

The question I am posing is as follows:
Should The Clergy Letter Project endorse the Harris/Walz campaign for president?

Let me make a number of points:

*The Clergy Letter Project has never registered as a 501(c)(4) entity so there is no legal restriction from it making a political endorsement.

*The Clergy Letter Project was formed for the express purpose of promoting a deeper understanding of the relationship between religion and science so making an endorsement in this political campaign might be seen by some as unnecessarily expanding our mandate while, at the same time, being at odds with the political beliefs of some members.

*The Clergy Letter Project was formed to promote a broader and more nuanced respect for science and the Trump/Vance campaign has, in many ways, attacked science.

*The Clergy Letter Project was formed to promote a broader and more nuanced respect for religion while the Trump/Vance campaign has both implicitly and explicitly promoted one very narrow view of religion, Christian Nationalism.

*The Clergy Letter Project has taken a very clear position on the dangers of climate change while the Trump/Vance campaign has completely dismissed such concerns.

*The Clergy Letter Project has been very clear about the importance of recognizing and promoting truth while the Trump/Vance campaign has made a mockery of truth.

*The Clergy Letter Project has, since its inception, stood for respect for differing opinions and recognized the importance of promoting civil discourse about complex issues while the Trump/Vance campaign is not in favor of either of these values.

*The Clergy Letter Project has spoken out forcefully, on both religious and scientific grounds, about how all human beings are worthy of respect and fair treatment while the Trump/Vance campaign regularly takes positions in opposition to this perspective.

*The Harris/Walz campaign's positions on all of the above points are congruent with that of The Clergy Letter Project.

Because I believe that the upcoming presidential election might well be a watershed moment for the United States and because I believe that the positions of one campaign is aligned with the values of The Clergy Letter Project while the other is diametrically opposed to all we stand for, it makes sense for The Clergy Letter Project to speak out publicly. But, regardless of my personal opinion, it is up to the membership of The Clergy Letter Project to decide how to act. It is for that reason that I am asking for you to vote on whether or not we should make an endorsement in this race.

Let me add two important, additional points. First, because this is a large decision, I think it appropriate for us to act only if a significant majority of those voting want to do so. The Clergy Letter Project will, therefore, make a public endorsement only if at least two-thirds of those voting wish us to do so. Second, although I personally am in favor of making an endorsement, I respect the opinions of all who vote and urge all to vote as they think appropriate.

So, please return this note to me with your vote by 25 September. (I've asked for additional information from those voting "no" simply to gain a fuller perspective on what members think.)

Should The Clergy Letter Project Endorse the Harris/Walz presidential campaign:

_____ Yes, we should make an endorsement.

_____ No, we should refrain from making an endorsement

_____ because doing so goes beyond the mission of The Clergy Letter Project;

_____ because I am not in favor of the Harris/Walz campaign;

_____ for some other reason (please feel free to specify what that might be)