



She Votes 2012 is a get out the vote project of Concerned Women for America.

She Votes 2012 inspires, trains and activates conservatives to impact elections across the country with the ultimate objective of seeing more conservative representatives in office who will uphold traditional family values and constitutional free market principles.

Together we will change the course of our nation through prayer, voter registration, voter canvassing, voter identification, voter turnout and more.

Check out SheVotes2012.org. Please join us!

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Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with a rich history of helping our members across the country bring Biblical principles into all levels of public policy. There's a cultural battle raging across this country and CWA is on the frontline protecting those values through prayer and action.

We focus on six core issues: the family, the sanctity of human life, religious liberty, education, pornography and national sovereignty.

Find out more at ia.cwfa.org. Please join us!

Equipping Christians to Vote



“We the people ...” establishes citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Be a responsible citizen and exercise your right to vote and encourage others to do the same.

Results

Regardless of Election Day outcomes,
remember to

Praise God for the results.

Remember Daniel.
His high political position was
second only to the emperor himself.
He truly was “in this world,
but not of this world,”
honoring God in and through
his national citizenship.
We are His warriors on the battlefield,
but the battle is the Lord's.
We are called to be faithful.

Absentee Voting

Voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot if they are:

1. out of town on business or vacation
2. college students
3. physically unable to go to the polls because of illness or age.

Anyone may request that a ballot be mailed to him/her, but the request must be made before November 2, 2012 to the local County Auditor in time for a ballot to be received, completed, and returned by hand or postmarked before November 5, 2012. Note: Ballots will not be sent out until after September 27, 2012.

Absentee voting in person begins approximately 40 days before the November General Election. It ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.



You can download the application from the Web at: <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf>.

Return to County Auditor. Find your County Auditor address at: <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>.

Ideas for your church:

- † Promote absentee voting at the same time you promote voter registration. Print copies of the form available at the web site and pre-address envelopes to your local voter registrar (addresses are listed on the last page of instructions that accompany the absentee ballot application form.
- † Be a resource to your church by helping college students get the information they need to vote absentee.

Why Churches Should Encourage Members to Vote

There is much at stake in the November 2012 elections. Will you exercise your duty and vote and encourage others to do the same?

The institution of government was ordained by God (Romans 13:1-4). It is our duty, as citizens and as Christians, to participate in the process. According to the late U.S. Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson, people of faith are more to blame for the nation's woes than are politicians. Believers who are apathetic "abdicate their responsibility," he said. He noted that lawmakers have authority to act only "with the consent of the governed. People of faith must understand the issues, vote intelligently and advise elected representatives."

Exercising our right to vote in elections is the most fundamental way to participate. Yet, surveys have shown that as few as **one-half of church members who are eligible to vote are registered to vote**, and not every one who is registered actually votes on Election Day.

There is a great need to encourage Christians to get out and vote. For this reason *Concerned Women for America of Iowa* is participating in a national project to promote voter registration, voter canvassing, voter identification, voter turnout and more. This project is called She Votes 2012. Find out more at SheVotes2012.org.

As part of She Votes 2012 project this booklet provides practical information about voter registration and tips for holding voter registration drives at churches.



Guidelines for Nonpartisan Political Activity

Concerned Women for America of Iowa and many churches are nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Federal law prohibits such organizations from engaging in "political activities" designed or carried out in ways that support, oppose, favor or disfavor any candidate or political party. However, properly administered ***Voter Registration Drives, Voter Education Projects, and Get Out The Vote*** efforts are all examples of nonpartisan election related activities that **are legal**. All three are effective means to encourage citizen participation in the democratic process.

- † Neither *CWA nor churches* should distribute materials or literature related to particular candidate campaigns or political parties.
- † *Volunteers* helping with election-related projects should keep their personal views on candidates, parties and issues to themselves while working at the voter registration activity.
- † During a *CWA or church*-sponsored event, refer questions about a particular political party or a candidate to the party or campaign headquarters.
- † *CWA*-sponsored election projects should be conducted with the approval of or under the direction of the *CWA of Iowa* State Director. *Church*-sponsored events should be conducted with the approval of the minister or governing church board.
- † Election-related activities should be aimed at the general public, or a broad segment of the public, such as a church function or community event. Election-related activities should not target a particular group known to favor or disfavor particular candidates or political parties.
- † Use the prototype materials provided in this booklet or information from <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/index.html>.

Voter Guides

Voter Guides or Issue guides are an effective means for churches to educate their members. Churches may legally distribute voter guides as upheld by Iowa courts and clarified by Iowa State law. As reflected elsewhere in this booklet, the voter guides must not endorse or promote any candidate or political party.

It is best to use a voter guide published by a reputable organization that submits the guide to legal counsel for compliance with Federal and State election laws.

Always get permission from your pastor or church board before distributing any material.

Step 3: Getting Voters to the polls

If registered voters don't exercise their right to vote, we have accomplished nothing. Getting voters to the polls requires generating interest in the election.

- † Put a notice in your church bulletin offering to help with absentee ballots or with getting voters to the polls.
- † Organize a carpool. Call people who may not have transportation and arrange to pick them up on Election Day.
- † After noon on Election Day, call like-minded voters and offer to drive them to the polls.
- † Place VOTE posters and announcements in your church one or two Sundays leading up to Election Day.

Voting on November 6, Election Day, is reaching the finish line!



Who should register to vote?

- ◆ Anyone who has never registered to vote.
- ◆ Anyone who has moved, even within the same precinct, since he or she last voted must re-register.
- ◆ Anyone who has turned 17 ½ and will be 18 prior to the election.
- ◆ Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, an Iowa resident, not a convicted felon unless their rights have been restored, not judged mentally incompetent to vote by a court and not voting at any other place.

When is the deadline for registering to vote

Voter registration form must be mailed in by Monday, October 22, 2012. Or can be hand delivered to your local County Auditor's office by October 27, 2012 by 5 p.m. This insures their information shows up on the election registrar.

Election day registration is also available. To do so you must first go to the correct polling place for your current address on election day. (Go to <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/electionday.html> to find your polling place.)

At the polling place you must prove who you are and where you live. To do this simply show your valid Iowa drivers license with you current address printed on it. For more information go to <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/edr.html>.



Step 2: Voter Education

Registered voters must take the time to become informed.

Informed voters are essential to the election.

Find out how each candidate voted on important issues in the past.

Learn their positions on current issues affecting the family.

Read the newspapers and listen to what the candidates have to say about issues which affect your family.

Determine who will best represent your values and concerns.

Voter education activities are perfectly legal for nonpartisan groups and churches because they do not endorse a particular candidate or party.

Step 1: Registering Voters

Voter registration in Iowa is simple. You can hold voter registration in your own church without any special training or instruction. Eligible voters simply need to complete a mail-in application form.

It is legal, and even encouraged by some registrars, to place application forms in churches, stores, community centers or public places, in addition to those places required by law. Talk with your pastor about promoting **voter registration** in your church.

Promoting Voter Registration at Church

- ◆ Have the pastor announce the importance of voting and introduce a registration program.
- ◆ Announce in the church bulletin the importance of voting and ease of registration.
- ◆ Have ushers distribute application forms to those who request them. Forms could be completed and submitted in an offering basket or placed in a designated box near the exit of the church.
- ◆ Set up a table in the church with volunteers to distribute forms, answer questions and collect completed forms. Have volunteers review this booklet in advance to become familiar with the registration process. Church attendees may want to complete the application form at once or take it home to fill out later. Some may want extra forms for relatives, friends or neighbors.
- ◆ Highlight those areas of the application form that must be completed as a sample.
- ◆ Review applications to make sure everything that is required is completed. Incomplete registrations are not processed.
- ◆ Take or mail the voter registration forms to the local County Auditor's office.
- ◆ In September, hand out the bulletin announcement in the center of this booklet to encourage voter registration, absentee voters, and to get out the vote.

Sample Church Announcements

From the Pulpit

Romans 13:1-4 reminds us that God ordained the institution of government. It is our duty, as citizens and as Christians, to participate in the process. The late U.S. Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson said that people of faith are more to blame for the nation's woes than are politicians. Believers who are apathetic "abdicate their responsibility," he said, noting that lawmakers have authority to act only "with the consent of the governed. People of faith must understand the issues, vote intelligently and advise elected representatives."



Exercising our privilege to vote in elections is the most fundamental way to participate. Yet, surveys have shown that as few as one-half of church members who are eligible to vote are registered to vote, and not every one who is registered actually votes on Election Day. For these reasons (your church name) is encouraging you to register to vote today. A table is set up with people to help answer questions and provide the forms (or the ushers will hand out voter registration forms for you to mail in).

Bulletin Insert/Announcement

Romans 13:1-4 reminds us that God ordained the institution of government. It is our duty, as citizens and as Christians, to participate in the process. We encourage you to register to vote before the deadline of Saturday, October 27 to insure your information shows up on the election registrar. vote absentee if you will not be able to get to the polls on Election Day. **For help registering to vote or planning to vote absentee, look for the American Flags in the narthex between services.** (Customize time and location)

At the center of this booklet is a sample church bulletin insert.

Where do I find the forms?

The Motor Voter Law requires states to make registration forms available in libraries, U.S. Postal Offices, the Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Social Services offices, and many other locations such as malls, churches and local businesses. Forms are available "all over town," not just at the DMV.

Go to <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/index.html> for the phone number and address of your local County Auditor to pick some up voter registration forms. Or, on that site you can download the voter registration form or absentee ballot request form. Regardless you can copy the form and distribute. (See page 10 for more information about absentee voting.)

Copies you receive from your local County Auditor will be stamped with the local jurisdiction, but any Iowa resident can use the form to register or change an address. The registrar may ask you to sign for the forms and indicate where or how they will be distributed.

What about the application form?

- ◆ Filling out an application form is simple if you follow these hints:
- ◆ Applications must be **fully completed** and **signed**.
- ◆ The **Social Security Number** is required, as explained on the form.
- ◆ Application forms are **confidential**.
- ◆ **Applicants will be notified of their eligibility to vote** upon determination by the local County Auditor.
- ◆ A voter who registers by mail will be asked for **identification** bearing a preprinted name, address and signature when he or she votes the first time.
- ◆ *Photocopies* and *facsimiles* of the completed *Voter Application* form are **not** acceptable. It must include an original signature