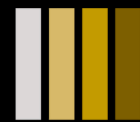


BLACK BALLOT

PREACHERS • PEWS • POLLS

BLACK CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
PULPIT TOOLKIT



TAF
THE ADVOCACY FACTORY

Salvation
and
Social Justice
Libertarian Public Policy Theologically

NAACP
NEW JERSEY
STATE CONFERENCE



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PREACHERS, PEWS, POLLS

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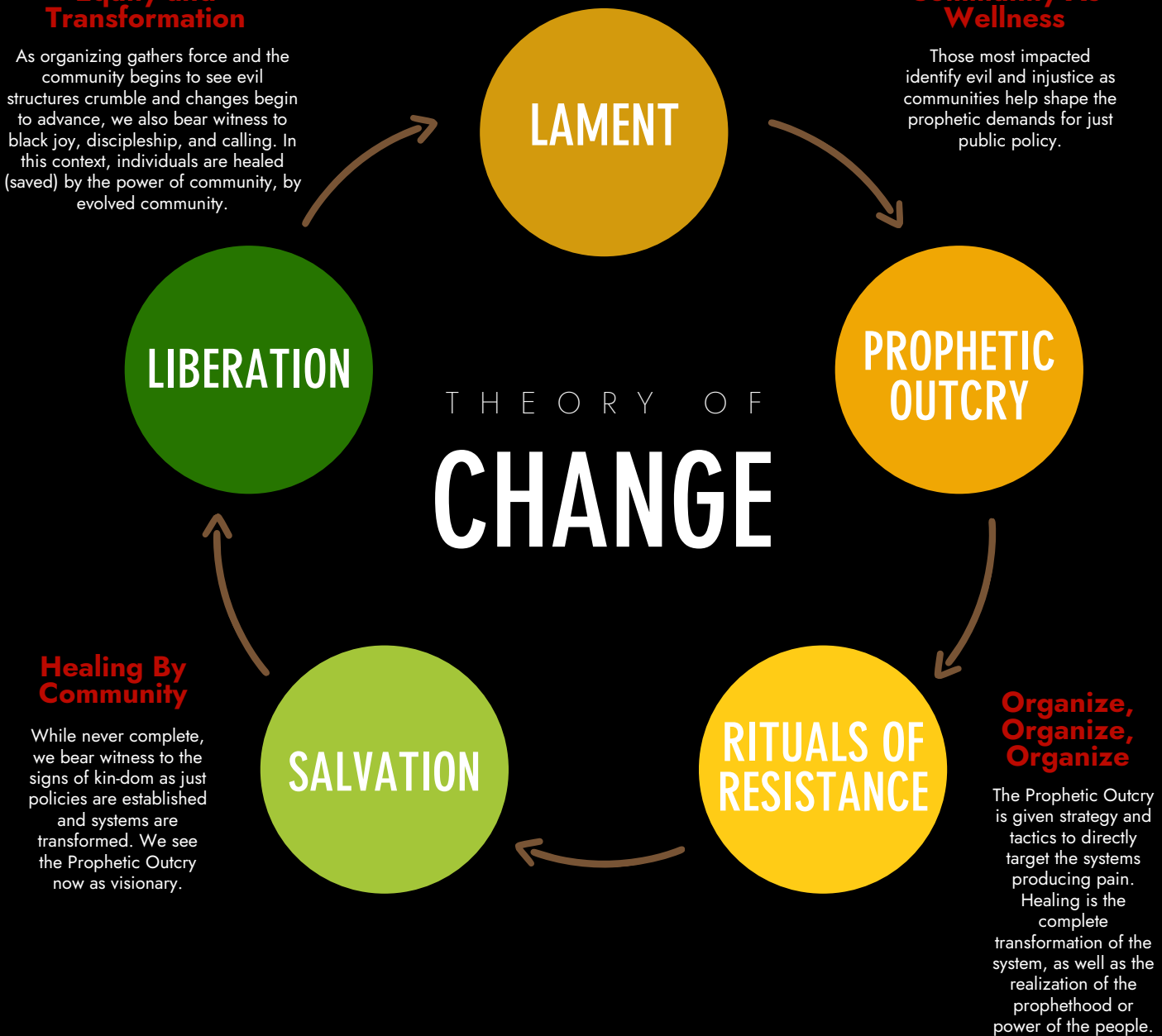
Rooted in Black Faith and Liberation Theology, voice is given as testimony to the impact of systemic racism by those most impacted. This witness is not performative pain, but a truth-telling moving toward liberation.

Equity and Transformation

As organizing gathers force and the community begins to see evil structures crumble and changes begin to advance, we also bear witness to black joy, discipleship, and calling. In this context, individuals are healed (saved) by the power of community, by evolved community.

Community As Wellness

Those most impacted identify evil and injustice as communities help shape the prophetic demands for just public policy.



Healing By Community

While never complete, we bear witness to the signs of kin-dom as just policies are established and systems are transformed. We see the Prophetic Outcry now as visionary.

Organize, Organize, Organize

The Prophetic Outcry is given strategy and tactics to directly target the systems producing pain. Healing is the complete transformation of the system, as well as the realization of the prophethood or power of the people.

The Voting Rights Act did not come without sacrifice. The law protected Blacks from intimidation and wicked tactics to keep them from voting. For example, at the end of the 1950s in Mississippi, 45% of the state's population was African American, but only five percent of that population was registered to vote. Mississippi also led the nation in beatings, lynching, and "disappearances" of Blacks. In Selma, Alabama, where Blacks were organized to fight voter suppression by marching across the Edmond Pettus bridge led by Hosea

Williams of SCLC and John Lewis of SNCC. Six hundred marchers were met by angry, violent Alabama state troopers, mounted on horses, swinging clubs, and firing tear gas. The second time they marched with nearly 25,000 people, many of whom were northern whites. On August 6, 1965, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act! The day became known as "Bloody Sunday."

A quick reading of the southern poverty law center's page on the Martyrs of the Civil Rights movement shows us that the blood of the righteous, both Black and white, was shed so you and I could have the right to vote. This communique encourages the saints to vote and our leaders to promote Souls to the Polls and Freedom Sunday. This initiative is a Black faith call to political responsibility. Salvation and Social Justice is privileged to partner with our sister organizations, the State Conference NAACP and The Advocacy Factory. Voters will decide the outcome of issue-based legislation and the legislators that support initiatives that directly affect our communities in the mid-term elections of 2023. This bond of a United Black Agenda led to early voting in New Jersey, the restored voting rights of 83,000 formerly incarcerated people, thousands released from prison, a reparative tax structure in cannabis, and police accountability.

The backlash to Black progress has been potent nationally and locally in New Jersey. The Vision of Souls to the Polls and the Freedom Sunday Initiative is to create an empowered, engaged, active voice for justice within our political system that will speak to the needs of Black communities. We must reclaim our power and mobilize a massive turnout of the Black vote in local and national elections to determine who will best represent a vision of empowered, healthy, whole communities.

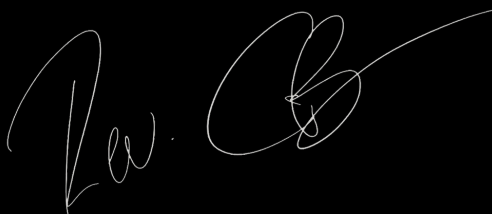
This Black Civic Engagement Pulpit Toolkit aims to give Black faith communities everything needed to engage from a uniquely Black Church perspective. We ask you to partner with us to make this initiative successful.

Please don't take this request lightly!

The faithful should never relinquish their socio-political responsibility for the common good. We are making it an overarching goal to nurture enthusiasm for the electoral process and to reach out to all eligible voters throughout the state. Please Join Us!

Please share this letter with pastors/churches in your area.

It's On 'Til Liberation,



Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer
Greater Mt. Zion AME Church, Senior Pastor
Salvation and Social Justice, Executive Director





LET'S MOVE

NEW JERSEY

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Richard T. Smith and I am the President of the NAACP New Jersey State Conference and I am a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. The NAACP's National theme this year is THRIVING and one way we continue to thrive is by using our franchise and exercising our right to vote.

A couple months back the NAACP introduced a new voting initiative called Move New Jersey that we will be using as a State Conference and sharing it with our partners statewide that is aimed to increase voter participation in our communities during this election cycle by 10%..... increase registration, promote voter education and work for the enactment of municipal - State and Federal legislation that's designed to make it easier to vote and not harder.

My brothers and sisters, Lawmakers need to be willing to work with us to build up our communities no matter what side of the aisle they sit on. We need to hold them accountable no matter what!

Our votes help us do that. We can hold rallies, we can participate in marches, and speak at events, but we have to put our vote where our mouth is. With the loyalty and trust that we give lawmakers, we need to get a return on our investment. They need to give us what they promised while on the campaign trail.

If you're not registered to vote, you need to get registered because without a vote, you don't have a voice. Remember VOTE your VALUES and ensure that the politicians you VOTE for VALUE your VOTE.

Richard T. Smith

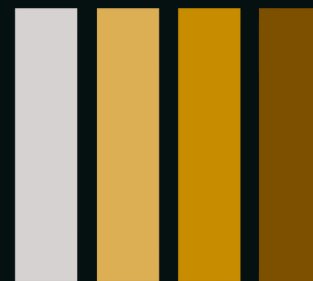
Richard T. Smith
Member, NAACP National Board of Directors
President, NAACP New Jersey State Conference





THE ADVOCACY FACTORY

Our charge is to help power the new world. Our focus is to mobilize resources, enable innovative ideas, and affect change through focused grassroots and grasstops advocacy training. We curate, teach, and support independent advocacy ecosystems to proactively strategize, intentionally build relationships, and support legislation that directly effects Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.



TAF

THE ADVOCACY FACTORY



TRAINING



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



RESOURCES

theadvocacyfactory.org
443-917-1515

10346 Hickory Ridge Rd #445,
Columbia, MD 21044

FROM THE PULPIT TO THE PEWS...

The voter registration qr code can be used to collect data and register people to vote with the State of New Jersey. The code takes the user to a form for data collection of names, email address, city, phone number, and age.

Upon submission of the form, users should click the link in the exit note that will take them to the voter registration page on the Government of New Jersey website. Please click the link and familiarize yourself with this process.

Your ministry can either use and share the QR code below or share this link to register voters: qrco.de/bd1pi6

We suggest making this code a part of your bulletin and church announcements. We so appreciate your Spirit-filled and compassionate-driven work in registering Church and community members who are eligible to vote and strongly encouraging all God's people to VOTE. We thank you for your God-led and passionate work against the efforts to silence our voices through voter suppression and we pray that we will continue to build the level of energy and actions up to and far beyond election day in November.

Again, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, suggestions, etc. please feel free to contact us.

[Jonathan McKinney – Jonathan@theadvocacyfactory.org](mailto:Jonathan@theadvocacyfactory.org)

May we all continue to grow in God's Grace as we do ministry and serve others in solidarity at such a time as this.

In Peace and Service,



JONATHAN MCKINNEY
The Advocacy Factory



MOVE NJ

Voter Education & Outreach

WRITTEN BY

Jonathan McKinney

OVERVIEW

The current imperative for an inclusive democracy is paramount to the future of this nation. Political democracy is based on the notion that power is shared equally among all citizens. When this power is withheld from segments of the community the entire community suffers, discord erupts, economic engines grind to a halt and governments fail. Fortunately, America's strength is in the persistent engagement and perseverance of its citizens.

The NAACP New Jersey State Conference Move New Jersey Voter Education and Outreach Plan will work in partnership with Salvation and Social Justice (Freedom Sunday Initiative) and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (Souls to the Polls) to strengthen, deepen, and expand our collective reach in Black communities on a state and local level in order to build independent political power for the civil and human rights community. To realize the initiative's vision of a fully inclusive government and an engaged citizenry, this effort brings together the genius and wisdom of powerful pro-democracy allies into a more coordinated network galvanized around a shared legislative agenda and a series of high-impact strategies and programming.

MISSION

The mission of the NAACP's Move New Jersey Voter Education and Outreach Plan is genuinely grass roots. It's not a targeted political strategy, but a call to political responsibility supporting an electoral process for a just and sustainable State.

VISION

The focus of this program is to create independent political power through mobilizing voters at the local levels through the alignment of goals, strategies and resources that build and advance our shared political, electoral and policy agenda. Ultimately by activating Black civic engagement and facilitating access, the initiative will promote our long-term policy agenda, thereby advancing a more inclusive democracy.



NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY

The policy of NAACP forbids the endorsement of any candidate or political party in the name of the Association, National Office, Branch or any other units of the Association.

THE PLAN

During our Move New Jersey Voter Education and Outreach initiatives, we would like to challenge our Adult Branches to:

- Assure that your Branch has a Political Action Committee with at least 3 people
- Register 5% of the African American unregistered voters in your respective jurisdiction
- Host 2 voter education events (forums [attain sign in sheet for each event])
- Partner with a church to host a Freedom Sunday Event
- Sample Ballot for Primary and General Elections
- Enlist at least 2 poll workers
- Provide information for rides to the polls
- Provide information for voter protection
- Turn in monthly reports to the Branch's Executive Committee

College Chapters

The NAACP New Jersey College Chapters will have approximately 6 weeks from "move in" or the start of

the semester to the voter registration deadline on October 18. We are pushing our active college chapters to produce 200 voter registrations and 25 memberships within that 6 week period. We are also asking our College Chapters to participate in our Election Day of Action and sign up to be poll workers. Finally, we are asking our College Chapters to distribute digital sample ballots.

Youth Units

The goal for our Youth Counsels is to push for 50 voter registrations.. These numbers can be added to the adult chapter's to help reach the overall goal.

QR Code

With the QR Code saved to our phones, we can scan, therefore conduct voter registration anywhere at any time. This code can be shared at community centers, churches, senior facilities, high schools, colleges, and to parole officers for returning citizens. Anyone with a cell phone can participate

Goal

If our Adult Branches, College Chapters and Youth Branches push to attain their goals, NJSC will register over 50,000 voters within the 21 week program. Progress to goal can be tracked using the registration link and QR Code provided. At the end of the voter registration cycle, all Units will receive a list of the voters registered under their jurisdiction. If necessary, online VAN training will be available.

ACTION TIMELINE

The action timeline focuses on the political forums, Freedom Sunday, and poll watching. General Voter Registration activities to reach the above defined VR goals will be ongoing. The NAACP Units are free to add to the timeline as necessary.

CONTACTLESS VOTER REGISTRATION

The NAACP Move New Jersey 2023 Voter Education and Outreach Plan has lofty voter registration goals for each Unit. Understanding that times have changed due to COVID and high gas prices, we have created a digital or contactless Voter Registration Drive! We have done our best to assure effectiveness with minimal contact. The steps for the digital drive are simple:

1. Copy the QR code below
2. Save code to your phone and share with your community contacts and networks.
3. The link takes users to a form that records the registrant's information for the Branch. The short form asks for:
 - a. Name
 - b. County
 - c. Email address
 - d. Phone Number
4. After filling out the short form, there is a link that takes the user to the State of New Jersey where they can complete the registration process.



QR code (above) is for New Jersey voter registration ONLY. If you have issues with the code, please visit www.naacpnj.org/movenj for more information.

With those simple steps, not only have you assured that they are registered to vote, but you have also logged their contact information for the NAACP New Jersey State Conference and your Branch record.

Later, this will be helpful for “chase” programs, community messaging, and low hanging fruit for membership drives.

MOVE NJ VOTER EDUCATION

- Units will be required to host or co-host a political forum in their jurisdiction. This can be for local candidates, State candidates, or a community forum. These events can be in person or virtual. The measurable data is tracked with a sign in sheet that includes name, email, phone, and if the attendees.

- Remember that the NAACP is non-partisan. We cannot support a candidate or a party. If you conduct a forum, all candidates must be invited.
- Freedom Sunday is an event where the Branch partners with a church or a series of churches to host a voter registration and education event on a Sunday. Freedom Sunday toolkit is available.
- Branches are to work with our partner organizations to provide information on rides to the polls. These efforts are normally local in nature. If the National Office partners with Lyft or Uber, as in recent years, the NJSC will provide that information.

MOVE NJ VOTER EDUCATION

- Every Branch and Chapter to have one poll worker
- Branch is to send out Election Day correspondence to list created.

- Find and inform community of all ride to the polls programs
- Improve election turnout numbers for precinct closest to branch (adopt a precinct)
- Each Branch should enlist members to become poll workers. Having our people at the polls on Election Day will help provide equality for voters

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

1. ENGLISH 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
2. SPANISH/ENGLISH 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)
3. ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH 888-API-VOTE(888-274-868)
4. ARABIC/ENGLISH 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)
5. TEXT for HELP - 866-687-8683



DIRECTORY OF TERMS

ABSENTEE BALLOT – A ballot voted in advance by a voter who is not able to be present to vote on Election Day.

BACKWARD CALENDAR – The calendar of campaign activities which is arrived at by beginning with Election Day and scheduling events “backward.”

BILINGUAL BALLOTS – Bilingual ballots are printed in two languages usually English and Spanish, but in some communities the second language could be French, Korean, Chinese or Russian.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS – The agency charged with conducting and overseeing public elections within a jurisdiction. This agency maintains and supplies all forms, maps and lists pertinent to public elections.

CANVASSER – A person who knocks on doors of voters encouraging voter participation in an upcoming election.

DRIVERS - Licensed (and insured) individuals, who are used in campaigns to drop literature, run sound units in neighborhood and provide rides to the polls.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS - A group of individuals elected or appointed to oversee elections in a particular jurisdiction.

ELECTION REFORM - Reforming or re-vamping the rules, procedures and processes that contribute to confusing and frustrating voters in their attempt to cast a vote in an election.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE –The US Constitution provides for an Electoral College or group of “wise persons” to directly elect the US President. The presidential race is conducted in each of the 50 states as a separate contest, with each state having a number of electors roughly proportionate to its population. To win, a presidential candidate needs to receive the highest numbers of voters in the right combination of states to win a majority of the electoral vote.

FELONY DIS-ENFRANCHISEMENT – In most states, individuals convicted of or plea-bargained to a felony crime lose their right to vote.

GOTV (GET OUT THE VOTE) - Those activities designed to generate high voter participation.

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING – Instant runoff voting allows all voters to vote for their favorite candidate without fear of helping elect their least favorite candidate and it ensures that the winner enjoys true support from a majority of the voters.

NON-PARTISAN – Those campaign and Election Day activities that do not advocate the election or defeat of a particular candidate, party or referendum.

OPERATION BIG VOTE – The name used for the National Coalition of Black voter participation non-partisan activity.

PHONE BANK – The organization of a group of telephones and callers who will call registered voters to persuade them to vote.

POLL WATCHER – A person representing a candidate or political party with permission to observe the election from within the polling station.

POLL WORKER – An individual assigned to distribute material to voters outside of a polling station.

POLLING PLACE – The site at which registered voters are assigned to cast their ballots by Board of Elections, Election Commissioners or Election Officials.

PRECINCT – The smallest political jurisdiction through which a registered voter is identified. Usually the progression upward is precinct, ward, city and county.

PROVISIONAL BALLOT – A ballot voted by a person whose name does not appear on the official voters list at the polling station. It is a means of allowing a citizen to vote providing that his/her status can be confirmed at a later date.

REDISTRICTING – Every 10 years, elected officials in nearly every political jurisdiction in the nation carve up the political landscape into new legislative districts based on the new and current census information.

RE-ENFRANCHISEMENT – The re-establishment of a citizen's right to vote following a felony conviction. Most states require rehabilitated felons to receive a presidential pardon in order to vote again.

VAN- The Voter Activation Network or “The VAN” is a tool that was designed to help strengthen the campaign infrastructure of political organizations

The VAN is a database of all registered voters and it includes:

- Information found on voter registration forms
- Voting History
- Outside data purchased by VAN (Consumer information, etc.)
- Data contributed by the NAACP and other organizations both on the national and the local level

The VAN is a system that is constantly being updated by users, organizations, and information from voter registration forms and rolls. NAACP members may be trained on the VAN and assigned a password for non-partisan use. . After you receive your training and password, go to <http://www.naacpvan.com/> to get started. Note: The VAN is a tool to be used for NAACP organizing. Do not use your access for any purposes that wasn't assigned by the NAACP



VOTER EDUCATION – The process of informing of education citizens on the issues and candidates prior to an election

VOTING RIGHTS ACT – In 1965, the federal government adopted to the Voting Rights Act, to ensure access for all citizens to the ballot. The passage of the Act provided large numbers of African Americans for the first time protection in the act of registering and voting in US elections. In 1982, the Voting Rights Act was amended to include provisions requiring certain jurisdictions to take steps to give minority voters an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

501C(3) – Non-profit organizations whose federal tax status allows them to receive and expend monies for non-partisan voter education and voter mobilization activities





P U L P I T P E W S P O L L S

NAACP
NEW JERSEY
STATE CONFERENCE

**Salvation
and
Social Justice**
Liberating Public Policy Theologically

TAF
THE ADVOCACY FACTORY

THE BLACK BALLOT

HISTORY

VOTING AND BLACK FAITH





“

What may be called the liberation tradition in black religion also begins with a determination to survive, but because it is exterior rather than primarily interior (and for that reason it's carriers find more space in which to maneuver) it goes beyond strategies of sheer survival to strategies of elevation — from “make do” to “must do more” both strategies are basic to Afro-American life and culture.

GAYRAUD WILMORE

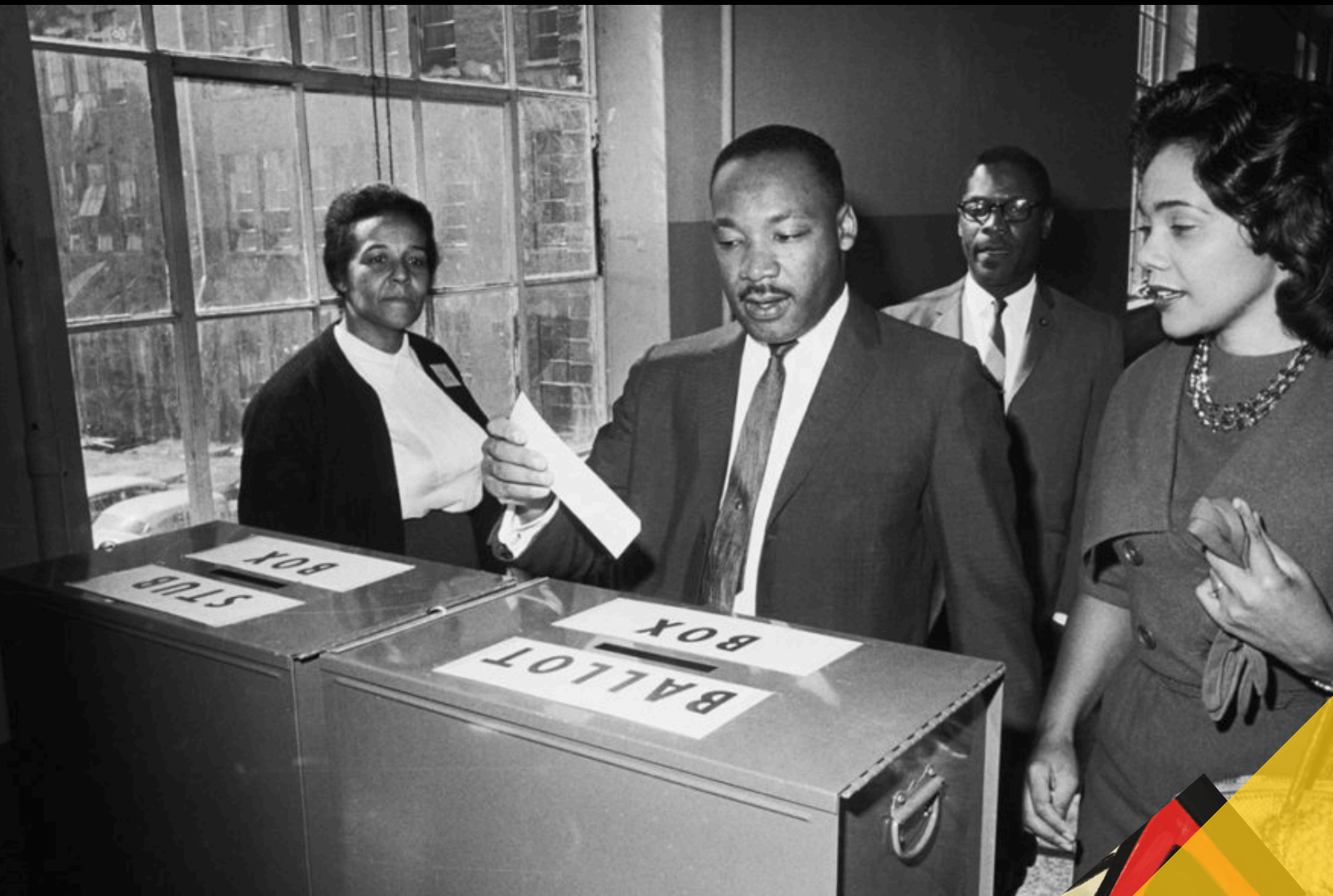
Rather than accept a religion used as an instrument of social control, Black people developed their own leadership and reformed religion that resulted in the Black church. Historically the Black church, other than the Black family, is known to be the most significant social institution in our communities. It's a place we gather and pray, provide resources and a platform for political engagement.

During the 19th century clergymen such as Rev. Reverdy Ransom, J. Milton Waldron and Bishop Henry McNeal Turner mobilized from the pulpit to the pews preaching liberation and building a strong foundation to affect change and produce a significant Black political base. Others such as Reverend Hiram Revels and Reverend Richard H. Cain would go from the pulpit to become politicians, due to the mobilization of thousands of former enslaved who had been registered to vote.

In spite of continued disenfranchisement and the ratification of Jim Crow, through the mobilization of the Black church and its leaders emerged organizations such as the NAACP, National Urban League, Black labor unions, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Southern Christian leadership conference, a political arm of the Black church.

Through these organizations, with the support of the Black church, the fight for civil and voting rights has proven to be successful to date.

In spite of repetitive acts of violence by white supremacist, restrictive Black codes and electoral obstacles, to disenfranchise Black voters, the church has been and continues to be the main arena for Black political action.



RESOURCES

FAITH BASED

- African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Social Action Commission Voter ALERT - <http://www.ame-church.com/>
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) Church - <http://www.amez.org>
- Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church - <http://thecmechurch.org/>
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship International (FGBFI) Church - <http://www.fullgospelbaptist.org/>
- National Baptist Convention of America (NBC of A) - <http://www.nationalbaptist.com/>
- National Baptist Convention, USA (NBCUSA) - <http://www.nbcainc.com/>
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC) - <http://www.cogic.org/>
- Progressive National Baptist Convention, USA (PNBC) - <http://www.pnbc.org/>
- Freedom Sunday Texas Coalition - <http://freedomundaytx.org/>
- Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference (SDPC) - <http://sdpconference.info/>
- PICO LIVE FREE Campaign - <http://www.piconetwork.org/campaigns/live-free>
- African American Ministers Leadership Council - Vessels Vote Initiative <http://www.pfaw.org/>
- VESSELS Faith in Public Life - www.faithinpubliclife.org



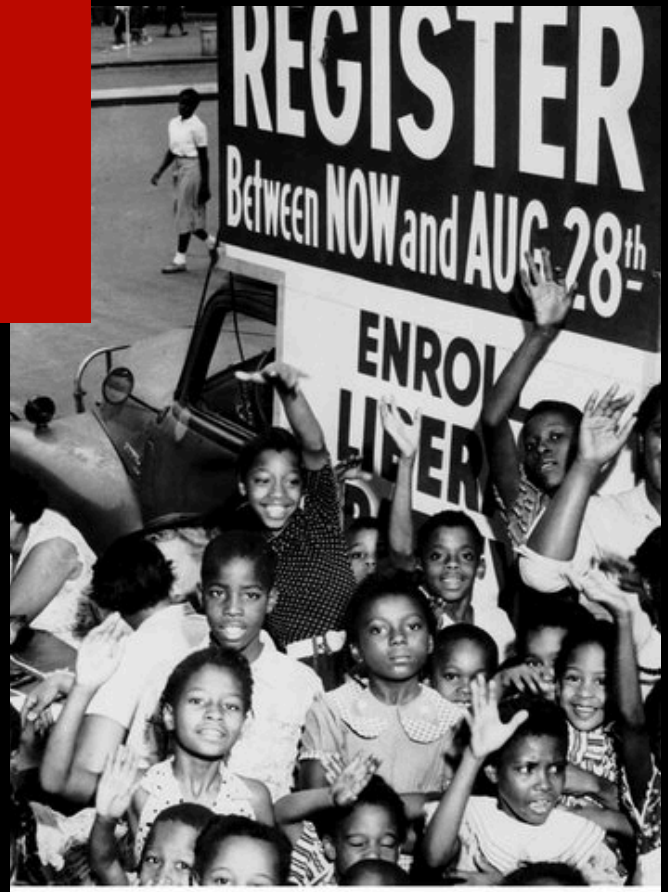
YOUTH-INITIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- Black Lives Matters www.blacklivesmatter.org/
- The Dream Defenders <http://dreamdefenders.org/vest/>
- The Gathering of Justice <http://www.gatheringforjustice.org/>
- We The Protestors <http://www.wetheprotestors.org/>
- Black Youth Project <http://byp100.org/>
- Black Youth Vote <http://ncbcp.org/programs/byv/>

RESOURCES

CIVIC/ COMMUNITY

- The John Legend #FREEAMERICA Initiative – www.letsfreeamerica.org
- Fair Vote – www.fairvote.org
- League of Women Voters– www.lwvmd.org
- CASA De Maryland– www.wearecasa.org
- Luminus – www.beluminus.org
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund - www.naacpldf.org
- NAACP New Jersey State Conference – www.naacpnj.org @naacpnjsc
- NJ Institute for Racial Justice – www.njisj.org
- National Action Network (NAN) – www.nationalactionnetwork.net
- The Shriners – www.shrinersinternational.org
- National Urban League (NUL) – www.nul.org
- The Links Incorporated – www.lincsinc.org
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated - www.nphchq.org
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated



- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated
- American Civil Liberties Union – www.aclu.org
- Project Vote – www.projectvote.org
- Rainbow Push Coalition - www.rainbowpush.org
- AFL-CIO – www.aflcio.org
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation www.ncbcp.org
- The National Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights www.lawyerscommittee.org
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights www.civilrights.org
- Vote Latino - www.votolatino.com
- National Council of La Raza - www.nclr.org
- Rock The Vote - www.rockthevote.org



FREEDOM SUNDAY

INITIATIVE

A BLACK FAITH CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY



21

PULPIT TOOLKIT

FREEDOM SUNDAY

On Freedom Sunday - the Sunday before Election Day - churches will preach and teach about voting rights, voter mobilization, registration, and encourage civic participation. We are encouraging churches to appoint a Social Justice Ministry to lead in these important efforts.

OVERVIEW

We all know the liberative story in the book of Exodus - Moses speaks God-breathed truth to pharaoh: "Let my people go!" After Moses tells Pharaoh to free the slaves, Moses didn't give up. He didn't negotiate. Moses settles for nothing less than full liberation for his people.

Fast forward to today. Just as pharaoh didn't want to let the slaves go, there are modern-day pharaohs who want to suppress the rights of others to vote.

In 2012, more African Americans voted in the election than ever before. During the 10 years since that election, in 34 states, some interest groups and legislators have passed or attempted to pass voter suppression measures that make it more difficult for Black and Brown voters, young voters and senior voters to participate in the democratic process. The enormous amount of money and time that some interest groups' and legislators' have spent in their attempt to silence us has exposed the truth -our votes really do count. And in the 2023 election, we can say WE WILL register to vote, WE WILL not be intimidated, and WE WILL turn out in record numbers for the November election, and WE WILL vote in person, by mail, or by absentee ballot.

VOLUNTEER TO REGISTER VOTERS

In an act of solidarity, congregations are registering ALL eligible voters in their church. This will mean that some people will re-register to vote; however, there is no consequence of re-registering to vote, re-registering to vote is not fraudulent. By re-registering to vote we are telling those who are determined to deny our vote, that we are even more determined to register and VOTE. Join us in registering your entire congregation quickly, reverently and in order! We are going to contact members at home or wherever they may be throughout the community to register voters. *****Identify** technology that will allow us to accomplish this goal more efficiently, effectively, and safely during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

PROTECT OUR VOTE

Protect the vote on election day! Clergy and other leaders are needed to stand outside polling places, wearing clerical attire as poll workers - to serve as trusted leaders who are dedicated to and trained in protecting people from voter intimidation. These clergy will be in direct contact with the **866-OUR-VOTE** hotline

Let's work together!



ELEMENTS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement is individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. It can take many forms, from individual voluntarism to organizational involvement to electoral participation.

There are 4 forms of Civic Engagement:

1. Voter Registration – create an ongoing voter registration campaign! When you set your goals, consider the following:

- Set a voter registration goal and develop a voter registration plan for your ministry
- Assure that each of your members are registered and aware of local guidelines
- Select your target areas in the community for voter registration
 - Focus on certain neighborhoods or parts of town with historically low voter turnout, underrepresented groups, or high-traffic areas that will allow you to reach a greater number of people
- Assess your resources and establish community partnerships to reach registration goals
- Create a plan and mechanism to capture registrant data before turn the registration forms into Board of Elections
- Charge each member of your church to register 3 people in their community

2. Voter Education – with your strategic partners in mind, inform and educate the church and community about the responsibilities of individual elected offices, the candidates, legislation, important dates, and GOTV information. A successful voter education campaign can include, but is not limited to:

- Scheduled events
 - Townhalls
 - Community forums
 - Candidate forums
 - Host 2 Freedom Sunday Services
- The creation and/or distribution of non-partisan literature (how does the election effect you?)
- A plan for digital outreach
- SMS outreach
- Phone banking
- Creation of a sample ballot
- Polling location information
- Explanations on the different ways to vote:
 - Provisional -
 - Absentee -
 - Early -
 - Mail-in ballot -
 - Election day





A woman carries a sign reading "Go Vote" outside the Brown Chapel AME Church before the Annual Bloody Sunday March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, U.S., March 1, 2020. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

3. Get Out the Vote – GOTV is considered your election day efforts. This is the final push to get communities to exercise their voting franchise. Ministries and coalitions must be prepared to:

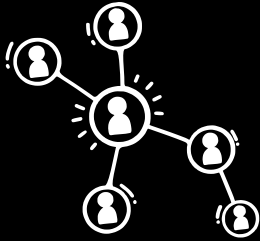
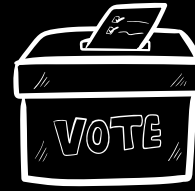
- Contact each member in your community and every individual your ministry registered to vote
- Charge each member with taking someone to the polls
- Execute an Election Day phone banking and/or SMS plan
- Execute absentee ballot voting plans.
- Development of a transportation system for Election Day.
- Development of day care services and assistance for the elderly and disabled.

4. Voter Protection

- Set a voter registration goal and develop a voter registration plan for your ministry
- Assure that each of your members are registered and aware of local guidelines
- Select your target areas in the community for voter registration
 - Focus on certain neighborhoods or parts of town with historically low voter turnout, underrepresented groups, or high-traffic areas that will allow you to reach a greater number of people
- Assess your resources and establish community partnerships to reach registration goals
- Create a plan and mechanism to capture registrant data before turn the registration forms into Board of Elections
- Charge each member of your church to register 3 people in their community

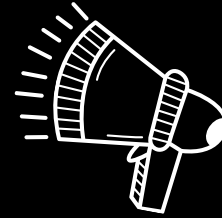
10 WAYS TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

1. **Vote Early!!**



2. Be an Online Activist! Use your social media to educate.

3. Spread the Word! Bring a Friend or 2 with You to Vote!



4. Know Your Registration Status and Polling Location!

5. Traveling on ElectionDay? Vote absentee!



6. Ask Questions.

7. Report Any Problems While Voting to **866-OUR-VOTE.**



8. Become a VotingRights/Election Day Volunteer!

9. Demand State and Federal Election Reform!



10. Create Your Sample Ballot in Advance

Throughout the year and leading up to Election Day, we encourage you to educate and engage your congregation and community during the elections. A voter education campaign to educate your members on the impact of local legislation and the lack of voter protections within our communities.

We must EDUCATE! ADVOCATE! ACTIVATE!

Creating educational opportunities represents a community presence and has the same effect on your ministry as a membership campaign. Education builds trust. Advocacy establishes and nurtures relationships between local legislators on issues as needed. Activation is the actions taken to move an issue and ultimately create change. Activation requires goals, a plan of action, and partnerships coalitions with the resources your organization may lack to attain success.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

New Jersey continues to lead with some of the highest racial disparities in the country. In New Jersey, Black residents are incarcerated at a rate of 12.5 times that of white residents. Black people make up just 15% of the population in the state yet they represent 43% of the arrests for drug violations despite the fact that there is no evidence that Blacks use drugs at a higher rate than whites. New Jersey has the fourth highest maternal mortality rate in the nation with Black women being 7 times more likely than white women to die before or after they have given birth, and Black babies, 3 times more likely to die than white babies before reaching their first birthday. New Jersey's schools are the 6th most segregated in the nation and the most segregated in the North, adversely affecting scores of Black children subjecting them to disparate conditions such as overcrowding, insufficiently staffed schools, and limited access to resources and opportunities.

TIPS FOR REACHING AND ENGAGING YOUNG VOTERS

1. Make an announcement requesting IT, marketing, and communications professionals, college students, and/or youth to meet with the pastor or designee following service.
2. Share the importance of Freedom Sunday with the youth/college students/young professionals and how you as pastor want this community involved in this important effort.
3. Request that group create approved Freedom Sunday digital content. (videos, tweets, educational pieces)
4. Request the congregation to post and/or tweet Freedom Sunday information on their personal social media accounts.
5. Print articles messages in the bulletin about Freedom Sunday.
6. Create a "quote campaign" and have congregation post and tweet famous quotes about the importance of voting daily on Instagram.
7. Allow a group to tweet and post in service at a specified times on Freedom Sunday
8. Reward the person who receives the most re-tweets, new friends or followers as a result of Freedom Sunday.
9. Create a Youth Digital Ambassador who will instruct congregants on posting about Freedom Sundays.
10. Partner with an organization that has a SMS campaign. Reward the person with the most SMS's sent during a set time of the campaign



🔍 www.sandsj.threadless.com ✕



With early voting in place, the longstanding tradition of voting after worship continues in the Garden State!

#SoulstothePollsNJ

#EarlyVoting

PULPIT PEWS POLLS

S O U L S T O T H E P O L L S

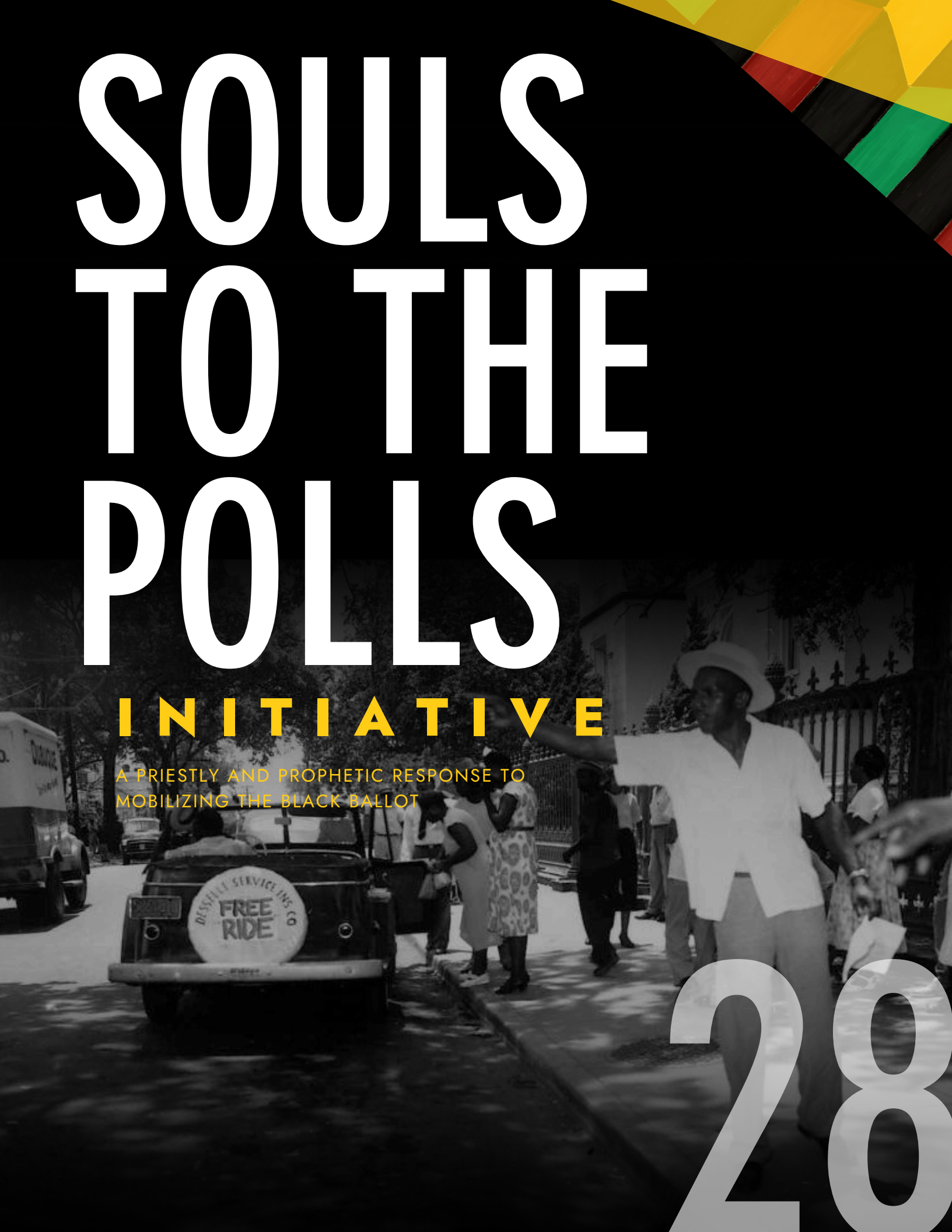


SOULS TO THE POLLS

INITIATIVE

A PRIESTLY AND PROPHETIC RESPONSE TO
MOBILIZING THE BLACK BALLOT

2018



SOULS TO THE POLLS

N E W J E R S E Y

Historically and to this day, Black communities have been systematically disenfranchised from the voting process in the United States. Black voter suppression across the country has taken on many forms from direct intimidation tactics, gerrymandering, voter identification laws, and much more.

In the 2020 general elections, despite significant increases in overall voter population, 71 percent of eligible white voters cast ballots compared to 58.4 percent of non-white voters. The Brennan Center for Justice notes that "...in the final weeks of 2020 and in 2021, state legislators across the country pre-filed or introduced more than 400 bills with provisions that would restrict voting access."

In response to historic and current attempts to suppress voting access, for decades the Black church has become a place in which disenfranchised communities take back their power and their right to vote through organizing. Souls to the Polls "is a concentrated effort at Black churches to get everyone to go to the poll...driving as many of the church attendees as possible to the poll to vote." The impact and effect of this effort through the Black church is invaluable to empowering disenfranchised communities, engaging in the democratic process, and ensuring that all we live up to the values of equity and equality in representation.



SOULS TO THE POLLS CHECKLIST

Souls to the Polls, which began decades ago, is the tradition where Black churches and faith organizations encourage congregants to vote by organizing trips to the polls after church during the weekends of early voting. Souls to the Polls is a symbol of exercising the hard-fought right to vote among Black communities.

The following checklist will help you organize your Souls to the Polls event. There are blank spaces at the bottom for any additional task you may wish to add.

STEP	TASK	CHECK
1	Choose a date for Souls to the Polls	
2	Voter Registration	
3	Appoint Point of Contact	
4	Compile list of Souls to the Polls Participants	
5	Worship Service Considerations	
6	Pick and early voting location	
7	Determine transportation needs for getting to early voting locations.	
8	Pick a time for congregants to meet at early voting location	
9	Determine if light refreshments will be served following the service	
10	Document the Souls to the Polls Effort	
11	Invite local elected officials to service	
12	COVID-19 safety protocols	

BLACK CHURCH 75

Dear Faith Leader:

Greetings in the strong name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

This year SandSJ has partnered with Black Church 75 to provide an amazing voter accountability tool. We are inviting your church to participate in the Black Church 75 Voter Engagement (BC75) movement by registering your church to participate in this powerful initiative.

What is BC75?

BC75 is a voter registration and turnout movement working to mobilize Black churches in America to register and turnout on election day 75% of their eligible voters.

How does it work?

BC75 uses voter activation tools to assist church leaders and staff to register their members to vote by matching the church's membership roster against the national voter registration database. The match identifies your members who are registered to vote as well those who are unregistered.

What Happens Next?

BC75 understands and honors the great trust that is given with the submission of your membership database. Please rest assured that the information will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with anyone for any reason other than the matching of the voter records and returning them to you.





1.

Choose a Sunday (or Saturday if that is when you hold services) for your House of Worship to participate in Souls to the Polls.

- o Options: Sunday prior to the primary or general election day of that year
- o Early Voting locations will be open on Sundays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

2.

Voter Registration

- o If possible, please include time in the service every Sunday before October 18 (the voter registration deadline) regarding voter registration or include a reminder in the bulletin (with a link to online voter registration) to encourage congregants to register and vote.
- o Sample Language: Ahead of our first Souls to the Polls effort, please make sure you are registered to vote by October 18. You can register to vote online at www.voters.svrs.nj.gov/register. Alternatively, you can fill out a voter registration form. Once the form is completed, mail or deliver it to the County Commissioner of registration or the Superintendent of Elections.

3. **Appoint a Souls to the Polls Point of Contact for the House of Worship.**

- o This person should email Jared Hunter, Lead Organizer at Salvation and Social Justice (jared@sandsj.org).

They should include the following information in the email:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact Number</i>
<i>House of Worship</i>	<i>Location of House of Worship</i>

4. **Compile a list of congregants who will participate in the Souls to the Polls event.**

5. **If you are having a service, please consider the following:**

- o Include some time in your service to acknowledge the history and significance of Souls to the Polls.
 - This can be accomplished by having one or two speakers reflect on the importance of Souls to the Polls.
 - Follow the presentations, provide an overview of the following to congregants:
 - Location of early voting location.
 - Time congregants will leave to travel to the early voting location.
 - Share that congregants have to wear mask at the early voting location.
 - Share that congregants will take a group photo after everyone has casted a ballot.

6. **Pick an early voting location in your county for congregants.**

- o The lists of early voting locations are available here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>

7. **Determine how congregants will get to early voting locations.**

- o Options:
 - Congregants can drive their vehicles and meet at the early voting location.
 - Congregants that do not have vehicles could carpool, or the House of Worship van/bus could be made available to take these members to the early voting location. Due to COVID-19, please determine comfort level with carpooling.

8. **Determine what time congregants should meet at early voting locations.**

- o If you will be having a service at your House of Worship, please provide an early voting location and time for congregants to meet there.
- o Early Voting locations will be open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Sunday. Choose a time between this window.

9.

Determine if your House of Worship will provide light refreshments to church congregants before they leave for the early voting locations.

10.

Document the Souls to the Polls effort

- o Take pictures of Sunday service and members outside of early voting location.
- o Share on Social Media with the hashtag [#SoulstothePollsNJ](#) and House of Worship bulletins.
- o SandSJ will have Soul to the Polls Posters.

Please email Jared Hunter (jared@sandsj.org) with number of posters you will need and the best address to send them. Utilize these posters in your photos.

11.

Invite local elected officials to attend your Souls to the Polls service.

- o Call or send an email to the elected official's office, including the time, date and purpose of the service.
- o Please check IRS regulations and seek counsel to ensure there is not a potential conflict of interest for your organization.

12.

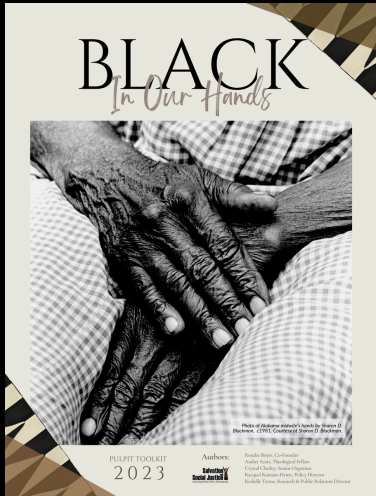
COVID-19 Safety

- o Wearing of masks at early voting locations.
- o Practice social distancing at early voting locations.



SALVATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PULPIT TOOLKITS

Our **pulpit toolkits** are a "one-stop shop" for information, resources, and action that the Black Church can leverage to create lasting change in their local fights for social justice.



Police Accountability: History (Part I)



Police Accountability: Theology (Part II)



Police Accountability: Policy (Part III)

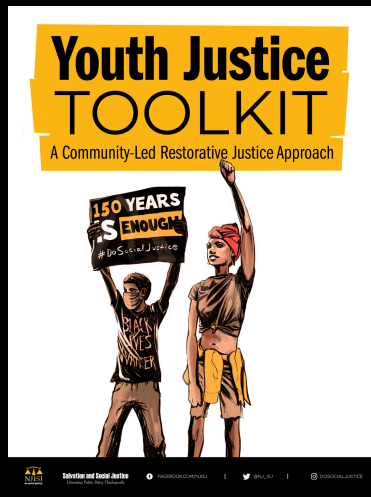
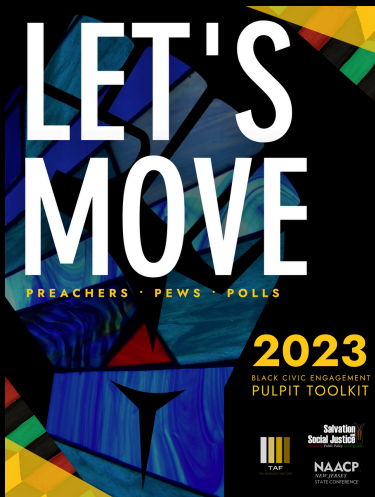


Black Maternal Health



Vaccine Equity

Red, Black, and Blue: The Underground Railroad, Policing and the Black Faith Response



The Greatest Good: A Good Samaritan Theology on Drug Decriminalization



The Black Ballot: Civic Engagement



Youth Justice



Make the Right Call

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(609) 37-BLACK

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MEDIA KIT

MESSAGING THAT MOVES

An anti-lynching banner flew outside NAACP headquarters in Manhattan, New York, from the early 1900s until 1938. (Library of Congress/NAACP)

A black and white photograph of a city street, likely in Manhattan, showing a banner hanging across the street. The banner reads "A MAN WAS LYNCHED YESTERDAY". The street is lined with tall buildings, and there are people and cars visible in the distance. The image is dark and grainy, with a large number "38" overlaid in the bottom right corner.

A MAN WAS
LYNCHED
YESTERDAY

38

PULPIT TOOLKIT



F R E E D O M S U N D A Y I N I T I A T I V E



Typography

Jost

Aa

Light

Aa

Regular

Aa

Italic

Aa

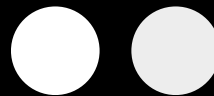
Bold

Aa

Bold Italic

The Color

Primary



#FFFFFF

#EDED



#ABABAB

#000000

Secondary



#BC0700

#FFCC16

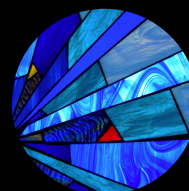
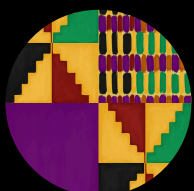
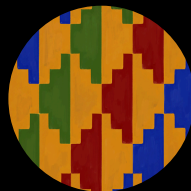
#F0A704



#267500

#785435

Patterns

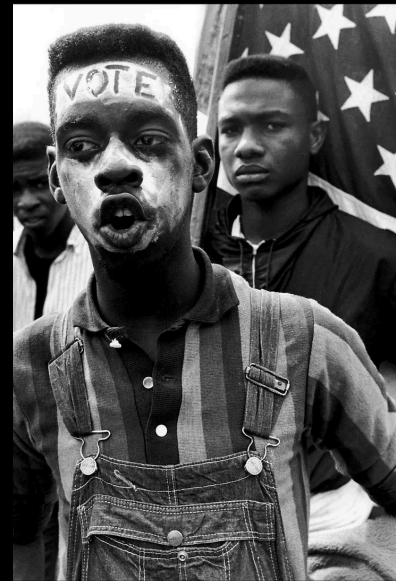


PULPIT TOOLKIT

F R E E D O M S U N D A Y I N I T I A T I V E

Salvation
and
Social Justice
Libertarian Public Policy Theologically

Photos



SOCIAL MEDIA POST

TWITTER



HASHTAGS:

#FREEDOMSUNDAYS2023

#BLACKFAITH

#BLACKPOWER

#PULPITPEWSPOLLS

Our ancestors died for the right to vote. We should not take it for granted #Hashtag

Our nation has changed dramatically, and for the better. But the present bears many parallels to that historical moment 50 years ago. #Hashtag

50 years ago, #FreedomSummer organizers risked their lives for civil rights. Today, we need the courage to ensure their efforts were not in vain. #Hashtag

50 years after the Civil Rights Act, there are now modern efforts to keep people from voting. You have the freedom to vote! Protect it. #Hashtag

50 years since #FreedomSummer African Americans and other minority groups STILL face oppression and discrimination #Hashtag

"#FreedomSummer made the country take a look at itself" – Bob Moses #Hashtag

It is time we are all treated EQUALLY. Discrimination belongs in HISTORY. #Hashtag

"Voting is the language of American democracy: if you don't vote, you don't count." Let's make everyone count. #Hashtag

Let's protect the lives of our Youth – vote for the security of our children. #Hashtag

No one should serve a second sentence by permanently losing their right to vote. #Hashtag

Our Vote determines our communities' future! #Hashtag

FACEBOOK



We have come a long way since the 1960s, but we still have a long way to go since bigotry still raises its ugly head when we turn on the news. We need to be vigilant to prevent returning to those days when an individual was judged by the color of their skin rather than by their character. #Hashtag

We can look to our sacred texts and beliefs about the human condition, the need to help the poor, forgiveness, grace, and mercy to assess and improve how the criminal justice system is operating in every community. If we believe that all human beings are created in the image of God, and as a result, have inherent dignity. If we believe in the importance of forgiveness and mercy that people can be redeemed by God's grace and most importantly are called to stand against poverty and injustice. #Hashtag

If we are to create a more humane, just system of rehabilitation and redirect resources to provide necessary services to the poor, we must support policy reforms at the federal, state, and local levels. While each state and community is different and has unique challenges, in reality, every city and state struggles with the same problems: too many arrests, prosecutions, and prison sentences, without enough services, assistance, or healing. #Hashtag

This is outrageous! From 1980 to 2008, the number of people incarcerated in America quadrupled from roughly 500,000 to 2.3 million people. Today, the US is 5% of the World population and has 25% of world prisoners. Combining the number of people in prison and jail with those under parole or probation supervision, 1 in every 31 adults, or 3.2 percent of the population is under some form of correctional control. We must #EndMassIncarceration by voting for leaders who will reverse this trend! #Hashtag



SAMPLE PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The prophet Amos reminds us to “let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24)

This year, we will be participating with other churches across the nation in Freedom Sunday Services in preparation for the upcoming elections. We, as Black Americans, simply cannot afford to stay home.

- Without voting, we had few Black elected officials.
- With voting, we now have over 10,000 Black elected officials and the first African American President in the White House.
- Without voting, hate groups fought to keep African Americans from voting.
- With voting, we have had 2 Black U.S. Attorney Generals fighting for our right to vote.
- With voting we have the right to decide whether we have jobs, healthcare, student financial aid, and other services our community needs.

We ask all members to look out for instructions from our civic engagement coordinator (name/phone/email) as we prepare for one of the most important dates this year – upcoming elections (add date of next election).

I ask each of you to commit to encouraging 5 family members, friends, and co-workers to vote on Freedom Sunday or Election Day and make sure they get to the polls.

If you need to register to vote, or update your registration information, you can do so online at...



SAMPLE CHURCH BULLETIN

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAMPLE #1

Your right to vote has been bought and paid for in blood! Exercise your power to protect it by:

- Registering you and 5 friends, family members, and co-workers to vote in the upcoming Election, and making sure they turn out on Election Day.
- Sign up to join our Civic Engagement Team and Volunteer to help educate and register others to vote.

Contact our Civic Engagement Coordinator _____ at _____ (phone number/email) for more information on joining our Civic Engagement Team.

SAMPLE #2

As we approach this crucial election on November 8th, have you noticed that people are not in our communities - at grocery stores, the libraries or in our congregations - during this global pandemic registering African American voters as was the case in 2016 and 2020? Have you noticed that this year people are not intensely knocking on our doors, distributing flyers, making phone calls in a determined effort to register Black voters? The leadership here at (church name) have noticed this too.

To fill this gap, (church name) is joining the in a voter engagement movement called: Freedom Sundays. Through the initiative, we will lead a nationwide, strategic campaign that raises awareness about the importance of African American people gaining political power through voting, we will register all members who are eligible to vote in our congregations and our surrounding communities, we will VOTE in record numbers this year, and we will vote either in person, by mail, or by absentee ballot. So in the upcoming days please be on the lookout for initiative bulletin announcements and actions.

SAMPLE #3

To demonstrate our determination to make our voice heard through our vote (Date) is Voter Registration Sunday. So (Church Name) along with other church congregations across the nation are registering ALL members in our churches who are eligible to vote (Are you an U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and not on parole Please check your state's voter eligibility requirements concerning whether people who have committed a felony, or are on parole or on probation are eligible to vote** Then you are eligible to vote!) We are even re-registering some people to vote. There is no consequence of re-registering to vote. Re-registering to vote is not fraudulent. By re-registering to vote, we are telling those who are determined to deny our vote, that we are even more determined to register and VOTE. So please invite family, neighbors, friends, co-workers to (Church Name) next Sunday!

SAMPLE #4

We are hosting a VOTE training for all who are interested in going into our community and registering to vote our neighbors. The training takes about an hour. Once you've received the training, we will form teams and go to day care centers, recreation centers, libraries, hair salons, schools, barbershops, etc. to register voters!

WHEN: (Day, Date)

TIME:

LOCATION:

After service, please sign up for the training so we can make sure that we have enough materials for everyone. Please contact (Name and Phone Number) if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!!

SAMPLE #5

(Day and Date) we (give names of any congregations and allies who are also helping to host the rally) are hosting a VOTE Rally. This rally is to protest the voter suppression measures that have surged across the nation and to demonstrate our audacious determination to register voters and to turn out a record number of voters for the November 4th election.

WHEN: (Day, Date)

TIME:

LOCATION:

After service, please sign up for the training so we can make sure that we have enough materials for everyone. Please contact (Name and Phone Number) if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!!

SALVATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

PULPIT TOOLKITS



Our **pulpit toolkits** are a "one-stop shop" for information, resources, and action that the Black Church can leverage to create lasting change in their local fights for social justice.

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and
Social Justice**
Liberating Public Policy Theologically



PREACHERS, PEWS, POLLS

LITURGICAL SUPPORT



46

SERMONS

*"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed,
save me and I will be saved, for you
are the one I praise"*

Jeremiah 17:14

Many of us have witnessed God perform miraculous healings of our loved ones or ourselves - healed from physical suffering, healed from a hardened heart, healed from depression. Many of us are also intimately connected with God's saving grace: Did God save you from a broken heart after the loss of a loved one? Did God save you from a violent relationship? If nothing else, did you know that God saved us from life separate from God? Yes, throughout time The Most High has demonstrated God's healing and saving nature. Just ask Miriam Job, Naaman and the many other recipients of God's healing/salvific power in the Bible. Just ask Jesus - Jesus who brought back to life Jairus' daughter and Lazarus, Jesus who healed the man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus who healed the ten lepers, Jesus who healed people and unjust systems far and wide and saved humanity from sinking in sin. And as God calls us to personal health, wholeness and holiness, God calls our systems, structures, our ways of doing things day-to-day to be healthy, whole and holy. Through our votes, we will help build a land that demonstrates God's healing/saving power. Through our votes, we will help build God's Beloved Community. When we all register and VOTE and gain political power, we will elect leaders who help our families and communities. When we all register and VOTE and gain political power, your rights will be protected, our nation will be enabled to fulfill God's purposes, and we will continue giving God all of the glory, the honor and the praise.



*"Seek first the Kingdom of God
and His righteousness"*

Matthew 6:33

On the way to discovering and building the Kingdom of God here on earth, a land of equality and opportunity for all, we must use some imperfect tools to get us there. Registering to vote and voting are not perfect tools in actualizing God's Kingdom here on earth; however, registering and voting are powerful tools that move us on toward the Beloved Community, our country's promise of "liberty and justice for all. So, we uphold voting as vital in eradicating historical injustice and as a faithful demonstration of our allegiance to God and God's Kingdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER

I was rightfully empowered in 1870 when black men - the children of slaves taken from their Motherland against their own will to build this very country - were guaranteed the right to vote in this country by the 15th Amendment.

PEOPLE

Lord, we've come so far we have the responsibility to fulfill our civic duty.

LEADER

Because of the commitment, blood, sweat, tears, and effort of WE.B. DuBois, Fredrick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and other unnamed Black activists, especially those who were beaten and hung attempting to vote, I will secure my right.

PEOPLE

Silence is not an option. Our voice will be heard.

LEADER

Let us come together and be assured that victory is already ours - this battle is the Lord's!

PEOPLE

We will praise the name of Jesus and lift him up in honor for all that He has done.

ALL

The Lord our God, the King of all kings, is present and the vote shall be unanimous that all of the world shouts hallelujah before Him!



PRAYER

PULPIT TOOLKIT

PRAYER #1

As we head into another heated election season, let us pray:

- God's will be done
- God's discernment and wisdom for the people, that we will see Truth
- God's people to desire and demand godly leaders
- God will cancel corruption and suppression with God-led work by The people
- Godly and righteous leadership to rise up
- God's protection over the candidates, their loved ones, and their conventions
- God's protection over all people, everywhere
- On election day, voting machines and officials that protect each vote

O God, Your plans are firm, faithful and forever. The purposes of Your heart prevail through all the generations. Let Your mighty, perfect will be done in the elections this fall. - Psalm 33:11

PRAYER #2

Most High God, we look to You for protection and safe keeping, especially during the days leading up to this fall's elections. Keep the leaders, the voters and the media safe from every kind of hurt, harm or danger, O God, and deliver us from any evil plots that have been arranged. Let no weapon that is formed against our people prosper.

- Psalm 32:7, Isaiah 54:17

O God, You are actively involved in every part of Your creation at every moment. Grant to all people in America a willingness to get involved in the upcoming elections, resisting complacency and angry protests through passivity. Let each one know the value of his or her vote, and let each one exercise this privilege with diligence and faith. - Amos 6:1

Most High God, we look to you to ensure fairness and justice in the balloting procedures as your people vote this fall. May the election be just and equitable, revealing the truth with clarity. - Proverbs 1:3

SERMON

SCRIPTURES

God's Concern for Justice, the Poor, and the "Least of These"

PSALMS 10:17-18

17 Lord, You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will listen to their cries and comfort them. 18 You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so people can no longer terrify them. **NLT**

PSALMS 82:3-4 3

Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. 4 You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them. **THE MESSAGE**

PROVERBS 14:31

Those who oppresses the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him. **NLT**

PROVERBS 31:9

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. **NIV**

AMOS 5: 21, 23, 24

21 I hate, I despise your religious festivals; I cannot stand your assemblies. . . 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! **NIV**

MICAH 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **NIV**

SERMON

SCRIPTURES

ZECHARIAH 7:9-10

9this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other. NIV

MATTHEW 25:31-46

41 Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44'They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45'He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" NIV

1 JOHN 3:16-18

16 this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. NIV

Scriptures are taken from New International Version (NIV), New American Standard(NAS), New Living Translation (NLT) and THE MESSAGE

DO'S AND DONT'S

ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR NON-PROFITS & PASTORS

DO

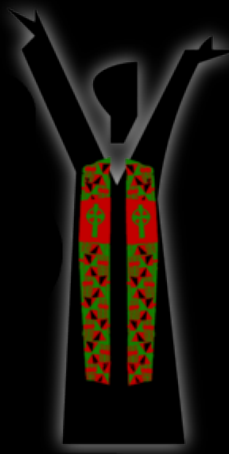
- DO discuss the candidates' positions on issues to the congregation.
- DO lobby and campaign for or against legislation.
- DO publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied
- DO publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible.
- DO rent out church facilities (e.g. kitchens, athletic facilities, board/community rooms) for political activities...regular rates MUST apply.
- DO provide rentals of membership lists at regular rates.
- DO allow candidates to make appearances at church events/services.
- DO distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders. DO use the church van for transportation to the polls.
- DO use the church van for transportation to the polls.
- DO participate in non-partisan voter registration and identification: these activities CAN NOT be affiliated with a political party
- DO provide non-partisan voter education: CAN NOT be affiliated with a political party.

DON'T

- DO NOT support or oppose the candidates on the congregation's behalf.
- DO NOT use the congregation's funding to give financial contributions of any kind to the candidates/ office holders.
- DO NOT allow your (the church leaders) personal opinions inflict the opinions of the congregation. Please note: the Pastor's personal views and personal donations (not affiliated with the church) can be used to his own discretion, as long as these views/endorsements are not imposed upon the congregation.
- DO NOT publish church editorials that are meant to support or oppose candidates.
- DO NOT publish ads as a donation.
- DO NOT distribute candidate campaign literature
- DO NOT pay for a candidate's or office holder's attendance at a caucus or political party convention. While the congregations CAN NOT pay for this, the church leader CAN do so on an individual basis.
- DO NOT give contributions to political action committees, but the church leader may DO this on his or her own terms.
- DO NOT use the van to advertise for candidates or allow candidate discussions in the van.

MERCH FOR THE CHURCH

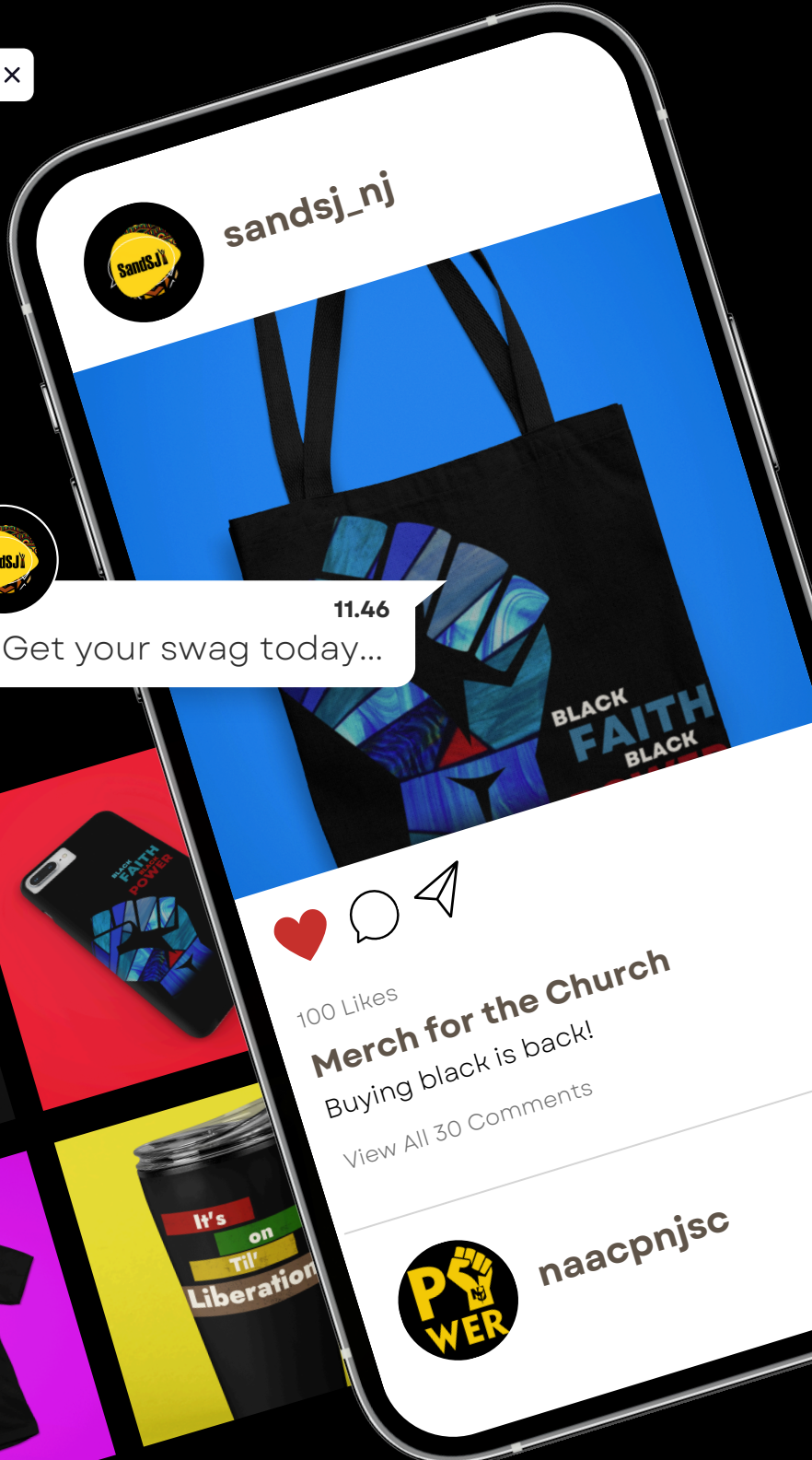
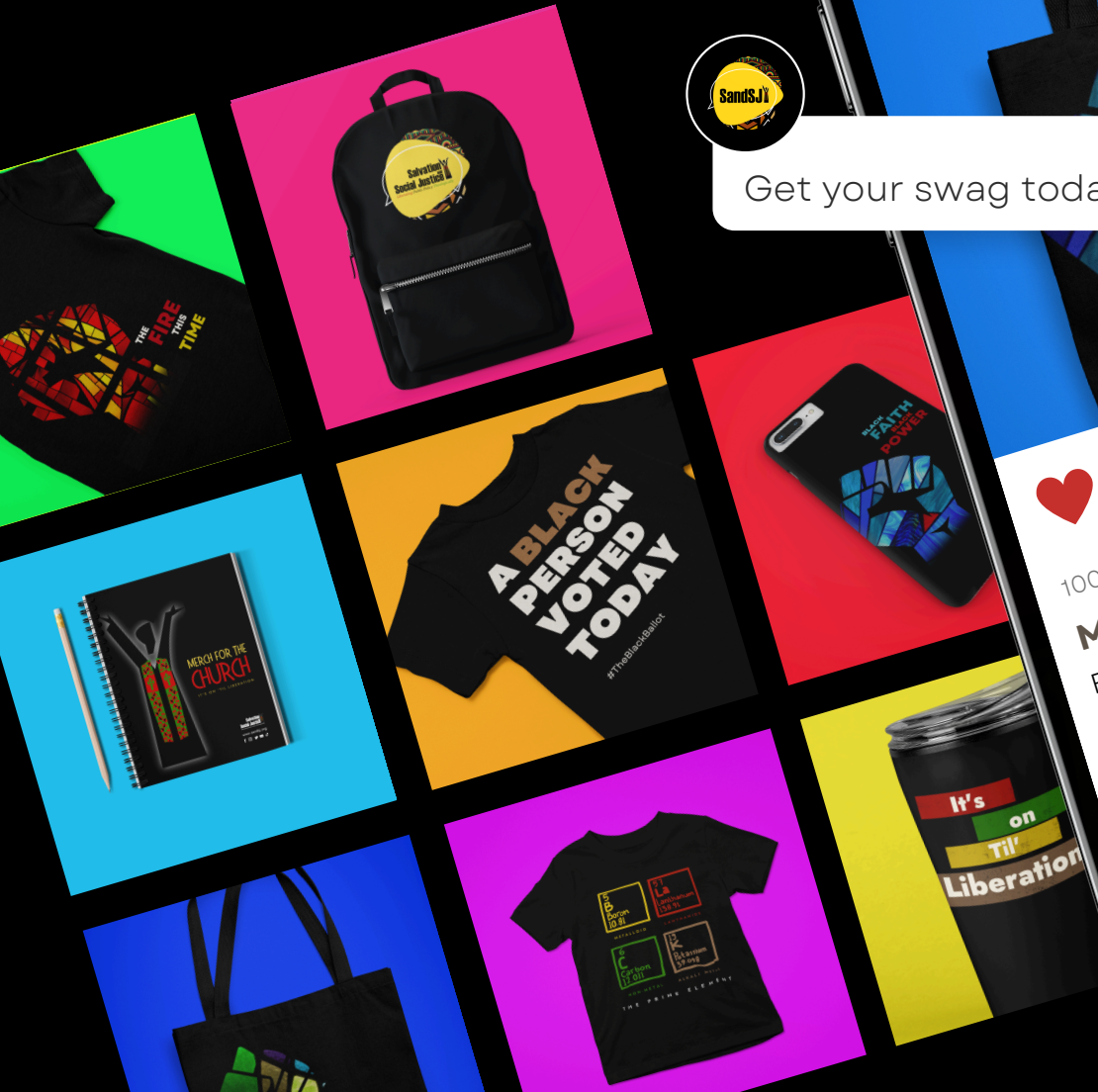
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