

EQUALLY SACRED CHECKLIST

2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

How can we know that we are voting for candidates who promote the common good? Pope Francis has given clear instructions for how Catholics and all people of good will are to position ourselves and prioritize social issues. In his writing and speaking, Pope Francis makes it clear: **abortion is not the only issue that matters.** Catholics are called to be multi-issue voters, not single-issue voters in the 2022 midterm elections and in our continued participation in public life.

Below you will find a resource to educate yourself as a faithful voter on the concerns Pope Francis says are **"equally sacred"** to the defense of the unborn.



*Pledge to be a
Pope Francis Voter!*

networkadvocates.org/voter-pledge

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Does the candidate promote the freedom to vote?

Does the candidate uphold election integrity and deny false allegations of voter fraud?

Pope Francis says...

We cannot avoid noting with concern how we are witnessing a retreat from democracy... Universal participation is essential; not simply to attain shared goals but also because it corresponds to what we are: social beings, at once unique and interdependent.

Speech in Athens - December 4, 2021

DISCRIMINATION

Does the candidate oppose racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination?

Does the candidate believe housing, health care, and food are a human right?

Does the candidate oppose discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community?

Does the candidate oppose the death penalty?

Pope Francis says...

101. Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm, and passionate. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, and every form of rejection.

Gaudete et Exsultate - March 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE

Does the candidate support policies that address climate change?

Pope Francis says...

67. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth what it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

Laudato Si' - June 2015

RACISM

Does the candidate recognize racist policies and work to undo them?

Pope Francis says...

We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

General Audience - June 3, 2020

POVERTY

Does the candidate support raising the minimum wage?

Does the candidate support extending the Child Tax Credit?

Does the candidate support making sure the wealthy pay what they owe in taxes?

Does the candidate protect workers' right to organize?

Pope Francis says...

53. Today we also have to say "thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills.

Evangeli Gaudium - November 2013

IMMIGRATION

Does the candidate welcome immigrants and support a legal and humane immigration system?

Pope Francis says...

102. We often hear it said that the situation of migrants is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the "grave" bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.

Gaudete et Exsultate - March 2018