

Bishops Pro-Obama

- Gun Control
 - "Thank God that someone finally has the courage to close the loopholes in our pitiful gun control laws to reduce the number of mass shootings, suicides and killings that have become a common plague in our country." – Bishop Kevin Farrell (January 6, 2016)
 - "While no measure can eliminate all acts of violence which involve firearms, we welcome reasonable efforts aimed at saving lives and making communities safer." – Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski (January 6, 2016)
- Immigration
 - "In order to achieve real reform, the Obama administration and Congress must work together on a comprehensive package which would legalize undocumented migrants and their families in the U.S., provide legal means for migrants to enter our nation to work and support their families, and reform the system whereby immigrants come to the United States to be reunited with close family members." – Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas (July 14, 2010)
 - "We are heartened by a recent address delivered by President Obama on immigration reform reaffirming that it is a priority for his Administration, and that he is committed to supporting legislation and working for its enactment in the future." – Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas (July 14, 2010)
 - "On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, I welcome the announcement by President Obama today that consistent with his executive authority, he will grant deferred action on a case-by-case basis to youth who entered the United States by age of 15 and have not committed certain offenses. Many of these youths would qualify for immigration relief under the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act." – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez (June 15, 2012)
 - "This important Action will provide legal protection and work authorization, to a vulnerable group of immigrants who are deserving of remaining in our country and contributing their talents to our communities. These youth are bright, energetic, and eager to pursue their

- education and reach their full potential." – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez (June 15, 2012)
- "Mr. Chairman, [the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] supports the [Obama] Administration's immediate response to [the humanitarian] crisis on [on the Southern Border]...." Bishop Mark Seitz (July 3, 2014)
 - "The nation's Catholic bishops are jumping into the increasingly contentious battle over immigration reform by backing President Obama's pledge to act on his own to fix what one bishop called 'this broken and immoral system' before Republicans assume control of Capitol Hill in January." – Washington Post (November 12, 2014)
 - "In an unscheduled address Tuesday (Nov. 11) at the hierarchy's annual meeting, Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, chairman of the migration committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the USCCB would continue to work with both parties to pass comprehensive immigration reform. But Elizondo said, given the urgency of the immigration crisis and the electoral gains by Republicans who have thwarted earlier reform efforts, 'it would be derelict not to support administrative actions... which would provide immigrants and their families legal protection.'" – Washington Post (November 12, 2014)
 - "Elizondo was not the only bishop to speak out on the issue this week. Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., a leader in the USCCB and vocal champion of immigration reform, told the Catholic news site Crux that 'it may be necessary for the president to step up and to act' on his own." – Washington Post (November 12, 2014)
 - "Louisville Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, the president of the bishops conference, also made a point of telling bishops – and the press covering the meeting – that he plans to meet with Obama and leaders of both parties in the coming months in hopes of pushing immigration reform to the top of the agenda." – Washington Post (November 12, 2014)
 - "It also marks a rare expression of support for the president from the bishops, who have battled the White House over gay marriage and the contraception mandate that was part of Obama's 2010 health care overhaul. Many bishops had privately urged the USCCB to take a more

- vocal role on issues beyond gay marriage and abortion." – Washington Post (November 12, 2014)
- "Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki responded to the Obama administration's plans to legally permit 5 million undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States temporarily, saying in the history of the Catholic Church, helping immigrants is not something new." – Archdiocese of Milwaukee (November 21, 2014)
 - "We look forward to working with the president and the Congress to achieve immigration reform." – Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki, Milwaukee (November 21, 2014)
 - "Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M. Sp. S., auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration, echoed Archbishop Listecki's thoughts as he welcomed the news that deportations for many undocumented immigrants and their families will be deferred." – Archdiocese of Milwaukee (November 21, 2014)
 - "The bishops of the United States – we're very much in favor of action being taken to protect people who need to come out of the shadows.... I think it's very important that this be done very carefully but we applaud it as a good first step.... More needs to be done. We encourage the President and members of Congress to get this work done." – Archbishop Blase Cupich, Chicago (November 30, 2014)
 - "In addition, the Obama Administration has deported persons and divided families at record rates, having deported over 2 million persons since 2009. Tragically, between 1998 and 2010 nearly 7,000 migrants have perished in the desert trying to enter the United States. This trend shows no signs of decreasing – border deaths in 2009 reached their highest level in three years, despite the efforts of Border Patrol teams that have rescued thousands of desert-crossers. Judging by these measures, enforcement first has largely failed to end illegal immigration on its own." – Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas (February 11, 2015)
- Environment
 - "At the international level, global climate negotiations held in December 2009 in Copenhagen include a commitment by rich nations to provide

- \$100 billion by 2020 to help poor countries adapt to and mitigate climate change. The Obama Administration has signaled strong support for this effort." – USCCB Global Climate Change 2010 (February 2010)
- "The U.S. Catholic bishops welcome this important move by the [Obama] Administration to adopt long-awaited standards to reduce mercury and toxic air pollution from power plants and to protect children's health. In the end it just makes good sense to want to have clean air for our children and families to breathe and for future generations." – Bishop Stephen Blaire (December 21, 2012)
 - "The USCCB stands ready to work with you, the [Obama] Administration, and members of Congress to ensure that measures necessary to address climate change both care for creation and protect 'the least of these.'" – Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski (May 29, 2014)
 - "The bishops welcome this important move by the [Obama] administration to adopt long-awaited standards to mitigate climate change and safeguard health, which are significant ways to live our responsibility to care for God's creation." – Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski (August 4, 2015)
- Foreign Policy
 - We welcome your strong Presidential statement calling for 'restraint on all sides so that Egyptians can move forward together to forge a strong united Egypt.' We mourn the loss of life and agree that 'all people have the universal rights of peaceful protest and religious freedom.'... On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I thank you for your efforts in this significant area and I ask that the U.S. government continue to urge and insist that the Egyptian government take immediate and effective steps to promote religious tolerance...." – Cardinal Timothy Dolan (October 17, 2011)
 - "We write today to commend you for traveling to the Holy Land in March, and for charging Secretary of State John Kerry with the urgent task of bringing the parties to the negotiation table. We are aware of his tireless efforts, affirm the vision of a two-state solution, and promise our support for this U.S. initiative for peace." – Cardinal Timothy Dolan (June 28, 2013)

- "The U.S. Catholic bishops have welcomed the Obama administration's tentative agreement aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions, and their top spokesman on international affairs blatantly warned Congress against doing anything to undermine it." – Washington Post (April 13, 2015)
- Mutual Concerns
 - "Recalling a meeting with Obama at the White House, Cardinal Dolan pointed to the president's stated desire 'to cooperate with us for the good of our beloved country,' particularly in the church's educational, charitable and health care services." – Catholic News Service (February 26, 2013)
 - "The letter also listed a series of issues which the U.S. bishops are ready to work with Obama 'for the good of all people in our beloved nation.' Cardinal Dolan specifically mentioned the bishops' support for:
 - *Reasonable regulations of firearms.
 - *Increased attention to the needs of mentally ill people.
 - *Immigration reform.
 - *Access to comprehensive, affordable and 'life-affirming' health care, 'which we believe includes the pre-born child, the undocumented and the dying.'
 - *International assistance to the world's poorest people.
 - *Protecting the environment.
 - *Developing a financially responsible federal budget that protects the poor, sick and elderly.
 - *Peace in the Middle East and an end to the war in Afghanistan.
 - *Efforts to strengthen family life and uphold the importance of responsible fatherhood." – Catholic News Service (February 26, 2013)
- Health Care
 - "We, the bishops of the United States – can you believe it – in 1919 came out for more affordable, more comprehensive, more universal health care." – Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan (December 4, 2013)
 - "[The] bishops have alternated between strong denunciations of parts of his health care law and enthusiastic endorsements of his immigration and Iran policies." –The Atlantic (September 13, 2015)

- "Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, who had been working with the White House, stated that the bishops could have been the 'biggest cheerleaders' for Obamacare had the exemptions been granted." –The Atlantic (September 13, 2015)

Bishops Anti-Trump

- Immigration

- "We are deeply disappointed that the [Trump] Administration continues to push forward to end DACA.... We urge the President to reinstate the original protections that DACA provides to young people currently enrolled in the program, as well as begin accepting new prospective DACA applicants." – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez (July 30, 2020)
- "We have grave concerns about the [Trump] Administration's interim final rule, issued on July 16, 2019, that greatly limits U.S. asylum eligibility at the southern border." – Bishop Joe S. Vasquez (August 12, 2019)
- "Enforcement actions like those anticipated this week by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency separate families, cause unacceptable suffering of thousands of children and their parents, and create widespread panic in our communities. I condemn such an approach.... [I]n addition to this climate of fear, we have seen the [Trump] Administration today take further unacceptable action to undermine the ability of individuals and families to seek protection in the United States." – Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (July 16, 2019)
- "We are deeply concerned about the President's action to fund the construction of a wall along the U.S./Mexico border, which circumvents the clear intent of Congress to limit funding of a wall." – Bishop Joe S. Vasquez (February 15, 2019)
- "We strongly disagree with the Executive Order's halting refugee admissions." – Bishop Joe S. Vasquez (February 6, 2017)

- Death Penalty

- "Sadly, we must call on the Administration yet again to stop an execution.... We ask President Trump and Attorney General Barr, as an act of witness to the dignity of all human life: stop these executions." –

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann
(November 18, 2020)

- Environment
 - "The President's decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris agreement is deeply troubling.... President Trump's decision will harm the people of the United States and the world, especially the poorest, most vulnerable communities." – Bishop Oscar Cantú (June 1, 2017)
- Foreign Policy
 - "In January, President Donald Trump signed an executive order reversing the closure of the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay.... I am concerned about indefinite detention and that expanded use of the prison at Guantanamo may lead to more prisoners being subject to indefinite detention without trial." – Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio (April 10, 2018)
 - "I was saddened to learn that President Trump scaled-back our country's bilateral engagement with [Cuba]. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in solidarity with the bishops of Cuba and the Holy See, has long held that human rights and religious freedom will be strengthened through more engagement between the Cuban and American people, not less." – Bishop Oscar Cantú (June 19, 2017)
- Budget
 - "Yesterday, President Trump unveiled a budget plan, 'Efficient, Effective, Accountable: An American Budget' that again calls for deep cuts to vital parts of government, including underfunding programs that serve the poor, diplomacy, and environmental stewardship." – Bishop Frank J. Dewane (February 13, 2018)

Bishops Pro-Biden

- Immigration
 - "We welcome the announcement preserving and fortifying DACA. For years, DACA youth have been enriching our country.... We applaud President Biden's restoration of the DACA program, and we also strongly encourage him and the U.S. Congress to immediately enact

- legislation that provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers. Permanent legislative protection that overcomes partisanship and puts the human dignity and future of Dreamers first is long overdue." – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez and Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (January 21, 2021)
- "Wednesday's actions by the [Biden] Administration are important first steps toward ensuring that immigration enforcement in our country is balanced and humane. Too many people have experienced harsh and heavy-handed enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border and within the U.S. interior, causing families to be needlessly torn apart.... We pledge to work with the new Administration as it reviews enforcement policies that preserve our national sovereignty and, at the same time, recognize the inherent human dignity of every person, regardless of immigration status." – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (January 21, 2021)
 - "We welcome [Biden's] Proclamation, which will help ensure that those fleeing persecution and seeking refuge or seeking to reunify with family in the United States will not be turned away because of what country they are from or what religion they practice. This policy reversal signifies the United States' renewed commitment to our vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world who are in need." – Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (January 21, 2021)
 - "Biden signed an executive order requiring all U.S. residents to be counted in the U.S. census and reversed the prior administration's unprecedented policy of excluding undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base.... 'We welcome this return to more than a century of American precedent that ensures all residents will be counted and included in the census and apportionment.'" – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (January 22, 2021)
 - "We welcome [Biden's] Executive Orders on migration, which will help to ensure that immigrants and refugees are treated humanely and in accordance with their God-given dignity. Actions implemented by the prior administration on these issues have directly impacted and harmed immigrants' and refugees' lives, in many cases needlessly instilling fear and creating or perpetuating family separation." – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (February 3, 2021)
 - "[T]he Biden Administration announced that it will be designating Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).... 'We commend this

just and humane decision by the Administration, which will provide much needed relief to those Venezuelans already present in the United States." – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (March 11, 2021)

- "The updated refugee admissions cap is a step in the right direction to help those who need it most. We were pleased with the Administration's previous decision to reinstate the regional allocation framework, but this increase was a crucial step toward rebuilding the crippled Refugee Admissions Program. We view this number as a stepping stone toward the Administration's stated goal of 125,000 admissions, a figure more consistent with our values and capabilities as a nation." – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (May 4, 2021)
- "[T]he Biden Administration announced that it would redesignate Haiti for [TPS].... 'We are grateful for this decision to redesignate Haiti for TPS, which acknowledges the serious challenges facing the island nation....'" – Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville (May 22, 2021)

- Environment

- "President Joseph R. Biden announced yesterday that the United States will rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change. It is our hope that the United States will not only seize this challenge to meet the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, called for by the U.S. bishops in 2017, but also become the global climate leader by implementing successful policies that both preserve the environment and promote economic development through innovation, investment and enterprise." – Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop David J. Malloy (April 26, 2021)
- "We commend the Biden Administration's commitment to climate stewardship and environmental justice, consistent with the decision to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. The Leaders Summit on Climate reflects renewed American leadership on climate change, and the pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by 2030 is an ambitious and welcome national goal. Consistent with the Holy Father's call for integral ecology, the movement towards a net-zero emission world must also emphasize just transition so that working families who rely on the energy sector are not left behind." – Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop David J. Malloy (April 26, 2021)

- Mutual Concerns

- "We are grateful for the Biden Administration's early actions to address urgent food and housing needs for those experiencing hardship during the COVID pandemic. The extension of the CDC's eviction moratorium is a positive step towards ensuring housing stability and keeping our communities safe." – Archbishop Paul S. Coakley (January 27, 2021)
- "We welcome the Biden Administration's actions to promote racial equity. Specifically, the executive order directing the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to examine the effect of repealing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule is a step in the right direction to restoring needed protections against housing discrimination." – Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop Shelton J. Fabre (February 1, 2021)
- "We also welcome the new administration's announcement that the U.S. Department of Justice will not renew contracts with private prisons." – Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop Shelton J. Fabre (February 1, 2021)