



## THIS CHURCH OTES!

### Texas has an Election on March 1, 2022 – All Voters on Duty!

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

#### “This Church Votes” Plan\* - 2022 Texas Primary Election

*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](http://www.uspastorcouncil.org) or call 832-688-9166.*

**Sunday, January 9 through Sunday, January 30** - set up a VOTER REGISTRATION and INFORMATION table to be staffed by the FaithVotes Citizenship Ministry team to register all voters who are not current, have moved or have never registered; provide Early Voting information (e.g. Early Voting **begins February 14, ends February 25**), voting locations and voter guides. (Information is available at [www.faithvotes.org](http://www.faithvotes.org))

**Sunday, February 6 and Sunday, February 13** – Announce from pulpit and through all church communications the availability and convenience of **Early Voting that begins February 14 and ends February 25**. Voters in Texas will have important county, legislative and Congressional contests to vote on, so ALL voters should participate!

Voters can go to <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml> to find their voting location. Harris County voters can go directly to [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).

**Sunday, February 12** - 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)

**Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1** - Send a message via broadcast e-mail and/or text broadcast as well as on social media 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)

**Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1** - 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)

#### Four Steps of Church Voter Engagement

##### **STEP ONE: Voter PREParation – Year round**

Biblical principles and purpose of Civil Government – WHY we vote; American Christian Heritage; Our Constitutional Self-Government; How to Biblically Decide for whom to vote (i.e. political party platform comparisons)

##### **STEP TWO: Voter REGistration – Regularly and before each election**

Identify and Train a Faith Votes coordinator and Team; Schedule VR at least once a quarter and designated Sundays before each election; Keep a list of new registrants, provide special encouragement

##### **STEP THREE: Voter INFORMation – Designated Sundays before each election**

Election Dates, Deadlines and Locations – EVERY election; Voter Guides – Information about candidates’ positions on crucial issues; Party Platform Comparisons – Candidates choose a party, the principles matter!

##### **STEP FOUR: Voter ACTivation – Designated Sundays before each election**

Pulpit Fully Engaged – Calling on EVERY eligible voter to participate in EVERY election; This Church Votes! – Election Sermon prior to start of Early Voting/Election; Election Follow Up - Pray for those elected and stay involved!

## **Here are 10 reasons why Christians should vote -**

1. Voting publicly recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7; John 19:10)
2. Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)
3. It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. (Jeremiah 29:5-6)
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. (1 Timothy 2:1,2)
5. It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. (Psalms 34:14)
6. It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. (Matthew 5:13)
7. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a constitutional republic should play a part in preserving the principles of that republic.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. (Luke 10:25-37)
9. Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
10. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift. (Matthew 25:26-28)



**These and more resources are available at:**

**[www.uspastorcouncil.org](http://www.uspastorcouncil.org) – Faith Votes**