

## **A GUIDE TO MAKING FAITH-BASED & SPIRITUAL-BASED VOTING DECISIONS:**

### **TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE ELECTION DAY**

*As people seek to align their spiritual and religious commitments with their votes in local, state and national elections, the following questions are designed to help in praying about and reflecting on which proposals and candidates best advance faith-grounded principles, according to various Holy Writings or Traditions. The questions apply both to candidates for public offices at all levels and also to ballot propositions.*

Prepared by Pomona Valley Spiritual Leaders for Justice

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#### **Protecting the Holiness of Creation**

"Fill the earth and exercise care for it" (Genesis 1:28)

"It is Allah who made for you the earth a place of settlement and the sky a ceiling and formed you and perfected your forms and provided you with good things." (Quran 40:64)

"We have caused a lot of damage to the Earth. Now it is time for us to take good care of her. We bring our peace and calm to the surface of the Earth and share the lesson of love." (Zen teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh)

1. Does the candidate advance the protection and holiness of creation, advancing environmental stewardship and protections both on a global and a US level?
  2. Is there expressed support for specific initiatives that combat climate change?
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#### **The Dignity of All**

"God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God did God create them, male and female God created them." (Genesis 1:27)

"What does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God". (Micah 6:8)

"Allah commands justice, the doing of good and liberality to kith and kin. He forbids all shameful deeds and injustice." (Quran 16:90)

3. Is the candidate's message and policy platform inclusive of all people, the diverse family of humankind created in the Image of the Holy One; does the candidate value the dignity of intentionally marginalized populations on the basis of religion, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability?

4. Does the candidate talk about justice, particularly justice for those treated unfairly in our judicial and enforcement systems; and individuals and social groups that face discrimination, exclusion, and violence?

5. Does the candidate have a plan for anti-racist action?

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### **Welcoming the Stranger, the Poor, the Migrant**

"You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were once aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan or other marginalized person." (Exodus 22:21-22)

"Speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy." (Proverbs 31:9)

"See that justice is done....help those who are oppressed." (Isaiah 1:17)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives...to set free the oppressed." (Luke 4: 18-19)

"Indeed, Allah enjoins justice, and the doing of good to others; and giving like kindred; and forbids indecency, and manifest evil, and wrongful transgression." (Quran 16:91)

"If beings knew, as I know, the result of giving and sharing, they would not eat without having given, nor would the stain of selfishness overcome their mind." (Anguttara Nikaya)

6. Does the candidate support budgets and policies that will reduce poverty and homelessness and increase affordable housing supply and access to health care for all? provide economic opportunities? Does the candidate propose economic and trade policies that are non-exploitive and support worker rights to seek fair and safe working conditions in all nations?

7. Does the candidate advance humanitarian migration policies, such as generous commitments to refugee resettlement, protections for asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, and DREAMERS? Has the candidate articulated a common sense plan that balances immigration welcome and security?

8. Does the candidate express values of respect and protection for migrant workers essential for US labor needs?

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### **Peacemaking**

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2)

"Anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder.....it shall be as if he murdered all the people." (Quran: 5:32)

"Hatred never ends by hatred / By love alone does it end."(Dhammapada)

9. Does the candidate advance peace over war -- and seek to bring people, groups and nations together to develop a commitment to a common good?

10. Does the candidate support specific efforts to reduce gun violence (such as universal background checks, restrictions for domestic violence abusers, assault weapon bans)?

11. Does the candidate use messaging that emphasizes unity and affirms the dignity of all, even opponents? Does the candidate refrain from divisive and hate-filled speech?