



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF TASMANIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND
DR RICHARD CONDIE
BISHOP OF TASMANIA

8 May 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Next weekend we will go to the polls in a Federal election. I am writing to encourage you to be prayerful, biblical, and intentional in considering how you will vote.

Our Christian calling is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and love our neighbours as ourselves. These two commandments are the guiding principles for how we should approach our task.

To love God with our vote, we should be mindful to vote for the things that God loves: his holiness, the poor and the needy, and the stewarding of his creation. To love our neighbour with our vote, we should put the needs of others before our own concerns. This makes our task quite complicated, as no party in our current political system brings that kind of biblical balance, even though we see elements in each of the party platforms.

We must avoid the habit of voting automatically for who “we always vote for” but weigh things up carefully. Dr John Dickson (co-founder of the Centre for Public Christianity and Senior Lecturer in Public Christianity at Ridley College, Melbourne) recently published an article in *Eternity* titled, [“How to vote Christianly”](#). I commend his article to you.

He doesn't say who to vote for, but rather helpfully emphasizes that as Christians we should vote for others (Philippians 2:3-4); vote for the moral health of the community (1 Corinthians 5:12); vote for the poor and weak (James 1:27); vote for the gospel (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1); and vote prayerfully (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

It is a privilege to live in a democratic country with the freedom to vote, and with this privilege comes a responsibility. We need to be deep in prayer this week, that God would raise up the government that he desires for our nation at this time. Please pray

that religious freedom for all Australians remains protected so that we have the liberty to speak publicly about our faith and beliefs. Remember that God is sovereign, and he is the one who gives the authority to our leaders (see Romans 13). Our job according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 is to pray for those who govern us and to submit to their leadership.

I encourage you to vote in a way that is informed by your faith and bathed in prayer for our nation.

Prayerfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard". The signature is written in black ink and has a small flourish at the end.

The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
Bishop of Tasmania