

Election

Continued from facing page

Maryland voters by a 62 percent to 38 percent margin affirmed their state's 1991 law prohibiting any restriction on abortion until the point of fetal viability.

Cardinal James A. Hickey, whose Washington archdiocese includes parts of Maryland, said the vote showed "there is so much more to do in educating people about the sanctity of all human life."

An Arizona measure that would have prohibited nearly all abortions was defeated by a similar margin.

Another Arizona measure backed by the state's Catholic bishops passed, however, creating a state holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday.

On other issues followed by state Catholic conferences:

- Colorado defeated by 2 to 1 an initiative that would have given parents an education voucher that could be used in public, private or religious schools. The state's bishops supported the measure.
- The District of Columbia defeated a return to capital punishment —

opposed by the church — by 67 percent to 33 percent.

- California also rejected a welfare reform proposal which would have cut benefits by 25 percent and given the governor great latitude in making further cuts.

- Voters repealed the city ordinance in Tampa, Fla., prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. St. Petersburg Bishop John C. Favalora had urged repeal. But in Oregon, voters defeated a measure opposed by the state's bishops that would have forbidden affirmative action or quotas based on sexual orientation.

- Iowa rejected a state constitutional Equal Rights Amendment, as the state Catholic conference had recommended.

- Georgia approved a state lottery, which had been opposed by the state's bishops.

Clinton's election will bring the first graduate of a Catholic university to the White House. Though a Southern Baptist, Clinton graduated from Washington's Georgetown University in 1968.

In speeches and an interview, Clinton has credited his education by the Jesuits at Georgetown with instilling in him a

sense of moral obligation to his fellow human beings.

He also has cited Catholic agencies as examples of social service programs he would like to see.

John L. Carr, secretary of the USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace, said he hopes the Clinton election will mean a change in policies that have led to increasing child poverty, lack of access to health care and too much unemployment.

Carr said he would wait anxiously for proof of Clinton's commitment to a refundable children's tax credit and improvements in child-support collections.

The new president must avoid the temptation to look for "the quick, easy and violent solution to our problems," whether abortion, capital punishment or use of power in foreign countries, he added.

"A major challenge is to meet our needs given the limited resources," Carr remarked.

"President Clinton needs to put the needs of the poor first," he said. "The measure of the next four years ought to be how 'the least of these' is faring."

Brian Kane, director of the Justice and Peace Department for Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., Rochester, shared Carr's hopes for a change of heart toward the poor under a new administration.

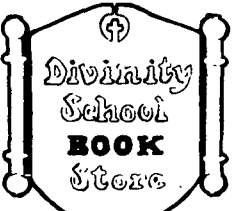
"There's been an enormous increase in polarization and poverty in the last 12 years," Kane said. "And that's directly attributable to Reagan and Bush."

Kane said local and state governments have been "reeling under the weight" of social service costs passed onto them by the federal government during the last decade, and he hoped Clinton would recognize the need to make federal government officials active players in the social service game again.

Kane praised Clinton's emphasis on constructing a national health-care system accessible to all, but believed that the president-elect needed to spend five or even six times the \$20 billion amount he has pledged to spend on improving the nation's infrastructure.

"That's what you need to get the economy moving again," Kane said.

Includes reporting by Courier staff writer Rob Cullinan.



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