

Project 2025

in contrast with

Catholic Social Justice

A Future for Few A Future for All

Introduction to Project 2025

Project 2025 is an extremist plan for reshaping the United States in profoundly harmful ways. Its agenda includes gutting civil rights protections, bolstering corporations and the ultra-wealthy at the expense of everyone else, and autocratically enlarging the size and power of the federal executive branch.

Project 2025 is published by the Heritage Foundation, a think tank funded by billionaires. The Heritage Foundation offers Project 2025 as **an agenda and playbook for future officeholders** to radically reshape the federal government, with disastrous impacts on almost every facet of life in the United States. The Reagan and Trump administrations adopted many of the policies advanced by the Heritage Foundation in years past.

Project 2025's policies are **designed to privilege a small, white, wealthy ruling class** and their corporate interests, while burdening everyone else. The result would be a society in which millions of us, our families, and our communities would face economic hardship, barriers to democratic participation, a lack of legal protections from discrimination and violence, the weaponization of the legal system to quash political dissent, and **the dismantling of our Constitutional freedoms.**

Because of its presentation as an agenda for future administrations, NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice reviewed Project 2025 with great interest. Sadly, we must conclude that **Project 2025's policy prescriptions and vision for our country contrast—in deep and disturbing ways—with the teachings and principles of Catholic Social Justice** that have long shaped NETWORK's own advocacy work and policy agenda, as embodied in our [Equally Sacred Checklist](#).

Initially published in 2023, the text of Project 2025 spans nearly 900 pages. You can find the document [at this link](#).

This Resource

The following resource explores the important elements of the contrasting visions of Project 2025 and of Catholic Social Justice. It is our hope that this resource will promote understanding of the key proposals and dangers of Project 2025, and the ways in which **Project 2025 threatens the safety, wellbeing, and rights of ordinary people, across our key freedoms:**

- [Freedom to Care for Ourselves and our Families: Economic Security](#)
- [Freedom to Care for Ourselves and our Families: Tax Justice](#)
- [Freedom to be Healthy](#)
- [Freedom to Live on a Healthy Planet](#)
- [Freedom From Harm: Safe Communities](#)
- [Freedom to Participate in a Vibrant Democracy](#)
- [Freedom to Live in a Welcoming Country that Values Dignity and Human Rights](#)

More importantly, we hope this resource illuminates **an alternative vision** of our country's future — one held by NETWORK, Catholic Sisters, faith-filled justice seekers, and communities who have long been part of the struggle for freedom in this country. This is a vision of compassion, solidarity, joy, mutual aid, inclusivity, hope, and freedom — a vision of our future **where everyone thrives, no exceptions.**

To learn more about NETWORK's 2024 nonpartisan voter education campaign, "Vote Our Future," and the issues at stake in the upcoming election, visit networkadvocates.org/election-2024.

FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES: ECONOMIC SECURITY

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work and the rights of all workers, no matter our race, gender, or age. Together, we will create an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.</p>	<p>Prioritizes corporate interests at the expense of economic security for all by dismantling worker protections and reversing federal investments that support families and the common good.</p>

Policy Visions

For wages and workers' rights

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Pass the Raise the Wage Act to increase the minimum wage nationally to \$17 by 2028, so that an estimated 28 million workers can earn a dignified wage and provide for their families.</p>	<p>Cuts protections for 4.3 million workers by rolling back workers' rights and <u>eliminating overtime pay.</u></p>
<p>Strengthen workers' freedom to bargain for fair pay and end right-to-work laws by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.</p>	<p>Guts unions by discarding "<u>card check</u>" as the basis of union recognition, allowing the Office of Labor Management Statistics to <u>investigate unions without a formal complaint</u> and <u>eliminating the contract bar rule</u> so it is easier to decertify a union.</p> <p>Guts health and safety protections and <u>protections against child labor.</u></p>

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	<p><u>Guts the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.</u></p>
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For housing

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Make the basic right to stable, affordable housing a reality for all of us, by ensuring that Congress passes the Biden–Harris administration’s requests for increased funding to support affordable housing, first-generation homebuyers, rental assistance, and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>Makes housing less accessible by <u>increasing work requirements and limiting the time period families are eligible for subsidized housing</u>, thereby increasing housing insecurity for more low- and middle-income families.</p>

For paid leave and childcare support

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Support childcare for hardworking families as well as paid family and medical leave for all workers, so that we can take care of ourselves and our children, parents, spouses, and loved ones.</p>	<p><u>Eliminates the Head Start program</u>, ending preschool education for more than one million children of low-income families. Encourages parents to stay home with their children or use <u>family-provided day care</u>, without proposing any way to pay for it.</p>

For education and student debt

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Invest in free education. Pass legislation to make 2 years of community college free, expand Pell Grants, and invest in work training and apprenticeship programs.</p>	<p><u>Ends affordable student loan repayment plans</u> and <u>denies students in 25 states and Washington, D.C. access to student loans</u> because their state provides in-state tuition to undocumented students.</p>
<p>Ensure all children receive quality education by maintaining funding for Head Start programs and Title 1 funding for schools that serve 26 million low-income children.</p>	<p>Eliminates the Department of Education and <u>completely phases out Title I</u>, the primary federal funding for K-12 education. <u>Eliminates funding for Head Start.</u></p>

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FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES: TAX JUSTICE

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
Catholic teaching promotes the “universal destination of goods” – the idea that the Earth’s resources are meant to be shared for the common good. We all have a responsibility to contribute our fair share to our society, so that everyone can thrive.	Not only permits but actively facilitates the hoarding and accumulation of wealth. Rewards the wealthy and corporations with a tax code that limits the benefits that support low- and middle-income Americans.

Policy Visions

For our tax system

Our Vision	Project 2025
Ensure the wealthy pay their fair share, so that our country’s resources serve the common good – our health care, education, food, housing, a clean environment, and more – with a wealth tax on the inherited and accumulated assets of the super-rich.	Seeks to pass a regressive tax system that taxes people earning just above base social security benefits at the same rate as those making millions of dollars a year.
Pass a minimum 25% tax rate on the richest individuals whose wealth exceeds \$100 billion, so that their tax rates look more like those of middle-class working families.	Cuts capital gains taxes, corporate taxes, and other taxes on the wealthiest Americans.
Eliminate loopholes that allow the very rich to avoid paying what they owe in inheritance taxes.	Cuts taxes for the very rich and eliminates the deductions which help everyday Americans, while increasing taxes on the middle class.

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<p>Ensure corporations pay their fair share by raising the corporate tax rate and eliminating loopholes.</p>	<p><u>Cuts the corporate tax rate to 18%.</u> Cuts all taxes aimed at corporations in the Inflation Reduction Act.</p>
<p>Discourage lavish pay packages for big corporate executives by ending deductions for annual compensation over \$1 million.</p>	<p><u>Eliminates funding for the IRS to target wealthy tax cheaters.</u></p>

For supports for working people and families

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>End child poverty by passing a permanent, universal, fully refundable Child Tax Credit.</p>	<p>Presents no plan to reintroduce the expanded Child Tax Credit, which cut child poverty by nearly half in 2021.</p>
<p>Permanently expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to ensure its availability to all low-wage workers, including young adults, workers over age 65, and workers without children.</p>	<p><u>Eliminates most credits and deductions that help working-class families.</u></p>
<p>Ensure that any changes to the tax code do not raise taxes for low- and middle-income individuals and families, so that we can all have the resources we need to flourish.</p>	<p><u>Cuts taxes for the wealthy and raises them for low- and middle-income individuals and families.</u></p>

FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights. Together, we will ensure that quality health care and nutrition are treated as fundamental human freedoms for all, no matter the color of our skin, how much money we have, or where we live.</p>	<p>Presents no right to health care for those who cannot afford it.</p>

Policy Visions

For health care

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>End the injustice of medical debt and ensure quality, affordable health care for all, with no exceptions.</p>	<p>Asserts that health care and health care reform should be market-driven and <u>based on ability to pay.</u></p>
<p>Maintain affordable healthcare coverage for millions of people in the U.S., ensure that all states have access to expanded Medicaid, and protect gains like the Affordable Care Act from efforts to erode them.</p>	<p><u>Guts the Affordable Care Act</u> and adds <u>lifetime caps or time limits on receiving Medicaid.</u> Requires states to implement <u>stricter eligibility determinations</u> for Medicaid, leaving many people without coverage.</p>

For access to prescription medicines

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Ensure that we all can access the lifesaving medicines we need and hold Big Pharma accountable when it inflates the prices of the medications we rely on.</p> <p>Maintain a cap on insulin costs.</p>	<p>Intends to repeal provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act aimed at lowering the cost of prescription drugs.</p> <p>Removes caps on the cost of prescription drugs like insulin and allows big drug companies to increase the cost of life-saving medications and charge whatever they want.</p>

For maternal care

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Invest in health care and financial support to improve the health of birthing parents and newborn babies by passing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which ensures that all new parents – Black, Brown, and white – have access to adequate health care.</p>	<p>Presents no plan to address our high maternal mortality rate of over 20 deaths per 100,000 – a higher rate than most other wealthy countries.</p>

For food security

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>End hunger in America and make nutritious food accessible to everyone by ensuring robust nutrition funding, including in the Farm Bill, for SNAP, WIC, school meals, senior meals, and the Emergency Food Assistance Program.</p>	<p>Limits access to the food assistance that 40 million people rely on monthly by imposing work requirements to access SNAP benefits.</p> <p>Ends summer meal assistance for K-12 children.</p>

FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>Care for our common home is a requirement of the Catholic faith. We will ensure all people live in communities where they are able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and have a safe, healthy, stable place to live.</p>	<p>Prioritizes fossil fuel corporate profits over addressing climate change. Calls for reversing climate initiatives and gutting environmental regulations that protect our air, water, and lands.</p>

Policy Visions

For climate and energy

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Invest in a sustainable future instead of fossil fuel corporations. Strengthen renewable energy industries and jobs, so that we can become a responsible, sustainable economy that is just, honors the dignity of creation, and meets our needs – today and in the future.</p>	<p><u>Dissolves unprecedented U.S. climate, clean energy, and environmental investments</u> that are creating millions of jobs and cutting carbon and local pollution.</p>
<p>Protect the progress made by the Biden-Harris administration in making our country more environmentally sustainable, resisting repeated threats by the GOP House majority to unravel those gains.</p>	<p><u>Reverses all policies and eliminates all funding for programs that support environmental protection</u> and counter the negative impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>End tax subsidies for fossil fuel corporations.</p>	<p><u>Slashes tax rates for fossil fuel corporations.</u></p>
<p>End oil and gas leases on federal public lands.</p>	<p><u>Allows Big Oil to drill in protected natural areas</u>, including vast swaths of the Arctic.</p>

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For our air and water

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Ensure that our country invests in projects and adopts regulations that give our neighborhoods clean water, air, and homes.</p>	<p><u>Weakens the EPA’s ability to safeguard public health</u> and protect our fundamental right to breathe clean air and drink safe water. Decreases enforcement of environmental regulations.</p>
<p>Clean up the pollution and toxic dumping that disproportionately targets Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities.</p>	<p><u>Makes it easier for corporations to dump toxins.</u></p>
<p>Improve access to safe drinking water for all by ensuring that our elected officials pass the Financing Lead out of Water (FLOW) Act.</p>	<p><u>Reverses hard-won progress on protecting Americans from lead poisoning</u>, dangerous forever chemicals, and soot pollution.</p>

FREEDOM FROM HARM: SAFE COMMUNITIES

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>The Catholic Church insists upon every person’s intrinsic worth, dignity, and right to live in safety—with no exceptions. Together, we will free all people in our country from the threat of discrimination and violence, especially gun violence, and create a safer and freer America.</p>	<p>Calls for dismantling gun safety laws, thereby allowing people who want to commit violence to carry guns — valuing gun manufacturer profits over our safety. Calls for repealing funding for mental health care, militarizing our communities under the president’s power, and rolling back our hard-won civil rights protections.</p>

Policy Visions

For access to AR-15s and other weapons of war

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Ensure all gun dealers sell only to people who have passed background checks; close the “gun show” loophole; and prevent people who commit domestic abuse from buying firearms.</p>	<p><u>Deregulates gun sales</u>, making it easier for people who want to commit violence to acquire firearms.</p>
<p>Restrict access to weapons of war by passing the Assault Weapons Ban. Research shows that states with prohibitions on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines experience mass shootings at <u>less than half the rate</u> of states without such restrictions.</p>	<p>Seeks to pass legislation that would <u>override state laws on carrying concealed guns</u>, so that almost anyone can carry a concealed gun in public.</p>

For community safety

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Keep communities safe for everyone by investing in violence interruption programs, behavioral health treatment, and supportive housing options.</p>	<p><u>Repeals funding for mental health care</u> in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, increasing the risk of death from suicide, homicide, and accidents in our communities.</p>
<p>Ensure young people have access to high quality education, after-school enrichment, mentorship, and employment opportunities.</p>	<p><u>Eliminates the Department of Education</u> and Head Start. Removes all federal support in education policy.</p>
<p>Ensure that no person – Black, Brown, or white – is targeted by harmful police practices because of the color of their skin, their mental health status, or where they live.</p>	<p><u>Forces local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE and other federal agencies.</u> Quashes protest by invoking the <u>Insurrection Act</u>, which would allow the president to use the military as domestic law enforcement.</p>

For civil rights and freedoms

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Protect all people – Black and white, gay and straight, native-born and immigrant – from discrimination to ensure we all have access to employment, housing, credit, education and more.</p>	<p>Rolls back civil rights protections by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Preventing noncitizens from receiving housing assistance;</u> - <u>Allowing real estate valuations to take race into account;</u> - <u>Legalizing discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community;</u> - <u>Undoing Title IX standards to make it harder to report sexual harassment and assault.</u>

FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>No matter where we live, the color of our skin, or how much we make, we all want to have a say in the policies that affect us and our families. We the People know that for democracy to work for everyone, it must include everyone. Catholic teaching affirms that every person has the freedom, right, and responsibility to cast a ballot and to join in shaping our society for the common good—so that everyone can thrive, no exceptions.</p>	<p>Calls for consolidating presidential power by filling previously nonpartisan civil servant positions with political loyalists and politicizing the Department of Justice to allow the president to prosecute political enemies. Intends to effectively end the freedom and right to vote guaranteed under the Constitution.</p>

Policy Visions

For the freedom to vote

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Protect and expand the freedom to vote by passing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, to ensure that no state or locality can deprive any of us of our freedom to vote; - The Democracy Restoration Act, to ensure all voting-age citizens can vote following incarceration; - The Native American Voting Rights Act, to allow tribes to determine the number and location of voter registration sites, polling 	<p><u>Strips the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division of the authority to enforce legislation that protects the right to vote.</u></p>

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<p>places, and drop boxes on their reservations and to require states to accept tribal ID as voter identification;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Automatic Voter Rights Advancement Act, to ensure all polling places have sufficient voting machines, poll workers, and other resources to avoid long lines. 	
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For our democratic system

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Make our democracy responsible to the people, not to money. Pass the Freedom to Vote Act to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect our elections from anti-voter efforts, election denial tactics, and gerrymandering; - Shore up campaign finance transparency to counteract the undue influences of dark money; - Give the Federal Election Commission’s nonpartisan staff the authority to conduct meaningful investigations to keep our elections fair. 	<p><u>Undermines the importance of the vote by replacing government experts with party loyalists</u> to enact broad, sweeping policy changes based on ideology without any congressional approval.</p> <p><u>Weaponizes the DOJ against political opponents</u> and causes that do not align with the president’s vision.</p>
<p>Ensure Congress passes the Disclose Act to require organizations that spend money in elections, including Super PACs, to disclose high-dollar donors and make our elections transparent to all.</p>	<p>Written by the Heritage Foundation, an organization funded by billionaires, Project 2025 supports <u>raising contribution limits</u>, giving wealthy people even more say over elections.</p>
<p>Protect federal elections from disinformation, and from the growing threat of deceptive AI-generated content (known as “deepfakes”).</p>	<p><u>Ends federal efforts to counter mis/disinformation in elections.</u></p>

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

Values

Our Catholic Social Justice Values	Project 2025
<p>The Catholic Church affirms that we all have a right to migrate to seek a safe and good life for ourselves and our families. We know that our immigration system must value the dignity of all people, and that everyone thrives in a welcoming community—both immigrant and native-born.</p>	<p>Sees immigrants, who are already part of our communities, as a primary threat to the country. Calls for dismantling the foundations of our immigration system, deporting millions of our neighbors, and increasing the federal government’s power through militarization, to the states’ detriment.</p>

Policy Visions

For our immigration and asylum system

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Reject fear-mongering and scapegoating, knowing that immigrants are already part of our communities. Expand pathways to citizenship for our neighbors without current legal status.</p>	<p>Seeks to deport millions of immigrants who have been living and working here for decades by empowering ICE to carry out large-scale raids without a warrant and forcing immigrants into internment camps near the border.</p>
<p>Protect the long-standing right to seek asylum in the U.S. Ensure our elected leaders uphold current laws and do not undermine the fundamental right of families and individuals to seek asylum in the U.S. fairly and safely.</p>	<p>Invalidates gang violence and domestic violence themselves as sufficient grounds for asylum; instead, migrants seeking asylum must establish “a credible fear of persecution.”</p>
<p>Ensure our leaders protect the continued residence in the U.S. and path to citizenship for people in the U.S. from countries in the Temporary</p>	<p>Repeals Temporary Protected Status designation and terminates the legal status of 500,000 Dreamers (DACA) by</p>

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<p>Protected Status (TPS) program, many of whom have lived in the U.S. for years; for young people in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; and for immigrants who have received humanitarian parole.</p>	<p>eliminating staff time for reviewing and processing renewal applications.</p>
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For life in our communities

Our Vision	Project 2025
<p>Invest in welcoming communities – at our borders and across our nation – to protect the dignity of immigrants and the communities that welcome them and provide resources to improve life for all of us, no matter where we were born.</p>	<p><u>Bars U.S. citizens from qualifying for federal housing subsidies</u> if anyone they are living with is not a U.S. citizen.</p> <p><u>Bars federal financial aid for up to two-thirds of American college students</u> if their state permits certain immigrant groups, including Dreamers with legal status, to access in-state tuition.</p> <p>Increases presidential power to enact immigration policy by <u>evading congressional or judicial oversight.</u></p>

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