

Faithful Presence at the Polls: We Need You

This election season, there is an important role for people of faith to play—not in telling anyone **how** to vote, but in helping make sure every eligible voter can exercise that right safely and without intimidation.

Our ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* reminds us that “**political engagement ... is a means of channeling God’s love through civic participation.**” Showing up to help protect a fair and peaceful election process is one way we can practice that love of neighbor.

Clergy: We especially need you. Faiths United to Save Democracy is offering **nonpartisan Poll Chaplain/Peacekeeper training** through TurnOut Sunday. Poll Chaplains and Peacekeepers are trained to offer a calm, caring presence at polling places, help de-escalate conflict, and support voters who may feel vulnerable or intimidated. This is not campaigning for a candidate or party. It is about protecting the voting process and helping our neighbors participate freely and safely.

Texas is one of the states where Poll Chaplains and Peacekeepers are being recruited for 2026. **Please consider being trained and taking a shift at a polling location.** Learn more and register at [TurnOutSunday.com](https://turnoutsunday.com).

And lay leaders—we need you, too! Our elections depend on ordinary Texans who are willing to serve. Consider signing up with your county election office to be an **election worker, clerk, or election judge**. Poll watchers are another possibility, although in Texas they must be formally appointed and complete the required state training.

And above all: **make a plan to vote.** If you are able, consider voting on the **first day of early voting**. Voting early helps make sure an unexpected illness, work demand, family emergency, or last-minute complication doesn’t keep you from casting your ballot.

Democracy works best when all of us participate. As people of faith, we can help seek the well-being of all by voting, serving, and helping make the election process peaceful, accessible, and trustworthy for our neighbors.