

Should the Church be Involved?

The Church is a participant in the life of our community, state, and nation. The Catholic Church takes a stance on many issues that are, at times, the subject of political debate – war and militarism, care for the environment, respect for human life and dignity, the rights of nations and refugees, etc.

Sometimes the clear teachings of the Church will lead to an endorsement or opposition to a particular proposal or issue. The Church encourages faithful Catholics to be guided by important principles in making political decisions.

The bishops of Kentucky have endorsed the proposed Amendment 2 because they believe this amendment respects the consistent Catholic teaching that parents are primarily responsible for directing the education of their children, which includes choosing educational options that recognize the spiritual aspect of creation.

Amendment 2 allows the legislature and governor to consider extending assistance to families who enroll their children in a private or religious school, or a public school outside of their district. This could be especially beneficial to poorer families who lack the financial means to exercise this choice. It would also allow the leaders of Kentucky to recognize the public service provided by Catholic schools and encourage that contribution as a matter of policy.

The Church is prevented by law and by our own ethics from engaging in partisan politics. We never endorse or denounce a particular party or candidate in any election. While this makes political speech in our churches rare, we can and do engage in non-partisan advocacy issues that are important to society.

A ballot issue like Amendment 2 is non-partisan and is just such an issue on which the Church may legitimately exercise our shared voice to encourage what we judge to be in the interest of the common good.