

Faithful Voting Checklist 2026

HOW CAN WE KNOW WE ARE VOTING FOR CANDIDATES WHO PROMOTE THE BELOVED COMMUNITY?

As people of faith and conscience, we are called to infuse justice and love into our civic engagement. In the quest for the Beloved Community, each vote becomes a step toward a world shaped by compassion, justice, and the common good. As multi-issue voters, this checklist is meant to guide your discernment so that your choices reflect a society rooted in equity, dignity, and respect for all.



Freedom to live healthy lives

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **make sure** people in our communities can see a doctor or nurse when they need to, without fear of the bill or their insurance status?
- ☐ **work** to end the injustice of medical debt, so families are not choosing between rent, food, and paying off hospital bills?
- ☐ **confront** the Black maternal health crisis and other racial health gaps by investing in the care and support parents and babies need to survive and thrive?
- ☐ **safeguard and strengthen** programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meals so our children, elders, and neighbors have steady access to nourishing food?
- ☐ **ensure** every community has access to fresh, affordable food, safe parks, and shared green spaces—including by addressing food deserts and supporting land for gardens and local growers?

Access to adequate health care and healthy food is a moral right that belongs to every person.

Freedom to live in healthy neighborhood

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **protect** the air we breathe and the water we drink by enforcing strong standards on pollution in our communities?
- ☐ **clean up** toxic sites and aging infrastructure, like lead pipes and industrial dumping, that have harmed our neighborhoods, especially where Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income families live?

- ☐ **stop treating** some of our communities as dumping grounds for landfills, highways, and hazardous facilities, and instead invest in safe housing, green spaces, and tree cover where we live, work, and learn?
- ☐ **support** a just transition to cleaner energy and good, local green jobs so our workers, families, and frontline neighbors are not left behind?

When our neighborhoods are polluted or neglected, our neighbors' sacred worth is denied; caring for the places we call home is part of our shared calling to honor the Divine and creation.

Freedom to participate in a vibrant democracy

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **protect** our freedom to vote by supporting fair access to registration, early voting, mail-in options, and accessible polling places for all our neighbors?
- ☐ **oppose** voter suppression and unfair purges of the voter rolls, especially in communities that have historically been pushed out of the democratic process?
- ☐ **support** fair maps and representation, rejecting racial gerrymandering and district lines that weaken the voices of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other marginalized communities?
- ☐ **protect** polling places in our communities from closures, relocations, intimidation, and long lines, and support language access so every voter can participate with dignity?
- ☐ **ensure** our elections are run fairly and safely by supporting well-resourced, nonpartisan election officials and respecting the certified results of every election?

The freedom to vote and be fairly represented is essential to a vibrant democracy and to the dignity of every community.

Freedom to care for ourselves and our families

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **support** living wages, fair working conditions, and strong workplace protections so that workers in our communities can provide for themselves and their families without exploitation?
- ☐ **invest** in affordable, safe, and stable housing by expanding tenant protections, preventing unjust evictions, and increasing the supply of homes ordinary people can afford?

- ☐ **expand** supports like paid family and medical leave, affordable child care, and quality elder care so that caregivers are not forced to choose between their loved ones and their livelihoods?
- ☐ **work** to reduce the burden of student debt, expand pathways toward student loan forgiveness and free or debt-free college, and protect HBCUs and other institutions that educate and empower marginalized communities?

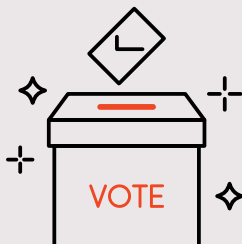
Economic security, education, and stable housing are essential for families to flourish; ensuring that everyone has what they need to care for themselves and their loved ones is a matter of justice, not charity.

Freedom from harm

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **work** to prevent gun violence by supporting common-sense measures that keep weapons out of dangerous hands and reduce shootings in our communities, schools, and sacred spaces?
- ☐ **support** approaches to public safety that reduce violence while investing in prevention, mental health, housing, and community-based responses, instead of relying only on punishment and incarceration?
- ☐ **oppose** policies and practices that lead to over-policing, racial profiling, and brutality in Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other marginalized communities, and support real accountability when law enforcement harms our neighbors?
- ☐ **reject** political violence and hate crimes, and protect communities targeted because of race, religion, gender, immigration status, or other identities—including by safeguarding houses of worship and community gathering spaces?
- ☐ **limit** the overreach of federal law enforcement, including ICE and other agencies, in our neighborhoods, houses of worship, and election polling places, so people can worship, organize, and vote without fear or intimidation?

Every person deserves to live free from violence, fear, and state abuse; building true safety means protecting our neighbors' lives and dignity, not just their property.



Freedom to live in a welcoming country that values dignity and human rights

Will you vote for candidates who...

- ☐ **support** immigration and asylum policies that protect family unity, uphold due process, and treat migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers with dignity rather than cruelty?
- ☐ **oppose** mass deportation policies, detention practices, and enforcement tactics that terrorize our neighborhoods, separate families, and undermine trust in schools, hospitals, and houses of worship?
- ☐ **protect** the rights of all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, immigration status, or identity, to live, work, learn, worship, and seek help without fear of discrimination or dehumanization?
- ☐ **support** local and state policies that help communities welcome newcomers, including access to legal support, language access, education, housing, and basic community services?
- ☐ **reject** rhetoric and policies rooted in white nationalism, scapegoating, and religious or ethnic hatred, and instead work to build communities where every person is seen, valued, and protected?

Human dignity does not stop at a border, a state line, or a neighborhood boundary; welcoming the stranger and protecting the vulnerable are moral responsibilities of every community.

Other ways to vote faithfully

- **Begin with prayer** or reflection, asking for wisdom, courage, and love for neighbor as you prepare to vote.
- **Check your ballot** and learn what offices and questions you will be voting on, using trusted sources like your local election office or a reputable sample ballot tool like ballotpedia.com.
- **Research candidates and ballot measures** from reliable, nonpartisan sources, and ask how their records and policies align with your moral values and the common good.
- **Make a plan** for when, where, and how you will vote, and what you need to bring, so your intention becomes action.