

Create Your Own Side-by-Side

Evaluate Your Candidates' Commitment to Mending the Gaps

With so much at stake in the 2020 Election, it is crucial for everyone to take the time to evaluate candidates before voting in November. Whether you want to evaluate Presidential candidates or House and Senate candidates, this side-by-side is designed to help you see who most closely aligns with NETWORK's Mend the Gaps 2020 Policy Platform.

Catholic Social Justice calls us to participate in public life and exercise our civic duty. We must engage ourselves and others this election season and choose the path of the common good, to seek a better life for everyone.

To create your own side-by-side: Read the candidates' websites and follow local reporting or other sources of information about the candidates to find their positions on the issues. If a public statement from a candidate is not available, consider contacting the candidate or raising the question in a public forum.

As we evaluate candidates on the issues below, we must acknowledge that racism and white supremacy are embedded into all policy issues, especially our economic policy. We are called to recognize and reject the structural racism that tears at the fabric of our nation and look for elected officials who support dismantling white supremacist systems and structures.

2020 ELECTION RACE _____

CANDIDATE A _____ **PARTY** _____

CANDIDATE B _____ **PARTY** _____

Tax Justice

Any tax policy change should reduce the income gap, especially the racial/ethnic and gender wealth gaps.

Does the candidate oppose the 2017 Republican Tax Law? Will they work to repeal the tax law and repair the damage done to our federal revenue streams? Does the candidate support expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit?

Over the next 10 years, the 2017 Republican Tax Law will add \$1.9 trillion to the national debt, with 83% of the tax cut benefits going to the top 1% in the year 2027.¹

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Living Wages

National legislation should move from adjusting a minimum wage to creating a living wage.

Does the candidate support a federal minimum wage of \$15/hr for all workers, including tipped workers and young workers?

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour and has not been increased since 2009. The tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour and has not been raised since 1991.² This causes many workers to earn "poverty-level wages" even when working full time.

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Family-Friendly Workplaces

The needs of women and families should be integrated into federal workplace policies.

Have the candidates supported policies that promote family-friendly workplaces such as paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, and flexible schedules for employees, especially for women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community?

While the Family and Medical Leave Act provides access to unpaid family leave to the majority of working people in the United States, only 17% of workers have access to paid family leave through their employers.³

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Access to Democracy

No individual or community should be disenfranchised by federal policy; everyone should be accurately counted and represented in Congress.

Do the candidates support strengthening and renewing the Voting Rights Act? Has either candidate spoken about the need to take money out of politics?

Since the 2014 midterm elections — the first since the Supreme Court's Shelby County v. Holder decision — at least 1,173 polling sites in places formerly covered by a provision in the law have been shut down.

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Access to Health Care

Racial and economic disparities in health care should be eliminated.

Do the candidates support improving and strengthening the ACA, or do they propose a different solution? What are the candidates' proposals to lower prescription drug prices, especially for the uninsured or low-income seniors and families?

23% of seniors in the United States have difficulty affording their medication, and 30% of those needing care have skipped a dose of medication due to cost.

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Access to Citizenship

Immigrants should be welcomed into the country.

Do the candidates support welcoming immigrants, ending family separation, and protecting DACA recipients and other undocumented or vulnerable immigrants? Do the candidates have a plan for comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship?

More than 650,000 DACA recipients in the U.S. could lose protection from deportation; hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants have no legal protections or pathway to citizenship.⁶ Families seeking asylum must 'remain in Mexico,' where they face violence and cannot access legal representation.

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Access to Housing

Everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing.

Do your candidates support funding for federal housing programs? Do they support policies that work to end homelessness in our country?

There is no state in the country where minimum-wage workers can afford a two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of their income on rent.⁷ There were 552,830 people experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single night in 2018.⁸

CANDIDATE A

CANDIDATE B

Find more Election 2020 resources from NETWORK at www.networklobby.org/election2020

Sources:

1. <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/publications/distributional-analysis-conference-agreement-tax-cuts-and-jobs-act>
2. <http://www.epi.org/minimum-wage-tracker/>
3. <https://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/economic-justice/paid-leave.html>
4. <https://civilrights.org/democracy-diverted/>
5. <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/poll-finding/kff-health-tracking-poll-february-2019-prescription-drugs>
6. https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA_Population_Receipts_since_Injunction_Sep_30_2019.pdf
7. <http://nlihc.org/or>
8. <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>