

**USCMA Resolution on
US Elections 2008: In a Global Neighborhood
2007 Annual Meeting
Austin, Texas**

Let it be resolved that:

Using the lens of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, USCMA members will promote active, non-partisan, civic participation and collaboration to promote an informed electorate and active participation in the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections.

Rationale:

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Lk 10:27) has global dimensions in a shrinking world” (*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, U.S.C.C.B., 2003). As U.S. Catholic missionaries, we see in the people we serve both in the US and abroad, the same desire for peace, security, economic prosperity, and human dignity. Daily, we witness to how that desire progresses or is frustrated by the decisions of U.S. elected officials.

The upcoming 2008 U.S. Elections presents a unique opportunity for the members of the USCMA to make a difference and contribute to an informed electorate that promotes active, non-partisan, civic participation and collaboration with individuals and organizations that support our vision. By the way we vote, we can promote the global common good, we can love our neighbors, especially the poor and vulnerable and we can demonstrate our care for the earth.

Together, we can insist that Presidential and Congressional candidates be explicit in their commitment to the dignity of each person, to ecological integrity, and to the global common good. Together we can encourage U.S. voters to evaluate the policy proposals of political parties and their candidates through the experience of communities, both in the US and overseas, affected by war and violent conflict, poverty, human rights violations, trade policies, and ecological destruction. Together we can make visible in the electoral process the values articulated in the Gospel and Catholic social teachings – values shared by people of every age, nationality, race, and culture.

Suggested Actions:

1. Collaborate with other organizations or individuals to organize a voter education campaign in your parishes, schools, and neighborhood.
2. Participate in voter registration campaigns.
3. Participate in accountability sessions with the political candidates.
4. Organize talks and conferences on issues affecting the community and the world.
5. Be informed about issues pertaining to Peace and National/International Security, Economic Justice and Fair Trade, Human Rights, and Ecological Integrity by going to resources offered by NETWORK (www.networklobby.org); the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns (www.maryknollogc.org/2008elections/index.htm); the USCCB web section on Social Justice Issues (www.usccb.org).
6. Read USCCB’s document *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* (<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/>).