



Mercy's Voter
Reflection Guide

The Church is present in the world as a sign of unity for the entire human family. ... The Church actively participates in the processes by which society grows and is organized, and she offers her own contribution to the creation of a more just and fraternal society.

—Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, no. 19

As part of LCWR's [Next 100 Days of Prayer, Fasting & Advocacy](#), the Sisters of Mercy invite you to join us in turning our attention to practices that can build stronger communities and encourage confident participation in the democratic process. Looking ahead to Election Day on November 3 and in accord with LCWR's [Declaration of Commitment](#), we invite you to mark Michaelmas, September 29, as a day to strengthen resolve and stir up courage to face fears that might be rising from partisan tension in public discourse. We suggest three courses of action to be mindful on September 29 (or a proximate day suitable to your schedule):

- pray for wisdom in all those who will take part in our national discernment on Election Day
- fast from prejudicial or disparaging thoughts & language about those with political differences
- prepare yourself and support neighbors to participate in Election Day

Prayerfully consider how you hope your officials will govern

The Mercy Justice Team has updated our [Voter Reflection Guide](#) for the 2026 election. Originally conceived for use by new voters at Mercy colleges and universities, it's a non-partisan, easily accessible tool for everyone to prayerfully consider candidates' positions on policy questions from the perspective of each of Mercy's Critical Concerns. The Voter Guide contains several links to articles for each Critical Concern to help you consider how Catholic Social Teaching and the values of Mercy can guide you to a good candidate. We invite you to engage this guide in prayer and extended reflection to form a holistic vision of good governance.

Prayer for wisdom on Election Day

Brother Ryan W. Roberts, OLF; Institute Justice Team

Holy God, you call us into community and demonstrate a preferential option for those who are vulnerable among us. Folks who identify in many ways will encounter each other on Election Day in inevitable tension and heightened anxiety. I pray for wisdom in every person: leaders who set policy and shape public discourse, voters seeking candidates who match their values, those facilitating others' votes, those charged with creating confidence in election integrity, and so many others. Grant each an abundant measure of the Holy Spirit's wisdom to guide our actions. Give us compassion, curiosity, and tenacity in the face of resistance. Help us find common ground for the common good. Let your son, the living Word of God, be evident in each of us as we encounter him in each person, your children, on Election Day and every day. Make us one, your people. I pray this to you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – in chorus with all those endeavoring to do your will. Amen.

Articles to **strengthen resolve and face fears** with genuine courage inspired by the Holy Spirit for elections:

- [Will my vote count?](#) by Karen Donahue, RSM
- [Participation in democracy](#) by Rose Marie Tresp, RSM; Institute Justice Team
- [Are contradictions determining U.S. elections?](#) by Karen Donahue, RSM
- [How we know voter fraud in the U.S. is very rare](#) by Rose Marie Tresp, RSM; Institute Justice Team

Fasting from polarizing thinking and dehumanizing speech

It's no surprise that the U.S. electorate is being divided by ever more inflammatory rhetoric. As people of faith, we are called to unify people of every kind, not into uniform belief but into communities of compassion and Mercy. In this election season, our invitation is to respond to Pope Francis's call in *Fratelli Tutti* no.154 to seek "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good."

It can be tempting to alienate or disparage those who don't display their principles in a way we like. Some behaviors are outright unacceptable, and those who engage should be held accountable, but even they bear inherent dignity and deserve to have it respected. The USCCB developed a "Civilize It" initiative and introduced in 2024 a [pledge to form our everyday encounters in charity, clarity, and creativity](#). This is part of a broader effort in the Church to [Form Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#).

In short, the invitation is to fast from partisan, dismissive, or hurtful speech, and instead to curiously seek the root causes of our neighbors' actions and to imagine their behaviors come from the best possible motivation.

Advocacy & action

On the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, we invite you make preparations to vote. The Sisters of Mercy have partnered with NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice in the "See. Love. Vote." campaign to provide several tools to take action in advance of Election Day 2026.

One essential step is to **verify your voter registration**, and to submit a registration form if you aren't registered or your registration isn't correct. The See. Love. Vote. campaign provides a simple, single page to take both actions: [See. Love. Vote. voter registration page](#). This page is also easy to share with others in your circles to increase voter participation in November.

You can also make a quick search to **verify your polling location**. Using the Vote.org [polling place locator](#), you can find your assigned voting location with just a few clicks and entering your address. This is another tool to share with neighbors to maximize voter turnout.

If you are someone who usually relies on assistance for transportation, this is a good time to **make a travel plan for Election Day**. Make an appointment with your van service, call a friend to carpool with, or check the bus schedule so you know where you need to be and how long travel will take.

You can also look at a sample ballot to begin **researching candidates and issues** and then make a plan for how you will vote. One way to do this is to access Vote.org's ["See What's On Your Ballot"](#) page. By entering your voter information, the site will allow you to see all the names for each office and read the measures you'll be asked to vote on. You can even mark your choices on the page and have your choices emailed to you so you can remember them when you're in the voting booth. This might be the most time-intensive part of the process, but there are myriad resources sent to you or available online, at your local library, or in timely publications to help you decide.

One step beyond your own vote

Once you've made arrangements for your own voting and supported those you're close with, you can also work with See. Love. Vote. to encourage more Catholics to do the same. There's still time to [order a postcard kit](#) that will allow you to write a few short sentences to a few other voters to tell them why each vote matters. Addresses are provided with the postcards, and each one can have the same message. Postcards need to be mailed by October 12, so order a small batch and [perhaps invite a few friends, family, or neighbors](#) to help get out the vote!