

Time to

# VOTE

## Our Future



# NETWORK CONNECTION

FOURTH QUARTER 2024

**Inside This Issue**  
Nuns on the Bus & Friends Tour  
NETWORK's 2024  
Voter Education Resources

*Grounded in Gospel values and the Catholic social justice tradition, NETWORK transforms our society by shaping federal policies that achieve racial, economic, and social justice; serve the common good; and honor the dignity of all.*

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Emily TeKolste, SP, Meg Olson, Ralph McCloud,  
Tom Volkert, IVC

Managing Editor: Don Clemmer  
Designer: Maggie Powell

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NETWORK Executive Director Mary J. Novak speaks at the announcement of the Nuns on the Bus & Friends 2024 Vote Our Future tour on July 23. Attended by both Sisters and coalition partners who will be riding the bus, the event rolled out the 20-city, two-and-a-half-week tour. Photo: Larry French/AP Content Services

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# Revolution of Hope

*We Vote Our Future So Everyone Thrives, No Exceptions*

As the Nuns on the Bus & Friends hit the road for the “Vote Our Future” tour, our focus is on what it means to be active and engaged in our politics. Wherever we live and whatever our background, it is essential not only to be engaged ourselves, but to invite as many people as possible into participation in our democratic process.

That is why this tour, for the first time, is the Nuns on the Bus & Friends. Answering the call of Pope Francis to “enlarge the space of our tent,” for the first time our Bus riders include not just Sisters, but also representatives of other faith-based and secular coalition partners who share NETWORK’s vision for the common good.

Withdrawal from our political process is not an option, especially at this moment in our history. Nor is it a Catholic value. In Catholic Social Teaching, participation — and the ability to participate — is essential to promoting justice in the world. It is about exercising the free will given to us by God at our creation and using it for the good.

Nuns on the Bus & Friends is representative of this participation, of Catholic Sisters and their collaborators recognizing the need to protect our freedom to participate in a vibrant democracy by spreading the word to communities across the country.

This past summer, Pope Francis described exclusion in societies as a real threat to democracy: “Whenever someone is marginalized, the whole social body suffers.” This follows over a decade of teachings in which this pope has fervently called for people to have an active role in the systems and structures that shape our lives.

But in this country today, voter suppression and intimidation pose major threats to participation, especially the participation of people of color and young people. Some people say they will refuse to accept the outcomes of elections that do not favor their political agenda. And the threat of single-issue voting, which allows only the narrowest moral criteria in discerning how people should participate in building the common good, excludes or disqualifies all other moral concerns, even in the face of possibly losing the freedoms of our democracy.



Joan F. Neal



Mary J. Novak

Pope Francis says plainly, “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.”


NETWORK and Nuns on the Bus & Friends promote multi-issue voting, as outlined in the various freedoms of our Equally Sacred Checklist voter education resource. (See pages 15–16.) And on the nonpartisan “Vote Our Future” tour, we will invite all Catholics and people of goodwill to participate in building the future we want through multi-issue voting.

John Lewis, the late Congressman and Civil Rights activist whose name now adorns voting rights legislation awaiting action by Congress, said, “We should be creative, and we should accommodate the needs of every community to open up the democratic process.”

The need for creative movement in the Spirit sparked the first Nuns on the Bus tour, back in 2012. And on this tour, our eighth, as Nuns on the Bus & Friends visits 20 cities in 11 states over two and a half weeks, we will engage and listen to the needs of the communities we encounter. We will draw together people, share our concerns, and make the connection to the freedoms we enjoy living in a democracy. It will be not only about self-determination, but also collective determination and action.

By calling for the freedom to be healthy, to be free from harm, to care for oneself and one’s family, to live in a welcoming country, and to live on a healthy planet, we embrace the vision of Pope Francis, that “the only future worth building includes everyone.”

We participate in building that future in hope. “Hope is the door that opens onto the future,” the pope says. He adds, “A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another ‘you,’ and another ‘you,’ and it turns into an ‘us.’” Nuns on the Bus & Friends is an emphatic “us.” And Pope Francis makes it clear: “When there is an ‘us,’ there begins a revolution.”

On this “Vote Our Future” tour, may we participate joyfully in a revolution of hope. 

*Joan F. Neal is NETWORK’s Deputy Executive Director & Chief Equity Officer.*

*Mary J. Novak is NETWORK’s Executive Director.*

## Notable Quotables

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter

"Voting is not just a statement of your values; it's a way to actualize the changes you want to see in society. How will you discern how your voting practice can support the freedom to live in a welcoming society?"

– Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Office for Witness in Society

"Together, we are working to end hunger, combat climate change, and strengthen Social Security for the first time in more than 50 years. I look forward to seeing the incredible impact you will make as you travel across the country and highlight the importance of being a multi-issue voter. Nuns on the Bus, we stand with you, and we ride with you!"

– Congressman John Larson (CT-1)

"We at NETWORK have read the signs of the times and reached an inescapable conclusion: The world needs what Catholic Sisters have offered for 50 years and what we at NETWORK continue to offer grounded in their vision."

– Mary J. Novak, NETWORK Executive Director, at the July 23 announcement of the Nuns on the Bus & Friends Vote Our Future tour

"God be with us all as we work toward a vision that is not yet in our nation, a future where children are centered in our public policy, where those who have a voice in democracy stand up and stand out for the last, the least, and the left out."

– Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President and CEO of Children's Defense Fund

"We can build a country where everyone is equally valued, where diversity is seen as a strength and not a weakness, and where everyone can thrive."

– Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President of Sojourners

"May the history classes of tomorrow look back at this moment, and see a trail of advocates and activists, organizers and good troublemakers, together illuminating a pathway to justice and that vision of the world we seek!"

– Amelia Kegan, Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy at Friends Committee on National Legislation

"This multi-issue, multi-faith approach will prepare and educate Americans on the issues that matter most before they cast their ballots in November. This is about creating a government that works for the people – fixing our tax code, restoring compassion to the federal budget, and enacting policies that help Americans thrive."

– Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3)



NETWORK Executive Director Mary J. Novak speaks at the July 23 media conference on Capitol Hill announcing the Nuns on the Bus & Friends 2024 Vote Our Future tour. The two-and-a-half-week tour, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 18, will visit 20 cities in 11 states. All photos: Larry French/AP Content Services

## 'Vote Our Future' Tour Kicks Off

*Nuns on the Bus & Friends Calls for Future Where 'Everyone Thrives, No Exceptions'*

This fall, NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus is hitting the road again for the first time in six years. On this nationwide, nonpartisan Vote Our Future tour, the Nuns on the Bus & Friends will call on Catholics and all people of goodwill to be multi-issue voters.

"This year, it is important to be reminded that nothing is inevitable, that we actually have to 'Vote Our Future.' And as Pope Francis reminds us, 'The only future worth building includes everyone.'"

These were the words spoken by NETWORK's Executive Director, Mary J. Novak at a media conference on Capitol Hill on July 23 to announce the tour. The news received cheers from the roughly 200 people gathered in person and online — including Catholic Sisters, members of Congress, and advocacy partners. Participants held up signs saying "Vote Our Future,"

"Multi-Issue Voter," and more—along with a large cutout of the bus — all against the backdrop of the U.S. Capitol.

In addition to Novak, several of the tour's bus riders, as well as members of Congress, addressed the crowd. Many spoke about the freedoms at stake in the 2024 election — the freedoms to be healthy and safe, to participate in a vibrant democracy, to care for ourselves and our families, and to live on a healthy planet and in a welcoming country.

Novak also announced that, for the first time, the tour would include bus riders who aren't Catholic Sisters, but multi-faith and secular coalition partners: hence Nuns on the Bus & Friends.

*(continued on page 6)*





Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM, of NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization team, speaks at the July 23 announcement of the Nuns on the Bus & Friends Vote Our Future tour on Capitol Hill.

“Demanding justice and securing freedom is hard, and through NETWORK, I have always found a strong and effective ally in this vital work. The nuns have always shown up, and that is why this time, I’m coming with them!” said Debbie Weinstein of the Coalition on Human Needs, one of the partner riders on this year’s tour.

Sojourners President Rev. Adam Taylor, another rider, said “We can build a country where everyone is equally valued, where diversity is seen as a strength and not a weakness, and where everyone can thrive.”

Sr. Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPPS, President of Friends in Solidarity and one of the Catholic Sisters joining the bus tour, said: “The Bible tells us that when one part of the whole suffers, we all suffer. We need not choose to remain in suffering because we have agency. We have the power to transcend circumstances. I witnessed that reality when I rode the bus in 2018 and encountered people, together in their communities, doing the good work of building a more just and equitable world.”

“I am here because I support Pope Francis’ call for Catholics to be multi-is-

sue voters,” said Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-4), one of six Members of Congress to attend the media conference. “My social justice values are deeply connected to my faith and upbringing as a Catholic. That’s why I joined Nuns on the Bus & Friends, to reaffirm our commitment to the right to seek asylum, as well as health care, climate, economic, and racial justice.”

“There is nothing that says faith in action like Nuns on the Bus. Faith that is just words is not really faith. We have to act. And we act by voting,” said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-5).

Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20) said, “Our work in Washington and the legislation we advance are a statement of our values and—to ensure a bright future for all—those values must run the gamut of addressing the climate crisis, protecting voting rights, strengthening health care, and more.”

Also speaking at the gathering were Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-2), Rep. John Larson (CT-1), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-

3), Amelia Kegan, Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy at Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM, NETWORK Grassroots Education & Organizing Specialist.

The two-and-a-half-week tour, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 18, will visit 20 cities in 11 states, meeting with communities at site visits, rallies, and townhalls, and will promote a future of flourishing for everyone.

From Philadelphia to San Francisco, this tour, part of NETWORK’s nonpartisan voter education campaign, will promote the freedoms that are essential for a flourishing multiracial, multi-faith democracy and equip and mobilize everyone to exercise their right to vote — and make sure that their friends and families are voting too.

Nuns on the Bus & Friends proclaims that together, we will vote our future — so everyone thrives, no exceptions!

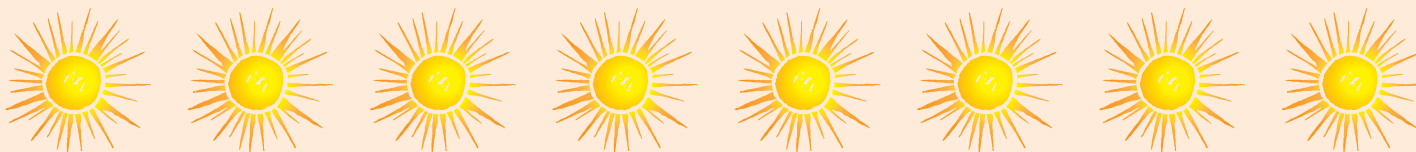


Sr. Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPPS, President of Friends in Solidarity, shares why she will be riding the Bus on the 2024 Vote Our Future tour during the July 23 announcement of the tour on Capitol Hill.





Members of Congress who spoke at the Nuns on the Bus & Friends announcement on July 23 were: Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20, upper left), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-3, upper right), Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-4, center left), Rep. John Larson (CT-1, center right), Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-5, lower left), and Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-2, lower right).



# Why I'm Riding the Bus

## *We Must Show Up for Beloved Community*

This is my first time riding the bus for a Nuns on the Bus tour, and I am excited!

I thought it was a brilliant idea when NETWORK first initiated these tours back in 2012, in the middle of a difficult time for Catholic Sisters in the United States and NETWORK. I wanted to ride the bus then, as well as on subsequent tours in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018. But I never could because I was in the wrong place with other responsibilities.

Finally, in 2020, I would have been able to ride, but the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world. I did follow the virtual tour that ultimately took the place of an in-person bus tour. I especially loved learning about the features of organizations throughout the country doing what they could to achieve the common good for all the community.

Now it is my time, and I am riding on the 2024 tour, the Nuns on the Bus & Friends Vote Our Future Tour.

My excitement comes from a conviction that the tour helps to bring about that “beloved community” called for by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and repeated by Rep. John Lewis when he said:

“I think there’s still a need for people in high places, not just in government, but in the private sector, in the academic community, in the media, in business to continue to be advocates, bringing people together, and build ... the beloved community.”

This trip is bringing people together in community both on and off the bus. I see here the embodiment of the qualities of Sister-Spirit that the NETWORK board members invoke at the start of each meeting: “We reflect in awe and wonder at the Spirit acting in our world. We experience the richness that comes from recognizing that others come to the table with very different life experiences.”

On my leg of the three-part journey, it delights me that inside the bus there is a beloved community, with NETWORK folks, including Executive Director Mary Novak, and with new friends I have never met before. Four are Sisters – Robbie, whom I do know from the NETWORK board, Erin, Quincy and Romina — each from different communities than mine who have ministered in other places than I have and in different works than mine.

We also have faith-filled folks with different life experiences. Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould is an ordained elder in the A.M.E.

Church, whose bio says, “She can be found on the front lines fighting for justice from Ferguson to the D.C.” Kristen Whitney Daniels is a journalist with stories to share on fierce advocacy for health care, especially for those with diabetes. Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson advocates for children’s rights and racial equity as President and CEO of the Children’s Defense Fund.

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This trip is bringing people together in community both on and off the bus.

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In all, it is a wonderful diverse mix of backgrounds, ages, genders, races, and experiences, as it must also be in the beloved community. The Spirit acts in our world.

On my leg of the journey, we visit communities new to me in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York, everywhere engaging folks in conversation through rallies, site visits, and ordinary encounters. As in any community, we will connect with each other and share insights and concerns. We will learn in a mutual education aimed at voting a future where everyone thrives. We all have different life experiences, and to build Dr. King’s beloved community, we need the Spirit acting in everyone.

On our tour, as it says in NETWORK’s strategic plan, we are taking the steps we can to mobilize a national movement of justice-seekers — a beloved community — who will consistently exercise power to influence federal policies so that everyone thrives. These policies that dismantle systemic racism, center equity and reparatory justice, achieve economic justice, secure our democracy, and protect our common home.

I am excited to be part of it. You can join us and be part of it too.



*Sr. Catherine Ferguson, SNJM is a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and Chair of the Board of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.*





# MEET THE RIDERS

Meet the Nuns on the Bus & Friends participating in the Vote Our Future tour, and learn why they are riding the Bus this year!



**Rev. Adam Taylor**  
Sojourners

*"I am fully committed to an inclusive, multiracial democracy, protecting the rights and freedom for all people to vote, and to working together to promote a future of flourishing for all of us — with no exceptions — especially those who are marginalized in our communities."*



**Sr. Andrea Koverman, SC**  
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

*"I have been fortunate enough to [have been a rider on] former bus tours, and have seen the reach and impact they have on all who participate. This is a critical election that I think will change the course of our nation."*



**Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP**  
Congregation of Divine Providence of KY

*"I want to do my part to educate around the multiple issues every person of conscience needs to consider before casting his or her ballot this November."*



**Sr. Barbara Pfarr, SSND**  
School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Community Organizer

*"The bus shows an image of the Church in Action for Justice."*



**Amelia Kegan**  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

*"So much is at stake, and yet so much is possible. We need everyone, building community, inviting people in... to help build this vision of the country where every person is free to fulfill their potential and truly flourish."*



**Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould**  
Faith in Action

*"Advocating for justice requires public witness. Civic engagement from a faith perspective is a sacred duty for me, and being in solidarity with partners allows us to collectively place our faith in the public square and to hear from and bear witness to and with our neighbors."*



**Ana Garcia-Ashley**  
Gamaliel

*"As a fourth-generation Catholic from the Dominican Republic and Director of Gamaliel, a faith-based national organization, it's my calling to represent our values in the public arena."*



**Sr. Catherine C. Darcy, RSM**  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

*"I believe that NETWORK has done a great service in providing the Catholic community with the Equally Sacred Multi-issue Voter Checklist."*





**Sr. Catherine Ferguson, SNJM**

*Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary NETWORK Board*

*"I ride the bus to be part of an educational effort to learn and share with others about the issues that truly effect the common good of all Americans."*



**Sr. Janet Kinney, CSJ**

*Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, NY Long Island Immigration Clinic of the Sisters of St. Joseph*

*"It is critical that we 'get out the vote' and encourage others to use their voices in the public form about the issues they care about."*



**Deborah Weinstein**

*Coalition on Human Needs*

*"I ride the bus for my children and grandchildren, and for everyone's. We must Vote Our Future, and Vote for Human Needs."*



**Kristen Whitney Daniels**

*U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph*

*"As someone who previously had to ration my insulin and other medications, I want people to know they are not alone in this experience, and together we can fight to change this system. Everyone has a role to play in making our country a healthier place to live."*



**Sr. Deirdre Griffin, SSJ**

*Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield/Maryknoll Lay Missioners Immigration Attorney*

*"God's radical hospitality is alive and well in our border communities... we must be willing to go deeper than sound bites and to have real conversations to generate creative ways forward that ensure safety and dignity for everyone."*



**Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune**

*National Council of Churches USA*

*"We must do all we can to encourage people to participate in our democracy so that we can preserve and improve it for ourselves and for generations to come."*



**Sr. Erin McDonald, CSJ**

*Sisters of St. Joseph Young Adult Ministry*

*"Our charism calls us to love God and neighbor without distinctions and to be agents of unioning love and reconciliation. This inspires me to advocate for U.S. policies that reflect the Great Love of God and the Gospel call to care for all of God's creation."*



**Lisa Sharon Harper**

*Freedom Road, LLC*

*"Our nation stands on the brink of losing the democracy for which my ancestors fought and sacrificed. The only way to repair what has been broken is through radical reconnection."*



**Giovana Oaxaca Najera**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*"As the daughter of immigrants, I've seen firsthand remarkable changes in just one generation. Hope, hard work, opportunity, and equity have shaped my unique perspective on the 'American Dream' and the belief that it belongs to everyone."*



**Sr. Louise Lears, SC**

*Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation ministry*

*"Riding the bus offers a graced opportunity to build bridges, reach across differences, focus on the common good, and nurture the beloved community."*



# NETWORK NUNS on the bus & FRIENDS



**Mary J. Novak**

*NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice*

*“I am riding to continue the vision of the Catholic Sisters who founded this political ministry and, on this Bus, to do so with our treasured partners. All of us share a vision for the freedoms essential for a flourishing multiracial, multi-faith democracy.”*



**Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS**

*Sisters of the Precious Blood  
Friends in Solidarity*

*“South Sudan suffers terribly due to the climate crisis and thus a healthy planet is needed in the here and now. I ride the bus because our lives are intertwined and thus we need to work collectively and collaboratively for the good of all.”*



**Sr. Quincy Howard, OP**

*Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa*

*“This is possibly the most pivotal election in generations, and I need to feel that I’ve done everything in my power to help Americans see their choices clearly and choose wisely. I see the bus as an opportunity to make a difference.”*



**Sr. Richelle Friedman, PBVM**

*Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, IA*

*“I think that it is the responsibility of citizens to vote, and to base their votes on values aligned with Catholic Social Justice teachings.”*



**Sr. Robbie Pentecost, OSF**

*Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana*

*“I ride the bus because it is a sacred journey — an opportunity to sow seeds of hope, renewal of spirit for those working for justice, and an occasion to walk with those impacted by policies made at the federal and state levels.”*



**Sr. Romina Sapinoso, SC**

*Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
The Leadership Collaborative*

*“We need leaders in our government that understand what is important in our current climate and invest in the development of people and enact policies that support them.”*



**Sr. Sally Duffy, SC**

*Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati*

*“As a Catholic, we are committed to justice and ensuring God-given human dignity, shared membership in Church and society, and right relationship for all our brothers and sisters and creation.”*



**Sarah Christopherson**

*Tax Justice Advocate*

*“I’ve been a huge fan of Nuns on the Bus ever since 2017 when there was a very real risk that the Affordable Care Act was going to be gutted... I’m thrilled to be part of Sisters’ effort to make the world a little bit better!”*



**Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson**

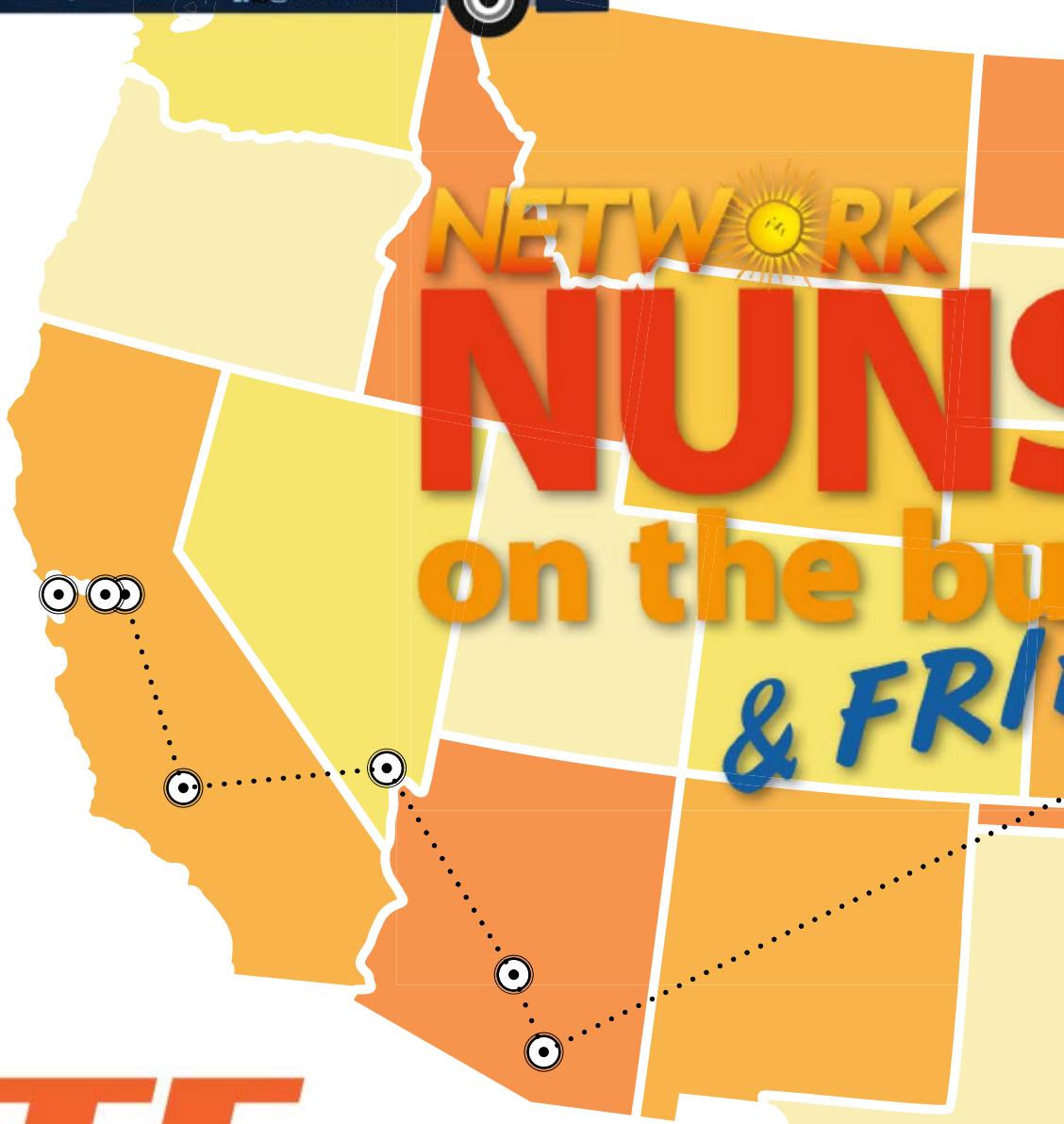
*Children’s Defense Fund*

*“I ride the bus to encourage people of faith to lean into the hope of child well-being and answer the call to vote for a future of public policy that allows children to be safe, seen, and secure as they play, sing, and dance in our neighborhoods, schools, and at home.”*





- Sep 30 Philadelphia, PA
- Oct 1 Allentown & Scranton, PA
- Oct 2 Brentwood & Baldwin, NY
- Oct 3 New Haven, CT
- Oct 4 Ithaca, NY
- Oct 5 Pittsburgh PA & Cleveland, OH
- Oct 6 Detroit, MI
- Oct 7 Gary, IN & Milwaukee, WI
- Oct 8-9 Chicago, IL
- Oct 13 Tucson & Phoenix, AZ
- Oct 14-15 Las Vegas, NV
- Oct 16 Bakersfield, CA
- Oct 17 Modesto & Redwood City, CA
- Oct 18 San Francisco, CA



**VOTE**  
  
**Our Future**



# 2024 VOTE OUR FUTURE TOUR

*Everyone Thrives. No Exceptions.*



**S**  
**IS**  
**ENDS**

*The Bus will be on the road from  
September 30–October 18.*

*Come see us at an event near you!*

[nunsonthebus.org](https://nunsonthebus.org)



**PHILADELPHIA, PA** *Monday, Sept. 30*

RALLY: 10:00 AM, Thomas Paine Plaza  
TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, St. Joseph University

**ALLENTOWN, PA** *Tuesday, Oct. 1*

SITE VISIT: 1:30 PM, POWER Lehigh Valley

**SCRANTON, PA** *Tuesday, Oct. 1*

TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, Marywood University

**BRENTWOOD, NY** *Wednesday, Oct. 2*

SITE VISIT: 2:30 PM, New Hour  
TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin

**NEW HAVEN, CT** *Thursday, Oct. 3*

SITE VISIT: 3:30 PM, Fairhaven Community Health Care  
TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, United Church on the Green

**ITHACA, NY** *Friday, Oct. 4*

SITE VISIT: 12:15 PM, Loaves & Fishes

**PITTSBURGH, PA** *Saturday, Oct. 5*

RALLY: 12:00 PM, Freedom Corner

**CLEVELAND, OH** *Saturday, Oct. 5*

TOWN HALL: 6:30 PM, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

**DETROIT, MI** *Sunday, Oct. 6*

RALLY: Time and location TBD  
TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, Gesu Catholic Church

**GARY, IN** *Monday, Oct. 7*

SITE VISIT: 12:30 PM Sojourner Truth House

**MILWAUKEE, WI** *MONDAY, OCT. 7*

TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, Mount Mary University

**CHICAGO, IL** **TWO NIGHTS!!**

*Tuesday, Oct. 8*

SITE VISIT: TBD  
TOWN HALL: 6:00 PM, Old St. Pat's

*Wednesday, Oct. 9*

RALLY: 12:00 PM, location TBD

**NOGALES, AZ** *Sunday, Oct. 13*

SITE VISIT: TBD

**PHOENIX, AZ** *Sunday, Oct. 13*

TOWN HALL: TBD

**LAS VEGAS, NV** **TWO NIGHTS!!**

*Monday, Oct. 14*

TOWN HALL: TBD

*Tuesday, Oct. 15*

SITE VISIT: TBD

**BAKERSFIELD, CA** *Wednesday, Oct. 16*

SITE VISIT: TBD

**MODESTO, CA** *Thursday, Oct. 17*

RALLY: TBD

**REDWOOD CITY, CA** *Thursday, Oct. 17*

SITE VISIT: 5:30 PM, St. Francis Center

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** *Friday, Oct. 18*

SITE VISIT: 12:30 PM, Mission Action  
RALLY: TBD





# 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.*

2024

# TEMAS IGUALMENTE SAGRADAS

## ¿Cómo podemos saber que estamos votando por candidatos que promueven el bien común?

El Papa Francisco lo ha dejado claro: **los católicos y todas las personas de buena voluntad están llamados a ser votantes de múltiples temas, no votantes de un solo tema**, en las elecciones del 2024 y en nuestra continua participación en la vida pública. Este recurso puede ayudarte a educarte como votante fiel en los temas y preocupaciones que son **"igualmente sagrados."**

**"No podemos defender un ideal de santidad que ignore la injusticia en el mundo."** —Papa Francisco, *Gaudete et exsultate*, par. 101



—Papa Francisco, *Gaudete et exsultate*, par. 101

### LIBERTAD PARA ESTAR SANOS

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- protejan y amplíen la asistencia sanitaria asequible para todos y pongan fin a la injusticia de la deuda médica?
- apoyen políticas que reduzcan el costo de los medicamentos recetados para que los pacientes puedan costear los servicios médicos vitales?
- apoyen el fin de la crisis de salud materna de las mujeres afrodescendientes mediante la inversión en la expansión de programas críticos para respaldar la vida de las madres y los bebés?
- apoyen la erradicación del hambre en nuestra nación con los programas de asistencia alimentaria necesarios, como SNAP, WIC y los programas de almuerzos escolares?

*La Iglesia Católica afirma que la alimentación y la asistencia sanitaria no son privilegios reservados para los ricos, sino derechos universales.*

### LIBERTAD DE VIVIR EN UN PAÍS ACOGEDOR QUE VALORE LA DIGNIDAD Y LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- apoyen el derecho de asilo y las vías hacia la ciudadanía, y den prioridad a la integración?
- promuevan políticas inclusivas que apoyen a las comunidades fronterizas en lugar de la militarización?

*La Iglesia católica afirma que todos tenemos derecho a emigrar para buscar una vida segura y buena para nosotros y nuestras familias, y que las naciones tienen el deber moral de acoger a los inmigrantes.*

### LIBERTAD PARA PARTICIPAR EN UNA DEMOCRACIA VIBRANTE

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- se nieguen a utilizar lenguaje violento o amenazas de violencia contra otros candidatos o grupos de personas?
- garanticen el acceso al voto a todos los votantes con derecho a ello y restablezcan el voto para las personas que han estado encarceladas?
- limiten el poder de los ricos para manipular nuestra democracia a través del dinero ilegal ilimitado y distorsionar la representación política y afectar la equidad en el sistema electoral por medio del "gerrymandering"?

*La doctrina católica afirma que toda persona tiene tanto el derecho como la responsabilidad de participar en nuestros procesos políticos compartidos, que debemos estructurar para servir al bien común.*

### LIBERTAD PARA CUIDAR DE NOSOTROS MISMOS Y DE NUESTRAS FAMILIAS

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- reduzcan los gastos de las familias, entre otras cosas, mediante un sólido crédito fiscal por hijos, ausencia con goce de sueldo y financiación para el cuidado de los niños?
- garanticen que todos los trabajadores puedan ganar un salario digno y tengan derecho a afiliarse a un sindicato?
- garanticen que los ricos paguen los impuestos que les corresponden, entre otras cosas apoyando un impuesto multimillonario?
- aborden el problema del costo exorbitante de vivienda, invirtiendo en viviendas asequibles, programas de ayuda a la vivienda y un crédito fiscal para inquilinos?
- apoyen a las futuras generaciones mediante la expansión de programas de capacitación y aprendizaje, así como educación universitaria gratuita?

*La doctrina católica promueve la dignidad del trabajo, los derechos de los trabajadores y una economía inclusiva que anteponga las personas a los beneficios y garantice que todos tengamos lo que necesitamos para prosperar.*

### LIBERTAD PARA VIVIR EN UN PLANETA SANO

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- atiendan la crisis climática e inviertan en una transición rápida y justa hacia las energías renovables?
- pongan fin a las políticas que benefician a las empresas de combustibles fósiles, como las subvenciones fiscales y la aprobación de oleoductos?
- aborden el problema de la contaminación y los vertidos tóxicos que afectan desproporcionadamente a las comunidades afrodescendientes, personas de color, e indígenas, y garanticen aire y agua limpios para todos?

*El cuidado de nuestra casa común es una obligación de la fe católica.*

### LIBERTAD FRENTE AL DAÑO

#### ¿Votarás por candidatos que...

- apoyen el control de armas con sentido común, incluida la prohibición del uso de armas AR-15 y otras armas de guerra, para que nuestros niños y comunidades puedan vivir seguros?
- protejan los derechos de las comunidades marginadas, incluidas las comunidades afrodescendientes, de color, e indígenas, así como las personas de la comunidad LGBTQ+?

*La Iglesia Católica insiste en el valor intrínseco, la dignidad y el derecho de toda persona a vivir con seguridad, sin excepciones.*





The voting process can be confusing, especially for first-time voters, and because many voting laws have changed recently. Making a plan to vote can reduce anxiety and increase your likelihood of casting a ballot. This checklist is part of NETWORK Advocates' nonpartisan voter education campaign, Vote Our Future. Use it to make sure you have what you need to vote and to help others develop their voting plans.

In these challenging times, people of faith and those guided by the common good know that together, we will build a future where everyone thrives. As Pope Francis says, "The only future worth building includes everyone." If we are to build a future where everyone can thrive—no exceptions—we must be informed, engaged, and committed voters this election year.

Together, we can equip each other to exercise our voting rights and our freedom to participate in a vibrant democracy, to be multi-issue voters, and to shape the future of our society for the common good. Let's make every vote count!

NETWORK Advocates is a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to advocating for policies that advance Catholic Social Justice. Our work is nonpartisan, and we do not endorse or oppose any particular candidate or party in the upcoming elections.



# Voter Action Plan Checklist

## MY VOTING ACTION PLAN

Use this checklist to build your voting action plan for the upcoming election and to help others do the same! **Go to [networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter/](https://networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter/) for links to help you complete these steps.**

- I have confirmed **my voter registration is active.**
- I have researched local polling locations, necessary IDs and documents, deadlines, and the rules and regulations on voting procedures for my city and state. **Visit [vote411.org/](https://vote411.org/) to assist you with your research!**

### I plan on voting:

- By mail (absentee or mail-in ballot)
- By early in-person voting on: \_\_\_\_\_
- On Election Day: **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**

### Three family members/friends whom I can help build a plan to vote:

Visit [EAC.gov](https://EAC.gov) for info on family or friends in the military or living abroad.

|       | <i>Plan Complete?</i>    |
|-------|--------------------------|
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## IF VOTING IN-PERSON, EARLY OR ON ELECTION DAY

- My local polling place is located at: \_\_\_\_\_
- The hours of my local polling place are: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have the necessary documents, valid identification, and/or voter registration card.

## IF VOTING BY MAIL (*absentee or mail-in ballot*)

- My ballot must be requested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Received:  YES  NO, **and need to contact my local election board via [USA.gov](https://USA.gov).**
- My ballot must be postmarked by: \_\_\_\_\_  
and received by: \_\_\_\_\_

NETWORK Advocates has a variety of resources to help Catholics and all who share our values become informed, engaged, and committed multi-issue voters for the common good — this election year and beyond.

To access these resources and more, head to:

[networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter](https://networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter)

or scan the QR code below.



# **VOTE** Resources

## **Our Future**

- **The Equally Sacred Checklist**  
*Available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and large-print English!*
- **Project 2025 in Contrast with Catholic Social Justice**
- **Presidential Candidate Comparison**

### **TOOLKITS AND GUIDES**

- **Check your voter registration, ballot, deadlines, and more**
- **Voter Action Plan Checklist**
- **Vote Our Future Social Media Toolkit**
- **Race Class Narrative Toolkit**
- **Video on Race Class Narrative Messaging**
- **Relational Voting Worksheet**
- **Five Principles of Effective Conversations**
- **How to Host a Voter Registration Drive**
- **How to Host a Ballot Research Party**
- **How to Facilitate Equally Sacred Group Conversations**
- **How to Write a Letter to the Editor**





# 2024 Presidential Candidate Comparison



Commitment to the common good calls us to political participation by knowing the issues, engaging in conversations about our nation's future, and casting our vote! Please prayerfully consider the candidates based on the issues in the freedoms below. This is a nonpartisan resource. More at: [networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter](https://networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter).

Updated Aug. 31, 2024.  
Visit the online version of this resource for links to sources.



**KAMALA HARRIS**



**DONALD TRUMP**

## FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES

- Pledges to cut taxes for workers and families with kids, by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and restoring the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) that reduced child poverty by half in 2021.
- Voted to pass the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that increased taxes on the wealthy and IRS funds to audit wealthy taxpayers.
- The Biden-Harris admin. fought to grant student loan relief to millions of people.
- Supports workers' rights to unionize and bargain with the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.
- Supported raising the federal minimum wage nationally to \$17/hour by 2028.
- Supported expanding access to SNAP and food support for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

- The 2017 Trump tax law gave \$1.4T in tax breaks benefitting the wealthy and corporations. He vows to extend the breaks if elected, costing \$4T, the Congressional Budget Office estimates.
- Proposed tariffs that economists predict to lower avg. household income and increase unemployment and inflation.
- Proposed cuts to student aid and rescinded \$2B from Pell Grant reserve funds in his 2020 budget.
- Appointed officials who rolled back workers' rights to form unions.
- Opposed raising the federal minimum wage.
- In 2016, cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$60B. His proposed 2021 budget cut \$180B more.

## FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY

- Said "health care should be a right."
- The Biden-Harris admin. implemented lower premium costs for Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollees by nearly \$2,000/yr.
- The Biden-Harris admin.'s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expanded Medicaid coverage in 41 states.
- Voted to pass the IRA's \$2,000/yr cap on prescription drug prices for seniors, and a \$35/month cap on insulin costs (2025).
- The Biden-Harris admin. increased investments in youth mental health care.
- Pledges to cancel \$7B in medical debt.

- Prioritized repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2017, cut enrollment funding by 90%, and flouted plans that failed to protect pre-existing conditions.
- During the Trump administration, 2M more people became uninsured.
- Proposed cuts to Medicaid (\$1.5T) and Medicare (\$800B) over 10 years in his 2020 budget.
- Repeatedly vowed to terminate the ACA if re-elected, putting coverage at risk for 40M enrollees, including patients with pre-existing conditions.

## FREEDOM FROM HARM

- Supports a ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.
- Oversees the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- The Biden-Harris admin. expanded Brady Background Checks and safe firearm storage, & cracked down on "ghost guns."
- Worked to enact the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to break cycles of generational violence and bolster mental health and school security initiatives.
- Has long worked to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ people, pro-equality legislation, and racial equity in the government.

- Rolled back gun safety regulations, including one that made it harder for people with mental illness to buy a gun.
- Promised the National Rifle Association (NRA, Trump's largest financial backer in 2016) that he would be "the best friend gun owners have ever had."
- Promises to pass a national concealed carry law and roll back Biden-era restrictions if re-elected.
- Vows to focus on "anti-white" racism and dismantle the Biden-Harris DEIA initiatives.



## KAMALA HARRIS

### FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

- Prioritizes democracy and the right to vote in free, fair, and secure elections.
- Pledges to certify the 2024 elections regardless of the winner.
- Condemns the use of violent language.
- Announced Biden-Harris admin.'s steps to promote accurate voter info. and student voter participation, protect election workers, and fight voter suppression.
- The Biden-Harris admin.'s Promoting Access to Voting Executive Order made voting and registration more accessible.
- Promotes the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, and legislation to combat artificial intelligence influences in elections.

### FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET

- The U.S. rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement on the Biden-Harris admin.'s first day of office.
- Cast tie-breaking vote to pass the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the largest investment in climate initiatives to date, for renewable energy, electric cars and buses, home energy upgrades, and more.
- The Biden-Harris admin. secured funding for clean water infrastructure projects and \$15B to replace lead pipes.
- The Admin. launched the American Climate Corps to train young adults for green energy and climate resilience jobs.
- As Senator, sponsored bills like the Environmental Justice for All Act.

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

- The Biden-Harris admin. granted or renewed Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nearly 700,000 immigrants from 16 countries deemed unsafe because of violence or natural disasters.
- Supports comprehensive immigration reform and an earned pathway to citizenship, including for Dreamers.
- Oversaw efforts to address root causes of migration from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- The Biden-Harris admin. expanded health care access for 600,000 DACA recipients.
- The Biden-Harris admin. granted work permits and protection from deportation to 500,000 eligible undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens.
- Pledged to sign the bipartisan border security bill which will severely limit the right to seek asylum in the U.S.

## DONALD TRUMP

- Refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power before the 2020 election and to concede his loss after numerous court challenges. Still contends the 2020 election was stolen.
- Urges supporters to "guard the vote" during the 2024 election and said there will be a "bloodbath" if he loses.
- Went to court in 2020 to make it more difficult for voters in Texas to vote by mail. Continues to promote restrictive state voter-ID laws.
- Attempted to intervene in the 2020 census by removing undocumented immigrants from the count.

- Withdrew from the Paris Agreement.
- Suppressed public scientific research on climate change and agriculture.
- Rolled back improved fuel efficiency standards and ended an Obama-era executive order aimed at reducing the federal government's emissions by 40% over ten years.
- Trump's EPA loosened regulations on toxic chemicals and opened nearly a million acres of federal public land to mineral exploitation, coal mining, and new oil and gas drilling.
- Promises to reinvest in fossil fuels and eliminate all Biden-Harris administration clean energy initiatives.

- Attempted to end TPS for people from 6 countries, putting an estimated 300,000 people at risk of being deported to countries previously deemed unsafe.
- His administration intentionally separated thousands of children and infants from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Threatened repeatedly to withhold federal funds from "sanctuary cities."
- Adopted a 2017 "travel ban" on predominantly Muslim countries, dramatically increased immigrant detentions, and imposed tighter restrictions on legal immigration.
- Promises to launch "the largest domestic deportation operation in American history" if elected in 2024.
- Said migrants are "vermin" who will "poison the blood of the nation."





## A Prayer From



Coston Fellows are part of a learning community of faithful, young justice-seekers working to achieve an inclusive, multiracial, multi-faith democracy through their contributions to NETWORK's advocacy at the federal level. Fellows lead Y.A.L.L. Chapters at their universities, organize Get-Out-the-Vote events on their campuses, articulate NETWORK's policy agenda to their peers, and serve as issue-based canvassers in their communities. Our inaugural 2024 cohort comprises ten students from universities in Florida, California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

When we first gathered back in early March, we started our time together by writing a prayerful intention to guide us in our civic peer education this year:



*Lord, in this precarious time in our country's history, we seek your guidance to encourage our peers to fulfill their necessary roles in the great experiment of American democracy. Order our steps so that we may effectively communicate this message and together realize the dream of a multiracial, pluralistic, inclusive democracy that serves the beloved community.*



*Help us to put in the good work during our time together and learn from one another as we grow beyond this experience.*



*Guide us that through our efforts our hearts and the hearts of others might be softened so that we may better protect and advocate for the dignity of all human life.*



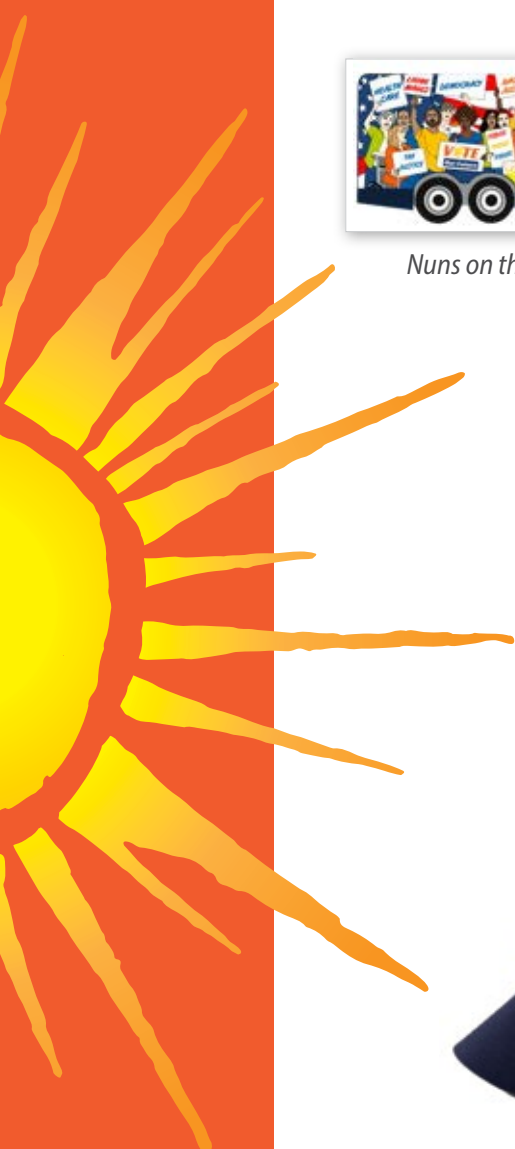
*Strengthen us as we journey together in our ministry, granting us the tenderness and determination of the sisters who inspire us and whose charisms we carry forward in our work.*



*Lord, we pray that every member of your human family realizes they were born for a time such as this. That we are not believers in name only, but cultivate our relationship with you through our acts. We ask that your grace and love works through us to create a more just world in which every person has the food, water, shelter, education and healthcare necessary to be who You lead them to in your life on Earth. Grant us the wisdom of Mordecai in Esther 4:14. We were born for such a time as this. A time to be agents to make your creation more just and loving.*



*Amen*



Nuns on the Bus & Friends Bumper Sticker \$5



\$30



Vote Our Future Sticker \$1



\$25



\$20

**\$25 each**

Show your multi-issue voter pride with our blue or grey short sleeve, Tri-Blend Tee.

**MULTI-ISSUE VOTER**

WE VOTE FOR  
HEALTH CARE  
LIVING WAGES  
DEMOCRACY  
CLIMATE JUSTICE  
HOUSING  
RACIAL JUSTICE

WE VOTE FOR  
HEALTH CARE  
LIVING WAGES  
DEMOCRACY  
CLIMATE JUSTICE  
HOUSING  
RACIAL JUSTICE

Visit Our Store!



Show Your Support for MULTI-ISSUE VOTING!



# NETWORK Members are important to our mission!

When we work together, we are answering the call to Gospel justice. Together, we mobilize a unified national movement of diverse justice-seekers—a beloved community—who are consistently exercising their power to influence federal policies that dismantle systemic racism, center equity and reparatory justice, secure our democracy, protect our common home, and honor the dignity of all.

## Invite someone in your life to become a member.

Our annual membership fee to NETWORK Lobby begins at \$50. Seniors, students, and anyone living on a fixed income qualify for a reduced membership fee of \$20–\$49. Donations to NETWORK Lobby [501(c)(4)] or NETWORK Advocates [501(c)(3)], entitles you to an annual membership and all its benefits.

When you invite your friends and family to become members, share with them how NETWORK provides educational trainings and webinars, and invite them to join established local Advocates Teams. These resources and many others will help prepare them to promote legislative advocacy in their own community! And of course, they will receive their own annual subscription to our award-winning quarterly Connection magazine.

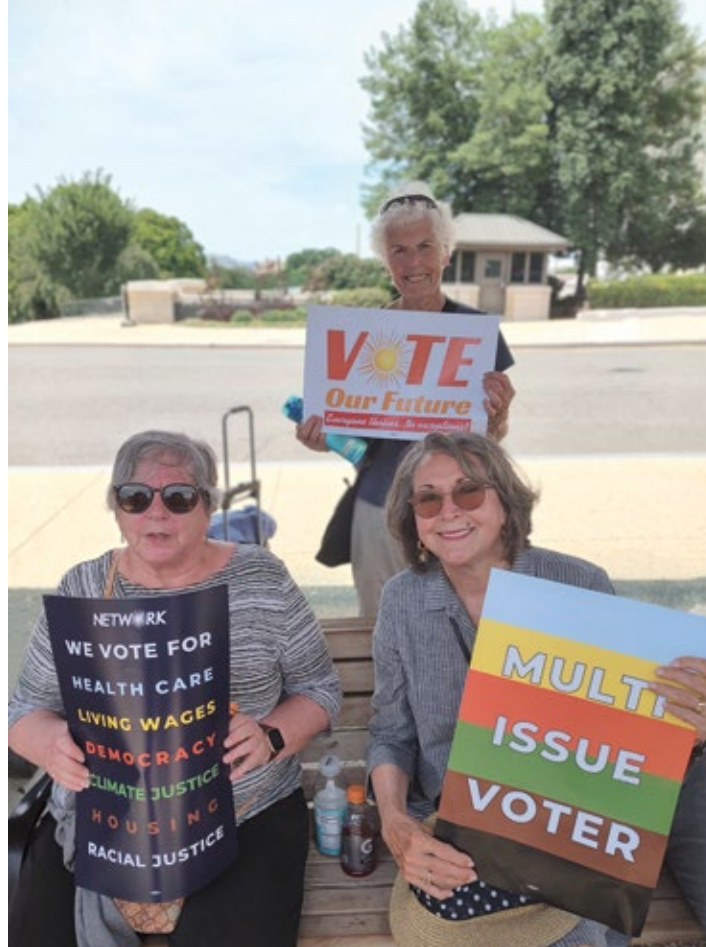
## NETWORK Members share why they support NETWORK:

*“I’ve been very frustrated by the mis/disinformation that has been fueling political discord, even violence, in the U.S. Political action has been a source of relief and gratification. Thanks for informing and reinforcing that action!”*

— JOHN GROCH, PHILADELPHIA ADVOCATES TEAM MEMBER  
AND NETWORK MEMBER SINCE 2017.

*“NETWORK has a comprehensive outline for engagement. There is something everyone can do to get people to vote.”*

— KATHRYN LIEN, MINNESOTA, A NETWORK MEMBER SINCE 2022.



Mary Ellen Stahl, Susan Kelly, (seated L-R) Anne Murphy (standing), VA Advocates Team members, NOTB & Friends Press Conference, July 23, 2024

Your family and friends can start their membership by making an annual investment of \$50 or more online at [www.networklobby.org/becomeamember](http://www.networklobby.org/becomeamember) or by using the envelope inside this issue.

## Membership options online:

- Join the GEM (Give Every Month) Program and become a recurring donor.
- Gift a membership to others in your community to expand the reach and impact of our mission!
- Leave a legacy with our Bread and Roses Society through planned giving.
- Grow our beloved community by inviting your friends and family to join us too.



For membership questions, please contact Michele D’Innella at **202-601-7866** or [mdinnella@networklobby.org](mailto:mdinnella@networklobby.org)



820 First Street NE, Suite 350  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 phone: 202-347-9797  
 fax: 202-347-9864  
[www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)  
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# VOTE OUR FUTURE

