

TURNOUT SUNDAY

LAWYERS AND COLLARS

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH-BASED TOOLKIT
VOTING DURING COVID-19

SUPPLEMENTAL



A product of Skinner Leadership Institute and the National African American Clergy Network (NAACN) of denominational & independent church leaders in partnership with Sojourners
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TURNOUT SUNDAY: VOTING DURING COVID-19

Dear Friends in Faith:

God's people have a spiritual mandate to care for our neighbor, and stand up for those whose rights are being violated. During these uncertain times, we are facing a health pandemic, and a racial pandemic where brazen efforts to suppress the rights of African Americans and other vulnerable citizens are spiking daily. This November, you have the power to address racial inequities in systems serving your community through the people you choose and the ballot measures available in your state.

The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting significant challenges to our lives. It is forcing us to make a difficult choice between risking our health with in-person voting or pivoting to a mail system that some do not trust. With so much at stake, and many states' embarrassing history of voter suppression, continued attempts to suppress votes must stop! We urge you to vote by any means readily available to exercise your constitutionally guaranteed right. Whether you vote by mail or at the polls, the key is to vote! Don't stay silent and think that things will work themselves out!

To address these challenges, **Skinner Leadership Institute**, the **National African American Clergy Network** of denominational and independent church leaders, and our partner **Sojourners**, are providing this **supplemental Turnout Sunday/Lawyers & Collars - Voting During the Age of COVID-19 Faith-Based Toolkit**. For additional voting resources check out the original **Turnout Sunday/Lawyer & Collars Faith-Based Toolkit** found at www.TURNOUTSunday.com.

Turnout Sunday is not a day in the week! It is a movement inspired by the Black church and its allies that works to ensure free, fair, and safe elections for all.

So how will we successfully prepare? We urge the use of this supplemental toolkit, especially if you are concerned about voting during COVID-19. If available in your state, voting by mail also avoids efforts to suppress your vote at the polls and gives you time to track your vote with the election board in your state. We know that many African Americans traditionally participate in "Souls to the Polls" early voting programs, and voting at the polls, and must now navigate how to vote safely this year. The church must be a leader in this work. Our communities are concerned about the impact of the coronavirus, and we want to make sure that you have the information you need to participate safely in upcoming elections, ensuring that we elect the candidates that best represent the interests of our communities, our states, and our nation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Dr. Otis Moss Jr.

Dr. T. DeWitt Smith Jr.

Co-Conveners, **National African American Clergy Network**

Rev. Jim Wallis, President, **Sojourners**

Rev. Adam R. Taylor, Executive Director, **Sojourners**



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AFRICAN AMERICAN CLERGY
NETWORK

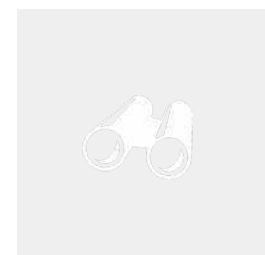
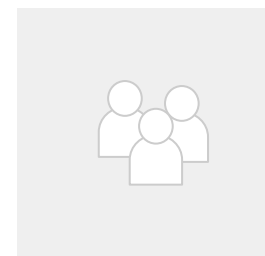
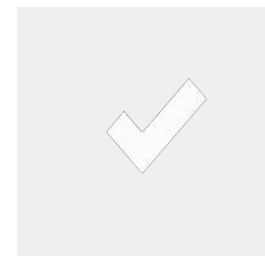
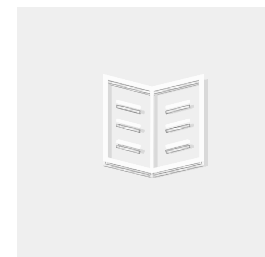
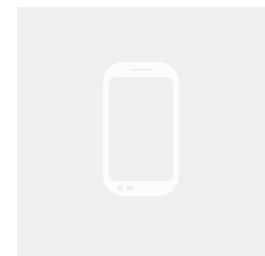


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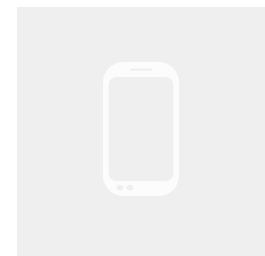
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GETTING STARTED | LEGAL DO'S AND DON'TS FOR CHURCHES & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. Understand what you/your church can legally do in elections.

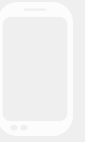
- DO:** Publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible. Also, discuss candidates position on issues with congregation.
- DO:** Rent out the faith organization facilities (e.g., kitchens, athletic facilities, community rooms) for political activities...regular rates **MUST** apply.
- DO:** Provide rentals of membership lists at regular rates.
- DO:** Allow candidates to make appearances at the organization's events/services.
- DO:** Distribute candidate campaign literature as an individual faith leader.
- DO:** Distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders.
- DO:** Publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied.
- DO:** Use organization's vehicle to transport people to vote.
- DO:** Lobby & Campaign for or against legislation as congregation or individual.

- DO NOT:** Support or oppose the candidates on the congregation's behalf.
- DO NOT:** Use the congregation's funding to give financial contributions of any kind to the candidates/office holders.
- DO NOT:** Impose your opinions on the congregation.
- DO NOT:** Publish faith organization editorials that support or oppose candidates.
- DO NOT:** Publish political ads as a donation.
- DO NOT:** Display candidate's literature on organization's vehicle used to transport people to vote.
- DO NOT:** Distribute candidate campaign literature as a congregation.

Sources: "Preaching Politics from the Pulpit," Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. www.pewforum.org -IRS Publication 1828, *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations* 3 (Rev. September 2006) [hereinafter "Pub. 1828"].



GETTING STARTED | VOTING RESOURCES IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



(Websites with Answers to your Questions)

- Find out If You're **Registered to Vote** www.headcount.org
- Locate Your **Voting Precinct** www.vote.org
- Locate **Easy Voting Tools** www.voterparticipation.org
- If You're **Turned Away At the Polls** <https://866ourvote.org/> or **1-866-687-8683**
- If you want **your rights restored** - criminal record, <https://campaignlegal.org/restoreyourvote>
- If you **moved** www.headcount.org
- If you are in the **military** www.fvap.gov
- If you are a **student** www.bestcolleges.com/resources/voting-in-college/
- If you are **disabled** [AARP Policy Book 2019-2020](#), [United States Senate Special Committee on Aging](#) and, <https://www.eac.gov/voters/voting-accessibility>
- To register to **vote in church** https://www.macucc.org/files/websites/www/Voter-Registration-guidelines-2_2.pdf



EDUCATION | WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Why the Black Vote Matters in 2020 | We have a lot to Lose!

- Health Care
- Jobs and the Economy
- Racism and Discrimination
- Education
- Police Accountability
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Women's Rights
- Affordable Housing
- Voting Rights
- Reducing Crime and Violence
- Common Sense Gun Reform
- Climate Justice

HOW TO VOTE

- [Early Voting](#)
 - [By State](#)
- [Mail-In/Absentee Voting](#)
 - [Absentee Ballot Deadlines](#)
 - [Request an Absentee Ballot](#)
- [In-Person](#)
 - [CDC Guidance](#)

WHEN TO VOTE

- [Voting & COVID-19](#)

WHERE TO VOTE

- [Locate Your Polling Place](#)

WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT?

- [Candidates](#)
- [Issues](#)

**Not Voting
IS a Vote
Against Your
Interests
and
Your
Community!**



VOTER REGISTRATION

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 is Election Day!

8 Million Black People
are CURRENTLY **NOT**
Registered To Vote



The 2016 Margin of victory was less than the unregistered Black voter.

Key States	2016 Victory Margin	Af Am Pop	Af Am Unregistered
FLORIDA	112,911	2,999,862	336,235
GEORGIA	211,141	3,150,435	349,675
MICHIGAN	10,704	1,400,362	240,787
NORTH CAROLINA	173,315	2,048,628	177,421
PENNSYLVANIA	44,292	1,377,689	227,464
TEXAS	204,505	2,979,598	758,165

Source: www.politico.com | Unregistered Black Voters Larger Than 2016 Presidential Margin Of Victory

Host a **Virtual**
Voter
Registration
PARTY!

- [Am I Registered to Vote?](#)
- [Who Can Register?](#)
- [When Can I Register?](#)
- [How Can I Register?](#)
 - [In-Person](#)
 - [Online](#)
 - [By Mail](#)
- [Voter Registration Card](#)
- [Voters with Disabilities](#)
- [Overseas and Military Voters](#)
- [Voting Rights for Ex-Offenders by State](#)
- [Where Do I Re-register?](#)
 - [Change of Name](#)
 - [Change of Address](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Turnout Sunday Target States in **Red**

SOUTH CAROLINA

Deadline | Oct 5

SOUTH DAKOTA

Deadline | Oct 19

TENNESSEE

Deadline | Oct 5

TEXAS

Deadline | Oct 5

UTAH

Deadline | Oct 27

VERMONT

Deadline | Oct 5*

VIRGINIA

Deadline | Oct 13

WASHINGTON

Deadline | Oct 26

WEST VIRGINIA

Deadline | Oct 13

WISCONSIN

Deadline | Oct 14*

WYOMING

Deadline | Oct 19*

ALABAMA

Deadline | Oct 19

GEORGIA

Deadline | Oct 5

MARYLAND

Deadline | Oct 13*

NEW JERSEY

Deadline | Oct 13

ALASKA

Deadline | Oct 4

HAWAII

Deadline | Oct 5

MASSACHUSETTS

Deadline | Oct 14

NEW MEXICO

Deadline | Oct 6

ARIZONA

Deadline | Oct 5

IDAHO

Deadline | Oct 9*

MICHIGAN

Deadline | Oct 4*

NEW YORK

Deadline | Oct 9

ARKANSAS

Deadline | Oct 6

ILLINOIS

Deadline | Oct 18*

MINNESOTA

Deadline | Oct 13*

NORTH CAROLINA

Deadline | Oct 9

CALIFORNIA

Deadline | Oct 19

INDIANA

Deadline | Oct 5

MISSISSIPPI

Deadline | Oct 5

NORTH DAKOTA

Deadline | none

COLORADO

Deadline | Oct 26*

IOWA

Deadline | Oct 24*

MISSOURI

Deadline | Oct 7

OHIO

Deadline | Oct 5

CONNECTICUT

Deadline | Oct 27*

KANSAS

Deadline | Oct 13

MONTANA

Deadline | Oct 5

OKLAHOMA

Deadline | Oct 9

DELAWARE

Deadline | Oct 3

KENTUCKY

Deadline | Oct 5

NEBRASKA

Deadline | Oct 16

OREGON

Deadline | Oct 13

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Deadline | Oct 13*

LOUISIANA

Deadline | Oct 14

NEVADA

Deadline | Oct 29

PENNSYLVANIA

Deadline | Oct 19

FLORIDA

Deadline | Oct 5

MAINE

Deadline | Oct 19*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Deadline | Oct 27*

RHODE ISLAND

Deadline | Oct 4

TURNOUT | WHAT PASTORS CAN DO TO BOOST #TURNOUT



1. **Preach and teach the importance of voting** as a core part of discipleship and advancing justice in your community. Encourage young people (18-29 year-olds) to vote. They are the [largest and most diverse group](#) of potential voters in the country, representing 37 percent of the eligible population of voters.
2. **Ensure that all your members are registered to vote.** Before you can vote, you must register. **NOW** is the time to [verify your registration!](#)
3. **Encourage all of your members to [request an absentee ballot for November.](#)** In response to **COVID-19**, many states have changed their previous policies to accommodate more voting by mail.
4. **Educate your house of worship** about updated voter identification laws, polling places, dates, and rights. Check out the [CDC Guidance.](#)
5. **Protect Voting during COVID-19.** Recruit clergy and church leaders to spend election day at the polls supporting and assisting voters, working alongside lawyers at [www.TURNOUTSunday.com.](#)
6. **Know the Facts: Voting by mail does not lead to fraud.** Many analysts believe that mail ballots are essential for holding a safe election amid **COVID-19** (and security concerns can easily be addressed). [TheHill.com](#)
7. **Know What's on the Ballot?:** Help your congregation learn the candidates and issues before casting their vote at [www.vote411.org](#) and [www.headcount.org.](#) Host a virtual church-based workshop on the ballot issues.



VOTER TURNOUT IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

WHAT PASTORS CAN DO TO BOOST VOTER TURNOUT!

The need for physical distancing due to COVID-19 is adding unprecedented challenges to voter mobilization and turnout. Your voice is more important now to urge your state election officials to make voting safer and accessible for more people in November. Mobilizing people to register and/or vote, is going to require different tools now that person-to-person contact is limited. Check out the links below to aid your efforts.

TURNOUT SUNDAY WEBINARS

If you are a pastor/faith leader in one of the following states visit <https://www.turnoutsunday.com/events> to register to participate in a TURNOUT Sunday webinar.

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Florida
- Georgia
- Michigan
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin

RESTORE VOTER RIGHTS FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

- [Alabama](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)
- For all other states, click [here](#)

IN-PERSON VOTING

Please review the following [CDC guidance](#) if you and/or members of your congregation will be voting in-person at your polling place on Election Day.

VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Ensure voters with disabilities can access and use their voting facilities in the following states:

- [Alabama](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)
- For all other states click [here](#)

CURBSIDE VOTE-BY-MAIL

Check to see if your state has curbside Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and/or Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations:

- [Alabama](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)
- All other states click [here](#)

ELECTION PROTECTION

Problems with voting? Call the [Lawyers' Committee](#) Election Protection hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683).

STAY UP-TO-DATE

[Check with your secretary of state](#) for updates and changes to election plans in your state.



VOTER TURNOUT IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



SPREAD THE WORD

Share on social media

Find sample social media messages for Turnout Sunday/Lawyers & Collars Campaign in the full Toolkit [here](#). Share our content with others. Use the following hashtags: **#TurnoutSunday2020**, **#ProtectTheVote**

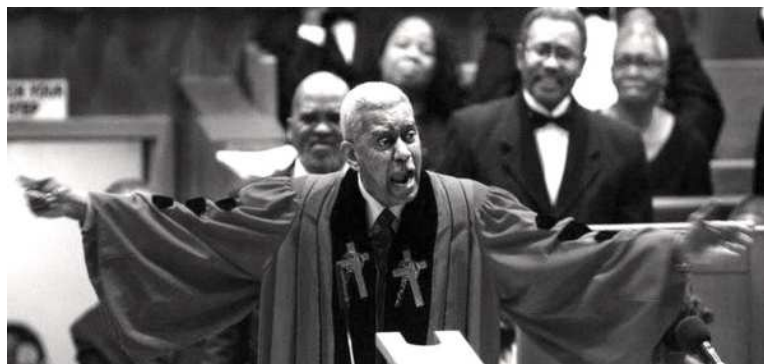
SHARE A MESSAGE

Share a message or sermon about God's concern for justice, the poor and the vulnerable to encourage your community and congregants to learn more about TurnOut Sunday and the importance of voting. Find sample sermon scriptures and church announcements in the full Toolkit [here](#).



HOST VIRTUAL TURNOUT SUNDAY

Host a virtual Turnout Sunday service, **Sunday November 1**, before Election Day. Preach, Teach, Create a Plan, Mobilize, Watch & Pray. Remind congregants that Election Day involves voting for more than the presidency. Important local issues and positions are also at stake, e.g., judgeships, sheriff and school boards.



ORGANIZE VOTER PHONE BANK

Organize a night of phone banking before the election to call the families in your church directory and remind them to vote. Click [here](#) for more information.



VOTER PROTECTION and COVID-19

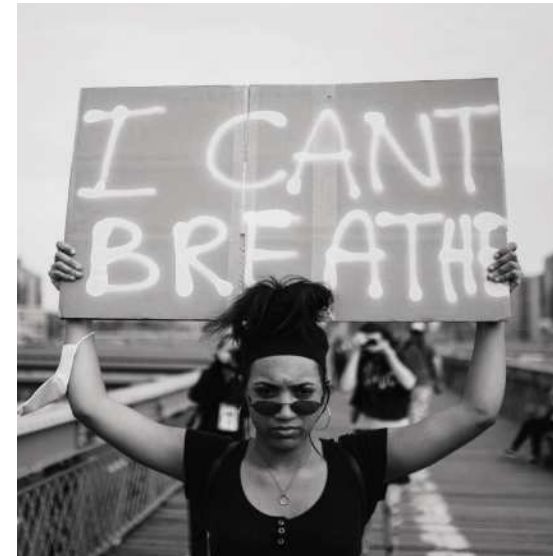
TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR VOTE!

Our faith teaches us that all people are created in God's image. Protecting the right to vote during the pandemic affirms the divine image and inherent value of all of God's children. Nothing diminishes the rule of law and our democracy more than voter suppression efforts like mass purges of voter rolls, voter ID laws, cuts to early voting, and systematic disenfranchisement of the most vulnerable.

- [Verify that you are registered](#)
- [Verify what ID is required & obtain it](#)
- [Verify your polling location](#)
- [Use easy voting tools](#) ([Absentee Ballot](#), [Early Voting](#))
- [Know what's on the ballot](#)
- [Voting problem](#) or call 1-866-OURVOTE (1-866-687-8683)

EQUIP YOURSELF AGAINST DISINFORMATION

As part of the effort to Protect2020, the [Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency](#) (CISA) is working with national partners to build resilience to foreign interferences, particularly information activities (e.g., disinformation, misinformation) linked to election security. Here are links to the following resources. [Disinformation Stops with You](#): An infographic with steps on how to lessen the impact of foreign influence operations.



VOTER PROTECTION INFO FOR KEY STATES

- [Alabama](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)



VOTER PROTECTION and COVID-19

KNOW ELECTION DAY CONTACT INFORMATION BY STATE

Tuesday, **November 3, 2020**, is Election Day. For Election Day contact information and polling place look up for your state visit <https://www.eac.gov/voters/election-day-contact-information>.

ELECTION PROTECTION

The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition works year-round to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, Election Protection uses a wide range of tools and activities to protect, advance and defend the right to vote.

- [Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: 866-OUR-VOTE](#)



VOLUNTEER TO BE A POLL WORKER OR POLL MONITOR

Get paid to serve your community this election by applying to be a poll worker at <https://www.eac.gov/voters/become-poll-worker> or volunteer as poll monitor (*pay rate varies by state*). **Recruit younger poll workers to avoid the extra health risks to older citizens at the polls.**

[Register to be a local poll monitor.](#)



TURNOUT SUNDAY CLERGY PARTICIPATION PLEDGE FORM

Fill out the **TURNOUT Sunday Clergy Participation Pledge form** [here](#) to stay connected to the latest information and events in your area.

To access additional resources visit:

- www.TURNOUTSunday.com

Connect me to local and national **TURNOUT** Sunday ® events:

Full Name*	Organization/Company	# Members / Reach	
Email*	Social Media Handles	State*	Phone

I would like to partner with the TURNOUT Sunday Campaign and will commit to do one or more of the following activities:

I am a Clergy Leader Add me to the TURNOUT Sunday mailing list.

I am a church-based lawyer

Participate in Election Day Coverage to provide a moral presence and legal support on election day

Participate in a TURNOUT Sunday Webinar focused on my state – and receive "Know Your Rights" and "What's At Stake?" Training

2020 actions your local clergy are planning - to educate, register, protect, engage, and turnout those you lead.

Submit



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