

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!**

Press contact: **Don Clemmer**, NETWORK Senior Content and Editorial Manager
dcllemmer@networklobby.org | 202-601-7877

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

NETWORK **Facebook:** NetworkLobby
social media: **Instagram:** @network_lobby
X: @NETWORKLobby
Mary Novak X: @MaryJNovak

Official #NunsOnTheBus #VoteOurFuture #EquallySacred
hashtags:

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!**

Bus Tour Schedule

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

Join us! See our interactive map and links to register for the events at www.nunsonthebus.org/our-stops/.

Bus Route and Calendar

Sep. 30 **Philadelphia, PA**

Oct. 1 **Scranton, PA**

Oct. 2 **Brentwood + Baldwin, NY**

Oct. 3 **New Haven, CT**

Oct. 4 **Ithaca, NY**

Oct. 5 **Pittsburgh, PA + Cleveland, OH**

Oct. 6 **Detroit, MI**

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

Oct. 8 **Chicago, IL**

Oct. 9 **Chicago, IL**

Oct. 13 **Nogales + Phoenix, AZ**

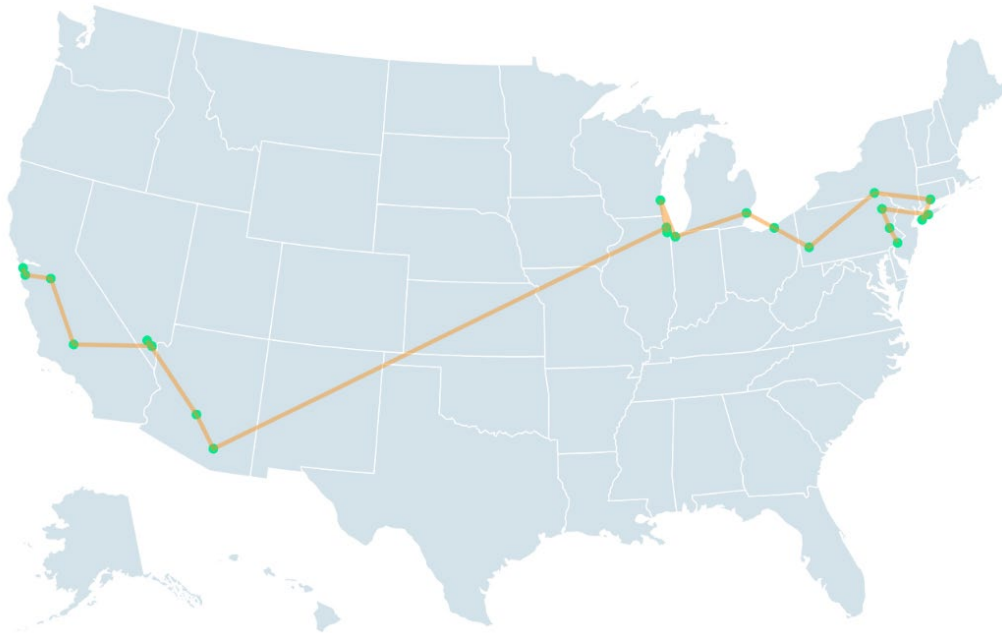
Oct. 14 **Las Vegas, NV**

Oct. 15 **Las Vegas, NV**

Oct. 16 **Bakersfield, CA**

Oct. 17 **San Jose + Redwood City, CA**

Oct. 18 **San Francisco, CA**



Meet the Riders



Amelia Kegan

Friends Committee on National Legislation

“So much is at stake, and yet so much is possible. We need everyone, building community, inviting people in... to help build this vision of the country where every person is free to fulfill their potential and truly flourish.”



Ana Garcia-Ashley

Gamaliel

“As a 4th generation Catholic from the Dominican Republic and Director of Gamaliel, a faith-based national organization, it’s my calling to represent our values in the public arena.”



Deborah Weinstein

Coalition on Human Needs

“I ride the bus for my children and grandchildren, and for everyone’s. We must Vote Our Future, and Vote for Human Needs.”



Giovana Oaxaca Najera

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“As the daughter of immigrants, I’ve seen firsthand remarkable changes in just one generation. Hope, hard work, opportunity, and equity have shaped my unique perspective on the “American Dream” and the belief that it belongs to everyone.”



Kristen Whitney Daniels

U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph

“As someone who previously had to ration my insulin and other medications, I want people to know they are not alone in this experience, and together we can fight to change this system. Everyone has a role to play in making our country a healthier place to live.”



Lisa Sharon Harper

Freedom Road, LLC

“Our nation stands on the brink of losing the democracy for which my ancestors fought and sacrificed. The only way to repair what has been broken is through radical reconnection.”



Mary J. Novak

NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice

“I am riding to continue the vision of the Catholic Sisters who founded this political ministry and, on this Bus, to do so with our treasured partners. All of us share a vision for the freedoms essential for a flourishing multiracial, multi-faith democracy.”



Rev. Adam Taylor

Sojourners

“I am fully committed to an inclusive, multiracial democracy, protecting the rights and freedom for all people to vote, and to working together to promote a future of flourishing for all of us – with no exceptions – especially those who are marginalized in our communities.”



Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould

Faith in Action Network

“Advocating for justice requires public witness. Civic engagement from a faith perspective is a sacred duty for me, and being in solidarity with partners allows us to collectively place our faith in the public square and to hear from and bear witness to and with our neighbors.”



Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland Tune

National Council of Churches USA

"We must do all we can to encourage people to participate in our democracy so that we can preserve and improve it for ourselves and for generations to come."



Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson

Children's Defense Fund

"I ride the bus to encourage people of faith to lean into the hope of child well-being and answer the call to vote for a future of public policy that allows children to be safe, seen, and secure as they play, sing, and dance in our neighborhoods, schools, and at home."



Sarah Christopherson

Tax Justice Advocate

"I've been a huge fan of Nuns on the Bus ever since 2017 when there was a very real risk that the Affordable Care Act was going to be gutted... I'm thrilled to be part of Sisters' effort to make the world a little bit better!"



Sister Alice Gerdeman, CDF

Congregation of Divine Providence of KY
NETWORK Board

"I want to do my part to educate around the multiple issues every person of conscience needs to consider before casting his or her ballot this November."



Sister Andrea Koverman, SC

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

"I have been fortunate enough to [have been a rider on] former bus tours, and have seen the reach and impact they have on all who participate. This is a critical election that I think will change the course of our nation."



Sister Barbara Pfarr, SSND

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Community Organizer

“The bus shows an image of the Church in Action for Justice.”



Sister Catherine C. Darcy, RSM

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

“I believe that NETWORK has done a great service in providing the Catholic community with the Equally Sacred Multi-issue Voter Checklist.”



Sister Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
NETWORK Board

“I ride the bus to be part of an educational effort to learn and share with others about the issues that truly effect the common good of all Americans.”



Sister Deirdre Griffin, SSJ

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield/Maryknoll Lay Missioners
Immigration Attorney

“God’s radical hospitality is alive and well in our border communities... we must be willing to go deeper than sound bites and to have real conversations to generate creative ways forward that ensure safety and dignity for everyone.”



Sister Erin McDonald, CSJ

Sisters of St. Joseph
Young Adult Ministry

“Our charism calls us to love God and neighbor without distinctions and to be agents of unioning love and reconciliation. This inspires me to advocate for U.S. policies that reflect the Great Love of God and the Gospel call to care for all of God’s creation.”



Sister Janet Kinney, CSJ

Sisters of St. Joseph

Long Island Immigration Clinic of the Sisters of St. Joseph

“It is critical that we ‘get out the vote’ and encourage others to use their voices in the public forum about the issues they care about.”



Sister Louise Lears, SC

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation ministry

“Riding the bus offers a graced opportunity to build bridges, reach across differences, focus on the common good, and nurture the beloved community.”



Sister Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPPS

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Friends in Solidarity

“South Sudan suffers terribly due to the climate crisis and thus a healthy planet is needed in the here and now. I ride the bus because our lives are intertwined and thus we need to work collectively and collaboratively for the good of all.”



Sister Quincy Howard, OP

Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters

“This is possibly the most pivotal election in generations, and I need to feel that I’ve done everything in my power to help Americans see their choices clearly and choose wisely. I see the bus as an opportunity to make a difference.”



Sister Richelle Friedman, PBVM

Presentation Sister of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“I think that it is the responsibility of citizens to vote, and to base their votes on values aligned with Catholic Social Justice teachings.”



Sister Robbie Pentecost, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana
NETWORK Board

"I ride the bus because it is a sacred journey – an opportunity to sow seeds of hope, renewal of spirit for those working for justice, and an occasion to walk with those impacted by policies made at the federal and state levels."



Sister Romina Sapinosa, SC

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
The Leadership Collaborative

"We need leaders in our government that understand what is important in our current climate and invest in the development of people and enact policies that support them."



Sister Sally Duffy, SC

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

"As a Catholic, we are committed to justice and ensuring God-given human dignity, shared membership in Church and society, and right relationship for all our brothers and sisters and creation."

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, including resources in Spanish and Haitian Creole!

Voter Education

- [Equally Sacred Checklist](#)
- [Freedoms One-Pagers](#)
- [Check your voter registration status, ballot, deadlines, and more](#)
- [Presidential Candidate Comparison](#)
- Congressional Candidate Comparisons (*coming soon!*)

Toolkits and Guides

- [Voter Action Plan Checklist](#)
- [Relational Voting Worksheet](#)
- [Catholic Guide to Project 2025](#)
- [Vote Our Future Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Race Class Narrative Toolkit + Video on Race Class Narrative Messaging](#)
- [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](#)

Other Resources

- [Vote Our Future online store](#)
- [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 ways of living the Gospel 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





820 First Street NE Suite 350
Washington, DC 20002
202-347-9797 (main)

www.nunsonthebus.org

