I Voted, Now What?

November 3rd has passed, but the work is not complete. Here are some ways that we can continue our work in the post-election season.

"As Christians, we don't engage in this process out of loyalty to a certain candidate or political party; instead, our loyalty is to a God who calls us to stand up for human dignity and advance the common good." - Adam Taylor, President, *Sojourners*

Stay informed with reliable information.

- In an environment where there are so many platforms offering news and misinformation is spreading, make sure you know how to spot quality, reliable news.
- We are also in the age of OpenAI and Anthropic, so it is essential to know how to spot misleading information generated by AI.
- Subscribe to Truth and Action Roundup, a SojoAction newsletter that first launched during the 2020 election to provide trustworthy news and information. During the post-election season, we're sending it three times a week to continue to provide trustworthy news and updates, along with calls to action and spiritual inspiration.

Know what to expect and how to talk about it with your communities.

- Remember that it may take a while to count the vote. Elections are run by state and local officials across more than 3,000 counties and 175,000 precincts, with nearly every ballot recorded on paper so a count can be easily checked. A longer count can mean a race is close and officials are checking their work—a standard and important part of the process.
- We can expect possible efforts to challenge the legitimacy of the results of the election. Based on what we've already seen the Trump administration say and do, we can also expect possible efforts including unsubstantiated allegations of voter fraud, seizing ballots, or declaring an emergency. That's why we must be both clear and bold with our message that every eligible vote must be counted.
- Protect Democracy, a nonpartisan, anti-authoritarianism group, put together an excellent guide to every phase of election season that outlines things you might hear, what they mean, and how to help others with questions they might have.

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Call for every vote to be counted and certified.

- Every vote counts, so count every vote. After ballots are cast, they're counted and double-checked through a process called "canvassing." Every eligible ballot must be counted, even when it takes longer.
- Why we need to stay vigilant. Since 2020, Trump and his allies have pressured local officials not to certify results, and many election deniers now hold key election roles across the country.
- Make your voice heard. Tell your election certifiers, use the free tool from Faith Communities for Free and Fair Elections to find and email yours.

Help keep neighbors safe.

Learn how to engage in nonviolent community resistance and mutual aid. Organizations like the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. and the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice have useful toolkits that can help you get started. For a deeper dive into the theory and proven methods of nonviolent resistance, try the Resistance Hub.

Stay spiritually grounded.

As Galatians 6:9 reminds us, "Let us not grow wearing in doing what is right." Lean into supporting your community and maintaining your spiritual practices.

- Get your church or local faith space involved:
  - Faith, Digital Literacy & Election Disinformation Workshop
  - Protect the Vote. Protect Faith Freedom.
  - Interfaith America's Faith in Elections Playbook
  - Train congregations to build rapid response networks and hold election night vigils.

Remember your power.

We have collective power to hold our officials to the commitments they made and push the agendas that pursue a Beloved Community. **We have the power to make change!**

Join SojoAction in recognizing and utilizing our power for change through sharing resources, contacting officials, signing petitions and so much more.

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