

Elections and Democracy

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★ **TEXAS IMPACT**
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

The next statewide election is 13 months away - the state primaries, March 3, 2026...

Be ready.

**Resources
abound.**



Texas **Faith** ✓otes

But first – About elections and this legislative session...



Texas Impact staff will be monitoring election/voting legislation that need action from voting advocates.

How to stay up on the latest developments?

- Rapid Response Team
- Marching Orders Monday
- Texas Impact e-news

texasimpact.org/action-center

What is Texas Faith Votes?

We mobilize voters
through:

- Providing **Resources**
- Civic **Engagement**
- Living our **Faith**



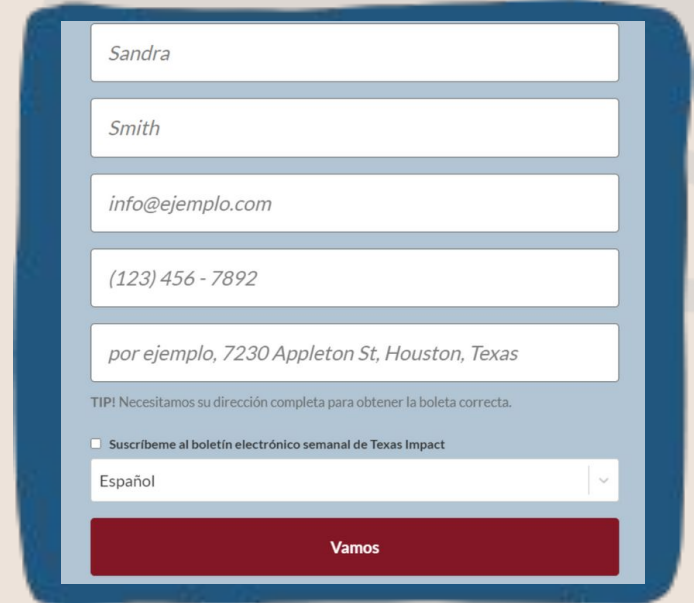
Resources for your congregation...

 **BallotReady**[®]



What is BallotReady[®] ?

Texas voters access BallotReady by entering their name and address into a form on Texas Impact's website.

A registration form for BallotReady, displayed on a tablet. The form contains several input fields with placeholder text: a first name field with 'Sandra', a last name field with 'Smith', an email field with 'info@ejemplo.com', a phone number field with '(123) 456 - 7892', and an address field with 'por ejemplo, 7230 Appleton St, Houston, Texas'. Below the address field is a tip: 'TIP! Necesitamos su dirección completa para obtener la boleta correcta.' There is a checkbox for 'Suscríbeme al boletín electrónico semanal de Texas Impact' and a language dropdown menu currently set to 'Español'. At the bottom is a red button labeled 'Vamos'.

Benefits of **BallotReady**[®]

- One-Stop Shop Voter Information
- Great for mobilizing your members
- Great for mobilizing outside of your membership - direct service ministries, community outreach, neighborhood engagement, etc.

Request a code here



Tools from TXI's Voter Engagement Hub

★ TEXAS IMPACT
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR
FACILITATING
CONGREGATION-BASED
CANDIDATE FORUMS



★ TEXAS IMPACT
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR
FACILITATING
CONGREGATION-BASED
ISSUE FORUMS



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POLITICS AND THE PULPIT

A Guide to Rules and Regulations on Political Activity by Religious Organizations



As we prepare for another important election season, we want to ensure that faith communities across Texas have the information they need to conduct election-related activities within the bounds of federal rules and regulations.

The ways in which religious organizations engage in public policy and politics is a function of their status as nonprofits under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Periodically, the IRS publishes guidelines to help religious organizations understand what they can and cannot do as tax exempt entities—the IRS last distributed such a resource was more than a decade ago. This guide is inspired by that document and has been updated to address scenarios involving contemporary technologies and other present-day concerns.

For more information from the IRS about , visit <https://www.irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/churches-religious-organizations>.

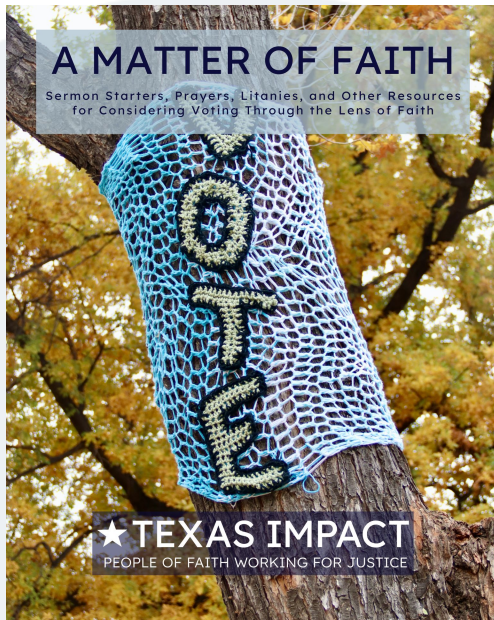
[YOUR CONGREGATION'S
NAME]
IS YOUR NEIGHBOR,
AND YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS TO US!

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A MATTER OF FAITH

Sermon Starters, Prayers, Litanies, and Other Resources
for Considering Voting Through the Lens of Faith



★ TEXAS IMPACT
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Voting is a matter of
FAITH, CITIZENSHIP, & DEMOCRACY



This election, we have the opportunity to vote for leaders who will support vibrant communities and promote policies that reflect our values: **LOVE OF NEIGHBOR** & **CARE FOR CREATION**

We are joining other faith communities across the state to ensure that everyone at [YOUR CONGREGATION'S NAME] has the information they need to make an informed and confident vote! Scan our BallotReady code to see your registration status, who and what is on your ballot, and when, where, and how you can vote. And share the link with your family and friends! #texasfaithvotes

QUESTIONS? Contact [NAME] with
[CONGREGATIONAL SUBGROUP OR LEADERSHIP
TEAM] - [EMAIL]



SCAN ME

For more information about this statewide effort, visit texasfaithvotes.org



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QUESTIONS? Contact Jane with our social justice committee - jane@example.org



SCAN ME

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GET READY TO VOTE!
Find election information here



Houston FaithVotes
Voting is a matter of FAITH, CITIZENSHIP, and DEMOCRACY
A project of Texas Impact





First Congregational Church of Houston

[CONGREGATION NAME]
VOTES
AND SO CAN YOU!

Scan the Code to see...

- ★ Your registration status
- ★ Who and what is on your ballot
- ★ When, where, and how you can vote

[congregation's website]



★ TEXAS IMPACT PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

BallotReady

FRIENDS

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Using our link, voters can see:

- If they are registered to vote at their current address
- Who and what is on the ballot in their county
- When and where they can vote in-person
- How to get a mail-in ballot if they want one

For more information about this statewide effort, visit texasfaithvotes.org

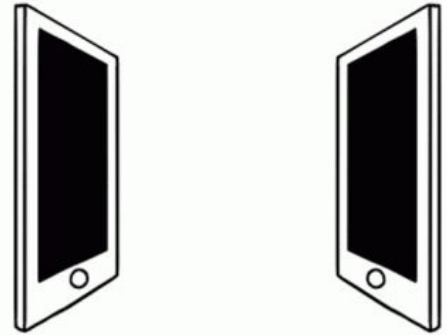
QUESTIONS? Contact Jane with our Social Justice Committee - jane@example.org

Stories...

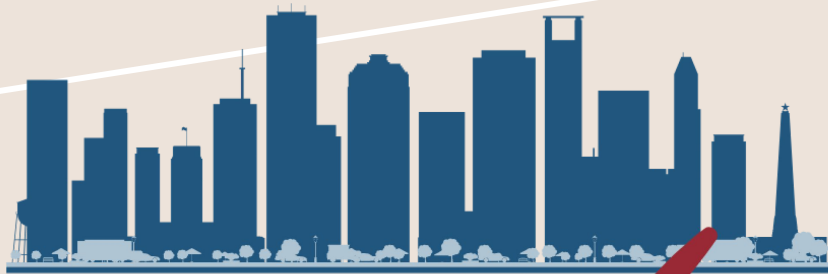


Engagement for your congregations.

How to connect with your members and other congregations to engage potential voters across your region.



Two regional approaches...



Houston Faith ✓ **otes**

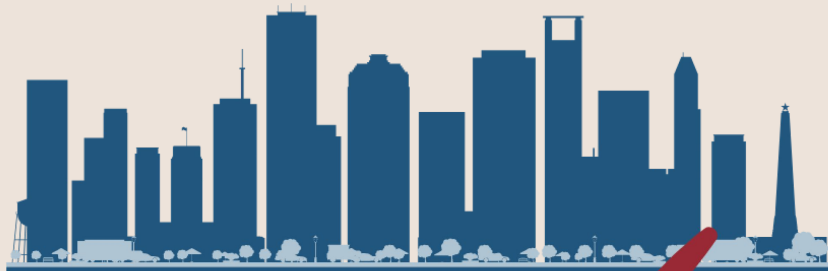
Voting is a matter of FAITH, CITIZENSHIP, and DEMOCRACY

A project of Texas Impact



North Texas Faith ✓ **otes**

The logo for North Texas Faith Votes features a brown outline map of North Texas. Inside the map, there are several gold stars of varying sizes. A large red checkmark is positioned over the bottom right corner of the map. The text "North Texas Faith Votes" is written in blue, with "Faith" and "otes" in a larger, bold font.



Houston Faith otes

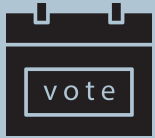
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Texas Impact's Houston Faith Votes (HFV) Civic Engagement Pilot Cohort is

- **SUPPORTING** faith-based GOTV efforts
- **IMAGINING** and **CREATING** a faith-based civic participation model for our region
- **TRACKING** and **MEASURING** our particular efforts for maximum effectiveness.

EXAMPLES OF CONGREGATIONS' ACTIVITIES



Bulletin announcements/reminders

Neighborhood Walks



Voter Information Forums

Collaborating with other organizations



“Souls to the Polls”

Postcards to low-propensity voters



Data, data, data!



SureImpact

What we are learning...

What makes it possible...

Ongoing tip for churches:
Make friends with spreadsheets!



Houston Faith Votes

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SureImpact

HOW many people who we touched voted?

WHICH activities were most effective?

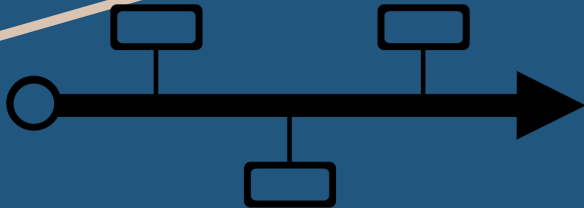
WHAT was the best use of our time and resources?





There are **13** months until the next statewide election.

How to spend the time wisely for the most impact...



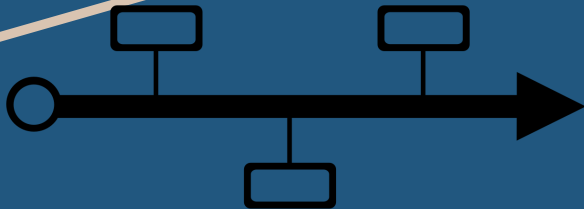
February - May, 2025

Your 6 next steps...

1. Meet with your church leadership.
2. Invite participation.
3. Meet other TXI congregations.

Now there are **9** months until the next statewide election.

How to spend the time wisely for the most impact...



June 2025 - February, 2026

4. Stock your toolkit.
5. Create your timeline.
6. Move into action!

Make Civic Engagement a part of your church culture.

- Include a voter registration card in Welcome Packet.
- Have a Voter Information table at all church-wide events. Include your *BallotReady* code.
- Show people how to check their voter registration at food pantry and other outreach event
- Keep spreadsheets with names and addresses of every potential voter you talk with.
- Add your BallotReady QR code to your website, bulletin, etc.
- Share *Politics and the Pulpit* with your pastor/rabbi. (See Voter Engagement Hub on TXI website)
- Extend on-going invitations to join your team.

Faith in Action..

