

## WHY IT MATTERS

Religion continues to play a prominent role in American politics. Preserving the boundary between religion and government is more vital than ever.

Candidates use the language of faith to advance their own partisan interests; in the process, they often marginalize religious minorities and emphasize their beliefs as the only truth.

## FIVE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE



**INTERFAITH  
ALLIANCE**  
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM



## WHAT TO ASK...

1. How will your faith or values influence your views on public policy?
2. What do you believe are the proper boundaries between religion and government?
3. How will you protect the rights of your constituents, regardless of their faith or beliefs?
4. How will you balance the principles of your faith and your obligation to defend the Constitution, particularly if the two come into conflict?
5. Is it appropriate for a candidate to assert personal religious beliefs on the campaign trail?

**ASK** questions, **LISTEN** to what candidates say, **EVALUATE** what you hear, **SHARE** what you learn. **AND ABOVE ALL – VOTE!**

**#VOTE2020**

**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR...**

1. Will the candidate protect religious liberty for everyone?
2. Does the candidate share your views on how to protect the boundaries between religion and government?
3. The Constitution guarantees freedom of belief for everyone. Will the candidate respect

- and represent all his or her constituents equally?
4. Conflicts in personal values are inevitable. Has the candidate carefully considered how to navigate this inevitable situation?
  5. Is the candidate talking about his or her faith from a biographical perspective or is he or she suggesting you should vote for them because of it?

**#VOTE2020****HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We rely on our members and activists to help us monitor the use of religion on the campaign trail. If you hear, read or witness any abuse of religion in federal, state or local elections – whether by campaign representatives or the candidates themselves – please let us know by visiting [interfaithalliance.org/elections](http://interfaithalliance.org/elections) and filling out an “Eye on the Election” report. Please also consider making a donation to Interfaith Alliance to support our work.

**ABOUT US**

Interfaith Alliance is the only national interfaith organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of both religion and democracy in America. We stand for faith *and* freedom. We respect the inherent rights of all individuals, protect vital boundaries between religion and government and unite people to challenge ignorance and intolerance.

2101 L St, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20037  
TEL: 202.466.0567 WEB: [interfaithalliance.org](http://interfaithalliance.org) TWITTER: @intrfthalliance