

USCCB Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches,
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our
city/state/country,
and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness
so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters,
one and equal in dignity,
especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned,
Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will
bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,
live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth
as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom
of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen

A Novena of Intercessions for Election Season

1. **For candidates:** God of mercy, we lift in prayer those who are running for public office. We pray that they may be guided by the Spirit to work for the common good in a spirit of humility and compassion, speaking truth in the pursuit justice.
2. **For voters:** God of wisdom, we pray for those who will cast their ballots this year. May they carefully and prayerfully discern their choices.
3. **For policies that uphold the dignity of human life:** Creator God, human life is jeopardized in so many ways in our world. As voters study the platforms of candidates for office and research ballot issues, may they always consider the impacts of their decisions on the right of every person not just to live but to thrive.
4. **For persons of faith to set an example of love:** God of peace, the rhetoric of anger and fear in our nation stand in contradiction to Jesus' message of love. As we move through the election season, may we remember the call to love our neighbors as Your beloved children.
5. **For healing of divisions:** God of all, our nation has become divided by partisanship in ways that impair our ability to cooperate and to recognize the face of Christ in every person. As we move through this election season and voting day, may we strive to build a spirit of understanding, compassion and cooperation with those with whom we disagree.
6. **For cooperation:** Triune God, Your very being reminds us that relationship is at the heart of existence and holiness. In a world filled with difficult challenges that require a unified effort to resolve, fill us with a spirit of cooperation so that together we may create a world in which no problem is seen as unsolvable.
7. **For a peaceful election season:** God of justice, our nation has a long and proud history of peaceful transitions after our elections. As we approach Election Day, may we recommit to a peaceful transition that respects the voters' choices.
8. **For those who feel excluded from full participation in society:** God of the outcast, through Jesus you taught us to embrace all people as brothers and sisters, to welcome all to the table. During this election season, may we be attentive to those whose voices are not heard.
9. **For policies that protect the planet:** Creator of the Universe, you entrusted humans to care for the gift of Creation. We have far too often exploited the goods of the Earth, and now we are on the brink of environmental catastrophe. May we

take heed of the warning signs and do all that we can to protect our planet and to preserve it for future generations.