



Conducting a Voter Registration Drive at Your Church

Preparation

- **Get permission.** Talk to your pastor or ministry leader about conducting a non-partisan voter registration drive at your church. Church voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities are among the allowable activities under law. Resources that clarify the legality include:
 - Political Guidelines for Churches and Pastors
<http://www.cwfa.org/brochures/pastors.pdf>
 - Pastors, Pulpits & Politics <http://www.ncplaw.org/resources/>
 - Various resources are available at the Alliance Defense Fund's Speak Up site:
<http://speakupmovement.org/Church/LearnMore/Details/3767>
- **Announce.** Ask your pastor to make an announcement during church services and/or to include an announcement in the church bulletin that voter registration forms are available and where they are located. Your church may even choose to distribute forms during the service.

Planning (Timing and Materials)

- **How many?** Determine how many voter registration forms you will need.
- **When?** Determine when to have your voter registration drive. Consider the registration deadline (15 days prior to the election) and the time needed to receive a sample ballot (generally four to five weeks prior to the election) in making your decision. The registration deadline for the Hawaii Primary is July 12, 2012; for the general election it is October 8, 2012. You could have a Voter Registration Drive for each election if you choose.
- **Order forms.** Order voter registration cards/forms from your county elections official. The main office number is (808) 453-VOTE (8683) and the Neighbor Islands is (800-442-VOTE (8683). or you can email: elections@hawaii.gov. You can order them by phone but it will be necessary for you to go in to pick up the forms in person.
- **Get help.** Enlist volunteers to help set up your registration tables and answer questions.

The Drive

- **Announce.** Remind the pastor to make an announcement about the voter registration drive.
- **Set up.** Choose an approved location, preferably in plain view of the congregants as they enter and exit the church. Be sure to have plenty of pens available. Consider using balloons or a flag to draw attention to your table. Do not surprise your pastor! Obtain permission for any signage, decorations, etc.
- **Follow the rules.** Although it is legal for you to collect the forms and turn them in, it would be best to have each individual mail in or take in their own registration forms in order to avoid any possible problems.

Cautions

- **It is advisable to print and read the Voter Registration Guide**, which can be obtained online at: <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters/vrguide> and to keep a copy at your registration table(s) in case your volunteers or registrants have questions.
- **Additional information can be found at** <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters>.

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