

Many persons are unsettled about the problems facing our country, and our government's seeming inability or unwillingness to effectively deal with them. Populist groups from the Tea Party on the right to Wall Street protesters and the October2011 Movement on the left, represent grassroots efforts to pressure our government to action.

Recently a friend referred me to the website of the October2011 Movement, where fifteen core issues facing our country are outlined, as identified by their steering committee.

You may not agree on all fifteen items. I do not see this as an endorsement of either the Democratic or the Republican Parties. But I do believe that many of these items are truly justice issues. You are invited to consider them, and respond as led.

Many Christians believe that the church should not be active in politics. But as author Robin Meyers points out, by being silent we are in essence voting for the status quo.

For more information, you can read about [where the majority of people in American stand on the issues.](#)

1. **Corporatism**—Firmly establish that money is not speech, corporations are not people, and only people have constitutional rights. End corporate influence over the political process. Protect people and the environment from damage by corporations.
2. **Wars and Militarism**—End wars and occupations. End private for-profit military contractors. Reduce the national security state and end the weapons export industry. War crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace must be addressed and those responsible held accountable under international law.
3. **Human Rights**—End exploitation of people in the U.S. and abroad. End discrimination in all forms, with equal civil rights and due process for all people.
4. **Worker Rights and Jobs**—All working-age people have the right to safe, just, non-discriminatory and dignified working conditions, a sustainable living wage, paid leave and economic protection.
5. **Government**—All processes of the three branches of government should be accountable to international law, transparent and follow the rule of law. People have the right to participate in decisions which affect them.

6. **Elections**—All citizens 18 and older have the right to vote without barriers. All candidates have the right to be heard and to run, and all votes should be counted.
7. **Criminal Justice and Prisons**—End private for-profit prisons. Adopt evidence-based drug policy. Prisoners have the right to humane and just conditions with a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration into society; abolish the death penalty.
8. **Health Care**—Create a national, universal and publicly-financed comprehensive health system.
9. **Education**—All people have the right to a high-quality, publicly-funded and broad education from preschool through vocational training or university.
10. **Housing**—All people have the right to affordable and safe housing.
11. **Environment**—Adopt policies which effectively create a carbon-free and radioactive free energy economy and that respect the rights of nature.
12. **Finance and the Economy**—End policies which foster a wealth divide and move to a localized and democratic financial system. Reform taxes so that they are progressive and provide goods, monetary gain and services for the people.
13. **Media**—Airwaves and the Internet are public goods. Require that the media be honest, accurate and accountable to the people.
14. **Food and Water**—Create systems that protect the land and water. Create local and sustainable food networks and practices.
15. **Transportation**—Provide affordable, clean and convenient public transportation and safe spaces for pedestrian and non-automobile travel.