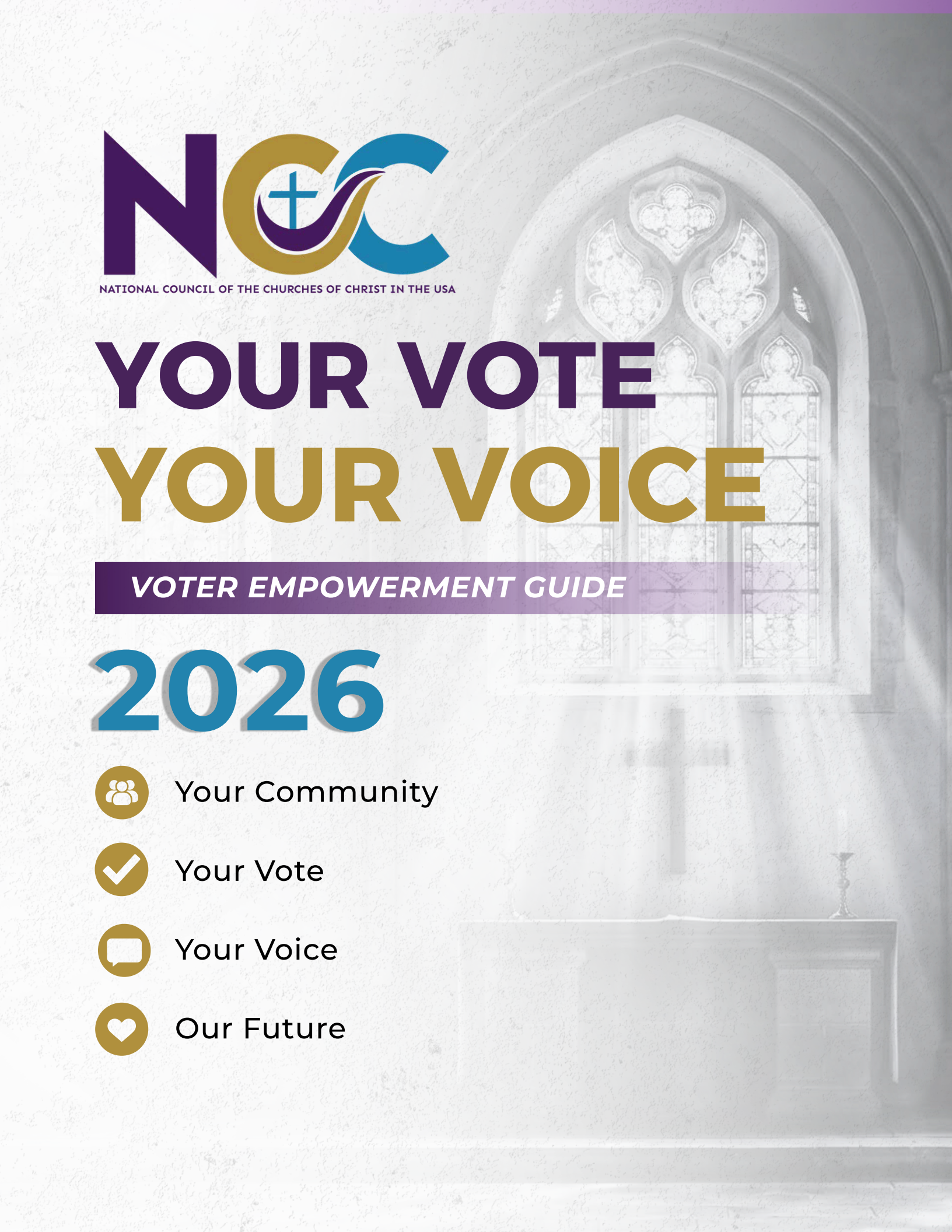


NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

YOUR VOTE
YOUR VOICE

VOTER EMPOWERMENT GUIDE

2026

- Your Community
- Your Vote
- Your Voice
- Our Future

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

#YOURVOTE
YOURVOICE

INTRODUCTION

**"DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU;
DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM YOUR GOD;
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU; I WILL HELP YOU;
I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY VICTORIOUS RIGHT HAND."
ISAIAH 41:10 (NRSVUE)**

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) joins with our member denominations to affirm that each vote is precious, just as each person is a precious child of God. Voting remains one of the most powerful nonviolent tools we have to shape a more just and representative democracy. Through voting, we help determine the future for our families, our communities, and our nation. We are stronger when more people can fully participate in civic life.

In recent years, voting laws and procedures have continued to change across the country. Many states have enacted new policies affecting voter registration, identification requirements, polling locations, and voter roll maintenance. At the federal level, proposed legislation such as the SAVE Act has introduced the possibility of new requirements for voters to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate, when registering or updating their registration. If enacted, these changes could add additional steps for many eligible voters and may require extra time and money to gather necessary documents.

Because voting rules can differ by state, county, and even local polling location, it is important for voters to stay informed and prepared. Changes to polling places, identification requirements, and registration status can affect when, where, and how people vote.

In the face of these evolving challenges, faith leaders play a vital role in supporting their communities. Congregations can serve as trusted sources of information, helping individuals understand what is required and how to prepare. By equipping people with clear, accurate guidance, faith communities can help ensure that all are able to exercise their civic responsibility and participate in the democratic process safely and fairly.

NCC'S YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE 2026 CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN CREATED WITH FOR MEMBER DENOMINATIONS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND ENCOURAGE ACTION ON THE LOCAL CHURCH LEVEL EACH MONTH UNTIL ELECTION DAY.

CHURCHES CAN PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENCOURAGING EACH VOTER TO CREATE A PLAN TO VOTE AND MAKE THEIR VOICE HEARD.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

NCC ON VOTING

NCC has advocated for voting rights and pushed for voting rights protections for decades. In 1961, The General Board of the NCC passed a resolution titled, "The Right to Vote."

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1. Commits itself to work to assure the opportunity for all citizens, regardless of race or color, to exercise their right to vote:

a) by moral suasion;

b) by social education and action;

c) by supporting public officials and government agencies in the enforcement of existing laws guaranteeing the opportunity to register and vote; and

d) by supporting, in principle, through appropriate means, additional legislation that may be necessary to guarantee to all citizens, regardless of race or color, full opportunity to register and vote.

2. Calls upon the member denominations, their churches, councils of churches, and individual Christians to work to assure all citizens, regardless of race or color, have the opportunity to register and vote.

3. Urges church groups and individual Christians

a) to discover the facts about registration and voting in their communities;

b) to develop programs such as citizenship conferences and voter's clinics to encourage all citizens to register and vote intelligently and responsibly;

c) to support and cooperate with similar programs carried on by community organizations;

e) to support persons in their efforts to register and vote in communities where the opportunities are denied or restricted because of race and color;

f) to support public officials and government agencies in the enforcement of federal and state laws that protect the right to register and vote;

g) to support the enactment of additional federal and state legislation necessary to guarantee the franchise to all citizens."

Excerpt from Resolution THE RIGHT TO VOTE approved by the General Board of the National Council of Churches, February 23, 1961

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

NCC ON VOTING

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression."— Isaiah 1:17, NRSVue

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The National Council of the Churches in Christ in the USA (NCC) has a long-standing commitment to advancing peace and justice in the public square, including the social, political, and economic spheres. Across the country, concerns about voting rights, partisan gerrymandering, voter suppression, election misinformation, and unequal access to the ballot continue to raise important questions about the health of our democracy.

In such a time as this, people of faith cannot afford to be silent. This 2026 edition of NCC's Voter Empowerment Guide, *Your Vote Your Voice*, is an expression of our #WeWillNotBeSilent campaign. We continue to affirm that every person is created in the image of God and endowed with inherent dignity, including the right to participate fully in the public life of our communities and nation.

As a non-partisan ecumenical community representing diverse Christian traditions, we do not tell people whom to vote for. We do, however, affirm that every American should have unfettered access to vote, free from intimidation, coercion, threats, unnecessary barriers, or discrimination. Every voter should be able to cast a ballot safely, confidently, and securely. Every voter should be able to support the candidates and policies they believe best represent their values, hopes, and interests. Voting is more than a political act; it is an expression of stewardship.

Participating in the common good is an American right and a Christian duty. Throughout the Bible, God continually calls people to seek justice, defend the vulnerable, and pursue the welfare of the communities in which they live (Isaiah 1:17). While Christians may differ in political perspectives, we are united in the conviction that a healthy democracy depends on the full and equal participation of all its people.



Our 2026 *Your Vote Your Voice* guide is offered as a resource to help congregations, clergy, and people of faith engage this responsibility thoughtfully and faithfully. Our hope is that it will encourage civic participation. It is imperative that every voice be heard and every vote be counted. This is the strength of "We the People."

May we continue to pray and vote our convictions in this and every election cycle. "We the People" must act with courage, integrity, and hope, trusting that faithful citizenship is one way we love our neighbors and seek the flourishing of our communities.

By the grace of God,
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie,
NCC President & General Secretary

THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING

FOR VOTING

In Matthew 6:10, Jesus instructs his disciples to pray, "May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (NRSVue). In a democratic society where elected leaders are determined through a free and fair electoral process, casting a ballot is one way to see God's will done in our communities (on earth) as it is in heaven. Non-participation in the voting process is not a matter of salvation; however, it is an issue of stewardship. It is an opportunity to demonstrate care for one another's well-being and safeguarding the common good in our society, a calling that is just and holy (Jeremiah 29:7).

As Christians, we hold fast to our belief in the *imago Dei*, that all people are created in the image and likeness of God. As such, we believe that all people are equal and should be treated with dignity, including within the statutes that govern our nation. Isaiah 10:1–2 is one of many biblical warnings against establishing unjust laws and God's displeasure with those who take advantage of the most vulnerable: *"Woe to those who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, to make widows their spoil and to plunder orphans!"*

Sacred scriptures teach us the imperative to protect and care for the most vulnerable and to look out for our neighbors. In Matthew 25:42–45, we read that whatever is done to "the least of these," whether good or bad, is being done as if to Christ. In a democracy, voting is an important way for Christians to demonstrate concern not only for the most vulnerable and marginalized among us but also for the good of all. In a democracy, voting is an important way for Christians to positively affect care for the common good and for our most vulnerable. Voting bears witness to our faith in the public square.



THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING

FOR VOTING

Voting has at times been equated with having a voice in government and with elected officials: Our vote is our voice. Elected leaders determine the laws, policies, and direction of the country. Therefore, Christians have a responsibility to vote for those who support our values and interests in the common good, even if they do not share our faith.



As part of our stewardship in a democracy, Christians have an obligation to make the most informed decisions possible regarding who will represent our common concerns at the local, state, and national levels. The voting booth is how we choose leaders who will enact laws that do justice and love mercy for the common good and who care for the most vulnerable in our society. In casting our ballots, we ensure, to the extent possible, that our government lives up to this nation's ideals by the people and for all the people and, perhaps most significantly, hold those elected leaders accountable.

Civil rights leader, ordained Baptist minister, and 17-term (34 years) Congressman John R. Lewis once said, "The vote is precious, it is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society. And we have to use it."

This election year, and in every election, may it be so.

SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING ABOUT CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY (NRSVUE)

ISAIAH 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you,
Do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

AMOS 5:24

But let justice roll down like water,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

ISAIAH 10:1-2

Woe to those who make iniquitous decrees,
who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the
needy from justice and to rob the poor of my
people of their right, to make widows their spoil
and to plunder orphans!

MICAH 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and
what does the Lord require of you but to do
justice and to love kindness and to walk
humbly with your God?

SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING ABOUT CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY (NRSVUE)

MATTHEW 25:42-45

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.

LUKE 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING ABOUT CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY (NRSVUE)

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-24

"All things are permitted," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are permitted," but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage but that of the other.

PROVERBS 29:2

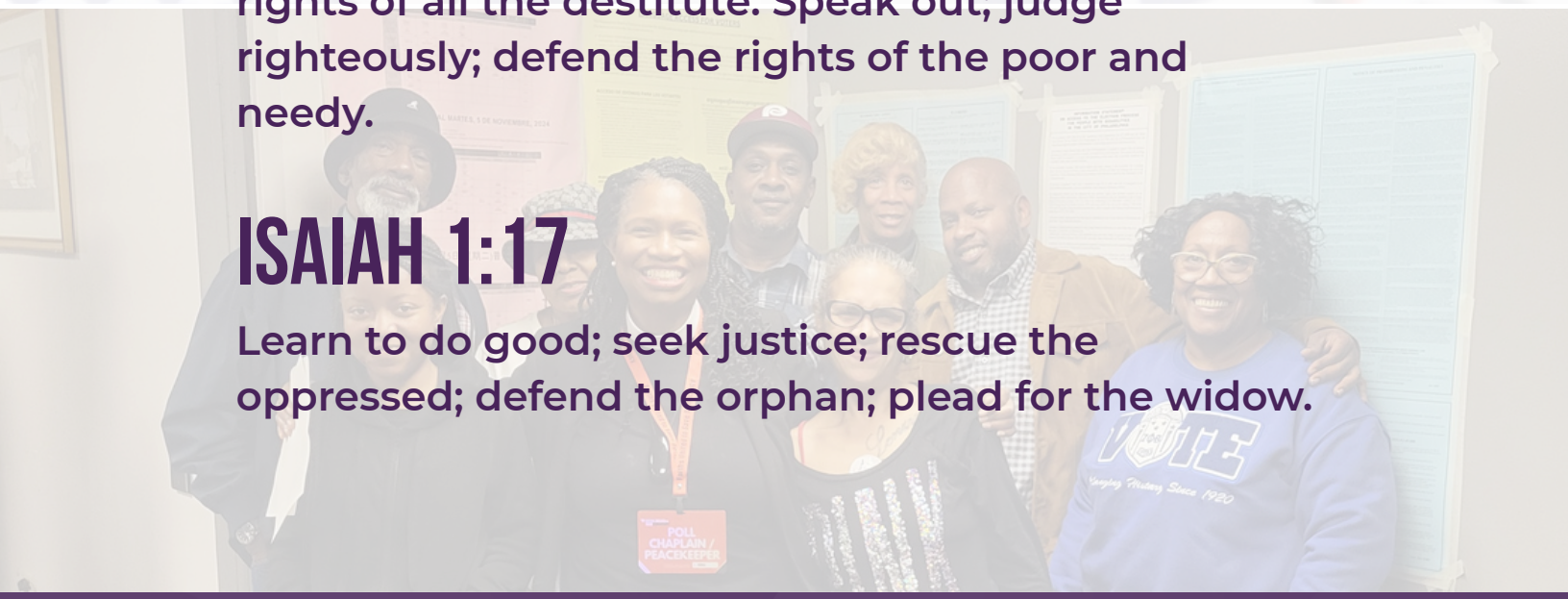
When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

PROVERBS 31:8-9

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

ISAIAH 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.



YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE
ACTIONS FOR 2026

PLAN YOUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN



Name a **voting engagement coordinator** and/or team of volunteers to actively provide accurate voting logistical information, help get proper ID as needed, make sure every voter in your congregation is registered and assist with transportation to the polls.

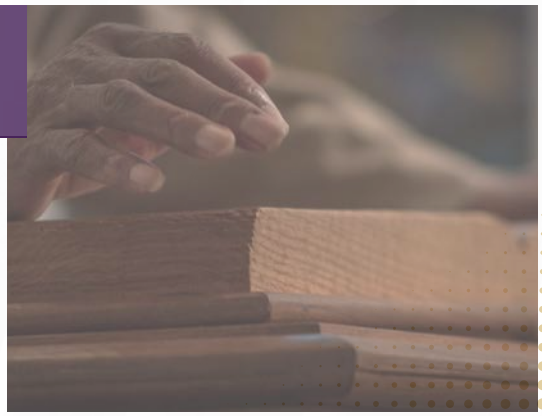


EDUCATE ON CHECK UP SUNDAYS

Every 2nd Sunday until November. **Teach** on the issues that impact your members. Share basic voting information and highlight changes up to Election Day.

Make sure your congregation is fully registered to vote. Understand what your house of worship can legally do in elections. Assign a Voter Engagement Team of congregation members to announce each Check Up Sunday in worship and be a resource to voters.

PREACH AND PRAY ON CHECK UP SUNDAYS



Preach messages **on justice** and righteousness and pray for free, fair, and safe elections.

ACTIONS FOR 2026

ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON CHECK IN WEDNESDAYS



Every Wednesday from June — October
Provide members with **social media messages** to share with their personal accounts to encourage voter turnout. Encourage your younger members to vote.



HOST TURNOUT SUNDAY SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 1

Prepare your house of worship **to get out and vote.** Organize rides to the polls for seniors and other who may need them. Make sure each eligible voter in your congregation has a voter plan.

WATCH THE POLLS



Have faith leaders **visit your members' polling sites** to show support and ensure voting rights are upheld. Sign up to be a poll worker through your local Board of Elections. In case something goes wrong, call 866-OURVOTE for guidance and to report issues.

CHECK UP SUNDAYS

ONCE A MONTH UNTIL TURNOUT SUNDAY

JUNE 14, 2026
THEME: VOTER EDUCATION

① TEACH: VOTER EDUCATION TOPICS

② CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

③ LOOK UP ID REQUIREMENTS

④ LOOK UP YOUR POLLING PLACE

For the first month of #YOURVOTEYOURVOICE we're focusing on **Voter Education**. You can find suggested topics to cover on the Voter Education Resource Page below.

We're also suggesting **1st time checks** on Voter Registration, ID Requirements and Polling Places. We will revisit these topics over the summer and fall to offer information, resources, and reminders to check and check again before Election Day.

WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE, BUT WHEN THE WICKED RULE, THE PEOPLE GROAN.
PROVERBS 29:2 (NRSVUE)

NCC #YOURVOTE YOURVOICE

Teach: Reference the **June** Resource Page for topics to cover this Check Up Sunday and throughout the entire month of June.

Starting in **June** and continuing throughout the summer and fall, voters should check their registration status and encourage others to do the same. In **July**, we will revisit voter registration to highlight common issues and share ways you can support others.
Check Your Registration

Know what ID requirements are in place in your state. We will revisit ID Requirements in **August** and cover details associated with obtaining the needed identification.
ID Requirements by State

Find out where your polling place for the primary (if it hasn't occurred yet) and the November election. We will revisit polling places in **September** and **October**.
Find Your Polling Place



VOTER EDUCATION RESOURCE PAGE

JUNE'S THEME: VOTER EDUCATION

VOTER EDUCATION TOPICS

Spiritual Grounding: "Our vote is our voice.

In Sunday school, church announcements, midweek Bible study, small group gatherings, and other teaching opportunities, discuss the importance of voting and how our vote is our voice in a democracy. Read and discuss the "Theological Grounding" that is included in this guide on pages 5-6.

Down Ballot and Community Awareness

There are those who say all politics is local because of the more immediate and direct impact these elections have on our communities. Check to make sure you're aware of who your representatives are at every level. Check the date for the primary election in your state and make sure you are registered and vote in that election, as well as the midterm election in November.

Voting Has Consequences

Although it may sometimes seem as though voting doesn't directly affect our day-to-day lives, it does. It matters who represents us. Consider how your loved ones and community have been impacted by your elected officials. Discuss and share the side-by-side look (below) at how voting in 2020 and 2024 has affected communities across the country, including your own.

What's at Stake in this Election?

Look up and discuss the issues affecting your community, and review the candidates' records. See whether their policies align with your values. No candidate is perfect, and we shouldn't expect them to be; focus on how their priorities match local needs. Be informed before voting, and consider hosting a town hall to hear from candidates directly.


What's at Stake
IN THE 2026
MIDTERM ELECTION
MEDICAID
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
WAR
IMMIGRATION LAWS & ICE AGENTS
GAS PRICES
CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS
THE ENVIRONMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE SNAP
DEMOCRACY
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

CHECK UP SUNDAYS

ONCE A MONTH UNTIL TURNOUT SUNDAY

JULY 12, 2026
THEME: VOTER REGISTRATION

1. CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION
2. GET FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CHECK OR REGISTER
3. CHECK YOUR HOUSEHOLD TO BE SURE EVERYONE IS REGISTERD AND VOTING

By visiting Vote.org, you can check your registration status and register, if needed. The process only takes a few minutes to complete online.

We recommend checking your registration regularly. Read through our Voter Registration Resource Page below for details on checking your registration and how to help others with their registration status.

VOTE.ORG

"DO NOT SEEK YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE BUT THAT OF THE OTHER."
1 CORINTHIANS 10:24 (NRSVUE)

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#YOURVOTE
YOURVOICE

The prophet Amos reminds us to "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever- flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). This year, we will be participating with faith communities across the nation to prepare for the upcoming elections.

We, as people of faith, simply cannot afford to stay home. In fact, not voting has become increasingly dangerous to the economic and spiritual vitality of our communities.

We have the power to vote for leaders who will support life-sustaining programs for underserved Americans, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Lower Prescription Drug Costs, police/community relations, criminal justice reform, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps).



VOTER REGISTRATION RESOURCE PAGE

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

- Visit www.vote.org to determine if you are registered to vote.
- Launch monthly "Check Your Status" drive for "silent purges."
- Call **1-866-OUR-VOTE** (1-866-687-8683)

HELP OTHERS WITH THEIR REGISTRATION

Restoration Clinics
Provide on-site registration for purged voters, such as formerly incarcerated individuals, voters who moved, changed names due to marriage, or were inactive.

Early Outreach
Finalize all registration pushes at least 60 days before the November midterms and still have time to vote.

VOTER REGISTRATION RULES AND DEADLINES

Voter Registration Rules
It's best to double-check with your state for any recent changes to election rules in your state. Learn your state's registration rules here.

Voter Registration Deadlines
Registration deadlines differ by state; you can check your state's registration deadlines here.

CHECK UP SUNDAYS

ONCE A MONTH UNTIL TURNOUT SUNDAY

AUGUST 9, 2026
THEME: CHECK VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

1. CHECK YOUR STATE'S VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS
2. SUPPORT THOSE WHO NEED TO OBTAIN NEW IDENTIFICATION

By visiting Vote.org, you can check your state's voter ID laws.

Currently, 38 states have laws that request or require voters to show some form of identification at the polls. The remaining 12 states and the District of Columbia use other methods to verify the identity of voters. Look up the requirements and laws in your state here.

VOTER ID LAWS

"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD OF GODS AND LORD OF LORDS, THE GREAT GOD, MIGHTY AND AWESOME, WHO IS NOT PARTIAL AND TAKES NO BRIBE, WHO EXECUTES JUSTICE FOR THE ORPHAN AND THE WIDOW, AND WHO LOVES THE STRANGERS, PROVIDING THEM FOOD AND CLOTHING. YOU SHALL ALSO LOVE THE STRANGER, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT."
DEUTERONOMY 10:17–19 (NRSVUE)

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#YOURVOTE YOURVOICE

Many states have enacted tougher voter identification requirements that require specific ID's. Low-income and marginalized citizens, students, and seniors are less likely to possess these forms of identification. Churches should spread the word early in the summer about what kinds of ID are required to vote in their communities.

Additional support may be necessary, and churches can provide these services—such as internet access, help filling out the appropriate forms, providing a ride and/or accompanying them to the proper agency, or even financial assistance to pay the fees to obtain the ID — by identifying voting teams dedicated to making sure everyone in the congregation understands that #VotingMatters.



VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS
RESOURCE PAGE

HERE'S HOW TO SECURE MISSING VOTER IDS

Visit www.VoteRiders.org
They train volunteers to secure and pay for missing IDs.

Use the FUSD 50-State Map for your state's voter ID requirements.
www.turnoutsunday.com

Find Out Who's Missing Required ID:
U.S. passport, birth certificate, or state-issued photo ID.

Establish a Voucher Program:
Establish a dedicated fund to pay for missing documents.

Host Mobile ID Clinics:
Partner with local DMV offices to host "ID Sundays," providing transportation and covering fee waivers for seniors and low-income voters.

VOTER ID INFORMATION, TIMEFRAMES AND COSTS

PASSPORT
Apply or renew online:
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html
This process usually takes 4–6 weeks; faster options are available for a fee.
Estimated cost for a new passport: $165

BIRTH CERTIFICATE
Order from your state:
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm
Usually takes 1–4 weeks
Some offices offer same-day in-person service for this document.
Estimated cost: $10 – $35

CITIZENSHIP OR NATURALIZATION PAPERS
Replace through:
https://www.uscis.gov/n-565
This process can take several months, so start early!
Estimate cost of replacement papers: $500

NAME CHANGE DOCUMENTS
- Marriage certificate → County office
- Court order → Local court
- Usually, from the same day to a few weeks

Estimated cost of certified copies: $35

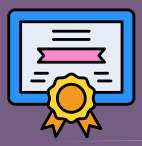
VOTER ID
Document Checklist:

DEPENDING ON STATE ID REQUIREMENTS, THESE ARE THE DOCUMENTS MANY VOTERS MAY NEED TO LOCATE OR REQUEST.

1 Proof of Citizenship

Gather at least 1 of these:

- 

Passport
- 
US Birth Certificate
- 
Certificate of Naturalization
- 
Certificate of Citizenship

2 If your name has changed

You may also need:

- 
Marriage certificate
- 
Divorce decree
- 
Court order for legal name change
- 
Adoption or other legal name-change records

3 Helpful Identity Records

Keep these ready:

- 
Driver's license
- 
State-issued ID
- 
Court order for legal name change

4 Do NOT assume these will count

- 
Student ID
- 
Tribal ID without an expiration date
- 

Non-government ID cards

CHECK UP SUNDAYS

ONCE A MONTH UNTIL TURNOUT SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 THEME: FINALIZE YOUR VOTING PLAN

1. FIND EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS
2. LOCATE YOUR POLLING PLACE
3. LOCATE A BALLOT DROPBOX
4. DOUBLE CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

There are a lot of factors to keep in mind when voting in an election. Language barriers, mobility issues, absentee ballots, and voting locations are all things to keep in mind before you vote. Keep these tips in mind while making your voting plan. →

PLAN YOUR VOTE HERE!

"IN EVERYTHING DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU, FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."
MATTHEW 7:12 (NRSVUE)

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#YOURVOTE YOURVOICE

If members need help reading or casting a ballot on Election Day because English is not their first language, they may be entitled to voting materials in their own language. Contact the local elections office to confirm what language assistance is available and share that information.

If members have mobility challenges or other disabilities, note that some polling places may not be fully accessible or may lack assistance for voters with special needs, including help with reading ballots. Contact the local elections office to learn about accessibility at polling locations and share the details.

If members plan to vote by absentee ballot, research and share all relevant deadlines for requesting and returning the ballot, along with contact information for the local elections office if assistance is needed.



VOTING PLAN
RESOURCE PAGE

KNOW HOW TO OVERCOME VOTER OBSTACLES

Easy Voting Tools
www.voterparticipation.org

Purged Voters
www.headcount.org

Find Voting Precinct
www.vote.org

Students Voting
https://www.vote.org/student-voter-guide

Wheelchair
https://vote.gov/guide-to-voting/disability

Restore Your Rights (criminal record)
www.restoreyourvote.org

Military
www.fvap.gov

Language Barrier
https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/limited-english-proficiency-voters

To Report Voting Problem, Call 1-866-OURVOTE (1-866-687-8683)

KEY POINTS OF YOUR VOTING PLAN

- Plan how you're going to vote: in-person, by mail or ballot drop box.
- Look up your polling place regularly in case it changes.
- Give yourself extra time on Election Day.
- Double check your voter registration status!
- Bring all ID documents when voting.

- Tell your friends and family what you learned in the process of making your voting plan and encourage them to make their own. You can download "Make Your Voting Plan" palm cards to share with your friends and family. Then, cast your ballot and let your voice be heard!

CHECK UP SUNDAYS

EVERY 2ND SUNDAY UNTIL TURNOUT SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11, 2026
THEME: FINAL CHECK UP & DECLARATION OF FAITHFUL VOTING

① CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

② CHECK YOUR VOTER ID LAWS

③ LOOKUP YOUR POLLING PLACE

④ SIGN THE DECLARATION OF FAITHFUL VOTING

Sign the **Declaration of Faithful Voting**! In signing this Declaration, you commit to voting in the upcoming election if your state laws allow you the right to vote.

Declaration of Faith Voting
https://actionnetwork.org/forms/declaration-of-faithful-voting/

→

PLAN YOUR VOTE HERE!

"SPEAK OUT FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL THE DESTITUTE. SPEAK OUT; JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY."
PROVERBS 31:8–9 (NRSVUE)

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#YOURVOTE YOURVOICE

As a Christian, affirm your commitment to exercising your right to vote with integrity, discernment, conviction, and understanding during this election season. Sign the Declaration of Faithful Voting to commit to voting and to receive reminders for the upcoming election.

Participating in democracy is something to be proud of, it brings people together, strengthens our communities, and reminds us of the power we share. Every conversation, vote, and act of engagement helps build momentum for change and keeps our civic spirit alive. Take a moment to celebrate the work you and those around you have put into showing up and making your voices heard. No matter the outcome, your participation matters, you've done your part, and you can do it again in the future.



TURNOUT SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

THEME: BE PREPARED TO VOTE

WHAT TO BRING TO THE POLLS

SNACKS



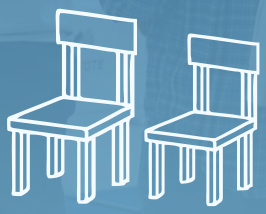
WATER



MUSIC



CHAIRS



VOTING BUDDY



This is the Sunday to preach, pray, and go to the polls!

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3RD

"SO THEN, WHENEVER WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, LET US WORK FOR THE GOOD OF ALL AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF THE FAMILY OF FAITH."

GALATIANS 6:10 (NRSVUE)

NCC
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

#YOURVOTE
YOURVOICE

THE 7 T'S OF HAVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS

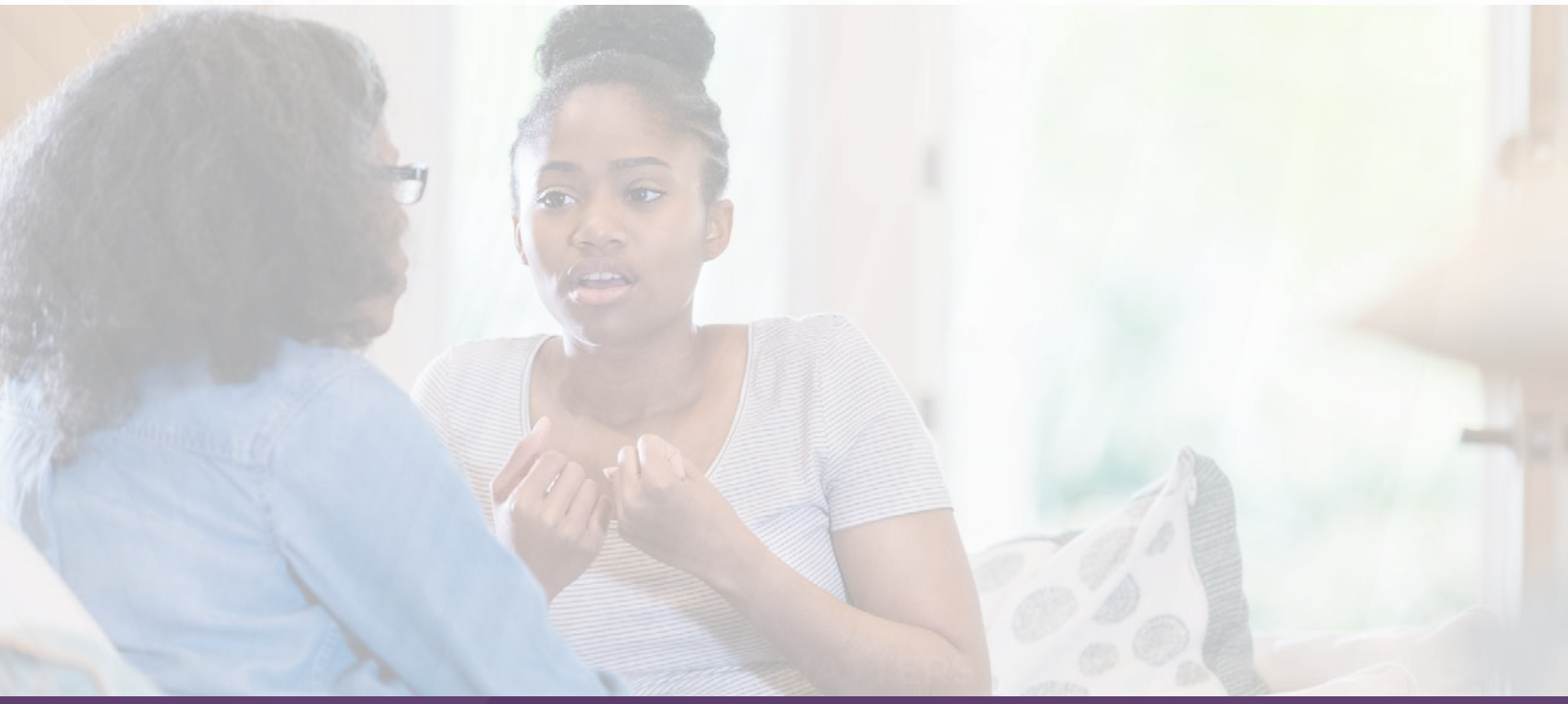
"LET NO EVIL TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS BUT ONLY WHAT IS GOOD FOR BUILDING UP, AS THERE IS NEED, SO THAT YOUR WORDS MAY GIVE GRACE TO THOSE WHO HEAR."
EPHESIANS 4: 29 (NSRVUE)

Election season can often seem polarizing and complex, filled with differing views about candidates, policies, values and more. This can leave individuals feeling intimidated and unsure of how engage in dialogue with their sphere of influence about the importance of civic engagement.

You too may find yourself facing that discomfort and hesitation and wonder how exactly can an individual have critical conversations with family and friends about voting?

As you navigate important topics of voting, critical issues and candidates, it is crucial to approach these discussion with empathy, love and respect for one another.

Engaging in conversations about these and other difficult matters can bring people closer together and deepen their understanding of each other's perspectives even if they do not agree.



THE 7 T'S OF HAVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS

1 Touch Base

Touching base with family members on a regular basis through conversations that are helpful, building others up is beneficial to all who listen is critical (Ephesians 4:29). Family and friends may be more willing to discuss certain subjects when you've laid a foundation over time. By fostering trust through ongoing dialogue, you are able to create a safe space where differing opinions can be shared without fear of judgment or conflict.

2 Tasks

Before beginning your conversation, outline the tasks involved such as shared values, information sharing, exploring statistics or various opinions. Being sure of your tasks or goals can help you to remain focused. The conversation may be more productive and lead to potentially accepting differences or identifying common ground.

3 Timing is Everything

Timing plays a key role in ensuring that meaningful conversations can take place. Be sure to choose time that is free from distractions and so full attention can be given to the topic at hand.

4 Tone of Voice

Using a calm and respectful tone of voice can convey your message more effectively. This may help to maintain a peaceful dialogue. Remember the wisdom of Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (NRSVUE)

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5 Test the Waters

It is important to start your conversation slowly and test the waters. Take the time to observe each other's reactions and know when to pause or de-escalate the conversation if needed. Employ "I" statements to express how you feel so as not to be accusatory or inflammatory.

6 Time Out

As you navigate through your conversations, it's important to know when to stop or respectfully agree to disagree. This is a valuable skill that promotes mutual respect within relationships. In fact, respecting each other's opinions, even when you do not agree, is a sign of maturity and tolerance.

7 Thank You!

Remember to say, "Thank you!" Thank family members and friends for their willingness to engage in these discussions, especially when everyone was heard and valued. Engaging in difficult conversations with an open heart and mind may be tough but possible. Invite them to continue constructive dialogue on issues that matter to all of you.

NOTE TO SELF

WHAT TO REMEMBER ABOUT VOTING

Voting is fundamental to having a healthy and thriving democracy. It is one way to have our voices heard and determine the direction of our country, as well as the communities where we live, learn, work, worship and serve. This is why the importance of voting in every election cannot be underestimated, including those that happen in between presidential elections. In a democracy, voting for elected leaders whose policies will most closely reflect our values of providing support for the most vulnerable, protecting our freedoms, and advocating for justice and the common good, is a part of our Christian witness.

Democracy is our history, but it is not guaranteed, nor should it be taken for granted. Voting ensures that it is also our future.

This is why it is also important to stay informed and research issues impacting our communities, nation, and world. Without active, vigilant, and informed voters, the nation is at risk of electing public officials with policy agendas that harm those Jesus would call "the least of these," who might dismantle democratic principles, and ignore the need for justice, righteousness, and equity in our laws. Isaiah 1:17 declares that we should, "...learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow."

In addition, marginalized communities face the continued risk of misrepresentation and perpetuation of oppressive laws unless we vote for elected officials who are committed to doing justice and loving mercy (Micah 6:8).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

GET CONNECTED: LINKTR.EE/NCC_USA

Faiths United to Save Democracy Toolkit (English and Spanish)

Access information on how to engage in the polls as a faith leader, along with additional helpful information for clergy including including voter protection, voting laws and more. Find out how to better prepare congregations for election day.

Faiths United to Save Democracy Website



Scan the Faiths USD QR CODE for additional information

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

INTERFAITH AMERICA
FAITH IN ELECTIONS
PLAYBOOK

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(OUR FAITH OUR VOTE)

ACLU ON VOTING
RIGHTS

VOTERIDERS (RESEARCH
YOUR VOTER ID LAWS)

VOTING LAWS ROUNDUP:
2026 IN REVIEW

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Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces
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National Missionary Baptist Convention of America
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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Reformed Church in America
Religious Society of Friends, Friends United Meeting
Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America
The Swedenborgian Church of North America
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch, Archdiocese of the Eastern United States
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