

# Engaging Faithfully for the **COMMON GOOD**

## Useful Links:

[povertyinstitute.ca](http://povertyinstitute.ca) • [cpj.ca/2025-federal-election/](http://cpj.ca/2025-federal-election/) • [ottawacampuschaplaincy.org](http://ottawacampuschaplaincy.org) •  
[cpj.ca/justicenews/](http://cpj.ca/justicenews/) • [scmcanada.org/get-involved/local-units/](http://scmcanada.org/get-involved/local-units/)

## Presented by:

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# DISCUSSION LEADER'S GUIDE

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## Introductions

- It's always good to start with a quick round of intros. Even on Zoom when folks have their names on the screen, this allows everyone to model the correct pronunciation of their name, as well as share pronouns.
- Inviting participants to answer a simple question as part of the intro can also be a good way to break the ice and start the conversation. A good intro question for this event might be "what brought you here tonight? What are you hoping to learn or get out of it?"
- In a zoom room, it may help to have the facilitator invite people one by one to introduce themselves, or have each person invite someone to go next once they've finished their introduction.

## Keeping the Conversation Flowing

- If a question doesn't elicit immediate responses, that's okay! Give participants long enough to think for a moment - at least 30 seconds. If it still doesn't seem to provoke discussion, it's okay to move on to a different question.
- If you get a sense that the group is shy, or the conversation is being dominated by one or two outgoing participants, you can try asking a question and giving each participant a chance to answer (or pass) in turn to get the conversation started
- If the discussion is really being dominated by one voice and you notice there are others who look like they might want a chance to speak, don't be afraid of politely interrupting that participant with something like "I think [name] also has something to say and we haven't heard from them yet" or "I just want us to pause for a moment and see if anyone who hasn't had a chance to speak yet wanted to add something"

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION\*

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- What are the prevailing emotions for you surrounding this election? (Hope, fear, resignation, ambivalence, etc) What about for the people in your circles?
- How does your faith inform how you approach partisan politics/participating in voting? Does it?
- What struck you most about the presentations tonight? Was there anything that illuminated something for you, or shifted your perspective?
- What are your hopes for the future of your community? How much do you think this election will impact whether those hopes are realized?

*\*Don't feel that you need to cover all of these. Feel free to let the conversation move organically, and also to add questions of your own, or let participants post questions to the group! These are just meant to help give you a starting point*