



# Presidential Debates Bingo

"Politics, according to the Social Doctrine of the Church, is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good. ... Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: a good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern."  
— Pope Francis, 16 September 2013

Catholic tradition calls for faithful citizenship—the moral obligation and responsibility to participate in political life. As the 2016 election cycle comes to its conclusion, the American people are called more than ever to engage in the political process. On Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, voters will make a choice between two competing visions for our nation's future. Catholic social teaching offers a framework to create a more just and moral society through five main principles: the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, care for God's creation, and dignity of the human person. Rather than relying on party politics, Catholic voters are encouraged to use these guiding CST principles to examine and evaluate the candidates' rhetoric, philosophies, and policies, in order to elect those who best reflect the values of the Church.

This Bingo card resource lists various policies, issues, and ideas consistent with Catholic social teaching and social justice. As you watch the remaining three debates before Election Day, use this game to follow along. See how often the candidates raise these issues on the national stage, and cover the corresponding squares with the provided Center of Concern bingo pieces. The winner yells "BINGO!" if he or she is the first to get five squares in a row.


***Be an informed voter!*** Watching the presidential debates is one of the easiest ways to hear from the candidates themselves and learn about their stance on the issues. Each debate will be broadcast live on C-SPAN, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC, as well as on cable news channels (CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, etc.). All major news networks, YouTube, and Twitter will offer a free live stream of the debates, so make sure to tune in! The debates will air from **9 pm to 10:30 pm EDT on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** (*Vice Presidential debate between Senator Tim Kaine and Governor Mike Pence*); **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**; and **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**.




# Bingo Pieces



# EFJ Bingo Card #1

Speak out against Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination on the basis of race or religion	Demand accountability for police brutality and combat violence against people of color	Abolish the death penalty; affirm the dignity of human life	Work across the aisle and demonstrate bipartisanship	Fight the gun lobby; commit to ending gun violence
Fight for criminal justice reform (end mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex)	Commit to ensuring affordable, quality healthcare for all	Raise the federal minimum wage and/or support a living wage	Advocate for and support disability rights	Affirm rights and protections for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters
Oppose cuts to/restrictions on welfare programs and federal assistance for those in need	Support international aid and equitable development policies		Support labor unions and the rights of workers	Support comprehensive immigration reform and oppose mass deportations
Commit to protecting human rights at home and abroad	Protect and welcome refugees, and provide asylum for those fleeing violence	Combat rising economic inequality through structural change and just economic policies	Speak out against domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence against women	Devote more resources to the public education system
Care for the environment—oppose fracking, mountaintop removal, and other destructive practices	Invest in comprehensive mental health initiatives, especially support for veterans	Restore the Voting Rights Act and fight against all discriminatory efforts to suppress the right to vote	Respect Native American tribal rights	Promote foreign policy that prioritizes peace and violence prevention

## EFJ Bingo Card #2

Protect and welcome refugees, and provide asylum for those fleeing violence	Condemn and pledge to end the use of torture	Restore the Voting Rights Act and fight against all discriminatory efforts to suppress the right to vote	Care for the environment—prioritize clean energy and fossil fuel alternatives	Abolish the death penalty; affirm the dignity of human life
Promote foreign policy that prioritizes peace and violence prevention	Affirm rights and protections for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters	Combat rising economic inequality through structural change and just economic policies	Fight against global slavery and human trafficking	Oppose cuts to/restrictions on welfare programs and federal assistance for those in need
Work to mitigate the college debt crisis and make higher education affordable and accessible to all	Fight for criminal justice reform (end mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex)		Demand accountability for police brutality and combat violence against people of color	Support working families with paid family and medical leave policies and affordable child care
Support a fair, progressive tax system and Wall Street reform to ensure an economy that works for all	Fight the gun lobby; commit to ending gun violence	Speak out against Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination on the basis of race or religion	Close the gender wage gap and promote gender equality	Provide solutions for poverty and homelessness in the U.S.
Raise the federal minimum wage and/or support a living wage	Address the national epidemic of drug addiction and promote compassionate treatment	Commit to ensuring affordable, quality healthcare for all	Support international aid and equitable development policies	Support comprehensive immigration reform and oppose mass deportations

## Readings and Resources on the Issues:

- Education for Justice Toolbox: Election  
<https://educationforjustice.org/resources/toolbox-election>

*The EFJ Election Toolbox contains reflections, prayers, and bulletin inserts (on Migrants and Refugees, Inequality, Peace and Security, Poverty, Environmental Justice, and Racial Justice) to help guide discussion and discernment in the weeks leading up to the election. The bulletin inserts are two-page handouts that provide an overview on issues that have come to the fore in the 2016 election cycle, many of which are found above on the bingo cards. Each insert contains an introduction to the issue through a Catholic framework, useful statistics, quotes from Catholic leaders and important religious documents, and suggested questions.*



## Catholic Resources on Voting and the Election:

- USCCB's **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship** (full document):  
<http://bit.ly/2cHnZQd>
  - Summary Pt. 1: <http://bit.ly/2dUptKy>
  - Summary Pt. 2: <http://bit.ly/2dmTocA>
- A Revolution of Tenderness: A 2016 Election Pope Francis Values Reflection Guide:  
<https://popefrancis16.com/>
- NETWORK Lobby Election 2016 Resources: <https://networklobby.org/election2016/>

