

## **Guidelines for Grassroots Leaders (Incl. Party Precinct Chairs) on facilitating voter registration and voter mobilization in your church.**

**Overview:** Non-partisan voter registration (VR) as well as voter education (VE) and mobilization (GOTV) activities are indisputably within 501 c 3 IRS parameters and since the inception of related IRS standards in 1954, NOT A SINGLE CHURCH has lost its non-profit status for conducting these steps. Legality is simply not a question. Your greatest challenge is appealing to the Senior Pastor, Priest, Rector or Rabbi (will refer to as SP) that conducting these three steps is a necessary and important ministry – which is true.\*

**STEP ONE:** Contact your SP directly and set up a time to visit in person or by phone. You will be most effective by making it clear that your purpose is to seek your SP's approval and blessing to plan and carry out NON-PARTISAN VR, VE and GOTV ministry for your church. Your purpose is to serve your SP and serve your congregation, not access them to achieve political goals. **It is ideal to – BEFORE meeting with your SP - well familiarize yourself with the scriptures and narrative as described in “It’s Ministry, Not Politics!” and “Biblical Basis of Governing and Voting” at [www.faithvotes.org](http://www.faithvotes.org).**

IMPORTANT: You may be an elected Republican Precinct Chair or party officer and as such still MAY conduct these activities, however you must assure your pastor and be faithful to adhering to the “non-partisan” standard of all materials and messaging. Provide SP a copy of “Churches and Elections\_First Liberty” available free at [www.faithvotes.org](http://www.faithvotes.org).

**STEP TWO:** Once you receive your SP's approval\*\* and blessing, you should enlist as many others as you believe needed to set up the FaithVotes team whose primary purpose is to equip and empower your church for maximum informed voter turnout.

IMPORTANT: You should ideally have from one certified Deputy Voter Registrar to as many as is necessary to cover every church service and event at which you plan to conduct VR activities.

**STEP THREE:** Work with the pastoral and/or church administrative staff to secure and place dates in the church calendar for VR dates and deadline, VE window and GOTV key dates well in advance. (VR can run perpetually, however there should be clear worship service dates designated at least three weeks prior to the county's VR submission deadline.

IMPORTANT: For detailed suggested steps for comprehensive VR, VE and GOTV activities please download “Christian Citizenship 101” and “Maximizing Church Vote” at [www.faithvotes.org](http://www.faithvotes.org).

**STEP FOUR:** Request SP approval to place announcements on all VR, VE and GOTV activities on church website, FaceBook, Announcement Screen Slides, email communications, etc. to maximize exposure to the full congregation so each family unit is reached multiple times. (NOTE: Party Platform Issues Comparisons ARE legally permissible!)

\*“It’s Not Politics, It’s Ministry: Loving Our Neighbor By Being a Good Citizen” and the other resources are available at [www.faithvotes.org](http://www.faithvotes.org) to order is an excellent resource for Pastors, Precinct Chairs, ministry leaders and all citizens to properly frame the individual believer’s role as a U.S. Citizen as well as the Pastor and church’s role in doing it God’s way!

\*\* - If SP does not respond or approve, you will need to carry this out as informally and without disruption as you can within church relationships, or decide to find a church with a pastor who is leading biblically.