



“Every Christian Votes” Project

Maximizing Voter Turnout In Your Church

OVERVIEW: **Every** American Christian who is eligible to vote does so:

- a) **By one’s absence**; Failing to vote and allowing elected officials to be chosen by those who do not share the same values, or
- b) **Thoughtlessly**; By voting out of ignorance, self-serving motivation, etc., or
- c) **By becoming informed**; Studying candidates’ positions on key issues, praying and **casting a knowledgeable vote** for candidates who most closely conform to Biblical standards of character and on the vital issues of the day.

Most pastors would agree that options A and B are *poor stewardship* and have led to ungodly, unjust and corrupt leaders being chosen, resulting in unrighteous government. *It is still an accepted statistic that less than one out of three churchgoing citizens vote in each election, a fact of which we should be ashamed.*

The **first step** we recommend is for the Pastor to **appoint a permanent Salt & Light/Citizenship Ministry director** for this ministry as described in *Christian Citizenship 101* (available at www.uspastorcouncil.org, request by emailing info@uspastorcouncil.org or by calling the HAPC office at **832-688-9166**).

“Every Christian Votes” Plan -

Note: All activities are non-partisan, non-issues specific and fully compliant with all IRS guidelines for churches with 501 (c)(3) non-profit status. For any questions regarding those guidelines you can go to www.uspastorcouncil.org or call **832-688-9166**.*

1. **Sunday, September 18 through Sunday, October 9** - include announcements from the pulpit, on projection screens, in church bulletins and using posters to promote voter registration. (materials and deputy registrar training available)
2. **Sunday, September 18 through Sunday, November 6** - set up a voter awareness table to be staffed by the Community Impact Ministry team to provide early voting information (e.g. begins October 24, ends November 4), voting locations and voter guides. (Information is available through the HAPC office)
3. **Sunday, October 2** – Participate in **Pulpit Freedom Sunday*** by endorsing a candidate for public office or opposing a candidate for public office in the Houston city elections.
4. **Sunday, October 22 through Sunday, November 6** – Announce from pulpit and through all church communications the availability of a non-partisan voter guide for the Houston city election races. A PDF file will be provided so every pastor can print, email, post on website or preferably all of the above for your congregation.
5. **Sunday, November 6** - *Preach an “Election Sermon”* as done by preceding generations of pastors, giving Scriptural and Historical basis for choosing godly leaders. (Sample sermon notes and audio tapes available)
6. **Monday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 8** - Send a broadcast e-mail and/or text broadcast to church list with a special Get-Out-The-Vote message by the Senior Pastor and links to non-partisan voter education information. (Sample Text-based and HTML format messages available)
7. **Monday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 8** - Initiate automated phone calls with a Get-Out-The-Vote script recorded by the Senior Pastor, calling through the entire church list prior to Election Day. (Sample script and automated calling support available)

**- Pulpit Freedom Sunday is a project of Alliance Defense Fund to challenge the unconstitutional restrictions on religious speech in pulpits by the existing IRS guidelines.*