

D. Immigration and Refugees

As Catholics who believe in the sanctity of life, we must not be complicit in the suffering of migrants dying in the shadows. We need to go beyond letters and symbols by doing more community organizing and direct resisting of the structures that implement an unjust immigration and refugee system.

~Where does each candidate stand on a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants? On deportations? On detention of women and children?

E. The Environment

Living simply, protecting creation, and addressing climate change is a response to God's ancient request that we be good stewards of all that God has given and entrusted to us: clean air, fresh water and fruits of the harvest. Water is a particularly vital issue to address, as many violent conflicts have been linked to water issues, and many future violent conflicts are likely to be linked to water as well.

~ How does each candidate talk about climate change?

~Does he or she have any policies for addressing this issue?

F. Racial Justice

Nearly eight years after the election of President Barack Obama, we must acknowledge that racism is still very much alive in our nation, and even in our churches. In fact, when we end the carnival of naiveté around this issue and remove the masks, we will see the truth: individual and structural racism is tearing at the very fabric of our nation. It's cloaked in seemingly different and even benign issues such as tax codes, school districts, the criminal justice system, and the allocation of federal resources.

~What is each candidate's position on voter identification laws and other restrictions that suppress voting among people of color?

~What is each candidate's stance on mass incarceration and reform of a criminal justice system that imprisons people of color disproportionately?

G. Freedom of Religion and Conscience

We must work together to ensure that the religious consciences of all of our people are honored. This, at times, can lead to different perspectives on the freedom of practice of religious beliefs; but our faith challenges us to work together to find the way forward where we maximize the freedom of expression and denigrate no one.

~How is each candidate talking about our Muslim neighbors and refugees from the Middle East?

~What is each candidate saying about freedom of conscience, of individual, religious institutions, and even private business?

A Revolution Of Tenderness: A 2016 Election Pope Francis Voter Guide

This edited voter guide was put together for your prayerful reflection by a coalition of national Catholic organizations:

- *Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good*
- *Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach*
- *Conference of Major Superiors of Men*
- *Faith in Public Life: Catholic Program*
- *Leadership Conference of Women Religious*
- *National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd*
- *Pax Christi USA*
- *Pax Christi International*
- *Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Extended Justice Team*

Peace

I. INTRODUCTION

***True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.*—Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium 72)**

As we live out this Jubilee Year of Mercy and the United States enters into the 2016 election season, Americans face a myriad of choices between competing visions for our nation's future. As Catholics, we are called by our faith to engage in this election.

Politics, Francis says, "is one of the highest forms of love, because it is in the service of the common good." He called on us to orient our politics based on the Christian models of Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

We offer this guide to show how we apply the teachings of our Church to the problems of our day with a heart of mercy. We here seek to take up the call issued by the U.S. bishops in their document Faithful Citizenship to form our consciences, guided by the Gospel, examining the issues we face and reaching informed, conscientious decisions about the issues we hold dear as Catholics and as Americans.

II. THE ISSUES

A. Our Political Foundation: The Sacred Gift of Life and Creation:

We believe that only by defending against *all* threats to life and creation will Catholics be able to credibly make the case for the culture of life and inclusion.

- ~How does each candidate talk about preventing mass shootings and gun violence in our streets?
- ~What alternatives to abortion and euthanasia does each candidate discuss, such as assistance and support to low-income expectant mothers?

B. The Economy

The key economic issue facing the country today is income inequality and the resultant increase in poverty. This is exacerbated by unjust minimum wages, unequal pay for women, lack of federal paid family leave laws, systematic attacks on labor rights, and high rates of unemployment and incarceration among youth and in communities of color.

- ~How does each candidate respond to questions about the wealth gap in this country? What ideas does she or he have for addressing this?
- ~What is each candidate's position on health care reform? What is being proposed to ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare?

C. Global Peacemaking

War and preparations for war continue to fuel violence, acts of terrorism, and a "whack-a-mole" game of "terrorist groups" that never ends. With war, people living in poverty suffer the most in terms of death, displacement, and disease. Pope Francis said "war is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment;" and "justice can never be wrought by killing a human being."

As Catholics who follow the way of Jesus, we are called to humanize even our enemies; not to excuse injustice or violence, but to see them as children of God with dignity, with value, with good in them and with genuine human needs.

- ~ What is each candidate's approach to conflicts in other parts of the world? Does she or he talk about lessons learned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? How does each candidate talk about the role of diplomacy, and peacebuilding?