

GENERIC VERSION - 1

(These text boxes can be used on your newsletter or website to give people ideas for action)



There is still time for your Church to organize a voter registration drive in preparation for the November elections. It is not hard to do. The process simply involves having voter registration forms available at a table in the back of Church, and encouraging people to fill them out right there. It is perfectly legal for Churches to conduct non-partisan voter registration drives. It is also perfectly in line with the Gospel. After all, Jesus commands us not only to believe his teachings, but to help all people carry them out -- and one of the ways we do that is to shape our laws by electing our leaders. Churchgoers, who hear God's word regularly, can have a strong influence in shaping society according to that Word -- especially if they exercise their duty to vote.

One of the activities citizens can carry out at election time is to become poll-watchers. This activity simply involves being present at the polling places on Election Day to insure that elections are conducted fairly, by watching the process by which people sign in at the polls. This activity is a form of public service that involves some simple training and yet goes a long way to protect your rights and those of your fellow citizens as they exercise their duty to vote. Contact your Board of Elections for more details on how you can sign up for this activity. As historical experience verifies over and over again, every vote counts. You can help assure that every vote counts fairly.

Many states allow early voting. This means that even if you do not have a reason why you cannot get to the polls on Election Day, you may vote before Election Day. The regulations and dates that apply to each state for early voting can be found on the website, www.politicalresponsibility.org. Why is it a good idea to vote before Election Day? Because we should not put off until tomorrow what we can do today. Every vote really does count, and when we wait until the last possible day to vote, we leave ourselves open to the chance that something will stand in our way -- we may become ill, or have car trouble, or encounter a family problem, or bad weather, or just forget. Don't let that happen! This year, vote early!

Many people are not able to get out of the house very easily, or know someone else who is homebound. With Election Day coming up, please be sure to apply as soon as possible for an absentee ballot. The process is easy, and your local Board of Elections will be happy to assist you with every aspect of it. The laws of this great country provide that even when our physical capacities are limited, our voices can be heard just the same in electing our leaders. If you have relatives and friends who are homebound, making sure that they send in their absentee ballot is a great way of reminding them that they are active citizens nevertheless, and that their involvement is needed. Please request your absentee ballot today!