DCCW Legislative Report
By Donna Murphy, Nov.2026

Thank you to all those who did their Catholic civic duty by voting in the midterms Last Tuesday Nov. 3, It is important to let your newly elected officials know your Catholic viewpoint. As many of you may have heard many news reports, American voters went to the polls to voice their concerns over government corruption, the Iran war, the cost of gasoline, immigration issues with ICE, tariffs and the cost of food and housing. The Utah State Legislature had some of the same effects that Congress experienced with shocking replacements to many incumbents and voters expressed their need for substantive government. Utah's Senator Evan Vicker will become the President of the Senate replacing former President Stuart Adams who lost in the June primary.

As per the Vatican report our Pope Leo XIV, a U.S. born pontiff voted in the midterm elections and submitted his ballot by mail to Chicago. This is the first known time a Pope has voted in a political election. The Vatican said in a statement that Pope Leo XIV as the world's head of 1.4 billion Catholics believes in "the right and the duty of citizens to participate in democratic processes,". Pope Leo is also eligible to vote in Peru as he has dual citizenship in both Peru and the U.S. He has been publicly verbally critical of the Iran War and the treatment of immigrants with the mass deportation efforts.

The Catholic Mobilizing Network has promoted taking action against executions and to grant clemency for many people on death row across the country. They have a sample letter to encourage politicians to stop Capitol Punishment as an act of state sanctioned violence. Pro life includes ending executions as well as ending abortions.

In one of the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Justice Teaching, **Solidarity**; "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict."

Please visit the web site of www.le.utah.gov to review how the Interim Session is going and what bills you may want to follow in the upcoming General Legislative Session starting on Tuesday, January 19, 2027. You may also sign up for Catholic Advocacy Networks as:

Catholic Charities USA: www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy
Catholic Relief Services: https://www.crs.org/ways-to-help/advocate/takeaction
Catholic Mobilizing Network: https:/catholicsmobilizing.org/action/
St.Vincent de Paul USA: https:votervoice.net/SVDPUSA/home

God Bless you all and may God Bless America.