

As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbours, seek justice, and care for the common good. One way we live out that calling is by participating in the life of our community. As a local election approaches on Monday October 26th, we encourage everyone to learn, listen, and vote. Municipal decisions affect many aspects of daily life, including parks and recreation, libraries, transportation, housing, fire protection, public health, water and sewer, waste management, and land-use planning.

Across our municipalities, there are candidates who have chosen to put their names on the ballot and offer their time, experience, and energy in service of the common good. They are stepping forward at a time when online misinformation, polarization, and declining public trust can make public service particularly challenging. Those who enter public life deserve respect, listened to with care, and considered thoughtfully. A healthy democracy depends not only on participation, but also on the dignity we extend to those willing to serve.

And yet as a people of faith we have concerns: the care of the poor, affordable housing, the environment, and other needs we see clearly in our community. Participating in local democracy invites us to bring our values, questions, and hopes for our community into the public square. It is an opportunity to consider the needs of our neighbours, especially those whose voices or circumstances may be overlooked, and to thoughtfully discern how we can contribute to a more just, compassionate, and flourishing community.

*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8

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