

Comparing Party Platforms to United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Policy Positions

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Catholic Voter Score Card

USCCB Policy Position	Republican	Democrat
<p>4. Under the heading “Marriage and Family,” the USCCB states “The family founded upon marriage is the basic cell of human society. The role, responsibilities, and needs of families should be central national priorities. Marriage must be defined, recognized, and protected as a lifelong exclusive commitment between a man and a woman, and as the source of the next generation and the protective haven for children.⁸ The institution of marriage is undermined by the ideology of 'gender' that dismisses sexual difference and the complementarity of the sexes and falsely presents 'gender' as nothing more than a social construct or psychological reality, which a person may choose at variance with his or her biological reality.... Policies on taxes, work, divorce, immigration, and welfare should uphold the God-given meaning and value of marriage and family, help families stay together, and reward responsibility and sacrifice for children. Wages should allow workers to support their families, and public assistance should be available to help poor families to live in dignity. Such assistance should be provided in a manner that promotes eventual financial autonomy.”</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>
<p>5. In the section titled “Religious Freedom,” The USCCB states “US policy should promote religious liberty vigorously, both at home and abroad.” It also states “In the United States, religious freedom generally enjoys strong protection in our law and culture, but those protections are now in doubt. For example, the longstanding tax exemption of the Church has been explicitly called into question at the highest levels of government, precisely because of her teachings on marriage.”</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>
<p>6. The next section of the USCCB document is titled “Preferential Option for the Poor and Economic Justice.” This section of the USCCB document covers a variety of issues pertaining to human dignity including the following: “Economic decisions and institutions should be assessed according to whether they protect or undermine the dignity of the human person. Social and economic policies should foster the creation of jobs for all who can work with decent working conditions and just wages.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Continued on next page)</p>	<p>Notes:</p> 	<p>Notes:</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">(6. Continued from previous page)</p> <p>This section of the USCCB document goes on to support labor unions, as well as “economic freedom, initiative, and the right to private property.” It advocates for welfare policies that support the family and reduce dependency and tax credits as safety nets. It also highlights the importance of faith-based groups, affordable housing, and support for agriculture.</p>	<p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>	<p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>
<p>7. Under “Health Care,” the USCCB document says the following: “Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right.... The nation's health care system needs to be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, respect the principle of subsidiarity, and meet the needs of the poor and uninsured, especially born and unborn children, pregnant women, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. Employers, including religious groups and family-owned businesses, should be able to provide health care without compromising their moral or religious convictions, and individuals should be able to purchase health care that accords with their faith. The USCCB supports measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid....”</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>
<p>8. Under “Migration,” the USCCB document states “The Gospel mandate to 'welcome the stranger' requires Catholics to care for and stand with newcomers, authorized and unauthorized...Comprehensive reform is urgently necessary to fix a broken immigration system and should include a broad and fair legalization program....[It also states] The right and responsibility of nations to control their borders and to maintain the rule of law should be recognized but pursued in a just and humane manner.”</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect</p>

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9. The next USCCB topic is called “Catholic Education.” Here is the first paragraph under that heading: “Parents—the first and most important educators—have a fundamental right to choose the education best suited to the needs of their children, including public, private, and religious schools. Government, through such means as tax credits and publicly funded scholarships, should help provide resources for parents, especially those of modest means, to exercise this basic right without discrimination. Students in all educational settings should have opportunities for moral and character formation consistent with the beliefs and responsibilities of their parents.”	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect
10. The next topic on the USCCB list is called “Promoting Justice and Countering Violence.” Here are some highlights: “Promoting moral responsibility and effective responses to violent crime, curbing violence in media, supporting reasonable restrictions on access to assault weapons and handguns, and opposing the use of the death penalty are particularly important in light of a growing ‘culture of violence.’ An ethic of responsibility, rehabilitation, and restoration should be a foundation for the reform of our broken criminal justice system.”	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect
11. The USCCB is concerned with “Combatting Unjust Discrimination.” They say, “It is important for our society to continue to combat any unjust discrimination, whether based on race, religion, sex, ethnicity, disabling condition, or age, as these are grave injustices and affronts to human dignity.”	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect
12. The last section of the USCCB policy statement that we’d like to look at today is called “Care for Our Common Home.” Here are the first two sentences: “Care for Creation is a moral issue. Protecting the land, water, and air we share is a religious duty of stewardship and reflects our responsibility to born and unborn children, who are most vulnerable to environmental assault.”	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect	Notes: Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect

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CD Track 14: Conclusions Draw your own conclusions. Try to score how each Party complies with the USCCBS policy positions.	Republican Platform: Overall compliance Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect	Democratic Platform: Overall Compliance Compliance: _____ None 0 to 10 perfect

Use the below links to see the source documents and obtain additional information. Become informed and vote your "well-formed" conscience.

USCCB Policy Positions:

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-part-two>

Republican Party Platform:

https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL%5B1%5D-ben_1468872234.pdf

Democratic Party Platform:

<https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-07-31-Democratic-Party-Platform-For-Distribution.pdf>