

# Create Your Own Candidate Side-by-Side

## Evaluate Your Candidates' Commitment to Mending the Gaps

With so many crucial elections across the country this year, we urge everyone to take the time to evaluate their candidates before voting in November. **Consider the candidates running for Congress in your district and fill out the side-by-side below, based on NETWORK's 2020 Vision to Mend the Gaps.**

Catholic Social Justice calls us to participate in public life and exercise our civic duty. We must engage ourselves and others this election season and choose the path of the common good, to seek a better life for everyone.

**To create your own side-by-side:** Read the candidates' websites and follow local reporting or other sources of information about the candidates to find their positions on the issues. If a public statement from a candidate is not available, consider contacting the candidate or raising the question in a public forum.

*As we evaluate candidates on the issues below, we must acknowledge that racism and white supremacy are embedded into all policy issues, especially our economic policy. We are called to recognize and reject the structural racism that tears at the fabric of our nation and look for elected officials who support dismantling white supremacist systems and structures.*

### 2018 ELECTION RACE

CANDIDATE A

PARTY

CANDIDATE B

PARTY

## Tax Justice

*No tax policy change should exacerbate the income gap, especially the racial/ethnic and gender wealth gaps.*

**Does the candidate oppose the 2017 Republican Tax Law? Will they work to repeal the tax law and repair the damage done to our federal revenue streams?**

*Over the next 10 years, the 2017 Republican Tax Law will add \$1.9 trillion to the national debt, with 83% of the tax cut benefits going to the top 1% in the year 2027.<sup>1</sup>*

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

## Living Wages

*National legislation should move from adjusting a minimum wage to creating a living wage.*

**Do the candidates have a plan to raise the federal minimum wage to a just living wage?**

*The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour and has not been increased since 2009. The tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour and has not been raised since 1991.<sup>2</sup> This causes many workers to earn "poverty-level wages" even when working full time.*

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

## Family-Friendly Workplaces

*The needs of women and families should be integrated into federal workplace policies.*

**Have the candidates supported policies that promote family-friendly workplaces such as paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, and flexible schedules for employees?**

While the Family and Medical Leave Act provides access to unpaid family leave to the majority of working people in the United States, only 14% of civilian workers had access to paid family leave in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

CANDIDATE A

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CANDIDATE B

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## Access to Democracy

*No individual or community should be disenfranchised by federal policy; everyone should be accurately counted and represented in Congress.*

**Do the candidates support strengthening and renewing the Voting Rights Act? Has either candidate spoken out against a “citizenship question” on the Census, which would impede an accurate count?**

For this year’s midterm elections, voters in 23 states face more restrictive voting policies than in 2010.<sup>4</sup> Also, the decennial census is approaching in 2020, and it is essential that the Census Bureau collects a fair, accurate count which will decide Congressional apportionment.

CANDIDATE A

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CANDIDATE B

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## Access to Healthcare

*Racial and economic disparities in healthcare should be eliminated.*

**Have the candidates condemned attempts to repeal the ACA? What are the candidates’ positions on adding burdensome work requirements to Medicaid programs?**

After numerous efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, cuts to enrollment advertising and outreach, and finally ending the individual mandate, the uninsured rate rose for the first time since the ACA was passed.<sup>5</sup> The Trump administration also encouraged and began approving burdensome work requirements for Medicaid.

CANDIDATE A

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CANDIDATE B

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## Access to Citizenship

*Immigrants should be welcomed into the country.*

**Do the candidates support welcoming immigrants, ending family separation, and protecting DACA recipients and other undocumented or vulnerable immigrants? Do the candidates have a plan for comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship?**

President Trump hopes to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and wants Congress to allocate funding for it. The Trump administration also rescinded DACA and implemented a "zero tolerance" policy, which separated more than 2,342 children from their parents at the border while in effect.<sup>6</sup>

**CANDIDATE A**

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**CANDIDATE B**

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## Access to Housing

*Everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing.*

**Do your candidates support funding for federal housing programs? Do they support policies that work to end homelessness in our country?**

There is no state in the country where minimum-wage workers can afford a two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of their income on rent.<sup>7</sup> There were 553,742 people experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single night in 2017.<sup>8</sup>

**CANDIDATE A**

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**CANDIDATE B**

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### Sources:

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7. Out of Reach Report. National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2018. <http://nlihc.org/oor>
8. Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. December 2017, <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>