

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

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2024 Candidates Asked to Sign Death Penalty Action Pledge to State Their Positions

Spokespeople Available Outside Debate Starting at 6pm CDT

Milwaukee - On the eve of the first Republican Presidential debate in Milwaukee, Death Penalty Action, the only national organization strictly focused on stopping the death penalty, launched a Candidate Pledge and tracking tool to monitor their positions on the federal and military death penalty. The organization will also seek to ensure that at least one question requiring thoughtful responses related to the death penalty and related criminal justice matters is posed by the debate moderators in each debate. The project is non-partisan and will continue until the 2024 election is complete.

Members of Death Penalty Action will be available for media outside the debate this evening starting at 6pm CDT.

The tracker can be found at: <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/2024candidatepositions/>

"The death penalty is an easy 'hot button' issue for a sound bite, but voters want real answers that demonstrate a candidate truly understands the issues," said Abraham Bonowitz, Death Penalty Action executive director. "As we develop the record on each candidate over the coming months, our questions will shift to allow candidates and the electorate to truly explore this important issue."

Last month, Death Penalty Action organized the coalition of more than 400 organizations in support of the reintroduction of the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2023 reintroduced by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL).

Rev. Sharon Risher, Board Chair of Death Penalty Action who's family members were killed in the Charleston Church shooting, added "I pray that every candidate for president will be thoughtful about how they respond regarding the death penalty. My gut reaction when my mother and cousins were murdered by a racist terrorist was for vengeance, but now I understand how painful it is every time the case comes up in the news with another appeal. Throw away the key and let it be done, because the idea that any execution will help people like me heal is a hoax." The killer of Risher's family members remains on federal death row.