



Christian Faith and Civic Engagement  
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We are rapidly approaching the 2022 election. In the past few years there were already challenges to free and fair elections: the influence of wealthy corporations, gerrymandering (rigging the district maps), and losing key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (we currently have fewer voting protections than we did in 1965). As such, it may be tempting to withdraw and disengage completely from the political process. Instead, I urge you to vote on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. As Christians it matters that we vote, and that we continue to protect the right of others to vote too. In fact, the United Church of Christ has a campaign called “Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice,” which emphasizes how essential and unique faith voices are in the electoral process. When divisive and mean-spirited rhetoric dominates the public dialogue, people of faith can set an example of compassion, thoughtfulness, and civility across differences. Additionally, we are called to live out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Voting is a potent way to give voice to the change we want to see in the world. By voting, we help lift up a vision for the common good in a world that cries out for healing. Voting is a very real way that we can help ensure a just and compassionate world for all. As a citizen and as a Christian, voting is a sacred duty and responsibility.

What can you do? First and foremost, have a plan to vote. If you are not registered to vote, you have until October 24<sup>th</sup> to register for the November 2022 election. Check your correct polling place based on your home address at: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>. Polling places will be open on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00AM to 8:00PM. If you are one of many people who cannot vote in person this year, now is the time to request a mail-in ballot. You have until November 1<sup>st</sup> to apply for a mail-in / absentee ballot. Since all ballots must be received by November 8<sup>th</sup>, elections officials recommend mailing them early, or dropping them off at certified drop-off locations (*not* at your polling place). The US Postal Service advises voters to put ballots in the mail no later than seven days before the election.

Together we will be praying for the health and safety of every person voting, and that everyone’s voting experience will be peaceful and respectful. Remember that the outcomes of elections influence the policies that impact our daily lives, and the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. Our vote is our voice as Christians and is an important way to participate in the common good. We have the opportunity to be examples to our neighbors and community during the coming weeks. Let us practice civility, empathy, and courage as we enter this election season, knowing that in all things God is with us.

Here are links to assist you and your congregations

Conversation Resources

- This Pennsylvania Council of Churches links [2022 Midterm Election and Voting – Ministry of Public Witness \(pachurchesadvocacy.org\)](#) and [Resources – Ministry of Public Witness \(pachurchesadvocacy.org\)](#) offers a multitude of resources including a bible study curriculum & Civic Engagement, a Facilitators Guide: The Role of Religion in Public Life, Facilitators Guide to Sacred Conversations, Voter Guide and many others.
- POWER resources - [Get Out & Vote - Power Coalition for Equity and Justice](#)
- League of Women Voters Guide [Voter Guides | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)
- Robert Reich Video on how to have a conversation about politics without using divisive language <https://youtu.be/vCjnCToZ7yc>