



Vote your Values

2012 Faithful Voter Guide

In 2012, we face an economy still struggling, workers who cannot take a paid sick day, workers who are robbed of their wages, a broken immigration policy and the worst income inequality since 1929. This voter guide highlights several issues that are clearly critical to working families but that often receive scant attention by the media and candidates.

Stop Wage Theft

Many American workers never worry about whether they will get paid. But for others a full day's work does not always equal a full day's pay. While wage theft particularly affects those at the lowest rung of the earnings ladder, it draws no distinction when it comes to class, race or age. Convictions for wage theft cover the entire spectrum of businesses, from single-owner restaurants to multi-billion dollar corporations like Walmart, Red Lobster and FedEx.

The U.S. Department of Labor has a huge job when addressing the crisis of wage theft. The DOL needs strong public support and resources from the White House for expanding and aggressively stopping employers who steal wages and refuse to pay their fair share of public taxes.

Please consider how congress and the next president will work to provide the DOL with the resources, vision and leadership needed to ensure that every worker's rights are fully protected.

A Job Should Get You Out of Poverty, Not Keep You In It

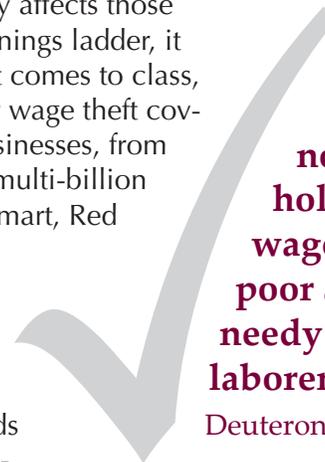
Interfaith Worker Justice supports raising the minimum wage until it reaches the level of a true living wage, a level that allows a full-time worker to support a family above basic subsistence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Memphis to support striking sanitation workers in 1968. Before he was assassinated, Dr. King said, "It is criminal to have people working on a full-time basis at a full-time job getting part-time income..."

We are tired of working our hands off and laboring every day and not even

making a wage adequate with daily basic necessities of life." In 1968, workers earning the federal minimum wage made an inflation-adjusted \$9.70 an hour. In 2012, 44 years later, the federal minimum wage is 25 percent less, at \$7.25 an hour.

When voting, please consider whether candidates will work, if elected, to raise the minimum wage up to the level of a living wage.



You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers...

Deuteronomy 24:14

We Need Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Many people of good will are troubled about immigration issues, given the problems that native-born workers face in today's workplace. What is vitally important is that basic civility and respect become the baseline for discussion of these contentious issues.

Comprehensive immigration reform must aim to provide full and equal protections of employment and labor laws, civil liberties and civil rights for all workers in the U.S. Reform should work to remove economic incentives to exploit immigrant labor and strengthen requirements to fairly consider hiring native-born workers. Permanent status must be favored over temporary status, and families must be valued and allowed to remain intact.

Interfaith Worker Justice urges you to consider the records, positions, and what candidates for congress and the presidency say about immigrants and immigration reform.

All Workers Need Paid Sick Days: Support the Healthy Families Act

Respecting the health and dignity of all human beings is a core religious value in all faith traditions. This includes not just access to health care, but time away from work to recuperate from illness and to tend to ill family members. Yet nearly one half of American workers in the private sector (57 million workers) cannot take a sick day without losing a day's pay, or even possibly their job.

Interfaith Worker Justice supports passage of the Healthy Families Act. It would grant seven paid sick days per year to most workers to care for themselves or a family member. This is a small but extremely significant step in setting a floor below which no employer may go, just

as the minimum wage sets the floor for wages.

Please consider the candidates positions on paid sick day legislation, and whether their past records indicate they value setting a fair base line for how employers treat their employees.

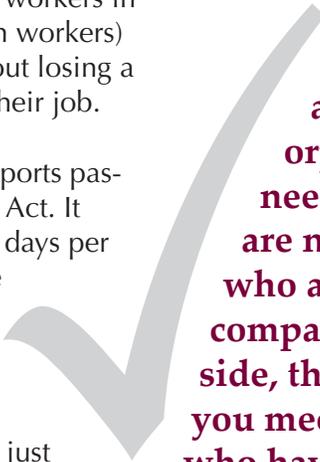
Make Wall Street Support Main Street – Pass the Inclusive Prosperity Act

The financial crash of 2008 left an enormous hole in U.S. finances. The Robin Hood Tax is a way to address that hole. It is small, common sense tax that is already effective in dozens of countries around the world. It works by levying a minor tax (less than one half of one percent) on the highly speculative Wall Street transactions that contributed to the financial crash in the first place.

Interfaith Worker Justice supports the passage of the Inclusive Prosperity Act, which employs the Robin Hood Tax. Economists have estimated that it would raise up to \$350 billion each year, money that can be spent on job creation, improving

schools, providing housing, protecting the social safety net, and more.

When voting, please consider if the candidates' records demonstrate their commitment to making Wall Street support Main Street.



**We should
“serve God...
and do good to...
orphans, those in
need, neighbors who
are near, neighbors
who are strangers, the
companion by your
side, the wayfarer that
you meet, [and those
who have nothing].**

Qur'an 4:36



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