



CWS Toolkit on Civic Engagement

Strengthening Welcome Through Civic Engagement: An Introduction & Overview

CWS is committed to providing protection, humanitarian assistance, and durable solutions for refugees and immigrants. As part of its mission to build stronger, more welcoming communities, CWS is intentionally working with its partners to promote civic engagement. This work will educate voters about immigrant and refugee rights; promote civic participation for new citizens as part of integration efforts; encourage voter registration and keep U.S. citizen refugee and immigrant voters from being discriminated against in the voting process; and elevate the dialogue on immigrant and refugee rights in the media and public forums.

What is “Civic Engagement”?

Civic engagement refers to the ways in which individuals and groups participate in the life of a community in order to improve conditions that shape the community’s future. Participating in civil society by voting and engaging in civil and productive conversation with others in our communities is one of the many strengths of the United States and an important part of integration for new Americans.

CWS Principles on Civic Engagement

Civic engagement facilitates integration.

Voting and participating in civil society are key to both the integration and naturalization processes. When naturalized immigrants and refugees exercise their right to vote, they empower themselves to be full members of their new communities. Even immigrants and refugees who are not yet naturalized, and therefore cannot vote yet, can bring key contributions to movements in their communities by participating in events to educate the public and policy makers about the benefits that newcomers bring to their communities, and the need to build stronger, more welcoming communities.

Civic engagement builds welcoming communities.

CWS’ network of local offices, affiliates and congregations know first-hand the impact that government policies have on the lives of refugees, immigrants and communities. We affirm that it is important for policy makers to take time to meet refugees and immigrants to understand their struggles. The CWS network is wide-ranging and comes from many perspectives, but we work together to educate our policy makers about policies and practices that have positive impacts on immigrant and refugees’ lives and on our communities. The level of civic engagement in which our network participates helps build champions for positive policy change across party lines, and at the local, state and national levels. Civic engagement can also energize current volunteers and develop new leaders.

CWS civic engagement is non-partisan & does not endorse candidates or political parties.

CWS is a non-partisan, 501(c)3 organization. This means that we will not be endorsing or opposing parties or candidates. We will continue, as we always have, to educate candidates and the public about the importance of building welcoming communities. All activities will be consistent with CWS’ mission statement and core values to work with ecumenical partners and impacted communities to promote the dignity and rights of all people.

CWS will facilitate and encourage:	CWS will NOT participate in:
Education on refugee and immigration issues	Endorsing candidates or parties
Hosting and participating in town halls, debates, meetings, and forums	Collaborating with political campaigns
Helping U.S. citizens of refugee and immigrant backgrounds register to vote and get to the polls on Election Day	Restricting access based on party affiliation or perceived voting behavior
Voter protection to make sure recently naturalized citizens have the opportunity to vote	Voting fraud or unethical behavior
Elevating the public discussion on the importance of building welcoming communities through media outlets, such as via letters to the editor and opinion editorials	Advertising for any candidate or party

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The following five sections are options that congregations and organizations can consider in their civic engagement work. Through these activities, current members of your congregation or organization can become more civically involved. These actions can change public sentiments about immigration and refugee issues and inform candidates that these issues are important to their constituents.

Page 1: Host and participate in town halls, meetings, and candidate forums

Many election events are often planned for voters to learn more about candidates. By preparing succinct, to-the-point questions to ask during such events, you can influence the public dialogue and narrative on immigration and refugee issues. Your congregation or organization can also host a discussion or request a meeting with candidates to show them that their constituents care about immigrants and refugees. When organizing an event or requesting a meeting, it is important to always reach out to all candidates in a particular electoral race.

Page 2: Educate voters on issues impacting immigrant and refugee rights

Creating educational activities that will help your community become well-informed, thoughtful voters on immigration and refugee issues is an important component to building welcoming communities and seeing positive changes in policies that impact immigrants and refugees.

Page 3: Help U.S. citizens of refugee and immigrant backgrounds register to vote and get to the polls

Registering to vote is an intrinsic part of becoming a U.S. citizen and to furthering the integration process. People often fall off the voting rolls when they move and may not know where to vote or when voting takes place. Educating new voters on how to ensure they are registered and the details of Election Day is vital to their successful voting experience and their integration. A voter registration tally sheet is available on page 8. A voter commitment card is available on page 9.

Page 4: Help ensure U.S. citizens of refugee and immigrant backgrounds are not prevented from voting

Many immigrant and naturalized refugee citizen voters have encountered intimidation at the polls. Individuals can volunteer with local organizations to ensure that election officials establish and implement fair procedures on voter registration, list maintenance (a.k.a. purging), poll worker training, allocation of resources to election precincts, provisional ballots, and challenges – to ensure that every voter, specifically recently naturalized voters, have an opportunity to vote.

Page 5: Elevate the dialogue on immigrant and refugee rights in the media

Public education is a critical piece to shifting popular opinion on the importance of building welcoming communities. The more the media can spread this message, the more we can shift the narrative to inclusivity. Invite local media to your issue education forums or volunteer canvassing days. Write letters to the editor or opinion editorials and discuss why welcoming refugees and immigrants is important to your community. Utilize your church's newsletter and social media outlets to spread the word of any upcoming events and the importance of voting.

Page 6: Reporting back your work on civic engagement

Keeping detailed records of your civic engagement work will be a critical factor in the long-term efforts to register voters and make sure they are turning out to vote.

APPENDIX A: Resource Guide to Civic Engagement Partner Organizations

APPENDIX B: Additional Resources in Support of Immigrants and Refugees

APPENDIX C: Sermons and Faith Resources on Civic Engagement

DISCLAIMER: CWS is a non-partisan organization that does not take a position on parties or candidates. All voter education material is non-partisan and is in no way intended to reflect an endorsement for, or opposition to, any candidate, political party, or PAC. In addition, all voter registration services facilitated by and affiliated with CWS are available without regard to the voter's political preference. Information and other assistance regarding registering or voting, including transportation and other services offered, shall not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to particular candidates, parties, or policy positions. For more information, contact Rev. Noel Andersen at nandersen@cwsglobal.org.

1.Change the Narrative on Immigrants and Refugees by Hosting and Participating in Town Halls, Meetings, and Candidate Forums

To successfully bring issues that impact immigrants and refugees to the attention of our lawmakers, it is important to attend and host town hall meetings to ask questions of candidates running for office. Asking questions about immigrant and refugee rights will remind all candidates and those attending that the way this nation treats immigrants and refugees is important not only to newcomers, but also to people of faith and service providers. The more people who speak up on these issues, the more likely we are to see positive change.

Researching Candidates' Records on Immigration & Refugee Issues

Bring together a group of congregants and community members passionate about immigration and refugee work. The setting can be casual, but Internet and computer access is important so that attendees can research candidates' positions on their websites and issue sites including www.immigrantslist.org. Participants can write letters expressing their views and urging candidates to be champions for refugees and immigrants on the campaign trail. It is important to research and send correspondence to every candidate in a particular electoral race and to steer clear of appearing to favor one candidate over another.

Participating in Town Hall Meetings, Debates, and Candidate Forums

1. Find and RSVP to local events at which candidates are speaking.
2. Invite other community members who care about immigration and refugee issues to attend with you.
3. Arrive early to secure a good seat. Prepare and write down your question ahead of time.
4. When the time comes for questions or when you are able to meet the candidate, ask your question.
5. Follow up with the candidate's staff, emphasizing that your community cares about immigrants and refugees.

Hosting a Town Hall Meeting or Candidate Debate

1. Work with a team to identify a date, time, location and strategy for the community forum.
2. Choose one electoral race and invite every candidate who is running for that position. All major candidates should participate. It is okay if not all minor candidates attend, but make sure they know that the other candidate(s) will be attending. If a candidate can't attend ask if a surrogate can attend or if they can send a written statement instead.
3. Welcome all candidates and give them equal amounts of time for opening comments. Plan ahead with a non-partisan, neutral and prepared moderator to facilitate questions from event organizers or those attending. Pre-screening questions is a good way to ensure they are open-ended and not perceived as biased. The moderator should not comment on the questions or otherwise make comments that imply approval or disapproval of a candidate.
4. Have attendees sign in for future follow up. In closing, thank all candidates and reiterate the non-partisan disclaimer.

2. Educate Voters on Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Creating educational activities that help your community members become well-informed and thoughtful voters is a key responsibility for all congregations and community organizations. There are many ways to create forums and spaces for dialogue, civil discussion, and faithful reflection on critical issues.

Integrate Civic Participation into Programs

1. Integrate civic participation and civic education into English as a Second/Another Language courses, food pantry programs or any other ministries that create contact with new voters.
2. If your organization or congregation hosts citizenship clinics, make sure to emphasize civic duty and voter participation and provide opportunities for families to register to vote.

In Worship and Congregation Education

1. Address issue concerns in the worship life of the congregation through prayers, sermons and Scripture.
2. Utilize adult educational structures already established such as Bible studies, prayer meetings or classes.

3. Invite individuals who can speak about the issues so that they can tell their story. For example, invite a refugee who has been co-sponsored by a local congregation, or a dreamer to speak.
4. Discuss the issues in light of scriptural teaching and the resolutions of your denomination or organization.
5. Integrate civic engagement themes and the importance of voting in sermons or homilies (sample sermon starters provided in appendix).

Hold an Issue Education Forum

1. Work together with a leadership team to organize the forum by listing the logistics, strategy, and goals of the activity.
2. Identify the key issues you would like to hold a forum on. Ask, what is the issue that most concerns you? Some of the possible themes could include the Dream Act or another permanent, legislative solution for dreamers without undermining family unity, refugee protection and resettlement, state level immigration or refugee policy, or voter ID laws/election protection.
3. Invite local or national speakers on the issue. Try to make it engaging by including ways for the audience to discuss the issue and ask questions.
4. Utilize the educational forum as an opportunity to educate the broader public by sending out a media advisory to invite the press beforehand and a press release for the media after the event.
5. Make sure to have a sign-in sheet so you can follow up with participants.
6. Create space for participants to discuss and reflect on the issue at hand.
7. At the forum, have a voter registration table with information about polling monitors and election protection.

According to the *Alliance for Justice*: “The law allows churches to engage in a wide variety of nonpartisan election-related activities, including voter registration and education as well as ballot measure campaigns. Federal tax law explicitly prohibits all churches from supporting or opposing candidates for public office, but it also recognizes the importance of their participation in the democratic process. A 501(c)(3) organization’s role during an election must be educational – and to encourage civic participation. Although there are many activities a church can do around an election, the church needs to stop short of directly or indirectly telling people how to vote or for whom to vote.”

Learn more: Bolder Advocacy bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Election_Checklist_for_Houses_of_Worship.pdf.

More guidance on hosting a discussion forum at www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote/pdfs/guideline2pp-1.pdf

3. Help U.S. Citizens of Refugee and Immigrant Backgrounds Register to Vote & Get to the Polls

Voting is an essential part of integration and is a civic duty for all citizens.

Voting is an important part of the integration continuum. When immigrants and refugees naturalize, they have the opportunity to make their opinions heard at the ballot box. By exercising their right to vote, new voters empower themselves and learn first-hand that their participation in democracy matters. Many, including the elderly and those who do not have access to transportation, often find it difficult to register to vote and get to the polls. Congregations and community organizations can make voter registration and voting easily accessible by setting up tables after services or at community events, as well as coordinating rides to the polls for those who need help with transportation.

Voter registration at community and congregation events

Community events, including fellowship/coffee hours after worship services, are great opportunities to table to encourage voter registration. You can also distribute voter registration cards before or during an event or worship service and ask people to place the cards in baskets as they exit. Sharing stories about individuals who have not been able to vote in the past or who are voting for the first time is a wonderful way to motivate people to register to vote. A voter registration tally sheet is available on page 6. A voter commitment card is available on page 7.

Voter Registration Table Checklist

- ✓ Voter registration cards, absentee and early voting ballots, and relevant information on each
- ✓ State voter information from your Election Office, including a map of jurisdictions and poll places

- ✓ Signs: “Register to Vote Here!” and a non-partisan disclaimer, such as “Our voter registration services are available without regard for the voter’s political preference.”
- ✓ Keep records and report back with how many people you were able to register each week. Work with partner organizations to enter this information in the Voter Activation Network (VAN).
- ✓ Provide information about the “Souls to the Polls” programs or any other form of ride to the polls program.

The Early Voting List/Vote by Mail/Absentee Ballot

The early voting list or absentee ballot (depending on your state), which allows people to vote by mail, is one of the most effective ways to increase participation and voter turnout. Because it is often difficult for people, especially the elderly, those who work long hours or multiple jobs, and those who do not have access to transportation, to make it to the polls on a work day, voting early by mail is one of the most helpful tools to make sure people vote. Not all states provide this option, but when possible, it helps to sign up as many people as you can to vote by mail. Please work with partner organizations on recording new early voters to the Voter Activation Network (VAN).

Find more information: <http://www.vote411.org>

On Election Day

Work with a team to find volunteers on Election Day for the following important roles:

1. Remind people to vote by joining canvasses and phone banking to spread the message to “remember to vote today!” Help to provide information on local poll locations and hours.
2. Plan in advance to offer rides to polling places by finding vans and volunteers to drive, make sure you have insurance to cover your activities, and reach out to communities who might need help with transportation. Make announcements at worship services and hang up signs in offices encouraging people need transportation help to contact a point person to sign up or set up a ride.

Make sure to keep all your actions non-partisan. For example, do NOT talk about a specific party or candidate, and do NOT wear buttons or stickers from any political party during a voter registration drive. If someone asks you or other participants how they plan to vote or which party they prefer, they should NOT answer the question. An appropriate response is “that’s not important to today’s voter registration efforts. We’re solely here to promote civic participation, and not a political party, candidate, or agenda.”

4. Help Ensure U.S. Citizens of Refugee and Immigrant and Backgrounds Are Not Prevented from Voting

In collaboration with local organizations and stakeholders, voter protection programs monitor and seek to ensure that election officials establish and implement fair and effective election administration procedures on a comprehensive set of issues, including voter registration, list maintenance (a.k.a. purging), poll worker training, allocation of resources to election precincts, provisional ballots, and challenges. List purging and Voter ID laws impact low-income, minority groups, and naturalized citizens at a higher percentage. Likewise, there has historically been intimidation at the polls for minority and immigrant or refugee naturalized citizen voters, which is why it is so important to make sure there is a transparent and honest election process.

Join a Coalition

There is strength in numbers. While an individual can conduct voter protection activities, it is helpful to have the support of a voter protection coalition—a group of individuals and organizations committed to ensuring that the rights of refugee and immigrant voters in your community are protected by election officials and the election system. With such a coalition, you can meet with local election officials to ensure there is a fair voting process and everyone is given the right to vote. Connections can be made by selecting your state at <https://statevoices.org> and www.866ourvote.org/state.

Voter Registration Laws

An unprecedented amount of voter suppression laws and initiatives have taken shape over the last several years, making voter protection work even more important. Twenty-three states passed [new voting restrictions](#) between 2010 and 2017; in response, thirteen states and Washington DC have passed automatic voter registration laws making it easier for citizens to register. The Center for American Progress [projects](#) the United States would add more than 22 million voters in

the first year alone if every state adopted automatic voter registration. Also, a non-partisan hotline to report voter disenfranchisement can be reached at **1-866-OUR-VOTE** and www.866ourvote.org/state.

21 million people nationwide lack ID. Minority and foreign-born voters are less likely to have a valid photo ID, so voter ID laws have a disproportionate impact on these citizens. Specifically, 11% of U.S. voting-age citizens; 25% of African American voting age citizens; 15% of voting age citizens earning under \$35,000 annually; 18% of citizens age 65 and over; and 20% of young voters lack valid photo ID.

Goals for Voter Protection

- 1) Monitor and analyze election processes
- 2) Expand the range of perspectives working to identify barriers and resolve election problems
- 3) Broaden awareness and support for the voting concerns of immigrants and refugees in your community
- 4) Secure elections (see [CAP 9 Solutions for Securing America's Elections](#))

Poll Workers and Poll Monitors

- Poll workers are the link between election administration—the laws, rules, and procedures that govern the election process—and the voters. They are the line staff of the democratic process who sit at the table, check rosters, and hand out ballots.
- Polling monitors are responsible for ensuring that there is a fair voting process by monitoring poll workers and offering voters information about their rights. Monitors assist people in finding their correct polling station so their vote will count and not be a provisional ballot. Let voters know about the voter protection hotline and their options for getting help with their voting rights at the poll. They often conduct exit polling about voters' experiences casting their votes across the state to identify any significant successes or problems and record them for the next election.

5. Elevate the Dialogue on Immigrant and Refugee Rights in the Media

Public education is a critical piece to shifting popular opinion on the importance of building welcoming communities. The more the media can spread that message, the more we can shift the narrative to inclusivity. Invite local media to your events and spread the word through newsletters and social media. Write letters to the editor or opinion editorials about how immigrants and refugees benefit your community.

Invite Media to Your Event

For candidate debates, issue forums or even voter registration drives, it is important to invite the media.

1. Coordinate with communications point people at your congregation or organization locally and nationally.
2. Develop your list of press contacts – even those who you have not reached out to until now.
3. Identify your 2-3 media spokespeople for the event so they will be prepared to talk to the media.
4. Develop press packets with non-partisan talking points and other related educational materials.
5. Send the media you hope will cover the event a media advisory with event information. (Who, What, Where, When)
6. Assign one person to identify, sign-in and help media personnel during the event.
7. Send a press release immediately following the event to media who did not attend to develop relationships for the future. Include quotes from the event.

Social Media

- Spread the word of an event in newsletters, bulletin inserts, email lists and regular announcements.
- Be in communication with local public radio ahead of time and put out a Public Service Announcement.
- Utilize websites, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to get the word out, and post updates about future events. Post event information and questions on candidates' Facebook timelines or on Twitter using the @ [their name] function. Remember to remain non-partisan, and steer clear of appearing to endorse or oppose any candidate or party on behalf of a congregation or 501©3 organization.

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Editorials

Writing Letters to the Editor (LTE) and Opinion Editorials (Op-Eds) to your local newspaper are effective ways to lift pro-immigrant, pro-refugee voices. Candidates carefully monitor these sections to gauge local opinions.

- Local papers are more likely to publish your piece (including neighborhood, ethnic, and religious papers)
- Letters to the editor should be short (less than 200 words). State your most important point in the first paragraph.
 - *Paragraph 1* – your main point, why the issue is important to you, your personal story
 - *Paragraph 2* – facts, quotes, numbers, your ‘ask’ of all candidates
 - *Paragraph 3* – restate your point and declare your recommendation
- Opinion editorials can be longer (600 words) and should react to recent news or tell a relevant local story to highlight your call to action for the community or elected officials.
- Mention by name ALL candidates for one electoral race, but do not endorse any candidate or party
- State the specific action you want them to take, varying by electoral race, for example:
 - *National*: support the Dream Act, uphold family unity, protect refugee resettlement, stop family separation and family incarceration
 - *State*: oppose anti-immigrant, anti-refugee legislation and/or support pro-immigrant, pro-refugee policies
 - *Local*: Support for Welcome Resolutions, World Refugee Declarations, Sanctuary City/Trust Policies

More information on writing a Letter to the Editor or Opinion Editorial: <http://capwiz.com/fconl/dbq/media/>

6. Reporting Back Your Work on Civic Engagement

Why Report Back?

Keeping detailed records of your civic engagement work will be a critical factor in the long-term efforts to register voters and make sure they are turning out to vote. This information will be very important to track in the voter activation network database to do further follow up and make sure there is continued contact to encourage new voters to get out and vote. Likewise, this information is essential to monitor and evaluate our organizational internal goals on civic engagement, which is also a critical step to gaining grant money on this project.

Voter Registration Tally Sheet

Numbers of doors knocked _____

Number of phone numbers called _____

Number contacts (people talked to) _____

Number of New Early Voters _____

Number of New Voters Registered _____

Number of Commitments Cards _____

Voter Commitment Card

(Partner organization may have their own commitment cards)

By signing this card I am committing to vote November 6th, 2018 and give permission to contact me again as a reminder to vote early or go to the polls on Election Day.

Name _____

Address _____

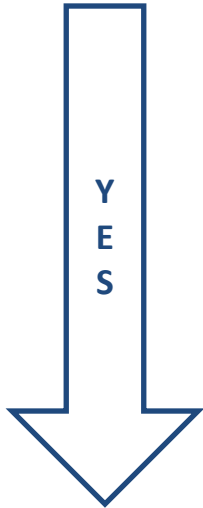
Email _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Hello, I'm out registering people to vote today. My name is _____. Voting is one of the most important ways to add our voices to shape community. Many refugees and immigrants first register at their naturalization ceremony.

Are you a U.S. citizen – have you had your ceremony yet?



It's simple to register to vote today, you just have to fill out this basic information with your name and address.

(They fill out the form)

Thanks! I will turn this to the Election Board and they will mail you more information.

Would you also like to sign up to volunteer to help get people to the polls on election day? (If so, have them sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheet.)

Did you register to vote?

NO

YES

While you can't register to vote until you are a U.S. citizen, you can still be civically engaged. Would you like to sign-up to volunteer leading up to, or on election day?

Have you moved since you last voted? If so, you will have to update your address if you did.

NO

YES

Sometimes when people register they don't actually make it out to vote, which is why we're asking people to sign-up on the early voting, or vote by mail list. Voting by mail and early voting are great ways to increase voter participation because you can vote from home or go to the polls on the weekend, rather than a workday, since elections are on a Tuesday. Do you want to sign-up for early voting?

Lastly, I would ask you to commit to voting today. One way you can do that is by filling out this commitment card, so that we can follow-up with you and remind you to vote as we get closer to the elections?

Have them fill out the registration form with their new address, then move to the last step to the right!

APPENDIX A:

RESOURCE GUIDE TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

STATES VOICES: www.statevoices.org

State Voices is a national network—built from the states up—that helps grassroots organizations win shared policy and civic engagement victories and build long-term power.

MI FAMILIA VOTA: mifamiliavota.org

Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (MFVEF) is a national non-profit organization working to unite the Latino community and its allies to promote social and economic justice through increased civic participation.

UCC OUR FAITH OUR VOTE <http://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>

Voting is a natural extension of faithful action. The decisions made by our representatives have a wide-reaching impact. We have enormous potential to make positive change. We must engage our legislators, vote, and encourage everyone in our communities to do the same.

COMMON CAUSE: www.commoncause.org

Access: Increase access to voting by removing existing barriers, changing registration and voting practices, and ensuring voting rights for all Americans. Accuracy: Safeguard our voting systems by passing federal and state legislation to enhance voting machine accuracy and security. Accountability: Hold election officials accountable by passing legislation prohibiting partisan activity and establishing strict conflict of interest laws

VOTO LATINO: www.votolatino.org

Voto Latino is dedicated to bringing new and diverse voices into the political process by engaging youth, media, technology and celebrities to promote positive change.

PRESENTE: presente.org

Presente.org is a national organization that exists to amplify the political voice of Latino communities through online organizing.

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT: www.advancementproject.org

From Advancement Project's inception, we have worked "on-the-ground," helping organized communities of color dismantle and reform the unjust and inequitable policies that undermine the promise of democracy.

ROCK THE VOTE: www.rockthevote.com

We use music, popular culture, new technologies and grassroots organizing to motivate and mobilize young people in our country to participate in every election, with the goal of seizing the power of the youth vote to create political and social change.

APPENDIX B:

Additional Resources on Immigration and Refugees

Church World Service

www.greateras1.org

www.cwsglobal.org

Interfaith Immigration Coalition

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>.

RCUSA

<http://www.rcusa.org/>

Sanctuary Movement

<https://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/>

We Are All America

<https://www.weareallusa.org/>

Families Belong Together

<https://www.familiesbelongtogether.org/>

APPENDIX C

SERMONS & FAITH INITIATIVES ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Rev. Phill Kniss Park View Mennonite Church

Jesus rubbed shoulders with the power structures—religious powers and state powers, the politics of the temple and the politics of Caesar. He was quite willing to confront either one, but not on their terms. The religious politicians were stuck on a certain kind of legalistic righteousness. Jesus confronted their power, but not by taking over their positions in the temple, and enforcing a new righteousness. He confronted their power by touching lepers, eating with tax collectors, hanging with sinful women, and otherwise living a different kind of righteousness. He practiced the politics of radical love.

Rev. Chuck Currie, United Church of Christ

Part of what the Bible provides is a philosophy of how to lead both our private and our public lives. If we are compassionate to the individuals we encounter and concerned with justice above all else in community affairs then it is said we are building up God's Kingdom. It is always easier for a minister to talk about personal responsibility than it is to talk about what we need to do to improve society. But we cannot as Christians afford to forget about the larger world because Jesus didn't and part of our obligation as the faithful is to follow Jesus even into difficult places.

The Christian in the Voting Booth By Lutheran Rev. Richard Futrell

From a Christian worldview, we see voting as a divine gift that allows us to think the way God thinks, to act the way He acts. Through voting, we can see others the way God sees them in His mercy. It's a way to show mercy and compassion, in the way God shows mercy and compassion. As Scripture says, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

Catholic Bishops- Consciousness for Faithful Participation

We urge our Catholic pastors and people to continue to use this important statement to help them form their consciences, to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue, and to shape their choices in the coming election in the light of Catholic teaching. The statement lifts our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens. We are members of a community of faith with a long tradition of teaching and action on human life, and dignity, marriage and family, justice and peace, care for creation, and the common good.

National Council of Churches Christian Principles

Our faith compels us to address the world through the lens of our relationship to God and to one another. Public discourse is enhanced as we engage civic leaders on the values and ethics affirmed by our faith.

Reform Judaism Resources on Voter Engagement

As people of faith and American citizens we have an obligation to participate in the elections to ensure that our country's policies at the local, state and national levels reflect our commitment to social justice. Please see sample voter engagement guide for Reform Jewish Congregations at <https://rac.org/rac-civic-engagement-campaign>

Preachers Prepare to Get Souls to the Polls

"Our duty today," said Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, before a crowd of African-American clergy members, "is to remember that the Bible tell us: 'For lack of knowledge, the people perish.' " The Congressional Black Caucus and the Conference of National Black Churches joined forces on Wednesday for their inaugural Faith Leaders Summit on Voting Rights. The Washington, D.C., forum, attended by members of Congress and about 200 leaders from black churches across the country, was designed to inform attendees about restrictive state-level voting laws passed around the country and to empower them to share with their home congregations information about surmounting subsequent voting obstacles.