuals he has offended and wounded. A famous English writer once said, "Saints have a past and sinners have a future." We all have the capacity to grow and change. Some of us learn later than others. We pray Mr. Trump will examine his behavior, practice the salutary habit of controlling his quick temper and impulsive outbursts.

The Board of TLIPA recommends Donald Trump and Michael Pence as the next President and Vice-President of the United States based on the following reasons:

- On September 22nd, the Trump campaign announced the formation of a Catholic advisory group to advise the Trump campaign. [Read his statements²](#) pertaining to issues important to Catholics: Protect our religious liberty, stop abortion funding, appoint strict constitutionalist judges, promote educational choice, reform health care, prioritize job growth and lower taxes, ensure security and safety.
- On October 5th, Trump addressed a [letter to the Catholic Leadership Conference³](#) in Denver. In his letter he assures our Catholic leaders that he will protect our religious rights and freedoms, nominate pro-life judges, and support educational reforms, advancing school choice initiatives.
- Mr. Trump picked Governor Michael Pence of Indiana, a refined dependable pro-life evangelical gentleman as his running mate. [Pence recently pledged on Lifenews.com⁴](#) that President Trump and Vice-President Pence will work to defund Planned Parenthood and appoint justices to overturn Roe V. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion throughout the 50 states.
- Mr. Trump has pledged publicly to look out for the working man and build up the economy, lower taxes, and cut unnecessary regulations to stimulate job growth and entrepreneurial investments.
- He has stated that he will work to initiate reforms and fix the nation's broken immigration laws.

In contrast to Donald Trump's pledges to Catholic and evangelical voters, Hillary Clinton's political record and past are well known to American voters. She has prominently been in the public eye since her husband assumed the Presidency in 1993. She has a long history of personal misconduct and dubious ethical practices (Whitewater Savings and Loan scandal, Travelgate, renting the Lincoln bedroom, selling pardons before the Clintons left the White House, pay-to-play Commerce Department international trade mission junkets).

A Hillary Clinton presidency will result in severe restrictions on our individual and religious liberties, enshrine extreme judicial activism from the highest court of the nation, the Supreme Court, down throughout the federal court system with more judges "legislating from the bench" overstepping their constitutional boundaries. She will expand the corruption within the institutions of the executive branch of government including our military. Clinton will aggressively enforce the government mandate forcing people of faith to violate their consciences on health care.

Hillary Clinton is an enthusiastic supporter of unrestricted abortion and a close ally of Planned Parenthood. She will attempt to accelerate the out of control national debt and expand government-mandated "unaffordable" health care. Mrs. Clinton has confessed she dreams of hemispheric alliance with open borders, a merger of nations from North, South, and Central America.

Mrs. Clinton in her capacity as Secretary of State endangered national security by maintaining her own private email communication server, thereby violating State Department regulations and has lied about her reckless contempt for federal security regulations. The 2012 Benghazi disaster in Libya resulted in the deaths of four Americans including Ambassador J. Christopher

Stephens due to Secretary of State Clinton's negligence in not heeding the requests for additional security for the American diplomatic compounds under her department's control.

A final word about Catholic voting principles:

Catholics may (and quite often do today) face a dilemma in making a decision to vote for one of two candidates who may not totally embrace the moral teachings of the Church. A case can be made perhaps that both candidates take positions or are not deeply principled about issues that involve supporting or promoting an intrinsic moral evil, that is an act that is always, without exception, evil, like abortion, euthanasia, the redefinition of marriage to allow same sex "marriage", human embryonic cloning and experimentation.

In such cases, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' teaching document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, available on the US Bishops' website:⁵

"When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods.

"In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions." (FCFC, No. 36-37)

I strongly suggest to all Catholic voters that much is at stake in this presidential election ESPECIALLY the open seat on the Supreme Court vacated by the passing early this year of Justice Antonin Scalia who was a highly respected jurist and faithful Catholic. No Catholic should take the "extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate". VOTE for the candidate who will clearly limit intrinsic evils as the next President of the United States.



References:

¹<https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/6293>

²<http://tlipa.org/wp-content/uploads/Trump-Catholic-Advisory-Group.pdf>

³<http://tlipa.org/wp-content/uploads/TRUMP-Letter-to-Catholic-Leadership-Conference.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/pulse/pence-trump-and-i-will-send-roe-v.-wade-to-the-ash-heap-of-history>

⁵<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>