

Developing Civic Action Teams

Once the message of Ambassadors for Biblical Civics has been delivered to a congregation, we encourage them to form and oversee a Citizenship Ministry to help activate fellow church members, facilitating civic involvement among the congregation. Developing a Civic Action Team (CAT) would take on the character of that particular church. With the approval of their pastor, they could initiate the following activities:

- Conduct voter registration drives in the church 45 days before elections
- Distribute non-partisan voter guides and legislative scorecards to church members
- Disseminate legislative updates and issue alerts throughout the year
- Educate the congregation about current issues

As American Christians, we must not forget that we have God-given stewardship duties that encompass the political process. We can help fellow church members fulfill those duties by organizing non-partisan Civics Action Teams.

DOs and DON'Ts for Churches



American churches are tax exempt and have legal parameters for political activities (Source: Christian Coalition of America at http://www.cc.org/church_liaisons).

What Churches May Do:

- Conduct non-partisan voter registration drives
- Distribute non-partisan voter education materials, such as Christian Coalition voter guides and scorecards
- Host forums where all viable candidates are allowed to speak
- Allow candidates and elected officials to speak at church services
- Educate members about pending legislation
- Lobby for legislation and may spend an insubstantial amount of its budget (5% is safe) on direct lobbying activities
- Pastors (and members) may endorse candidates in their capacity as private citizens
- Participate fully in political committees that are independent of the church

What Churches May NOT Do:

- Endorse candidates directly or indirectly on behalf of the church
- Contribute funds or services (such as mailing lists or office equipment) directly to candidates or political committees
- Distribute materials that clearly favor any candidate or party
- Pay fees for partisan political events from church funds
- Allow candidates to solicit funds while speaking in church
- Set up a political committee that would contribute to candidates