

Notes



2018 Election Checklist
A Questionnaire for Candidates
Seeking Election

Name of Candidate: _____

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Electing Candidates Committed to Positively Transforming the Lives of Women, Girls and Families

We come to you this month with a different format for our Action Alert in preparation for this year's elections. We have provided below a "2018 Candidate Checklist: A Questionnaire for Candidates Seeking Election" for you to use while following this year's election.

Across the country and around the world, climate justice, economic inequality, maternal and child health and mass incarceration challenge the social power and self-determination of women and girls. The need for change is obvious. Through our vote we can change the policies that negatively affect the well-being and status of women and girls across the country and around the globe.

While 2018 is not a Presidential election year, there are many other races coming up at the federal, state and local level, including:

- **All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives**
- **One-third of all U.S. Senators**
- **Thirty-six state governors and three U.S. territory governors**
- **328 city mayors**

The 2018 state elections will impact the redistricting that comes after the 2020 United States Census. In many instances, it will be governors and state legislators who draw new boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts. Over 300 federal programs, worth over \$600 billion dollars, use census-generated figures to decide the allocation of federal funds. Census data also determines the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. For more information, go to: unitedmethodistwomen.org/election2018

We hope that these questions will help you gauge whether your candidate is committed to attaining equality, justice and fairness for those in society who are often left at a disadvantage.

**"My vote is my voice... and the voice of all who
have struggled, so that I may have my voice."**

*******ACTION*******

The Checklist can be used by taking the following suggested Actions: (Please keep in mind that all candidates should be asked to explain his/her support or opposition to an issue.)

- Organize a candidate forum and directly pose questions to candidates.
- Monitor community or nationally televised debates and note candidates' responses.
- Attend a town hall meeting and ask questions from the Checklist.
- Distribute copies of the Checklist to your district and local counterparts for use as bulletin and table handouts or for use in Legislative Event packets.
- Assess the election outcome. Convene a discussion group to determine how the "winner's" views compared with issues you or your Conference support.
- Convene a community dialogue around one of the categories on the Checklist. Reach a consensus on your point of view; schedule a meeting with your elected official to discuss the outcome of your dialogue.

2018 Election Guide

Maternal/Child Health	Support	Oppose
The U.S. is the only developed nation in the world with alarmingly high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Do you support or oppose legislation that would raise the standards of prenatal, postpartum and obstetric care and address the health disparities in certain communities? ¹		
Do you support or oppose paid family leave?		
Do you support or oppose increasing Title X funding to make reproductive health care more accessible for women, especially for women of color?		
Do you support or oppose expanding legislation to combat violence against women and children, in areas such as domestic violence and human trafficking? ²		
Multitudes of women across the world die each year from pregnancy complications that, many times, were easily preventable. Do you support or oppose the use of U.S. foreign assistance and diplomacy in order to improve maternal healthcare and education in afflicted countries? ³		

Immigration and Civil Rights	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose protecting immigrant families from fear of separation and deportation?		
Do you support or oppose protecting young, undocumented immigrants, by reinstating the DACA and DREAM Acts?		
Do you support or oppose the protection of “sanctuary cities,” whose policies allow protection from U.S. Customs and Immigration Law Enforcement?		
Do you support or oppose the policies that narrow qualifications for those seeking asylum; for example, by denying protected status to those who flee countries with domestic and gang violence? ⁴		
Do you support or oppose the U.S. dramatically lowering the intake of refugees from 85,000 to only 45,000/year?		
Do you support or oppose legislation that would set in place clear, working condition standards and living wages for companies that employ migrant workers?		
Do you support or oppose legislation that extends, rather than constricts, voting rights; for example, by promoting voter accessibility and flexible registry? ⁵		

¹ Momma’s Act; H.R.5977 and Maternal Health Accountability Act; S. 112

² Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act; H.R. 2670
Domestic Violence Loophole Closure Act; S. 2094

³ HER Act; H.R. 671

⁴ Securing America’s Future Act; H.R. 4760

⁵ FAST Voting Act of 2017; H.R. 4398

Economic Inequality	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose tax reform that requires those making over \$1 million/year, as well as corporations, to pay their fair share, in addition to closing loopholes that enable companies to keep their earnings offshore and avoid paying taxes?		
Women earn about 80.5 cents for every dollar men earn, according to Census data. What will you do to address the gender pay gap? ¹		
Do you support or oppose legislation to expand unemployment coverage to provide economic security to those who are involuntarily terminated?		
Do you support or oppose the Raise the Wage Act of 2017, in which the federal minimum wage would be increased from \$7.25/hr to \$15/hr over the span of six years? ²		
Do you support or oppose strengthening the Affordable Health Care Act to guarantee tax-free, employer-sponsored health care, with a tax break for families and individuals who purchase health insurance policies; and insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions?		
Do you support or oppose the preservation and protection of Social Security benefits for seniors?		
Do you support Medicaid expansion at the state level to extend the program to millions?		

¹ H.R. 1869 and S. 819

² H.R. 15 and S. 1242

Economic Inequality	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose increasing aide and grant funding, in order that low-skill workers can obtain required education/licensure to be economic mobile?		

Criminal Justice Reform	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose reforming the juvenile justice system, by using less confinement based procedures, and instead, implementing programs centered around healthy, youth development?		
Do you support or oppose legislation that creates an avenue for non-violent offenders to attain an early release? ³		
Do you support or oppose allocated funding for restorative programs, such as in-prison education and mental health treatment, to reduce recidivism rates?		
Do you support or oppose reducing minimum and maximum sentencing to lower the rates of recidivism after a convict is released?		
Do you support or oppose ongoing efforts to reduce the number of people incarcerated in federal prisons and to address racial disparities within the federal prison system?		

³Federal Prison Review Act, H.R. 64

Criminal Justice Reform	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose eliminating the valid court order exception for status offenses as part of comprehensive juvenile justice reform?		
Amongst the reports of overcrowding, agent misconduct and other inhumane conditions, do you support or oppose current Department of Homeland Security, detention facilities?		

Climate Justice	Support	Oppose
Recently, we've seen several states and institutions take on carbon neutrality plans, which would greatly reduce carbon emissions over a set period of time. Would you support or oppose such a plan for this city/state/country?		
How will you address methane emissions and the negative health impact fracking is having on women and children in the U.S.?		
Do you support or oppose the U.S .withdrawal from the Paris Agreement? Do you support or oppose policies and efforts, by state and local governments, to help the U.S. achieve and go beyond what once was its commitment to the rest of world?		
Will you support initiatives to protect our air, water, and land and ensure that the responsible agencies have the resources they need to enforce environmental protections?		

Climate Justice	Support	Oppose
States such as Idaho and New Mexico have cut climate education from the K-12 curriculum. Do you support or oppose requiring climate science education for our youth?		
Do you support or oppose the maintenance and preservation of our national parks?		
Do you support or oppose a renewable energy standard (RES), which would require industries to source a mandated amount energy from solar, wind, geothermal and biomass resources?		

Poverty and Family Well-being	Support	Oppose
What do you consider core elements of an affordable housing and homelessness reduction strategy?		
Do you support or oppose protecting basic needs programs that help low-income people with necessities of food, housing and income assistance?		
Do you support or oppose a national drug coverage plan that is public, affordable and safe?		
Do you support or oppose increasing work requirements in order to receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, without increased funding for job training and education?		
What are your plans to address America's growing long-term care crisis for families?		

Poverty and Family Well-being	Support	Oppose
Do you accept that most low-income parents can't afford the child care they need to go to work? Do you have a plan to make quality child care affordable for all families?		
Do you have a plan to create affordable housing where jobs are located and reliable public transit so people can access opportunities?		
What policies do you support to help reduce rural poverty?		
What is your plan to reduce poverty for people with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities and others facing multiple forms of discrimination?		
What can you do to promote gender equality in support of our national security and foreign policy aims?		

Education and Workforce Development	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose policies aimed at addressing the student loan crisis in this country?		
Do you support or oppose policies, such as banning bump stocks and increasing the minimum age to purchase firearms in order to proactively address school violence?		
What is your plan to invest in schools in marginalized communities made up primarily of people of color, so that the outcomes of the students in those schools are the same as in wealthier, predominantly white neighborhoods?		
Do you support or oppose legislation that would arm school personnel?		

Education and Workforce Development	Support	Oppose
Do you support or oppose establishing a cap on tuition increases and the number of out-of-state students in order to make public college more affordable?		
Do you support or oppose K-12 public education?		
Do you support or oppose increasing educator's wages and elevating their professional status in the eyes of the community?		
Do you support or oppose extending the instruction period for students in early childhood education in order to increase their "school-readiness?"		
Do you support or oppose efforts, such as the use of federal school discipline guidance, to monitor and address racial disparities in school discipline at all levels (suspensions, expulsions, school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals)?		
Do you support or oppose business and education partnerships to foster employment innovations?		
Should the U.S. pursue unilateral/multi-lateral trade agreements?		
Do you support or oppose making community colleges tuition free?		
How would you explain the necessity of U.S. engagement with the world in terms that matter to the American people?		