

Political Involvement for Churches and Pastors

This list is designed to provide an overview of the standards for church political involvement. It is not meant to provide specific legal advice and is not an exhaustive list.

Church Activity	Permissible?
Conduct non-partisan voter registration	Yes
Conduct non-partisan get out the vote activities	Yes
Distribute non-partisan voter guides	Yes
Distribute non-partisan voting records	Yes
Support /Oppose legislation	Yes
Support/Oppose ballot initiative	Yes
Support/Oppose political or judicial nominee	Yes
Host forum for political candidates (all candidates invited)	Yes
Offer bulletin or newsletter ads at market rate	Yes
Sell/rent church list to candidate at market value (made available to all candidates)	Yes
Endorse/Oppose political candidates	No
Provide link on church’s website to candidate’s campaign website	No
Political fundraising	No
Contribute to political candidates	No
Contribute to political action committees (PAC’s)	No

Pastor Activity	Permissible?
Conduct non-partisan voter registration	Yes
Conduct non-partisan get out the vote measures	Yes
Distribute non-partisan voter guides	Yes
Distribute non-partisan voting records	Yes
Support /Oppose legislation	Yes
Support/Oppose ballot initiative	Yes
Support/Oppose political or judicial nominee	Yes
<i>As an individual</i> Endorse/Oppose political candidates*	Yes
<i>As an individual</i> Political fundraising*	Yes
<i>As an individual</i> Contribute to political candidates *	Yes
<i>As an individual</i> Contribute to political action committees (PAC’s)*	Yes
Pastor endorse/Oppose political candidate from pulpit	No

*No church resources/facilities used

For more information see IRS Publication 1828 and Fact Sheet 2006-17, both are available at www.irs.gov or contact Family First at (402)435-3210, 1-877 435-3210 toll free or info@familyfirst.org. Churches and pastors may obtain legal advice free of charge regarding their particular situation by contracting the James Madison Center for Free Speech or the Alliance Defense Fund.