Election Protection Resources for Religious Communities

As our nation faces multiple threats to the safety and fairness of the 2020 election, religious leaders and communities can play a critical role in saving our democracy. This is a collection of resources for religious leaders and communities to take action to protect the election.

Please submit additional resources here. *Note: This is a live working document being updated daily by Sharon Groves of Auburn Seminary (sgroves@auburnseminary.org) and Maggie Siddiqi of the Center for American Progress Action Fund (msiddiqi@americanprogress.org). Please contact us with any questions or concerns.*

This toolkit is designed for faith, religious, and spirit-rooted communities that are mobilizing to protect the vote in the 2020 general election.

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I. Voter Education and Turnout

A. Voter Information

1. **Information Customized for Religious Communities**
    a. **VIDEO**: "4 Ways Religious Communities Can Ensure a Safe and Fair Election" (voter registration, mail-in voting, early voting, and poll watching). Created by the Center for American Progress.
    b. **Faithful Elections in COVID** - A voter education resources created by the Faithful Democracy coalition.
    c. **Rise + Vote Toolkit for Clergy and Congregations** - Preaching and teaching resources for faith leaders and tools for getting out the vote. Created by Faith in Action.
    d. **Five Nonpartisan Ways Religious Leaders Can Support the 2020 Election** blog post from Democracy Fund.
    e. **Voter Preparation Resources** - Voting information including a toolkit to hold voter preparation parties (virtual or in-person events) that could be adapted and

used by congregations and neighborhoods. Created by Mormon Women for Ethical Government.

2. **General Information**
    a. **Vote.org** - a resource for checking one's voter registration status, registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, and signing up to be a poll worker.
    b. **VoteSaveAmerica.org** - a resource for checking one's voter registration status, registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, and signing up to be a poll worker.
    c. **National Election Task Force on Election Crises** - Resources for policymakers, media, and the public about the role they can play in ensuring we have a free and fair election as well as a peaceful transition or continuation of power in January.
    d. **Vote Early Day** (Saturday, October 24, 2020) - A movement of nonprofits, businesses, election administrators, and creatives working to ensure all Americans know their options to vote early.

B. Get Out the Vote

1. **Phonebank** to low-income voters to help get out the vote. Organized by the Poor People's Campaign.
2. **Faithfulvoter.org** - toolkits and talking points for getting out the vote in houses of worship. Created by Faith in Public Life.
3. **Reclaim Our Vote** - a campaign of volunteers to inform and mobilize voters of color to make sure they are registered and they know how to get a ballot and vote. Focused in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Created by the Center for Common Ground.
4. **Sacred Season of Voting** - a multi-faith voter action campaign offering reflections to energize, combat fear, ground in faith and messaging/tips/resources to GOTV. Created by Faithful Democracy.

C. Spiritual Resources and Faithful Voter Scorecards

1. **VIDEO: "**May You Vote," a spiritual resource created by Auburn Seminary's Senior Fellows.
2. **"Equally Sacred" Scorecard** - a comparison of presidential candidates' positions on issues Pope Francis named "equally sacred." Created by NETWORK Lobby.

II. Resisting Voter Suppression and Intimidation

A. Know Your Rights at the Polls

1. **Fact sheets on voter intimidation for all 50 states,** including info about unlawful militia activity at the polls, voter intimidation laws, what kinds of conduct could constitute voter intimidation, and what to do if a person experiences voter intimidation. Created by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection.
2. **Overview on voter intimidation laws.** Created by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection.
3. **What to Do If You Experience Voter Intimidation.** Created by the Advancement Project.
4. **What to Do If You Encounter Voter Intimidation**. Created by the Campaign Legal Center.
5. **Call the Election Protection Hotline:**
    a. For English speakers: 866-OUR-VOTE. Voter helplines are led by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.
    b. For Spanish speakers: (888)-Ve-Y-Vota. Led by trained professionals at the NALEO Educational Fund
    c. For Asian language speakers: (888)-API-VOTE. Led by APIAVote & Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC.

B. Taking Action at the Polls

1. **Monitoring and protecting the polls:**
    a. **Faith-Based Panel on Election Security**: Thursday Oct. 15th at 11am. Sponsored by Faithful Democracy, Washington Interfaith Staff Community, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.
    b. **Building a Resiliency Network**: A toolkit for building community resilience during a contentious election cycle. Created by Faith in Public Life and Over Zero. Training webinar conducted live Thursday, October 8th, from 4:30-6 p.m. ET.
    c. **Lawyers and Collars,** a program in 9 states where clergy and lawyers team up to deter voter suppression and intimidation at the polls. Organized by Sojourners, Skinner Leadership Institute, and the National African American Clergy Network.
    d. **Turnout Sunday** - Clergy election protection webinars. Created by the Skinner Leadership Institute and the National African American Clergy Network.
    e. **Serve as a Poll Monitor** in one of 10 states. Organized by the Poor People's Campaign.
    f. **Election Defenders** - Sign up to join a campaign connecting volunteers with voters to overcome suppression, prepare to turn out on Election Day, and prepare together for whatever scenario comes next.

2. **Working/volunteering in an official capacity at the polls:**
    a. **Power the Polls** - A first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters.
    b. **Recruiting and Retaining Poll Workers** - recommendations for individuals, communities, and state and local governments on recruiting and retaining poll workers. Created by the Center for American Progress.

C. Advocating for Action from Your State or Local Government

1. "**Seven things leaders can do right now** to counter election-motivated violent extremism in 2020 and beyond." Created by the Anti-Defamation League.
2. "**Countering Election-Motivated Violent Extremism** in 2020 and Beyond: ADL's Practical Guide for State and Local Governments." Created by the Anti-Defamation League.
3. "**Guns Down At The Polls**: How States Can and Should Limit Firearms at Polling Places," an examination of the potential methods that Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin can use to protect their voters from armed intimidation and gun violence at the polls without infringing upon constitutional rights or other state laws.

III. Protecting the Results of the Election

A. Building Your Network/ Scenario Planning

1. **Preventing a Disrupted Presidential Election and Transition** - Scenario planning findings. Created by the Transition Integrity Project.
2. **Asset Mapping in Times of Crisis** - This is an asset mapping tool for congregations to use in discerning the human, infrastructural, and financial assets they have to deploy in partnership with local movements.
3. **Building a Resiliency Network**: A toolkit for building community resilience during a contentious election cycle. Created by Faith in Public Life and Over Zero. Training webinar, conducted live Thursday, October 8th, from 4:30-6 p.m. ET.

B. Resisting Disinformation

1. **National Election Task Force on Election Crises** - Resources for policymakers, media, and the public about the role they can play in ensuring we have a free and fair election as well as a peaceful transition or continuation of power in January.

2. **Digital Defenders** - a training webinar on identifying election disinformation online and pushing back against common voter suppression tactics. Organized by Auburn Seminary and the Women's March. Conducted live on October 7th at 7 pm EST.
3. **MapLight Tool for Reporting Disinformation** - The Election Deception Tracker and Text-to-Report line are intended to help users capture organized, institutional efforts that intentionally mislead people about candidates or the election, misleading information about how to participate, fake accounts that misrepresent their affiliation, and attempts at voter suppression or intimidation.
4. **Messaging Toolkit** - rapid-response messaging for building community resilience during a contentious election cycle. Created by Faith in Public Life and Over Zero.
5. **Resources to Combat Mis/Disinformation** - The section entitled "Know and Share Truth" is being continually developed with a list of resources. Created by Mormon Women for Ethical Government.