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**STATEMENT OF MOST REVEREND NELSON J. PÉREZ
ON THE APPROACH OF THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

As Americans we hold a precious right to choose those who will govern. As Catholics, this privilege comes with a duty to vote with fully formed consciences as well as minds. Church teaching guides us in daily life and civic engagement is one of the many ways to put our faith into action.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has published a newly revised version of its extensive teaching document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. In a clear and useful way, it addresses a broad range of societal issues of importance to Catholic voters. I encourage all people of good will to review it carefully and consider its contents thoughtfully.

There are many daunting challenges facing our great nation and its people. It's imperative that we make our voices heard on Election Day. Approaching the polls with informed minds and formed consciences allows us to remain true to our principles while working to build up a just society.

Please join me in praying for all those seeking elected offices at the local, state, and federal levels. May God grant them the wisdom necessary to govern in a manner that promotes liberty and justice for all.

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez
Archbishop of Philadelphia

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Editor's Note: The introductory letter to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found [here](#). The full text of the document can be found [here](#).