

CDA



**CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
OF AMERICA
VALUES VOTER'S
GUIDE 2018**



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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA VALUES VOTER'S GUIDE 2018

This voter's guide is designed to help you apply Christian values to your vote in this important mid-term election. Wherever you are in the United States, whatever special measures are on the ballot, whatever candidates are on your local and state ballots, these are the values we are asking each and every member of our movement and all people who are driven by their faith in making important values-based decisions. CDA has a list of endorsed candidates we add to on a weekly basis available on our website, but since we cannot speak for every single candidate who is either Democrat, Independent or Republican in the midterms, and cannot speak to every single proposition that may be up for vote in your country or state, we hope to address the general overall issues that you can then compare with your candidates and ballot measures to help you decide. More than ever, it is vital that we exercise our right to vote – not often in our history has a mid-terms election been so important. NOTE: for the purposes of this guide we picked a specific set of issues, though we are aware there are more issues to vote on. To see a full list of issues on the CDA platform, you may go to our website and Platform.

******* Please download, share, email or print this guide and bring it to church, to local meetings, share when canvassing, and especially, share on social media! We are providing this guide free, as we want as many people as possible to see and utilize it. However, we do ask that you consider a donation to help us in this grassroots effort. All proceeds go to the midterms and #ChristiansResist movement. THANK YOU *******

ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

The wage gap has become a monumental problem in the United States, as is rising homelessness and poverty. We support candidates whose platform prioritizes...

1. Legislation that offers housing programs to the homeless, decriminalizing homelessness, community job programs and a focus on a social safety net to keep our veterans, families, and individuals from becoming homeless and give a hand up to fit whatever their unique situation may be.
2. Supporting a **livable wage**. No one should be working full-time in America and living in poverty.
3. Supporting low-income housing, financial aid, job training programs and small business grant programs
4. New job creation in rural areas in industries that are not dying, but booming.
5. Fully funding our social safety net programs such as WIC, food stamps, disability and mental health services. Those who can work need a sliding scale of services to help them get back on their feet or supplement poverty-wages. Those who cannot work should not have to worry if they can feed their family.

“If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother.”

Deut. 15:7

IMMIGRATION:

This nation was built on immigration. We need comprehensive reform that is fair, safe and moral with compassion at its center. We reject any candidates who use the scapegoating and the fear-mongering of immigrants and refugees or supports the policies of the Trump administration and family separation. We know we need immigration reform. But reform needs to take place with the governing hand of compassion. First of all, Jesus has called us to have mercy – to the measure we show mercy we will receive it (Matt. 5:7). So, our attitude towards undocumented immigrants must first be that of compassion, as the legislation we back as Christians should be real solutions to our broken system – not to scapegoat, threaten and spread hate.

We support candidates whose policies will...

1. Protect “Dreamers” and make DACA permanent.
2. Make it easier for people to enter legally and apply for citizenship by following our laws/rules, and to make it possible for those who are already here illegally to apply for status and begin living here legally. Except for a history of violent criminal offenses, there is no reason for deportation of immigrants who have been here for decades – we must provide a way for them to come out of the shadows instead.
3. Stop illegal trafficking and create a more secure border with better technology and increased personnel by targeting real criminals instead of families and children fleeing violence.
4. Stop the mass-deportation force, increased authority and harsh practices of ICE.

These goals line up with ours as Christians. The hate exhibited against immigrants must stop. Except for Native Americans, we are all immigrants.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” – Statue of Liberty

“When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Lev. 19:33-34

“The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the Lord.”

Num. 15:15

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS:

Global warming is real, and we are seeing more and more affects of it every year. There should be no more debate of the facts, only debate on what we will do to act responsibly. The Bible commands us to take care of the earth and all of His creation. God has entrusted us with this responsibility and in so many ways we have failed. We support government action and personal action to care for our planet and to protect and treat animals humanely and respectfully.

We support candidates who prioritize:

1. “Green” technology and jobs
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
3. Protecting our forests, national parks and arctic regions worldwide
4. Humane treatment of animals, a national animal rights ethics code that is stronger, and funding for better systems of animal control, adoption and tighter regulation on the meat and other industries for humane treatment.
5. Reinstating the restrictions against ivory, puppy mills and hunting that the Trump administration rolled back

God said, let us [father, son, and holy spirit] make mankind in our image, after our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.

Gen. 1:26

A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

Prov. 12:10

HEALTHCARE:

Health care is not a right for the elite, wealthy or Congress, it is a *human* right. A free market should not be able to dictate who is more worthy of living or dying due to lack of needed treatment and care. We fully support any legislation and candidate who believes...

Quality care, required medication and medical services (including preventative care, dental health, prenatal/maternal care and mental health care) must be available to every person in this country regardless of status, past medical history or income level.

Jesus gave us the responsibility of caring for the sick – this is a common theme regarding Godly action and rule in the Old Testament as well, and a command to the Christians to intervene on behalf of the sick...

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matt. 14:14

You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.

Ezekiel 34:4

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

We need a complete overhaul of our criminal justice system, from the overpopulation of our prisons to abolishment of the death penalty. We support candidates who...

1. Focus on rehabilitation, not harsh punishment. One of the commissions Jesus gave us was to look after the prisoner...
2. Are strongly against the use of torture or inhumane treatment of prisoners for any reason at home or abroad.
3. Believe in mercy and value rehabilitation, *when possible*, over harsh punishment. This means advocating for humane treatment of prisoners, lesser sentencing for drug and minor arrests and favoring rehabilitation over long prison sentences unless public safety is at risk.
4. Agree with our call for the absolute abolishment of the death penalty. We expect candidates who embrace any type of pro-life agenda to be for the abolishment of the death penalty. Jesus said the era for eye for an eye was over 2,000 years ago and we believe America is far behind the rest of the civilized world in this regard.
5. Agree that private prisons have led to mass fraud and abuse and should be shut down immediately. Americans are the most over-incarcerated country in the world and this disproportionately affects minorities and the poor. It is not justice and needs to be overhauled.
6. Agree that we must make sure any law enforcement officers who commit crimes are held accountable and that proper training and funding is provided to every police district.

Jesus says, "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matt. 25: 36

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

Heb. 13:3

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, **mercy** and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

Matt. 23:23

GUN VIOLENCE:

Children, country music fans, the LGBTQ community, college students, worshipers at church...gun violence affects us ALL and it ought to bring us together across partisan lines for common sense reforms. More than half of Americans – both Democrats and Republicans – support keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill, broader background checks without gun show loopholes, and a ban on semi-automatic assault weapons.

We support candidates who...

1. Back any common-sense gun safety legislation such as expanded background checks, keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and severely mentally ill, closing the gun show loopholes and a ban on all assault rifles.
2. Support 2nd amendment rights in the context in which they were originally written into our constitution. There is no reason military weapons should not be outlawed and anyone who claims to value LIFE will stand up.

"For the love of money [that is, the greedy desire for it and the willingness to gain it unethically] is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves [through and through] with many sorrows."

1 Tim. 6:10

"Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."

Matt. 26:52