

NETWORK NUNS on the bus & FRIENDS

2024 MEDIA KIT



Nuns on the Bus & Friends 2024

This fall, NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus is hitting the road for our first in-person tour in six years, and we're bringing our multi-faith and secular partners with us! On this two-and-a-half-week, nation-wide **"Vote Our Future"** tour, the **Nuns on the Bus & Friends** will call on Catholics and all people of goodwill to be multi-issue voters and to protect the freedoms that promote a future of flourishing for all of us.

From Philadelphia to San Francisco, we will lift up the freedoms that are essential for an inclusive, multiracial, multi-faith democracy, and equip and mobilize everyone to exercise their right to vote—and to make sure that their friends and family are voting, too!

As Pope Francis says, "The only future worth building includes everyone." Together, we will build our future by **voting our future, so everyone thrives—no exceptions!**

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Webpages: www.nunsonthebus.org
www.networkadvocates.org/election-2024

NETWORK social media: **Facebook:** NetworkLobby
Instagram: @network_lobby
X: @NETWORKLobby
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Official hashtags: #NunsOnTheBus #VoteOurFuture #EquallySacred

Nuns on the Bus & Friends is a project of NETWORK Advocates, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit under the IRS Code, dedicated to advocating policies that advance Catholic Social Justice. Our work is non-partisan, and we neither endorse nor oppose any particular candidate or party in the upcoming elections.

Key Points

WHO IS NETWORK? Founded by Catholic Sisters in 1972, NETWORK is an inclusive, national, Catholic advocacy organization open to all who share our values. For 52 years, NETWORK has educated, organized, and lobbied for federal policies that serve the common good, honor the dignity of all, and foster an inclusive, multiracial, multi-faith democracy.

WHAT IS NUNS ON THE BUS? Nuns on the Bus & Friends is a project of NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice. This year, Catholic sisters – and coalition partners – will embark on their eighth national bus tour to promote multi-issue voting for the common good, in the 2024 election and beyond!

WHERE? This year's tour includes 20 cities in 11 states, over two and a half weeks. We begin the tour with a kickoff event in Philadelphia, make our way through cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, Phoenix, and Las Vegas, and complete our tour in San Francisco! See the full schedule in this packet and at: <https://www.nunsonthebus.org/our-stops>.

WHEN? September 30 – October 18, 2024.

WHY? Too often, our politics and economy are dominated by a small group of wealthy people, who use fearmongering and scapegoating to pit us against each other while they pass policies to line their own pockets—at our expense. But we know from experience that when we come together and vote for the common good, we deliver good health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, dignified wages, paid leave, and all the things our communities need to flourish. **This year, nuns and their friends are back on the bus to proclaim that together, we will vote for a future that includes all of us.**

HOW? Sisters and their multi-faith and secular coalition partners on the bus will meet with people and organizations across the country to talk about our freedoms at stake in this election, how multi-issue voting helps our communities thrive, and voter resources like NETWORK's [Equally Sacred Checklist](#) (included in this packet). This year's tour will include town halls, rallies, and press conferences, as well as site visits to local social service agencies and community organizations.

OUR GOAL: To mobilize Catholics and all people of good will to **Vote OUR Future — so everyone thrives, no exceptions!**

Press Conference

Nuns on the Bus & Friends: “Vote Our Future!” Press Conference

Tuesday, July 23 | Noon | House Triangle

Confirmed Rider + Bus Staff Speakers: Mary J. Novak, Executive Director, NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice; Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS, President, Friends in Solidarity; Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs; Rev. Adam Taylor, President, Sojourners; Amelia Kegan, Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy, Friends Committee on National Legislation; Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy, Evangelica Lutheran Church of America’s Office for Witness in Society; Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM, Grassroots Education and Organizing Coordinator, NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice; and Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President and CEO, Children’s Defense Fund.

Confirmed Members of Congress: Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, Congressman John Larson, Congressman Jim McGovern, and Congressman Paul Tonko.

Run of Show

Please note: Members of Congress will arrive as they’re able, and we will work them into the run of show. We appreciate your flexibility and patience!

Mary J. Novak: Welcome + Emcee

Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS: “Freedom to Live on a Healthy Planet”

Debbie Weinstein: “Freedom to Care for Ourselves and Our Families”

Rev. Adam Taylor: “Freedom to Participate in a Vibrant Democracy”

Amelia Kegan: “Freedom to Be Healthy”

Giovana Oaxaca: “Freedom to Live in a Welcoming Country”

Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM: Call to Action

Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson: Bus Blessing

Meet the Riders at the Press Conference

Mary J. Novak, an environmental lawyer, trauma-informed educator, chaplain, and restorative justice practitioner, is the Executive Director of **NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice**. NETWORK was founded by Catholic sisters to advocate federal policies that promote racial, social, and economic justice, advance the common good, and uphold the dignity of all. Novak is also an Associate with the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ).

Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS, is a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio, and President and Chief Administrative Officer of **Friends in Solidarity**, an initiative of U.S. Catholic religious men and women supporting the people of Africa, especially South Sudan, through capacity-building initiatives that include the training of teachers, health care professionals, and pastoral teams.

Debbie Weinstein is the Executive Director of **Coalition on Human Needs**, an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. Weinstein has four decades of advocacy experience on issues ranging from child support, nutrition, and housing to equitable labor and tax policy.

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, author of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community*, is president of **Sojourners**, an ecumenical Christian media and advocacy organization that works towards social and racial justice. Rev. Taylor is ordained in the American Baptist Church and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Amelia Kegan is the Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy at **Friends Committee on National Legislation**, a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. A member of the Illinois bar, Kegan has experience with legislative analysis and advocacy focusing on federal budget, tax, and low-income policy.

Giovana Oaxaca is the Program Director for Migration Policy with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) D.C. office for Witness in Society**, the advocacy branch of the ELCA. In this role, Oaxaca works for more just and humane federal immigration policies. Oaxaca was previously a Government Relations Associate with NETWORK.

Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson has a long history of faith-based activism for child well-being and racial justice, including serving as co-chair of the Ferguson Commission. Rev. Dr. Wilson is currently president and CEO of **Children's Defense Fund** and the **CDF Action Council**, engaging policy advocacy and community organizing to promote a nation where young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy.

Bus Tour Schedule

Nuns on the Bus & Friends is hitting the road for nearly three weeks, visiting 20 cities in 11 states to mobilize Catholics and all people in our communities to **Vote Our Future: so everyone thrives, no exceptions!**

See our interactive map at <https://www.nunsonthebus.org/our-stops/>.

If you are planning 501(c)(3) Voter Registration and/or GOTV events at any of our stops, please let us know! We would love to join in!

Bus Route and Calendar

Sept. 30 **Philadelphia**

Oct. 1 **Allentown + Scranton**

Oct. 2 **Long Island**

Oct. 3 **New Haven, CT**

Oct. 4 **Binghamton**

Oct. 5 **Pittsburgh + Cleveland**

Oct. 6 **Detroit**

Oct. 7 **Gary, IN + Milwaukee**

Oct. 8 **Chicago**

Oct. 9 **Chicago**

Oct. 13 **Tucson + Phoenix**

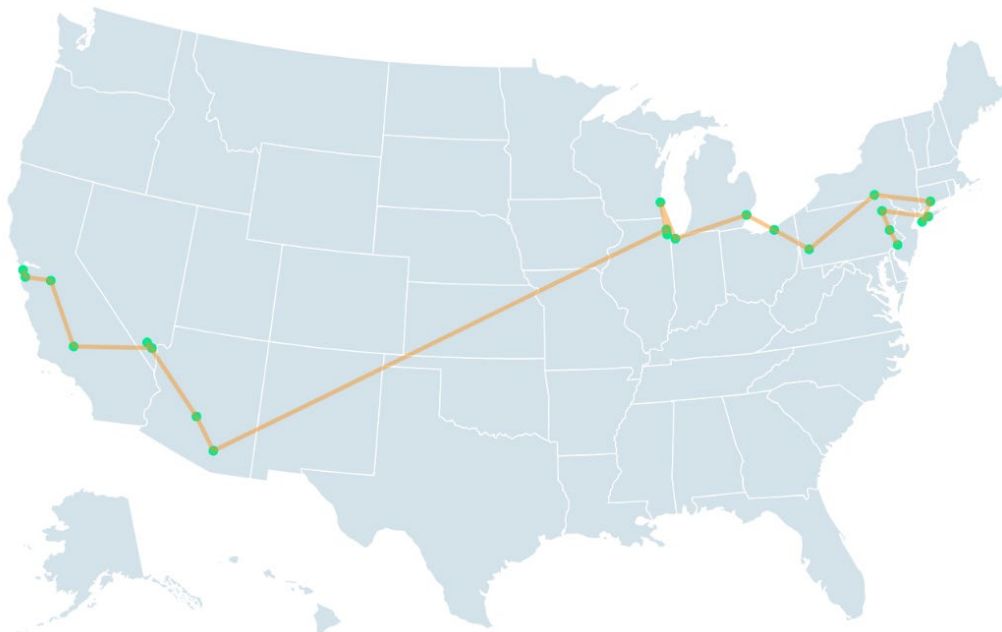
Oct. 14 **Las Vegas**

Oct. 15 **Las Vegas**

Oct. 16 **Bakersfield**

Oct. 17 **Modesto + Redwood City, CA**

Oct. 18 **San Francisco**



Vote Our Future Resources

NETWORK Advocates has a variety of resources to help Catholics and all who share our values become informed, engaged, and committed multi-issue voters for the common good – this election year and beyond.

Head to networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter for these resources and more.

Voter Education

- [Equally Sacred Checklist](#)
- [Freedoms One-Pagers](#)
- [The Pope Francis Voter Pledge](#)
- Presidential Candidate Comparison (*coming soon!*)

Toolkits and Guides

- [Check your voter registration, ballot, deadlines, and more](#)
- [Voter Action Plan Checklist](#)
- [Race Class Narrative Toolkit](#)
- [Video on Race Class Narrative Messaging](#)
- [Relational Voting Worksheet](#)
- [Five Principles of Effective Conversations](#)
- [How to Host a Voter Registration Drive](#)
- [How to Host a Ballot Research Party](#)
- [How to Facilitate Equally Sacred Group Conversations](#)
- How to Write a Letter to the Editor (*coming soon!*)

Other Resources

- [Just Politics podcast](#)
- [Young Advocates Leadership Lab \(Y.A.L.L.\)](#)
- [Connection magazine](#)

FAQs

Q: Are you supporting specific candidates for public office?

A: No. Nuns on the Bus & Friends is nonpartisan, as a project of NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We neither endorse nor oppose particular candidates for public office. What we do support is multi-issue voting for the common good!

Q: What is a Catholic sister?

A: A Catholic sister is someone who has taken vows as part of a community within the Catholic Church dedicated to service and communal life. Technically, a “nun” describes someone who lives a more cloistered life, and a “sister” describes someone more engaged in a social ministry. However, the terms are often used interchangeably to describe Catholic women religious. Catholic sisters are not ordained.

Communities of Catholic sisters each have particular orientations and are committed to different kinds of ministry and service. The sisters who have been part of NETWORK, from its founding until today, understand their policy advocacy as part of their work to serve and honor the dignity of the people they minister with on the margins of society.

Many communities of Catholic sisters also have Associates programs that allow lay (non-vowed) people to join in their community’s mission, fellowship, and spiritual life. NETWORK’s Executive Director Mary J. Novak is an Associate with the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ).

Q: Why are you now Nuns on the Bus & Friends?

A: Grounded in the Catholic Social Justice tradition and the movements of justice-seekers before us, NETWORK envisions and works towards a country that is a multiracial, multi-faith, inclusive democracy. By touring together with our partners and friends on the bus, we can model and live into that inclusive vision! Riding with our partners, and making site visit stops along the way, will uplift our broad coalition and the collaborative, solidarity-building work happening across the country—in which NETWORK and Catholic sisters proudly participate. Plus, everything is better with friends.

Q: Why do Catholics, and especially Catholic sisters, care about these issues?

A: Service and solidarity with people at the margins is central to the mission of Catholic sisters. Catholic sisters founded NETWORK in 1972 because they realized that the people they ministered with across the country were (and are) affected by policies made in Washington, D.C.

Both NETWORK and Catholic sisters are rooted in the tradition of Catholic Social Justice, which emphasizes the dignity of every person, with no exceptions. (See our *Catholic Social Justice principles page in this packet*). Driven by that core emphasis, NETWORK, Catholic sisters, and our advocates communities alike are committed to advocating federal policies that uphold the dignity of all—through programs that promote accessible food and health care, affordable housing, a humane immigration system, an inclusive economy, safe and healthy communities, and more.

Q: Who funds these tours?

A: NETWORK receives thousands of donations for the bus tours from NETWORK members, congregations of Catholic sisters, and other partners. Our donors are inspired by Catholic sisters and are similarly committed to working for an economy and politics of inclusion.

EQUALLY SACRED CHECKLIST

How can we know we are voting for candidates who promote the common good?

Pope Francis makes it clear: **Catholics and all people of good will are called to be multi-issue voters, not single-issue voters**, in the 2024 elections and in our continued participation in public life. This resource can support you in educating yourself as a faithful voter on the issues and concerns that are “**equally sacred**.”

“We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in the world.”



—Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate*, par. 101

FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will protect and expand affordable health care for all and end the injustice of medical debt?
- support policies to reduce the cost of prescription medicines so patients can afford lifesaving care?
- support ending the Black maternal health crisis by investing in the expansion of critical programs to support the lives of parents and babies?
- support ending hunger in our nation with needed food assistance programs, such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs?

The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights.

FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will address the climate crisis and invest in a rapid, just transition to renewable energy?
- will end policies that benefit fossil fuel corporations, such as tax subsidies and approval of pipelines?
- will address pollution and toxic dumping that disproportionately affect Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and ensure clean air and water for all?

Care for our common home is a requirement of the Catholic faith.

FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

Will you vote for candidates who...

- refuse to use violent language or threats of violence against other candidates or groups of people?
- will ensure all eligible voters have access to voting, and restore voting for formerly incarcerated people?
- will limit the power of the wealthy to manipulate our democracy through unlimited dark money and gerrymandering?

Catholic teaching affirms that every person has both a right and a responsibility to participate in our shared political processes, which we must structure to serve the common good.

FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will reduce costs for families, including via a robust Child Tax Credit, paid leave, and funding for childcare?
- will ensure all workers can earn a living wage and have the right to join a union?
- will ensure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, including by supporting a billionaire's tax?
- will address skyrocketing housing costs, including by investing in affordable housing, housing assistance programs, and a renter's tax credit?
- will support future generations by expanding training and apprenticeship programs and free college?

Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work, the rights of workers, and an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.

FREEDOM FROM HARM

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support common sense gun control, including banning the use of AR-15s and other weapons of war, so our children and communities can live safely?
- will protect the rights of marginalized communities including Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities as well as LGBTQ+ people?

The Catholic Church insists upon every person's intrinsic worth, dignity, and right to live in safety—with no exceptions.

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

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support the right to asylum and paths to citizenship, and prioritize integration?
- promote inclusive policies that support border communities rather than militarization?

The Catholic Church affirms that we all have a right to migrate to seek a safe and good life for ourselves and our families, and that nations have a moral imperative to welcome immigrants.

Catholic Social Justice Principles



Uphold the dignity of each person as an equally valuable member of the human family

Embrace our right and responsibility to participate with others in our shared public life



Be in solidarity with those experiencing poverty in the struggle against structures of injustice

Bridge divisions, rising above individual interest for the good of the whole community



Unite with workers to build an economy that puts people, not profit, at the center

Nurture the earth, recognizing that we are interdependent with the rest of God's creation





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