



In a healthy democracy, respect is shown for the religious freedom and beliefs of every person. However, in our country today, religion is often used to divide and—more disturbingly—as a means to take away the rights of other people. In our pluralistic democracy, it is critical that those running for public office model how best to integrate their faith with their responsibility to all people, if elected.

The **Faith & Democracy Caucus Project** of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund explores the important issues around religious freedom and how the faith and beliefs of candidates would inform their policy decisions. The answers below were provided and approved by the candidate listed and the content was not edited in any manner. We encourage voters to consider the responses of all the candidates and follow up with each candidate to foster positive conversation on these critical issues.

.....**SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN**.....



1. Should candidates share their personal religious beliefs when running for public office?

It's not up to me to decide what candidates running for office should share or shouldn't share. But for me personally, my faith animates my life. I grew up in the Methodist Church out in Oklahoma - a witnessing tradition. Faith was a part of who we were as a family growing up. Later, as a Sunday School teacher I learned that there is value in every human being, every single human being. I also believe that we are called on to act to protect and fight for that value. My faith is a big part of why I'm in

this fight.

2. How will your faith or values influence your views on public policy?

I believe in the worth of every single human being. The story for me is Matthew 25 and it reminds me of two things that guide me every day. First, there is God and there is value in every single human being. Second, the Lord calls on us to act. We are not called on to simply observe. We're not called to just have a good heart. We are called on to act. To feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, to visit the imprisoned. We act not for reward or praise, we act because it is right. We act to protect the most vulnerable.

When I am president, we'll answer the call to act as a nation together. No vague ideas or empty promises. We will fight for real plans that will make real changes in our lives and our



communities -- and do it with moral clarity and courage.

Powerful forces will deploy every resource and use every trick to stand against us, to turn us against each other. But in these times of struggle, I often turn to scripture for inspiration, to keep the faith and stay in the fight.

3. What are the proper boundaries between religion and government?

Separation of church and state means it is important and it is truly American for each person to be able to exercise their religion freely and worship as they want. But this constitutional right should not be turned into a weapon to trample on people's rights. I believe what makes our country great is that people are free to choose their religion or to choose no religion at all but they don't get to use that to keep others from their rights.

4. How will you protect the rights of people, especially the rights of those in the minority?

Every person should be able to practice their faith or not practice any faith at all freely and without fear. Everyone should be able to seek asylum in our country without being ripped apart from their families. Everyone should be able to get a high-quality education, cast their ballot, and build a secure future. I believe we need to talk about what our plans are and build a grassroots movement to win and make change.

We do this by making it clear that we're fighting for child care for all of our babies, for real money for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, for leveling the playing field so that we can support another generation of Black and minority leaders in this country. I will use every tool available to ensure our government, our economy, and our democracy works for every person.

5. How will you balance the principles of your faith or beliefs with your obligation to defend the Constitution, particularly if the two come into conflict?

I believe in separation of church and state. As president, I will take an oath to preserve, defend, and protect the Constitution of the United States. But what I do will be guided by my belief that there is worth in every person and it will be my job to stand up for the American people.

6. How would you seek to balance the conflicting religious and civil rights of citizens?

My faith drives what I do but I do not believe religion should ever be used to take away rights from others.

7. How would you reduce the influence of politics from our federal courts and make them less partisan?

I've proposed the biggest anti-corruption bill since Watergate. It's an aggressive set of reforms that would fundamentally change the way Washington does business – including restoring faith that ordinary people can get a fair shake in our courts. That means strengthening the code of conduct for federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, so they can't engage in stock

trading, get paid by corporations to attend events, receive gifts for giving speeches, or go on fancy hunting trips and lavish getaways funded by billionaires. Federal judges and Supreme Court justices should also be committed to increasing transparency. Americans should be able to easily see what is happening in the judicial process, public filings should be more easily accessible and free online, and Supreme Court proceedings should be audio live-streamed. We need federal judges who will defend equal justice for everyone, and I'll fight with every bone in my body for courts that are fair, equal, and just for all.

8. Should public funds be used for private educational choices at the K-12 level? If so, name the specific ways.

No.

9. How would you protect a woman's right to reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptive choices?

I have called on Congress to pass new federal laws that protect access to reproductive care from right-wing ideologues in the states. Federal laws that ensure real access to birth control and abortion care for all women. Federal laws that will stand no matter what the Supreme Court does. We must create federal, statutory rights that parallel the constitutional right to Roe v. Wade. We must pass federal laws to preempt state efforts that functionally limit access to reproductive health care. We must guarantee reproductive health coverage as part of all health coverage. And we must ensure equal access and reproductive justice, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment, ending President Trump's gag rule, and fully supporting Title X funding. You can read more about my plan to protect choice here:

<https://medium.com/@teamwarren/congressional-action-to-protect-choice-aaf94ed25fb5>

10. What priority actions would you take in addressing the immigration crisis at the southern border?

I have a plan to create big structural change in our immigration system: to create a fair immigration system that preserves our security, grows our economy, and reflects our values. One that's good for immigrants, good for workers, and ultimately good for America. It decriminalizes migration and refocuses enforcement on serious criminal activity so mothers aren't separated from their babies after fleeing for their lives. It significantly reduces immigration detention, enforces strict standards for remaining detention facilities, and ends ICE contracts with private detention facilities. It rejects exclusionary policies based on race, religion, and nationality, raises the refugee cap, reinstates TPS and DED protections, protects asylum-seekers, and increases foreign aid to address the root causes of migration. It reinstates DACA protection for Dreamers and their families and expands the program. It also provides a fair and achievable path to citizenship and expands legal immigration.

11. How would you promote civility and civil dialogue in the public debate of issues that are dividing our nation?

I have three brothers. Only one is a Democrat. There are things we don't agree on right now, but at the end of the day, there's actually a lot that we do agree on. All four of us care about our kids and want them to have health care. We all want all of our kids to be able to get an

education without getting crushed by student loan debt. We all want all of our kids, starting from the littlest kids, to have decent child care and early learning so they could all do just as well as they possibly can. We all want to see decent roads and bridges. We all want to see us invest in a 21st century infrastructure that keeps jobs here in America. And even my most conservative brother is getting worried about climate change.

So here's the deal as I see it. We got a job to do and that is to make the case not just to a few people, not just to a narrow group, but to make that case to everyone about how it is that we can come together and we can fight for the things -- the values that we all believe in.

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa & Action Fund is grateful for the opportunity to provide the candidate responses to our Faith & Democracy questionnaire. This effort is solely meant as a tool to educate voters on the candidates' positions on these important issues. In no way is the publication of any candidate response to be seen as an endorsement of their candidacy for public office.

