

Priority Actions for the Quaker Call to Democracy

May 2024

Threats to our democracy in denying election outcomes, voter suppression, intimidation of election workers, and threats of violence continue to cast a shadow across our country. **We are called to act.**

“An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends” began in 2022 by releasing a statement for endorsement in June of that year that was subsequently updated in 2023. [The Quaker Call](#) is an ad hoc group that came together to encourage Friends to take action to protect our federal, state, and local elections, save and strengthen our democracy, and to stand up for truth and integrity in our American society and political life.

Some 1800 people have participated in national Zoom calls or endorsed the statement. Currently and until the inauguration in January 2025, we are focusing our work on the 2024 federal, state, and local elections.

This document offers priority actions for Friends to join the nation-wide effort to safeguard free and fair elections and to preserve and strengthen U.S. democracy. Many Friends are already engaged in additional ways in your own communities, and we look forward to learning more about your faithful actions.

Here are our recommendations for possible actions to protect and promote democracy. We encourage you to consider as many as you are led to pursue.

➤ **Take Action Option 1**

Support local election officials to help build trust for free and fair elections.

[Protect Our Election](#) has tools for reaching out to your local election officials to support their efforts for orderly elections and to counter disinformation. Protect Our Election’s website provides guidance for writing letters of support to election officials; they are also looking for research volunteers to monitor disinformation about elections or election officials in your local community.

➤ **Take Action Option 2**

Who we elect matters! Volunteer or contribute to the candidate or candidates of your choice.

Candidates are always looking for volunteers—in both primary and general elections. Contact the candidate’s campaign— candidates running for federal office and state offices will have a website with contact information and volunteer opportunities. Or, reach out to the county or state political party offices to volunteer. Volunteers often make phone calls, door knock, host house parties, enter data and much more.

➤ **Take Action Option 3**

Engage candidates running for the US House and Senate on priority issues for Friends

[FCNL](#) is developing a “how-to talk to candidates for Congress” site that will help you reach out to engage with those running for US House of Representatives or US Senator. This is a great way to highlight issues and policies for peace, economic and racial justice, solutions to climate change and more.

➤ **Take Action Option 4**

Set up an election season support group in your Quaker meeting or community.

This could include gathering a few F/friends who are very concerned about non-violent, free and fair elections and who will volunteer together. Or, it might be a listening group who will hold worship-sharing sessions for those who are feeling despair or confusion about elections with a focus on caring for one another and on building resilient communities.

➤ **Take Action Option 5**

Organize Friends in your state to work on voter registration and voter turnout.

Voter registration and voter turnout is generally most effective when led by peer communities. Many organizations, such as the NAACP or NexGen America, work with specific populations to support voting. Find out what is happening in your community and how you can help by contacting your local [League of Women Voters](#).

➤ **Take Action Option 6**

Become a volunteer poll watcher or worker.

Plan now for how you can support voter turnout as a poll worker or poll watcher in your state’s primary elections or on Nov 5. [Faiths United to Save Democracy](#) or your local election offices can offer direction for how you can support elections when voting begins in the fall.

➤ **Take Action Option 7**

Communicate with Friends, family and neighbors about why voting is important to you and how your values influence your civic actions—from volunteering to protect elections to working for candidates to voting.

Some of us are disappointed or frustrated about candidates and elections and may not want to vote at all. Participating in elections by voting and then engaging to change the systems that aren’t working is the way forward, not opting out altogether. We know that no candidate is perfect and no candidate represents every one of our priorities. We have both the opportunity and the responsibility as citizens to vote for the candidates who will best serve the needs of our country.

➤ **Take Action Option 8**

Learn about the election regulations and laws that govern your jurisdiction.

Every state has distinct election laws that govern voting; because these periodically change, it's good to refresh yourself and share with your community. You can find information about early voting, absentee voting, polling place voting and more on the website of your secretary of state. [League of Women Voters](#) offers this resource.

➤ **Take Action Option 9**

Learn about election violence and what you can do to build more resilient communities.

Register for a four-part series on Election Violence Prevention led by [Emily Provance](#). Election violence can occur before, on, or after election day. This series identifies the warning signs present in the United States and helps participants (1) learn about best practices for election violence prevention and (2) identify specific actions steps that feel doable and authentic to each individual. We make no assumptions about participants' political views; if you want a non-violent election cycle, you're on this team. [Learn more and register here.](#)