

2024

EQUALLY SACRED CHECKLIST

How can we know we are voting for candidates who promote the common good?

Pope Francis makes it clear: **Catholics and all people of good will are called to be multi-issue voters, not single-issue voters**, in the 2024 elections and in our continued participation in public life. This resource can support you in educating yourself as a faithful voter on the issues and concerns that are **"equally sacred."**

"We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in the world."



—Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate*, par. 101

FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will protect and expand affordable health care for all and end the injustice of medical debt?
- support policies to reduce the cost of prescription medicines so patients can afford lifesaving care?
- support ending the Black maternal health crisis by investing in the expansion of critical programs to support the lives of parents and babies?
- support ending hunger in our nation with needed food assistance programs, such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs?

The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights.

FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will address the climate crisis and invest in a rapid, just transition to renewable energy?
- will end policies that benefit fossil fuel corporations, such as tax subsidies and approval of pipelines?
- will address pollution and toxic dumping that disproportionately affect Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and ensure clean air and water for all?

Care for our common home is a requirement of the Catholic faith.

FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

Will you vote for candidates who...

- refuse to use violent language or threats of violence against other candidates or groups of people?
- will ensure all eligible voters have access to voting, and restore voting for formerly incarcerated people?
- will limit the power of the wealthy to manipulate our democracy through unlimited dark money and gerrymandering?

Catholic teaching affirms that every person has both a right and a responsibility to participate in our shared political processes, which we must structure to serve the common good.

FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will reduce costs for families, including via a robust Child Tax Credit, paid leave, and funding for childcare?
- will ensure all workers can earn a living wage and have the right to join a union?
- will ensure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, including by supporting a billionaire's tax?
- will address skyrocketing housing costs, including by investing in affordable housing, housing assistance programs, and a renter's tax credit?
- will support future generations by expanding training and apprenticeship programs and free college?

Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work, the rights of workers, and an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.

FREEDOM FROM HARM

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support common sense gun control, including banning the use of AR-15s and other weapons of war, so our children and communities can live safely?
- will protect the rights of marginalized communities including Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities as well as LGBTQ+ people?

The Catholic Church insists upon every person's intrinsic worth, dignity, and right to live in safety—with no exceptions.

FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY THAT VALUES DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support the right to asylum and paths to citizenship, and prioritize integration?
- promote inclusive policies that support border communities rather than militarization?

The Catholic Church affirms that we all have a right to migrate to seek a safe and good life for ourselves and our families, and that nations have a moral imperative to welcome immigrants.