



Questions for Evaluating Candidate Positions 2020:

Catholics are called to consider a wide range of issues important to the common good before voting, weighing each according to its moral importance. During this process, it is beneficial to research candidate positions and experiences. Below are some questions inspired by Catholic Social Teaching.

Human Life and Dignity:

- Will the candidate support policies that provide women in difficult pregnancies with pre- and post-natal care, transportation and employment assistance, and other necessary care to help her through and after the pregnancy?
- Will the candidate oppose direct threats to human life, such as abortion, racism, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, embryonic stem cell research, and violence?

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Religious Liberty:

- Does the candidate support the right of religious individuals and institutions, such as hospitals, charity agencies, and schools, to operate according to their deeply held beliefs?
- Does the candidate oppose restrictions on refugee acceptance and resettlement on the basis of religion?

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Preferential Option for the Poor:

- Does the candidate promote policies that protect Michigan's most vulnerable citizens and foster the creation of jobs, with decent working conditions and just wages?
- Has the candidate discussed day-to-day realities with the poor and how he or she could assist, for example by supporting affordable housing and transportation policies for low- and moderate-income families and individuals?

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Education:

- Does the candidate support the expansion of school choice options such as tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, or similar programs?
- How does the candidate propose to improve the quality of public education, especially for low-income students?

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Children and Families:

- Where does the candidate stand on policies that protect the stability of marriage and the institution of the family?
- Does the candidate believe in protecting marriage as an institution that brings together one man and one woman in faithful union?

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Health Care:

- Does the candidate support increased access to affordable health care for low- and moderate-income individuals and families?
- Does the candidate respect human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in the health care system?

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Restorative Justice:

- Does the candidate support sentencing guidelines and parole practices that reflect an individual’s potential threat to society, rather than mandatory minimum sentencing?
- Does the candidate support rehabilitation and re-entry programs for those who were incarcerated, to help them become productive members of society upon release?

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Immigrants and Refugees:

- Does the candidate support an immigration reform proposal that offers a path to citizenship, treats workers fairly, and prevents the separation of families?
- Does the candidate support immigration reform that maintains border integrity, respects U.S. laws, and addresses factors that compel people to leave their own countries?

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Care for Creation:

- How will the candidate address environmental issues, particularly their impact on the poor?
- Does the candidate support policies that will protect the state’s natural resources?

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