



MY FAITH MY VOTE

SOULS TO THE POLLS Interfaith Immigration Coalition Initiative to GET OUT THE VOTE!



Why Should We Get Out the Vote?

- The call to promote justice, compassion, and equality is one shared across many faiths. Voting and participating in civil society are key to both the integration and naturalization processes.
- When naturalized immigrants and refugees exercise their right to vote, they empower themselves to be full members of their new communities.
- The goal of a get out the vote campaign is to get as many people from our grassroots base to vote and assist others in the voting process.

Souls to the Polls

- Calling on all churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques to establish a volunteer network within their congregations to Get Out the Vote.
- This can include congregations encouraging members to take advantage of early voting, organizing car pools after their weekly service canvassing and working the polls.

Poll Workers and Polling Monitors- Election Protection

- Poll Workers are the link between election administration—the laws, rules, and procedures that govern the election process—and the voters. They are the front-line staff of the democratic process who sit at the table, check rosters, and hand out ballots.
- Polling Monitors are responsible to make sure there is a fair voting process by monitoring poll workers and offering voters information about their rights. Monitors assist people in finding their correct polling station so their vote will count.
- Monitors let voters know about the voter protection hotline [1-866-OUR -VOTE](https://www.vote.org/1-866-OUR-VOTE) and their options for getting assistance with voting rights, correct polling location and more. They can also conduct exit polling about voters' experiences casting their votes across the state to identify any significant successes or problems and record them for the next election.

Volunteer Canvassing to Knock on Doors and/or Staffing a Phone Bank

- The month before the election, contact your constituents to remind them to get ready to vote by reminding them when the election is and identifying where their polling location is. You can even team up with a local organization ([found at this link](#)) to help with GOTV activities such as door-to-door visits, phone banking identified supporters, and direct mail and literature drops / door hangers.

Promote the Vote with Interfaith Vigils Praying for Transparent & Fair Elections

- In the week before the election promote the importance of voting through the public witness of interfaith vigils the week before the election. Join different faiths together to pray for access for all eligible voters, peaceful and honest elections processes, and no discrimination at the polls.
- Sign up participants for helping with Get Out the Vote activities. Pick a strategic public place in your city center and make sure to invite the press and promote the vigil through social media. (See Link on [Sermons and Faith Initiatives on Civic Engagement](#))

Organize Car Pools and Ride Shares so that Everyone Can Have Access to Polls

- Plan in advance to offer rides to polling places by finding vans and volunteers to drive, making sure you have insurance to cover your activities, and reach out to communities who might need help with transportation, especially low-wage workers, stay at home parents, and elderly congregants who may not have access to transportation.
- Make announcements at religious services and hang up signs in offices and public places that encourage people who might need transportation help to contact a point person to set up a ride. Organize Souls to Polls rideshares and carpools for early voting opportunities after your weekly service.

Earned Media, Radio Shows and Social Media

- Create Facebook events for GOTV activities including volunteer canvassing/phone banking, vigils, carpools, etc. For larger events create a media advisory and send it to press contacts.
- Contact your local public radio or religious radio outlets to get out the story of faith communities promoting civic engagement and GOTV.

All Get Out the Vote Work is Strictly Non- Partisan

- The Interfaith Immigration Coalition is made up of non-partisan, 501(c)3 organizations. This means that all GOTV work will not endorse parties or candidates, but we will continue to promote welcoming communities.

Questions or Technical Support

- For any questions or technical support on making these activities a success please contact Rev. Noel Andersen at landersen@churchworldservice.org or 510-334-0431.

