

Election-ready Communities

BEFORE ELECTIONS | Preparing to show up at the polls as a nonpartisan congregation or faith community

KNOW YOUR POLLING PLACES:

Identify the polling locations used by your congregation and new American voters in your community. Visit them before Election Day so you know the layout, the entrance, and where to stand.

KNOW WHAT IS AND IS NOT ALLOWED:

Poll watchers from parties and campaigns may be present inside polling places; this is legal. They may not approach voters, speak to voters, or demand identification.

Uniformed law enforcement should not be stationed at polling place entrances without a specific emergency. ICE has no legal authority to conduct immigration enforcement at polling places.

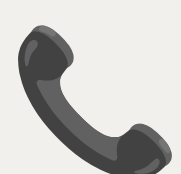
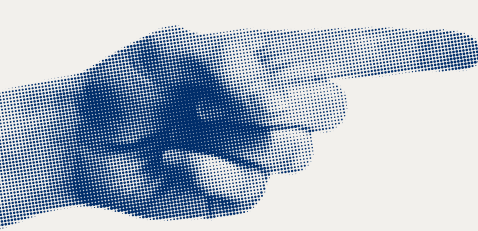
MAKE A PLAN FOR ELECTION DAY COVERAGE:

Identify two or three trusted, calm people from your congregation who will be present near priority polling locations on Election Day and during early voting. They do not need any special role; they simply need to be there.

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT THE DOCUMENTATION FORM:

Every ally should carry a simple form to document anything they observe. A blank index card works fine or find a form at www.cwsglobal.org/rise-up/

CALL THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

 **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**

Free. Multilingual. Available all day on Election Day. Lawyers are standing by. They can advise you in real time and take action fast.



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ON ELECTION DAY | Showing up to the polls as a nonpartisan congregation or faith community

BE VISIBLE AND CALM.

Stand in a public space near the polling place not inside, not blocking the entrance, not interfering with any official process. Your presence alone signals to community members: someone I trust is here.

IF A COMMUNITY MEMBER COMES TO YOU IN DISTRESS:

Listen. Reassure them calmly. Do not try to diagnose what is happening legally. Connect them to the Election Protection Hotline (866-687-8683) right away and stay on the line with them while they call.

IF YOU OBSERVE ICE OR FEDERAL AGENTS:

Step 1: Do not approach or confront them.

Step 2: Document immediately

Step 3: Call the Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE.

Step 4: Go inside and tell an election worker.

Step 5: Contact local law enforcement if agents are attempting to enter the polling place or detain voters. Local police in many jurisdictions have the authority and responsibility to remove anyone who does not have legal authority to be there.

IF A VOTER IS BEING TOLD THEY CANNOT VOTE:

Tell them quietly and calmly: *"Ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to one. Do not leave without it."* Then call the Election Protection Hotline immediately.

IF A VOTER IS BEING QUESTIONED OR INTIMIDATED:

By anyone- poll watcher, outside person, or uniformed individual- encourage them to go inside the polling place and tell an election worker. Do not intervene physically. Document what you observed and call the hotline.

SEE ANYTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU? DOCUMENT IT.

Even if you are not sure whether it is a problem, write it down. The hotline lawyers will determine what to do. Your job is to observe and record accurately.