



Every Vote COUNTS FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY



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ON THE COVER

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks at the Keep the Faith, Build Back Better vigil, organized by the Washington Interfaith Staff Community on October 20, in which faith leaders urged the passage of the Build Back Better Act. Photo by Julia Morris.



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NETWORK Advocates Training

April 21-April 23, 2022 Washington, D.C.

NETWORK 50th Anniversary Gala April 22, 2022 Washington, D.C.

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Love This Country

When We Protect Democracy, We Model Care for Our Neighbor

ere at NETWORK, we see our work of advocating for federal policies that serve the common good as an act of love. That is not surprising or new. But what might be surprising to some people, especially those who follow the goings on of our federal government closely, is how Pope Francis has described politics itself as a realm where we can live out one of the highest forms of love. It's

not only the resulting policy; the process matters too. NET-WORK's advocacy to protect democracy has really driven this home for me.

For years, one of NETWORK's key focus areas has been democracy. It's critical that we realize that democracy is not some static thing that just happened once with the founding of this country. Like all of our relationships, our democracy requires care and attention, and it can be destroyed.

The pope recently said that democracy takes "participation and involvement on the part of all" and demands hard work, patience, listening, and collaboration. (Apostolic Journey to Cyprus and Greece, December 2021) This is the harder path, and right now in Washington we are seeing it is being too often avoided as Members of Congress simply fail to show up to vote on nominations for critical roles in the Administration, refuse to debate issues shielded by the racist filibuster rule, and engage one another in contemptuous ways far beyond the normal rough and rowdy nature of politics.

A Catholic understanding of sin boils down to a failure to love another person through action or omission. This translates to the systemic scale as well: immigration policies that fail to love people seeking refuge at our border, widespread refusal to do the minimum to protect others from the spread of COVID-19, and more. To retreat from democracy is also to avoid encounter and, ultimately, the chance to love the other, expressed through the solidarity of good policy. That is a sin, a social, structural sin playing out on the micro and ultimately at the macro level when politics fail.

This failure creates the conditions for the temptation of quick fixes, which come in many forms, one being authoritarian approaches that hail promises too good to be true. We know the consequences: insurrection and violence; cries of fraud in states and big cities where Black and Brown voters put Pres-



Mary J. Novak is executive director of NETWORK

ident Biden over the top; and voter suppression actions and legislation seeking to disenfranchise those same Black and Brown voters. The remedy, according to Pope Francis, is "good politics" practiced as the "art of the common good."

This describes well what NETWORK's foundresses practiced years ago when the Sisters put in place what we continue to live out today, 50 years later. That

is why we focus the first issue of Connection each year on the voting record of our elected officials, so you can see if they are practicing "good politics." As we do every year, we invite you to examine closely the records of your Members and call them to account if they are not practicing the art of the common good.

A Catholic understanding of sin boils down to a failure to love another person through action or omission. This translates to the systemic scale as well.

This year more than ever, we implore you to consider the prospect that democratic retreat in the U.S. is not remote. As Barton Gellman reported in The Atlantic last month, assaults on democratic systems are real, that people "with the motive to make it happen are manufacturing the means. Given the opportunity, they will act. They are acting already." ("January 6 Was Practice," December 6, 2021.)

Good politics requires elected officials who will practice the art of the common good. Because it matters who we elect, it matters how we elect. Without the national protections provided for voting rights, we risk democratic collapse, our sinfulness continuing to play out in structural ways, as it already has in places like Texas, Georgia, Arizona, and Wisconsin, in the form of egregious new voting laws and redistricting maps that disenfranchise people of color.

Thank you for joining us last year in advocating to protect voting rights. Because our democracy is at risk of being destroyed, it is time to double down on that advocacy, now more than ever in this country's history.

2021: A Precarious Year for Progress

Victories To Celebrate and Setbacks To Overcome

ur democracy has taken some serious hits over the past year. The false narrative of mass voter fraud in the 2020 election has been used to justify restrictive, anti-voter laws targeting voters of color in 19 states.

The Republican Party's retreat from democracy was formalized with the June filibuster preventing the establishment of a bipartisan January 6 Commission like the one created to investigate the 9/11 attacks. Additionally, the Supreme Court's disastrous *Brnovich* ruling in July further weakened the ability to enforce federal protections codified in the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Arizona's sham ballot review process was just one example of the new tactics seeking to wrench control from election officials and politicize the counting of ballots and the election certification process.

Two critical reform packages that would fortify our democracy against many of these attacks — the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* — have languished in the Senate. As of Christmas 2021, Democrats have finally begun to consider changing their procedural rules to allow the Senate to become a functional deliberative body.

The Biden Administration prioritized additional COVID-19 relief to families still struggling from the impacts of the pandemic. Democratic leaders in Congress passed the American Rescue Plan. This \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package was an investment in our communities' future and provided immediate relief to struggling families. This bill substantially expanded access to healthcare, provided increased rental assistance and housing vouchers, expanded access to food programs for families and school age children, and so much more.

Two of the most significant provisions included in the American Rescue Plan were innovations to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The child tax credit was expanded to increase the amount of assistance per child from \$2,000 a year to \$3,000 a year or \$3,600 for children under 6. The credit was made completely refundable, meaning for the first time receiving the credit was not contingent on a family's earnings. The families most struggling from poverty had access to monthly payments of cash. If this is allowed to expire in March of 2022, 65 million kids will lose out, and nearly 10 million will slip back below the poverty line or even deeper into poverty.

The Earned Income Tax Credit for adults without children also expires in March and will be a center of our work in the upcoming year.

A great disappointment for NETWORK has been President Biden's failure to roll back cruel Trump Administration programs impacting migration at the border: the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and the misuse of Title 42. Under MPP and Title 42, asylum seekers who arrive at the border are being turned away and told to wait in Mexico while they await their pending court dates. This has led to countless assaults and significant harm against those seeking asylum. NETWORK will continue to fight for justice on this core issue.

Following passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Biden Administration pivoted to investment in infrastructure and expansion of the social safety net to benefit vulnerable people and fight back against climate change. Progressive advocates pushed beyond traditional infrastructure spending, namely roads and bridges, to include a major expansions of broadband for struggling families and communities that don't currently have access and climate remediation programs to address climate change. This bill passed in November with strong bipartisan support.

The *Build Back Better Act* — the social spending objective of the Biden Administration to build our nation's human infrastructure and to tackle climate change — has garnered significant opposition for the business community and wealthy individuals, as it is fully paid for by rolling back tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy including giveaways in President Trump's *Tax Cut and Jobs Act*. Democrats have been using the budget reconciliation process to get the bill through, which requires a simple majority to pass and near complete consensus

The House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act by the narrowest of margins in November; since then there has been no action in the Senate because one Democratic member — Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) — refuses to support the bill. Thankfully, this is not the end of the *Build Back Better Act*. Work to pass this historic bill will begin again in January 2022.

Progress is never linear. With the help of our entire network, we will work together with God's help for justice.



Laura Peralta-Schulte is NETWORK's senior director of public policy and government affairs.

HOUSE VOTES

American Rescue Plan Act (H.R.1319) -Vote #49

NETWORK supported this relief package's measures to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. The package included an expanded Child Tax Credit, additional emergency SNAP benefits, rental assistance, and paycheck protection program.

Passed 219-212, February 27, 2021; Signed into law March 11, 2021

For the People Act (H.R.1) – Vote #62

NETWORK supported this common sense legislation that would strengthen voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government. This bill would modernize the electoral process and prevent voter disfranchisement in vulnerable communities. It would also require candidates for president and vice president to publicly disclose 10 years of tax returns. Passed 220-210, March 3, 2021

PRO Act (H.R.842) - Vote #70

NETWORK supported the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act for its expansion in various labor protections related to workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain. The bill protects workers' rights and makes it unlawful to require or coerce employees to attend employer meetings that discourage union membership. Passed 225-206, March 9, 2021

American Dream and Promise Act (H.R.6) -Vote #91

NETWORK supported this bill, which would provide certain undocumented immigrants protection from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to travel outside the country as well as a pathway to permanent resident status. The bill would create a pathway to citizenship for some of our undocumented neighbors by making them eligible for lawful permanent resident status. Passed 228-197, March 18, 2021

Changes in the House in 2021

- Rep.-elect Luke Letlow (LA-05), Passed away December 29, 2020
- Succeeded by Rep. Julia Letlow (LA-05), March 20, 2021
- Rep. Cedric Richmond (LA-02), Resigned January 15, 2021
- Succeeded by Rep. Troy Carter (LA-02), April 24, 2021
- Rep. Ron Wright (TX-06), Passed away February 7, 2021
- Succeeded by Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX-06), July 27, 2021

- Rep. Marcia Fudge (OH-11), Resigned March 10, 2021
- Succeeded by Rep. Shontel Brown (OH-11), November 2, 2021
- Rep. Debra Haaland (NM-01), Resigned March 16, 2021
- Succeeded by Rep. Melanie Stansbury (NM-01), June 1, 2021
- Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Passed away on April 6, 2021
- Rep. Steve Stivers (OH-15), Resigned May 16, 2021
- Succeeded by Rep. Mike Carey (OH-15), November 2, 2021

Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R.1603) – 5 Vote #93

NETWORK supported this bipartisan immigration legislation that would provide undocumented farmworkers and their family members with a path to legal immigration status and citizenship. The bill would provide protections for undocumented farmworkers and their dependents through a "Certified Agricultural Worker" status, which would last for 5.5 years with the opportunity to renew. Passed 247-174, March 18, 2021

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R.1065) -O Vote #143

NETWORK supported this bipartisan legislation that would modernize current worker discrimination laws to include pregnancy and address gaps in protections for pregnant workers by requiring workplaces to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure healthy pregnancies. Passed 315-101, May 14, 2021

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4) - Vote #260

NETWORK supported this bill which would restore the power of the Voting Rights Act by establishing new criteria for determining which states and districts must obtain preclearance before changes to voting practices may take effect. A preclearance process requires preapproval before changes to voting practices may take effect. Passed 219-212, August 24, 2021

EQUAL Act (H.R.1693) - Vote #297

NETWORK supported the EQUAL (Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law) Act for its elimination of the federal sentencing disparity between drug offenses involving crack cocaine and powder cocaine. This bill would modernize current federal sentencing disparities that directly marginalize Black and Brown communities. Passed 361-66, September 28, 2021

Build Back Better Act (H.R.5376) -Vote #385

NETWORK strongly supported the Build Back Better Act because of its robust, once-in-a-generation investment in families and communities. This bill included priorities like cutting childhood poverty in half with the Child Tax Credit and ensuring no worker is taxed into poverty by extending the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. The bill closes the Medicaid coverage gap, invests in ending the Black maternal health crisis, and establishes four weeks of universal paid family and medical leave. The House bill includes protections for some of our immigrant neighbors, expands housing choice vouchers, provides key funding for building and improving affordable housing, and increases access to broadband. Passed 220-213, November 19, 2021

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KEY TO VOTES

- + voted with NETWORK
- voted against NETWORK
- o did not vote
- I inactive/not in office
- * Percentage with asterisk (*) signifies that legislator did not vote on all relevant bills

HOUSE VOTES SCORED 117th Congress — 1st Session

- American Rescue Plan Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- For the People Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- PRO Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea

- 4 American Dream and Promise Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- Farm Workforce Modernization Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- 6 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- 8 EQUAL Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- 9 Build Back Better Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea

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3 Ferguson (R)	_	Ė	_	<u>.</u>	_	+	_	+	_	22%	
4 Johnson, H. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
5 Williams, N. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
6 McBath (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
7 Bourdeaux (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	L L
8 Scott, A. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0%	
9 Clyde (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%	
10 Hice (R)	_	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	0%	
11 Loudermilk (R)	_	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	_	11%	
12 Allen (R)	_	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	0%	
13 Scott, D. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
14 Greene, Marjorie (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	N
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2 Simpson (R)	-	-	-	-	+	0	-	+	-	25%*	
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2 Kelly R. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
3 Newman (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
4 Garcia, J. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
5 Quigley (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	N
6 Casten (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
7 Davis, D. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
8 Krishnamoorthi (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
9 Schakowsky (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
10 Schneider (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
11 Foster (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
12 Bost (R)	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	33%	
13 Davis, R. (R)	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	33%	
14 Underwood (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
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4 Johnson, M. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%
5 Letlow (R)	1	1	1	1	1	_	_	+	_	25%*
6 Graves, G. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	22%
MAINE										
1 Pingree (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
2 Golden (D)	-	+	+	+	-	0	+	+	_	63%*
MARYLAND										
1 Harris, A. (R)	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	0%
2 Ruppersberger (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
3 Sarbanes (D) 4 Brown, A. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100% 100%
5 Hoyer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
6 Trone (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
7 Mfume (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
8 Raskin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
MASSACHUSETTS	-									
1 Neal (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
2 McGovern (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
3 Trahan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
4 Auchincloss (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
5 Clark, K. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
6 Moulton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
7 Pressley (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
8 Lynch (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100% 100%
9 Keating (D) MICHIGAN	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
1 Bergman (R)	_	0	_	_	_	0	_	+	_	14%*
2 Huizenga (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	22%
3 Meijer (R)	_	_	_	_	+	+	_	+	_	33%
4 Moolenaar (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	_	_	11%
5 Kildee (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
6 Upton (R)	_	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	_	44%
7 Walberg (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	_	11%
8 Slotkin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
9 Levin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
10 McClain (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	0%
11 Stevens (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100% 100%
12 Dingell (D) 13 Tlaib (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
14 Lawrence (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
MINNESOTA	-	1	-	1	1	,	1	1	-	100 /0
1 Hagedorn (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	_	_	11%
2 Craig (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
3 Phillips (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
4 McCollum (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
5 Omar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
6 Emmer (R)	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	22%
7 Fischbach (R)	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	11%
8 Stauber (R)	_	-	_	-	_	+	_	-	_	11%

KEY TO VOTES

- + voted with NETWORK
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New York Court 1 Kelly F. FR 1 Kelly F.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	%		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	%
2 Thompson, S. (D)	MISSISSIPPI	_										NEW YORK (CONT.)										, ,
3 Guert (R)	1 Kelly, T. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	0	_	_	_	0%*	17 Jones (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
4 Palazo (R)	** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	+	_	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89%	18 Maloney, S.P. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
MISSOUR	3 Guest (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0%	19 Delgado (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Bush (D)	4 Palazzo (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0%	20 Tonko (D)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
2 Wagner (R)	MISSOURI											21 Stefanik (R)	_	_	-	-	+	+	_	+	_	33%
3 Luefsemeyer (R)	1 Bush (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	22 Tenney (R)	_	_	-	-	+	+	_	-	_	22%
4 Harder(R)	2 Wagner (R)	_	-	-	-	_	+	_	+	-	22%	23 Reed, T. (R)	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	33%
5 Clever(Γ)	3 Luetkemeyer (R)	_	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-		24 Katko (R)	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	
6 Graves, S. (R)		_	-	-						-		• '										
Somith J. Right Somith J.	` '	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+			+		+	
8 Smith_1, (R)	, ,	_	-	-	-	_	_	_			0.70		-	_	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	33%
NONTAMA A Rosendale (R)		_	-	-		_	_	_														
Al Rosendale (R)	, , ,	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	22%	, ,										
NEBRASKA Fortenberry (R											00/	, ,	+		+	+						
Forecherry(R)	1 7	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	-	0%		_		_	_						
2 Bacon (R)											250/*	· ,	+	+	+	+						
3 Smith, Adrian (R)		_						_					-	-	-	-						
Nevalar		_			+	_	+	_				9	+		+	+						
1 Titus (D)	, , ,	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0%	1 7	_		_	_						
2 Amodel (R)											1000%		_		_	_	_		_			
3 Leg. S, (D)	. ,	_															_					
A Horsford (D)	, ,	_																				
New Jerses													_		_							
Pappas (D)	, ,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10070	, ,	_	_	_	_		_				
2 Kuster (D) + - <t< td=""><td></td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>100%</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>ı.</td><td></td><td>1170</td></t<>		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%									ı.		1170
New Jersey													_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%
2 Van Drew (R)				•		·		·			10070									ı.		,
2 Venstrup (R)	1 Norcross (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	1 Chabot (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	22%
3 Kim (D)	1 /	_	_		_			_			33%	2 Wenstrup (R)	_	_	_	_	_		_		_	22%
5 Sottheimer (D)	3 Kim (D)	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	100%		+	+	+	+	+		+		+	100%
6 Pallone (D)	4 Smith, C. (R)	_	_	+	+	+	+	_	+	_	56%	4 Jordan (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%
7 Malinowski (D)	5 Gottheimer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	5 Latta (R)	_	_	_	-	_	+	_	+	_	22%
8 Sires (D)	6 Pallone (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	6 Johnson, B. (R)	_	_	_	-	_	+	_	+	_	22%
9 Pascrell (D)	7 Malinowski (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	7 Gibbs (R)	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	_	11%
10 Payne (D)	8 Sires (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	8 Davidson (R)	_	_	-	-	-	_	-	+	-	11%
11 Sherrill (D)	9 Pascrell (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	9 Kaptur (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
12 Watson Coleman (D)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		` '	-	-	-		-	+				
12 Balderson (R)	` '	+			+			+					+		+							
1 Haaland (D)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	* /	I	ı	ı	ı	ı	- 1	ı		+	
1 Stansbury (D)												* '	-	-	-	-	-					
2 Herrell (R)		+			-	- [-				+		-							
3 Leger Fernandez (D)	,	I	ı	-	ı	- 1	- 1	+					-									
NEW YORK 16 Gonzalez (R) + + + - + - + - 33% 1 Zeldin (R) + + + - + + + + + + + + +		_	-		-	_	-	_					- 1	ı	I	- 1	I					
1 Zeldin (R)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	1 7	_	_	-	-	_		ı		-	
2 Garbarino (R)											440/		_	_	_	_	+	+	_	+	_	33%
3 Suozzi (D)	- ' ' '	_	_	_	_	_		_	_													00/
4 Rice, K. (D)		-	-	-	-			_				, ,	_	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	
5 Meeks (D)	· ,		+		+		+	+	+			. ,	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	_	_	
6 Meng (D)			+	'	+	'	+	+	+				_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	
7 Velazquez (D)													_	_	_	_	_		_			
8 Jeffries (D)													_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	22%
9 Clarke (D)																						1000/
10 Nadler (D)	` '															+						
11 Malliotakis (R)																						
12 Maloney, C. (D)			+	+	+	+		+				(- ,										
13 Espaillat (D)			_	_	_							` '										
14 Ocasio-Cortez (D) + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +														-	+		+		+		+	0970
15 Torres (D) + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +															عاد	J.	عاد			J.		56%
	, ,											, , ,										

KEY TO VOTES

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HOUSE VOTES SCORED 117th Congress — 1st Session

- American Rescue Plan Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- For the People Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- PRO Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea

- 4 American Dream and Promise Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- Farm Workforce Modernization Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- 6 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- 8 EQUAL Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea
- 9 Build Back Better Act
 NETWORK Position: Yea

		1	2	3	4	5 (6	7	8	9 %			1 :	2	3	4 !	5	6	7	8	9	%	
PENNSYLVANIA (CONT.)											TEXAS (CONT.)										Ť		
4 Dean (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	22 Nehls (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11	1%	KEV TO V
5 Scanlon (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	23 Gonzales (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2%	KEY TO V
6 Houlahan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	24 Van Duyne (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_		1%	
7 Wild (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	25 Williams, R. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2%	+ voted with N
8 Cartwright (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	26 Burgess (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2%	bad amataa
9 Meuser (R)	_	1	_	1	_	0	_	+	_	13%*	27 Cloud (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_		0%	 voted agains
10 Perry (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	0	0%*	28 Cuellar (D)	+	+	_	+	+	+	+	+	+		9%	o did not vote
11 Smucker (R)	_	_	_	_	+	_	_	+	_	22%	29 Garcia, S. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
12 Keller (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%	30 Johnson, E.B. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100		inactive/not
13 Joyce, J. (R)	_		_	_	_	_	_	L.	_	0%	31 Carter, J. (R)	_	<u> </u>	_	<u> </u>		<u>.</u>	_	Ė	_		0%	
14 Reschenthaler (R)								+	_	11%	32 Allred (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	* Percentage with
15 Thompson, G. (R)					+	0	_	+	_	25%*	33 Veasey (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10		signifies that leg
16 Kelly, M. (R)					_	0	_	+	_	11%	34 Vela (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			0%	
17 Lamb (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	35 Doggett (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10		not vote on all re
, ,	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	36 Babin (R)	т		т		т	т	т	I	_		0%	
18 Doyle (D) RHODE ISLAND	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	100%	UTAH	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	'	J70	
1 Cicilline (D)				٠.						100%							٠.		٠.		٦.	2%	
* /	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		1 Moore, Blake (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2% 2%	
2 Langevin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	2 Stewart (R)	_	-	_	-	_	+	_	+				
SOUTH CAROLINA										440/	3 Curtis (R)	_	-	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2%	
1 Mace (R)	_	_	_	1.7	_	-	_	+	_	11%	4 Owens (R)	_	-	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	2	2%	
2 Wilson, J. (R)	_	-	_	0	0	+	_	+	_	29%*	VERMONT										4.0	20/	
3 Duncan (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	-	-	0%	AL Welch (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
4 Timmons (R)	_	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	VIRGINIA												
5 Norman (R)	_	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	1 Wittman (R)	_	-	-	-	_	+	_	+	_		2%	
6 Clyburn (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	2 Luria (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
7 Rice, T. (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	3 Scott, R. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
SOUTH DAKOTA											4 McEachin (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
AL Johnson, D. (R)	-	-	_	-	_	+	_	+	-	22%	5 Good (R)	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	+	_		1%	
TENNESSEE											6 Cline (R)	_	-	_	-	_	-	_	-	_		0%	
1 Harshbarger (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	7 Spanberger (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
2 Burchett (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	8 Beyer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100		
3 Fleischmann (R)	-	-	_	-	_	+	_	+	-	22%	9 Griffith (R)	_	-	_	-	_	0	-	+	_	1.	3%*	
4 DesJarlais (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	10 Wexton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
5 Cooper (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	11 Connolly (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
6 Rose (R)	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	WASHINGTON												
7 Green, Mark (R)	_	-	_	-	_	-	_	+	-	11%	1 DelBene (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
8 Kustoff (R)	_	-	_	-	_	+	_	0	-	13%*	2 Larsen, R. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
9 Cohen (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	3 Herrera Beutler (R)	_	-	_	-	+	+	_	+	_	3	3%	
TEXAS											4 Newhouse (R)	_	-	_	+	+	+	_	+	_	4	4%	
1 Gohmert (R)	_	-	_	0	0	-	_	+	_	14%*	5 Rodgers (R)	_	-	_	-	+	-	_	+	_	2	2%	
2 Crenshaw (R)	_	-	_	-	_	+	_	+	_	22%	6 Kilmer (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
3 Taylor (R)	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	+	_	11%	7 Jayapal (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
4 Fallon (R)	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0%	8 Schrier (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
5 Gooden (R)	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	11%	9 Smith, Adam (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		10	0%	
6 Ellzey (R)	- 1	1	- 1	1	- 1	1	_	+	_	33%*	10 Strickland (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0%	
7 Fletcher (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	WEST VIRGINIA												
8 Brady, K. (R)	_	-	_	0	0	_	_	+	_	14%*	1 McKinley (R)	_	-	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	2	2%	
9 Green, A. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	2 Mooney (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_		2%	
10 McCaul (R)	_	1		1	_	+	_	+	_	22%	3 Miller, C. (R)	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_		1%	
11 Pfluger (R)	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	1	_	0%	WISCONSIN												
10 6 (0)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	22%	1 Steil (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	2.	2%	
12 Granger (R) 13 Jackson (R)	_		_	_	_	<u> </u>	_	L.	_	0%	2 Pocan (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0%	
14 Weber (R)										0%	3 Kind (D)	+	+	+	+	1	+	+	+	+		0%	
15 Gonzalez (D)	_	+	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	100%	4 Moore, G. (D)	+	+	+	+			+	+	+		0%	
16 Escobar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	5 Fitzgerald (R)	T	T	T		+	+	_	+	+		0% =	
17 Sessions (R)	_		_		+		T		+	0%	6 Grothman (R)			_			I -			_		% %	
17 Sessions (R) 18 Jackson Lee (D)		<u></u>		Ī.,	_	- T		Ī.,			7 Tiffany (R)		1.	_	I .	_			+				
18 Jackson Lee (D) 19 Arrington (R)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	/ IIIIdily (K)	_	_	0	_	_	+	_	+	_		5%*	
	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	_	0%	8 Gallagher (R)	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	+	_	2.	2%	
20 Castro (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	WYOMING											10/	
21 Roy (R)	-	_	_	_	_	_	_		-	0%	AL Cheney (R)	-	_	_	_	-		_	+	_	1	1%	
																,							

VOTES

- NETWORK
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- vith asterisk (*) legislator did Il relevant bills

SENATE VOTES

1 American Rescue Plan Act (H.R.1319) – Vote #110

NETWORK supported this relief package's measures to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. *Passed 50-49, March 6, 2021; Signed into law March 11, 2021*

2A For the People Act (S.2093)

NETWORK supported this common sense legislation that would strengthen voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) attempted to advance the bill on August 1, 2021 by unanimous consent but was blocked by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX).

2B Freedom to Vote Act (S.2747) – Vote #420

This legislation, which contained many of the same key provisions of the *For the People Act*, failed to overcome the filibuster in order to proceed to a Senate vote.

Cloture on the Motion to Proceed rejected 49-51, October 18, 2021

3 PRO Act (H.R.842)

NETWORK supported the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act for its expansion of various labor protections related to workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain.

While this legislation was a NETWORK priority to build anew, this bill did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

4 American Dream and Promise Act (H.R.6)

NETWORK supported this bill, which would provide certain undocumented immigrants protection from deportation, work authorization, and the ability to travel outside the country as well as a pathway to permanent resident status.

This bill failed to garner Democratic support needed and did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

Editor's Note

To our regret, much of this year's Senate scorecard is left empty. While NETWORK supported numerous bills in the Senate this year, they were either blocked by the filibuster or did not make it to the Senate floor at all.

5 Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R.1603)

NETWORK supported this bipartisan immigration legislation that would provide undocumented farmworkers and their family members with a path to legal immigration status and citizenship. While this legislation secured bipartisan support in the House—with 13 Republican cosponsors and 30 Republicans voting yes—it did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

6 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (H.R.1065)

NETWORK supported this bipartisan legislation that would modernize current worker discrimination laws to include pregnancy and address gaps in protections for pregnant workers. While this legislation secured bipartisan support in the House, it did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (S.4) - Vote #495

This legislation, which would restore the power of the Voting Rights Act, failed to overcome the filibuster in order to proceed to a Senate vote.

Cloture on the Motion to Proceed rejected 50-49, November 3, 2021

8 EQUAL Act (H.R.1693)

NETWORK supported this bill that would modernize current federal sentencing disparities that directly marginalize Black and Brown communities.

While this legislation was a NETWORK priority to build anew—and secured bipartisan support in the House—this bill did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

9 Build Back Better Act

NETWORK strongly supported the Build Back Better Act because of its robust, once-in-a-generation investment in families and communities.

While this legislation was a NETWORK priority to build anew, this bill did not receive a vote in the Senate in 2021.

Changes in the Senate in 2021

- Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), Resigned January 19, 2021
- Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Sworn in January 20, 2021
- Senator Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), Appointed term expired January 19, 2021
- Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Sworn in January 20, 2021

	1	2A 2E	3 3	4	5 6	7 8	3 9	%		1	2A	2B	3	4	5	6 7	7 8	3	9	%
ALABAMA									MONTANA											00/
Jones (D) Shelby (R)	+							0% 0%	Daines (R) Tester (D)	+										0% 100%
ALASKA Murkowski (R) Sullivan (R)								0% 0%	NEBRASKA Fischer (R) Sasse (R)	_										0% 0%
ARIZONA Kelly (D) Sinema (D)	++							100% 100%	NEVADA Cortez Masto (D) Rosen (D)	++										100% 100%
ARKANSAS Boozman (R) Cotton (R)	-							0% 0%	NEW HAMPSHIRE Hassan (D) Shaheen (D)	++										100% 100%
CALIFORNIA Feinstein (D) Padilla (D)	+++							100% 100%	NEW JERSEY Booker (D) Menendez (D)	++										100% 100%
colorado Bennet (D) Hickenlooper (D)	++							100% 100%	NEW MEXICO Heinrich (D) Luján (D)	++										100% 100%
CONNECTICUT Blumenthal (D) Murphy (D)	++							100% 100% 100%	NEW YORK Gillibrand (D) Schumer (D)	++										100% 100% 100%
DELAWARE Carper (D) Coons (D)	++							100% 100%	NORTH CAROLINA Burr (R) Tillis (R)	-										0% 0%
FLORIDA Rubio (R) Scott, R. (R)	-							0% 0%	NORTH DAKOTA Cramer (R) Hoeven (R)	_										0% 0%
GEORGIA Ossoff (D) Warnock (D)	++							100% 100%	OHIO Brown (D) Portman (R)	+										100% 0%
HAWAII Hirono (D) Schatz (D)	+							100% 100%	OKLAHOMA Inhofe (R) Lankford (R)	_										0% 0%
IDAHO Crapo (R) Risch (R)	_							0% 0%	OREGON Merkley (D) Wyden (D)	++										100% 100%
ILLINOIS Duckworth (D) Durbin (D)	++							100% 100%	PENNSYLVANIA Casey (D) Toomey (R)	+										100% 0%
INDIANA Braun (R) Young (R)								0% 0%	RHODE ISLAND Reed (D) Whitehouse (D)	++										100% 100%
IOWA Ernst (R) Grassley (R)	_							0% 0%	SOUTH CAROLINA Graham (R) Scott, T. (R)	-										0% 0%
Marshall (R) Moran (R)	_							0% 0%	SOUTH DAKOTA Rounds (R) Thune (R)	-										0% 0%
McConnell (R) Paul (R)	-							0% 0%	TENNESSEE Blackburn (R) Hagerty (R)	- -										0% 0%
Cassidy (R) Kennedy (R)	- -							0% 0%	TEXAS Cornyn (R) Cruz (R)	- -										0% 0%
MAINE Collins (R) King (I)	- +							0% 100%	Lee (R) Romney (R)	-										0% 0%
MARYLAND Cardin (D) Van Hollen (D)	++							100% 100%	VERMONT Leahy (D) Sanders (I)	++										100% 100%
MASSACHUSETTS Markey (D) Warren (D)	++							100% 100%	VIRGINIA Kaine (D) Warner (D)	++										100% 100%
MICHIGAN Peters (D) Stabenow (D)	++							100% 100%	WASHINGTON Cantwell (D) Murray (D)	++										100% 100%
MINNESOTA Klobuchar (D) Smith (D)	++							100% 100%	WEST VIRGINIA Capito (R) Manchin (D)	- +										0% 100%
MISSISSIPPI Hyde–Smith (R) Wicker (R)	-							0% 0%	WISCONSIN Baldwin (D) Johnson (R)	+										100% 0%
MISSOURI Blunt (R) Hawley (R)	_							0% 0%	WYOMING Barrasso (R) Lummis (R)	=										0% 0%

SENATE VOTES SCORED

117th Congress — 1st Session

- **American Rescue Plan Act NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **2A** For the People Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- **2B** Freedom to Vote Act NETWORK Position: Yea
- PRO Act **NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **American Dream and Promise Act NETWORK Position: Yea**
- Farm Workforce Modernization Act **NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **Pregnant Workers** 6 Fairness Act **NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **EQUAL Act NETWORK Position: Yea**
- **Build Back Better Act NETWORK Position: Yea**

KEY TO VOTES

- + voted with NETWORK
- voted against NETWORK
- o did not vote
- inactive/not in office

Voices at the Table

Why Catholics Should Be Actively Engaged in Efforts to Protect Our Democracy

BY CONGRESSWOMAN VERONICA ESCOBAR

hen Catholics think about how they can live out the values of their faith through their politics, protecting their democracy is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. But it should be. Not only does the church support democracy as the form of government best suited to guarantee the protection and flourishing of all people, but people of goodwill have the responsibility to exercise solidarity toward those on the periphery who become the most vulnerable when democracy comes under threat.

Some threats are easier to see. On January 6, 2021, our nation and the world witnessed the most direct assault on U.S. democracy in our history: violent insurgents storming the U.S. Capitol in an effort to stop me and my colleagues from certifying the 2020 presidential election. Not only were the insurgents trying to upend a Constitutionally mandated process, but they were trying to silence the voices of Black and Latino voters in places like Arizona and Georgia who decided the election for President Joe Biden.

The pushback from Republicans was swift and unmistakable. Some 17 states, including my state of Texas, enacted restrictive voting laws that disproportionately burden voters of color and limit their access to the ballot box. In November, the Justice Department sued Texas, noting its strict limits on assisting voters at the polls burdens people with disabilities and limited English proficiency. This is just one example of why our country urgently needs the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and the *For the People Act*, both of which passed the House in 2021 but have languished in the Senate.

"Democracy is based on mutual respect, on the possibility that each person can contribute to the good of society and on the consideration that different opinions do not threaten the power and security of states, but through honest debate mutually enrich them and enable them to find more suitable solutions to pressing problems," Pope Francis argued in early 2021.

Shutting people out of the voting process is no way to ensure honest debate, and it's telling that the lawmakers most adamant on enshrining these restrictions into law are also the ones least serious about finding solutions to the pressing problems mentioned by the pope: climate change, mass migration, and unprecedented economic inequality. Those who benefit from

these crises know very well that including the voices of marginalized people in these systems could reduce their power and influence, as it did in 2020.

And it's this awareness that should galvanize the 70 million Catholics in the U.S. and all people of goodwill to fight alongside those who stand to be the most impacted by the erosion of our democracy. The House of Representatives is doing the work — we sent the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For the



Rep. Veronica Escobar represents Texas' 16th Congressional District. She took office on January 3, 2019, making history as the first woman elected to this seat.

People Act to the Senate. We have been patient, we have been willing to work with the Senate, and even supported the Senate-authored Freedom to Vote Act as an alternative to our bills. But we are running out of time. We must urge the Senate to work for the American people. Whether that means passing the For the People Act or the Freedom to Vote Act, the Senate must act now.

"If one part of the body suffers, then the whole body suffers with it," St. Paul wrote (1 Cor 12:26). The same applies to threats to democracy. My district is over 83 percent Latino, and we know what it means to have destructive policies inflicted on our communities and families without them ever having a say.

A threat to one person's voice is a threat to everyone's. As Pope Francis has reminded us in his teachings on caring for the environment, we are all connected. Women have had the right to vote in this country for only a century, and the original *Voting Rights Act* passed in 1965 only to be gutted by the Supreme Court nearly 50 years later.

We must take seriously our responsibility to ensure that the rights of all, not just the wealthy and influential few, are protected equally. The Senate and President Biden must pick up where the House left off on voting rights. A democracy that ensures the participation of only the wealthy and powerful is not worthy of its name.

Our Voting Rights Encounter

Sisters' Prophetic Role in Ensuring the Health of Democracy

Thave never felt that being a member of a Franciscan commu-Inity and being a citizen of the U.S. were separate things. For instance, I have been working at polling places on election days for the past 21 years. But it was only in November of 2020 that I have ever experienced anger and hostility and mistrust of the voting procedures. I have very real fears for the future of our democracy.

My activism in seeking the passage of a voting rights bill is one more way I am trying to take a stand for equality, dignity, and fairness, and I am so proud that thousands of women religious around the country are in solidarity with this issue.

Being an introvert by nature, it isn't comfortable for me to engage in the public square. However, I have learned that when values I hold deeply are being threatened, or when my country or my church are being less that I know they can be, I am willing to stand up, to speak, to write, to commit to whatever it takes to nudge civic and religious institutions in the direction of values Jesus and other religious leaders taught and lived.

Last summer, NETWORK reached out to Sisters around the country, asking them to sign a letter addressed to President Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. The letter requested swift passage of the For the People Act to secure voting rights for all Americans. Over 3,600 Sisters signed it, and it was delivered in Washington on July 26. At that time, NET-WORK also asked if I would be able to gather a representative group of Sisters in Tucson to present a copy of this letter, with all of its signatures, to our U.S. Senators' offices in Tucson.

The Tucson Sisters who accompanied me were Franciscan Sisters Joneen Keuler (Wisconsin) and Carolyn Nicolai (New York), and Sr. Eileen Mahoney of the Congregation of St. Agnes from Wisconsin. All are longtime residents of Tucson, ministering in a variety of roles.

We chose Friday, August 6, as our delivery date, not only because it was the 56th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, which has been weakened through the federal courts and still faces attacks today, but also because it is the feast of the Transfiguration. We also knew that on that Friday morning we would be in solidarity with Sisters from West Virginia who were delivering the letter to the office of Senator Joe Manchin.

We were able to secure a time with the staff of Senator Mark Kelly, but Senator Sinema's staff was unable to meet with us. Ron Barber, former Congressman and now a staff member for Senator Kelly, agreed to represent the Senator to receive the let-



to voice their support for voting rights legislation. Courtesy photo

ter from us. Ron, a Catholic, had been seriously wounded along with Congresswoman Gabby Giffords — Senator Kelly's wife when they were shot in Tucson during a "meet your Congresswoman" event in 2011.

When we presented the letter, we offered a blessing prayer, and all in attendance joined in. I remember the warm welcome and the enthusiastic response when we asked the staff to join us in prayer. I felt profoundly moved by the sense of being unified with members of religious communities all across our country and also moved by the dedicated political staff praying with us. We were deeply motivated to encourage the passing of a bill so greatly needed.

The letter stated: "Every voice and every vote is sacred." It affirmed the need for the reforms written into the bill, stating, "The 'For the People Act' protects the vote from attacks and from those who seek to suppress it." It has been disappointing that the For the People Act didn't pass. We still have hope that its successor, the Freedom to Vote Act, will pass soon.

Religious communities have an important prophetic role in our world today. Just as the prophets of the past challenged religious leaders and kings, so members of religious communities today are called to awaken the consciences of the people in our church and in our nation.



Sr. Karen Berry, OSF is a Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. She lives in Tucson, Ariz.

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter



"When Jesus says clearly,
'Everytime you did or did not
feed the hungry, give drink to
the thirsty, clothe the naked,
shelter the homeless, visit the
imprisoned, take care of the sick,
and welcome the stranger, you
did it to me. And when you did
not do those things, you did it to
me.' You did it to me, Build Back
Better for all."

Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, speaks at the Keep the Faith, Build Back Better vigil, organized by the Washington Interfaith Staff Community on October 20. Photo by Julia Morris

"A vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and our children, and I believe that is sacred. At root, a vote is about your voice and your voice is your human dignity."

Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA), speaking at Georgetown Center on Faith and Justice inaugural event, November 23 "If we intend to proclaim the authentic gospel of Jesus, we must acknowledge our sinfulness as a Church as it pertains to the sin of racism and give more than lip service to combatting racism in our Church and nation."

Sister Josita Colbert, SNDdeN, president of the National Black Sisters' Conference, on November 16, in response to criticism of anti-racist social justice movements by Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez



"As long as the Biden
Administration maintains Title 42,
they are emboldening organized
crime and are directly responsible
to deaths of men, women, and
children seeking protection at the
Southern Border."

Sister Tracey Horan, SP, speaking at NETWORK's Title 42 vigil, which brought over 80 sisters to protest outside the White House on December 3. Photo by Julia Morris

"As a person of faith, I know that violence fueled by racism is an affront against God."

Min. Christian Watkins, responding to Rittenhouse trial verdict



"We're losing a great Catholic in Congress."

Laura Peralta-Schulte, NETWORK senior director of public policy and government affairs, on the retirement of Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the longest serving member of the Senate (pictured here at a 1976 NETWORK legislative seminar) who announced on November 15 he would not seek another term.

"Opportunity shouldn't be determined by ZIP code, background or access to power."

Stacey Abrams announcing run for Georgia Governor on December 1

"Sometimes we don't have answers, we just ask better questions. I want to engage questions around erasure, around racism."

Dr. Tia Noelle Pratt, during "Centering Black Catholic Voices" interview, November 23

"When we finally admit that poverty is a policy choice, we can then be clear that our policymakers can make different choices."

Mary J. Novak during Build Back Better Press Conference, December 15



NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation.

NETWORK LORRY FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL HISTICE

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Justice-Seekers... Use Your IRA Distributions to Work for Justice!

Did you know? You can use your IRA distributions for justice!

Are you 70½ years of age or older and have an IRA account? Or did you inherit an IRA that you must withdraw from?

If so, you may be able to make a charitable gift with your required distributions.

The Charitable Rollover allows you to make charitable contributions directly from your IRA to charitable organizations like NETWORK Advocates, without claiming increased income for federal taxes. It also allows your gift to count toward your Required Minimum Distribution. A rollover can't be counted as a charitable gift for income tax purposes, but it does fulfill your obligation to withdraw funds from your IRA.

If you have the ability to comfortably designate some of your Required Minimum Distribution to NETWORK Advocates' mission of justice and peace, your gift will be put to work right away. Your gift will equip activists with the resources and platforms needed to meet the challenges ahead.

Questions? For assistance or more information, contact Maggie Brevig at mbrevig@networklobby.org or (202) 347-9797 ext. 217.



820 First Street NE, Suite 350 Washington, DC 20002 phone: 202-347-9797 fax: 202-347-9864 www.networklobby.org www.networkadvocates.org NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 6962 WASHINGTON. DC

Dear social poets,

Do you know what comes to mind now when ... I think of the Good Samaritan?

The protests over the death of George Floyd. ... [1]n that protest against this death, there was the Collective Samaritan who is no fool! This movement did not pass by on the other side of the road.

The suffering of the world is better understood alongside those who suffer. In my experience, when people ... have suffered injustice, inequality, abuse of power, deprivations, and xenophobia in their own flesh – ... they understand much better what others are experiencing and are able to help them realistically to open up paths of hope.

How important it is that your voice be heard, represented in all the places where decisions are made. Offer your voice in a collaborative spirit; speak with moral certainty of what must be done.

Pope Francis, message to the Fourth World Meeting of Popular Movements October 16, 2021

