

The Common Compact in Ten Clauses

*We make this promise to one another as members of the same society—
a minimum agreement that makes disagreement survivable.*

I Equal Citizenship

Every person is an equal citizen in dignity and rights. We reject dehumanization, scapegoating, and second-class citizenship.

II Renounce Violence

We renounce political violence, intimidation, and threats as tools of power. Instead of coercion, we choose persuasion, lawful protest, and democratic competition.

III Equal Justice

No person and no office is above the law. No person is beneath its protection. We defend due process, equal justice, and independent courts. We reject corruption and the mentality of 'justice for my side only.'

IV Free Elections

We protect the right to vote and the integrity of elections. Even when we lose or do not like the outcome, we accept verified outcomes and uphold the peaceful transfer of power.

V Legitimate Opposition

We treat political opponents as fellow citizens and legitimate rivals, not as enemies to be destroyed, and we acknowledge that honest disagreement can make us stronger. We refuse 'traitor politics,' reject punishing lawful dissent as disloyalty, and vow to protect civic workers from intimidation and violence.

VI Truthfulness

We commit to honesty in public life: evidence over rumor, correction over doubling down, and inquiry over propaganda. We will not knowingly spread lies that poison the shared reality we need to cooperate.

VII Rights and Responsibilities

We defend core freedoms while accepting the duties of citizenship: participating in civic life, serving when called, respecting others' rights, carrying burdens fairly, and keeping commitments even when inconvenient. Rights belong to everyone; no one gets to be only a taker.

VIII Dignity of Work and Contribution

We honor contribution in all its forms including paid work, caregiving, service, learning, and building. We reject treating anyone as disposable and defend workers' right to speak up about unsafe conditions and expect fair treatment.

IX Fair Bargain

We commit to an economy where hard work yields a stable life, and where families can be raised without permanent insecurity. Without a basic floor with protection from catastrophic costs, fair rules, and a path to earn and learn, freedom becomes a trap.

X Stewardship of the Republic

We promise to leave institutions stronger than we found them. We reject 'burn it down' nihilism and choose repair: reform what is failing, conserve what is working, and keep faith with the next generation.



PRACTICING THE COMPACT

These commitments are kept alive through voting, service, building community across dividing lines, calling out our own side when it breaks the rules, and defending fair processes even when we lose.

The compact lives in small acts that compound.