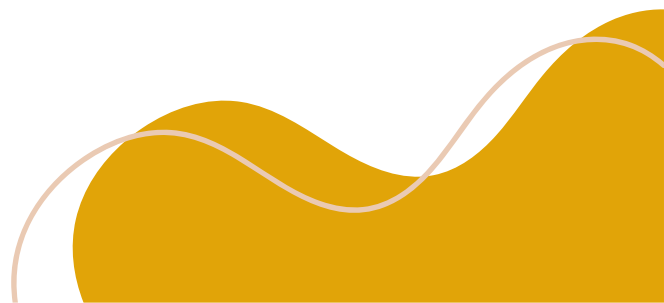




An initiative of the New Mexico Family Action Foundation

CHRISTIAN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

A Biblical Call to Faithful Citizenship





WHY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MATTERS TO CHRISTIANS

As followers of Christ, we are not just citizens of heaven—we are also stewards of the world God placed us in. Our voice, our vote, and our values are meant to influence the culture around us, not in pursuit of power, but in obedience to our calling.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."
— Matthew 5:14

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS FOR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

The Bible is clear: God's people are called to live responsibly and redemptively within the communities and governments where He places them.

1. We Are Called to Be Salt and Light

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16

We engage to reflect God's justice, compassion, and truth in every area of society—including the laws and leaders that shape our communities.

2. We Are Called to Seek Justice

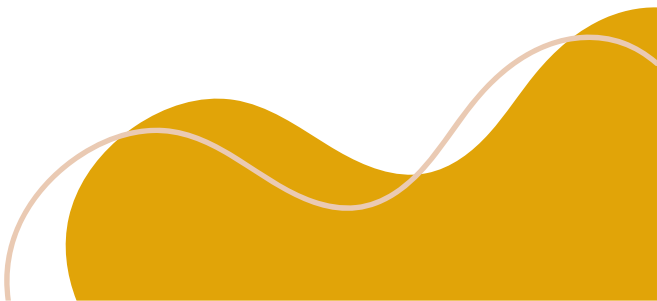
"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." — Isaiah 1:17

Engaging in civic life allows us to protect the vulnerable and promote righteousness in public policy.

3. We Are Called to Pray for and Honor Authority

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority..." — 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Prayer is a powerful act of civic engagement—and so is participation with wisdom and discernment.

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GUIDELINES FOR RESPECTFUL POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Reflecting Christ in a Divided Culture

In a time when political dialogue is often marked by hostility, fear, and division, the Church has a unique opportunity—and responsibility—to model a better way. The goal isn't to avoid tough conversations, but to approach them with wisdom, grace, and the heart of Christ.

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." — Romans 12:18

WHAT TO DO

1. Lead with Humility

Approach every conversation understanding that we don't know everything. Humbly acknowledging our limitations opens the door for mutual respect.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." — Philippians 2:3

2. Listen to Understand, Not Just to Respond

Truly hearing someone's perspective is not the same as agreeing with it. But listening demonstrates respect and opens hearts.

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." — James 1:19

3. Speak Truth with Grace

We are called to speak truth—but never as a weapon. Our words should reflect both biblical conviction and Christlike compassion.

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt." — Colossians 4:6

4. Acknowledge Shared Values Where Possible

Start with what you have in common before addressing points of disagreement. It builds trust and creates bridges for the Gospel.

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5. Practice the Fruit of the Spirit

Every political opinion, no matter how sound, loses its impact if not delivered with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

— Galatians 5:22-23

✗ WHAT TO AVOID

1. Dehumanizing Language

Avoid labeling or attacking people with derogatory terms. Even those we disagree with are made in the image of God.

2. Overgeneralizing or Assuming Motives

Statements like “all progressives hate God” or “conservatives don’t care about justice” shut down meaningful dialogue and distort truth.

3. Reacting Out of Emotion Instead of Conviction

Righteous anger has its place—but if our response is fueled more by fear, offense, or frustration than by the Holy Spirit, we lose our witness.

4. Making Politics Your Primary Identity

Your citizenship in God’s Kingdom is eternal. Your political party affiliation is not. Guard your heart from idolizing ideologies.

5. Ignoring the Power of Silence

Sometimes the wisest move is to not engage at all. If a conversation becomes toxic, unfruitful, or dishonoring to God, it's okay to walk away.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

- Pray before engaging in political conversation. Ask for wisdom and restraint.
 - Set a tone of grace in your social media presence. The world is watching.
 - Be quick to apologize. If you say something unkind or off-track, own it and make it right.
 - Know when to speak and when to sow. Not every disagreement is a battlefield.
- Sometimes, your quiet example will speak louder than your words.

By choosing to engage with humility, integrity, and love, we don’t just influence public policy—we reflect the character of Christ in a world desperate for truth and hope.

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ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Whether you're new to civic involvement or ready to go deeper, here are simple ways to begin:

1. Register and Vote

Help ensure that every eligible believer is registered and ready to vote biblically. (Visit nmfam.org/voting-biblical-values)

2. Participate in Voter Registration Sunday

Host a nonpartisan voter registration table at your church. We provide the tools—you provide the heart.

3. Stay Informed with a Biblical Lens

Subscribe to NMFAM updates, legislative alerts, and voter guides. Understand what's happening—and why it matters to faith and family.

4. Pray for Elected Leaders & Policies

Organize or attend regular prayer gatherings for local and state leaders. Prayer moves hearts and changes history.

5. Build Relationships with Local Officials

Attend city council meetings or school board hearings. Write letters. Invite elected officials to church events. Show them the Church is watching—and cares.

6. Speak Up with Truth and Love

Use your voice to advocate for biblical values—whether it's defending life, protecting children, or upholding religious freedom.

YOUR ROLE IN THE KINGDOM

You don't need to be a politician to make a difference. You just need to be a faithful believer who refuses to sit silently while others shape the culture.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy." — Proverbs 31:8-9

