



**United Methodist Church - North Carolina Conference
Board of Church and Society**



Voters Guide for Federal and State Elections

This guide is designed around the Social Principles of the UMC. Its intent is to provide UMC members with a benchmark to assess all candidates for Federal and NC State elections and their voting records or public policy and social policy positions against the similar positions taken by the UMC as described in the Book of Resolutions and the Social Principles (SP).

* This guide lays out a summary of some resolutions and positions in the structured order of the Book of Resolutions and Social Principles. **It will cover only those issues that are currently factors in this election cycle.**

* Gather information about all candidates and their public policy positions and compare them with the summary descriptions. <http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

* Go to www.votesmart.org and <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/NC> for positions of elected representatives. Go to the websites of new candidates for their positions on issues.

* Add the names of the candidates in the columns provided and simply mark with a check mark if the positions of the candidate is similar to that in the Social Principles or with an X if it does not.

* Decide which candidate more closely aligns with UMC Social Principle. **Ask, which candidate best reflects the spirit and intent of the Social Principles.**

* Ideally as a UMC member you would seek to vote for candidates who reflect positions similar to the Biblical and Gospel narrative and of the UMC's position on public policy issues.

THE NATURAL WORLD	NAME	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C
Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants -- Supports improved EPA and State natural resources protection and protect water resources; prevent pollution; forest preservation; supports the reduction of chemical pollution in agriculture; endorses efforts to protect and restore natural eco-systems; is against efforts to dilute or reduce EPA regulations and enforcement.				
Energy Resources Utilization -- Supports the utilization of renewable energy resources, and stands against the further use of carbon based non-renewable resources like coal. Does not support the use of nuclear energy.				
Global Climate Stewardship -- Supports international agreements on climate change; seeks to deploy all efforts to reduce "green house gasses". Supports greater efforts to protect the NC coastline from rising water levels.				
Space -- Rejects and opposes any nation's efforts to weaponize space, including the recent announcement by the USA to create a "Space Force".				
Science and Technology -- Supports scientific study that provides facts used to describe climate change, the protection of species and the environment, and opposes arguments that deny the role of science in describing environmental activity.				
THE NURTURING COMMUNITY				
Culture and Identity -- Supports the acceptance of all diverse cultures to ensure societal acceptance of diversity. Opposes statements that inflame hatred and cultural discrimination.				
Family/family violence and abuse -- Supports the creation of social services to assist families to improve family life, plus provide services to family members who are victims of abuse. Supports increased funding to institutions providing these services.				
Women and Men -- Supports the equality of men and women in all aspects of daily life such as work and compensation practices, social relationships and public life. Supports the creation of enforceable law that protects these rights.				

	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C
Human sexuality, sexual abuse harassment and assault -- Supports laws that protect the civil rights of everyone regardless of their sexual orientation. Supports efforts to eliminate all forms of sexual assault, abuse and harassment, including creating public policy and law to prevent all forms of sexual harassment.			
Bullying -- Supports legal and child management practices in schools to eliminate all forms of intimidation and bullying. Advocate for improved social services in schools to coach, advise, and mentor teachers, administrators parents and children in ways to eliminate this form of abuse. Opposes political name calling and verbal bullying by politicians. Promotes civility and respectful political behavior.			
THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY			
Human Rights -- In general, the UMC affirms the civil and human rights of all people regardless of the race, ethnicity, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, economic status and social status. In so doing it affirms candidates who seek to prevent any law that discriminates against any person or that seeks to reduce any societal benefit because of these factors. The presence of public symbols that support past discriminatory practices should be removed to prevent their use as points of honor and adoration. Affirmative action to right long standing elements of discrimination in employment, education, social services and public life should be affirmed and continued.			
Rights of Immigrants -- Advocates for a just and fair Immigration system that enhances economic growth, creates economic opportunity for everyone and unites families. Advocates for more, not less immigration of skilled people to address the growing shortage of skills to enable all of the country's business, academic and public service institutions to remain competitive. Addresses the growing issue of undocumented immigrants in a fair and just way, particularly for families born in the USA, by advocating for DACA to be made law. Advocates against the indiscriminate arrest and deportation of law abiding undocumented immigrants and provide a legitimate path to citizenship. Advocates for improved immigration services to address the growing backlog of cases under review. Advocates for a more humane and empathetic approach to refugees and asylum seekers. Resists the growing hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers. Rejects the separation of children from their parents. Calls for the elimination of Detention Centers.			
Right to Health Care- HIV /AIDS; Mental Health-- Supports the creation of law and practice that provides every person with equal access to all forms of health care at a cost that is affordable for even the lowest paid person. Candidates who seek to reduce or eliminate such access or the provision of health care services are NOT preferred. Enhance health care research, mental health services, public health services, and other societal health practices. Candidates who see health care as a basic human right are preferred. Protects social and health care services like Food Stamps and Medicaid for NC children. Supports extending Medicaid under the ACA in NC. Resist and advocate against the reduction of retirement and medical benefits in all public institutions by Federal and State legislatures.			
THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY			
Work and Leisure -- Supports living wage, job creation, social measures to protect safety, leisure time, equitable pay and division of resources; support education; workers rights; anti-monopolies. Supports "Just Cause" employment practices. Supports the call for a livable minimum wage of \$15/hour			
Consumption -- Supports environmentally responsible production and consumption; anti-worker exploitation of any type; promotes Fair Trade Certified goods; living wages; quality of life takes precedence over higher productivity; stand against harmful economic, social and ecological practices.			
Foreign Workers -- Ensures that foreign workers enjoy economic, educational, social benefits and employment protections as enjoyed by other citizens			
Corporate Responsibility -- Support transparent reporting of corporations' impact on workers, suppliers, vendors, customers, the communities in which they do business, and the earth.			
Finance -- Supports banking regulations that prevent usurious interest; require lending institutions to be transparent with customers re: interest rates, fees and terms. Is against current administration policy of reducing consumer protection laws. Is against the introduction of Pay day lending in NC. Supports government financial decisions based foremost on obligations that promote the wellbeing of society such as the funding of schools and other opportunities that foster the growth of the individual, as well as agencies that care for the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and the disenfranchised.			

Trade and Investment --Supports free trade agreements. Rejects the imposition of retaliatory tariffs that start trade wars. Works to reduce budget deficits and to live within the government's means.	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C
THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY			
Basic Freedoms and Human Rights -- Protection of basic human rights- freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, communications media, petition for redress of grievances w/out fear of reprisal; right to privacy and guarantee of adequate food, clothing, shelter, education and health care. Reject domestic and foreign policies that endangers these rights for any peoples. Supports the right of individuals to peaceful non-violent dissent of unjust laws when acting under conscience and after exhausting all legal recourse.			
Church and State Relations -- Supports separation of church and state; Against prayer or worship in public schools. Should not promote particular religious belief that discriminates or is prejudicial to any person or group.			
Education --Supports free public education for all K-12 children. Supports higher funding for all NC public schools, removal of all school segregation strategies; committed to higher teacher salaries. Rejects the siphoning of funds from public schools over to charter and private schools. Committed to removing financial barriers to church-related and other independent institutions of higher education. Supports the right for public and independent colleges and universities to exist, and edorses public policies that ensure access and choice and do not jeopardize separation of church and state. Supports academic freedom for all members of the academic community.			
Criminal and Restorative Justice -- Supports government measures designed to reduce and eliminate crime within the rule of law. Reject any and all careless, callous, or discriminatory enforcement of law and decry the use of law enfocement measures used for the purpose of revenge, persecution or intimidation for those whose race, appearance, lifestyle, economic condition or beliefs differ from those in authority. Rejects all court fees and incarceration resulting from non-payment of court fees which discriminate against the poor.			
NC Constitutional Amendment proposals-- Following a review of all six proposals, giving consideration to their impact on good government, equity and potential future societal needs, it is recommended that these proposals be rejected .			
THE WORLD COMMUNITY.			
Nations and Cultures -- Works through foreign policies to hold all nations accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders and stands for justice and peace in every nation.			
National Power and Responsibility -- Supports efforts to develop a more just international economic order in which limited resources of the earth will be used to the maximum benefit of all nations and peoples. Supports adherence to international human rights agreements.			
War and Peace -- Rejects war as an instrument of national foreign policy and works to challenge and stop militarization of societies. Believes the manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled. Condemns the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons. Endorses general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.			
Justice and Law -- Endorses the United Nations and related bodies, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Rejects the recent move to withdraw from the ICC and other international institutions. Advocates for more aggressive role in the development of international arbitration of disputes and actual conflicts among nations by developing binding third-party arbitration.			
Total Checks and Crosses			
My Decision or Choice.			