

VOTER TOOLKIT

How to Prepare Your House of Worship for the **2024 Election**

A product of the Skinner Leadership Institute, Sojourners, and
the Center for Faith & Justice at Georgetown University

Visit TurnOutSunday.com for more information.

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A PROJECT OF TURNOUT SUNDAY / LAWYERS & COLLARS

Faiths United to Save Democracy (FUSD) is a **nonpartisan, multi-racial, multi-faith, and multi-generation 2022-2024** voter protection campaign focused in the states of **AL. AZ. FL. GA. MI. NC. OH. PA. TX. WI.**

It is rooted in the belief that everyone is made in the image of God and deserves the freedom to vote.

The FUSD campaign exists to overcome the recent assault on democracy, making it more difficult for voters who are low-income, black and brown, elderly, students, and disabled to exercise their sacred right to vote. **The 2024 election** will be a test of our democracy and our faith. Early planning and even more robust strategic engagement by the faith community is critical.

FUSD CORE TEAM MEMBERS



Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Skinner Leadership Institute



Rev. Jim Wallis
Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice



Rev. Adam Taylor
Sojourners



Rev. Moya Harris
Sojourners



FUSD NATIONAL DIVERSE PARTNERS



Rev. Hyepin Im
Faith & Community
Empowerment Asia Pacific



Mr. Derrick Johnson
NAACP



Rev. Carlos Malave
Latino Christian National
Network



Bishop Vashti McKenzie
National Council of Churches



Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Religious Action Center of
Reform Judaism



Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salgero
National Latino Evangelical
Coalition



Imam Talib Shareff
The Nation's Mosque

FUSD STATE LEADS



**Bishop Harry
Seawright**
ALABAMA



Dr. Cynthia Hale
GEORGIA



Dr. James Perkins
MICHIGAN



Ms. Jaladah Aslam
OHIO



**Dr. Frederick
Haynes II**
TEXAS



Dr. Warren Stewart
ARIZONA



Dr. Steve Bland
MICHIGAN



**Bishop Claude
Alexander**
NORTH CAROLINA



Dr. Allyn Waller
PENNSYLVANIA

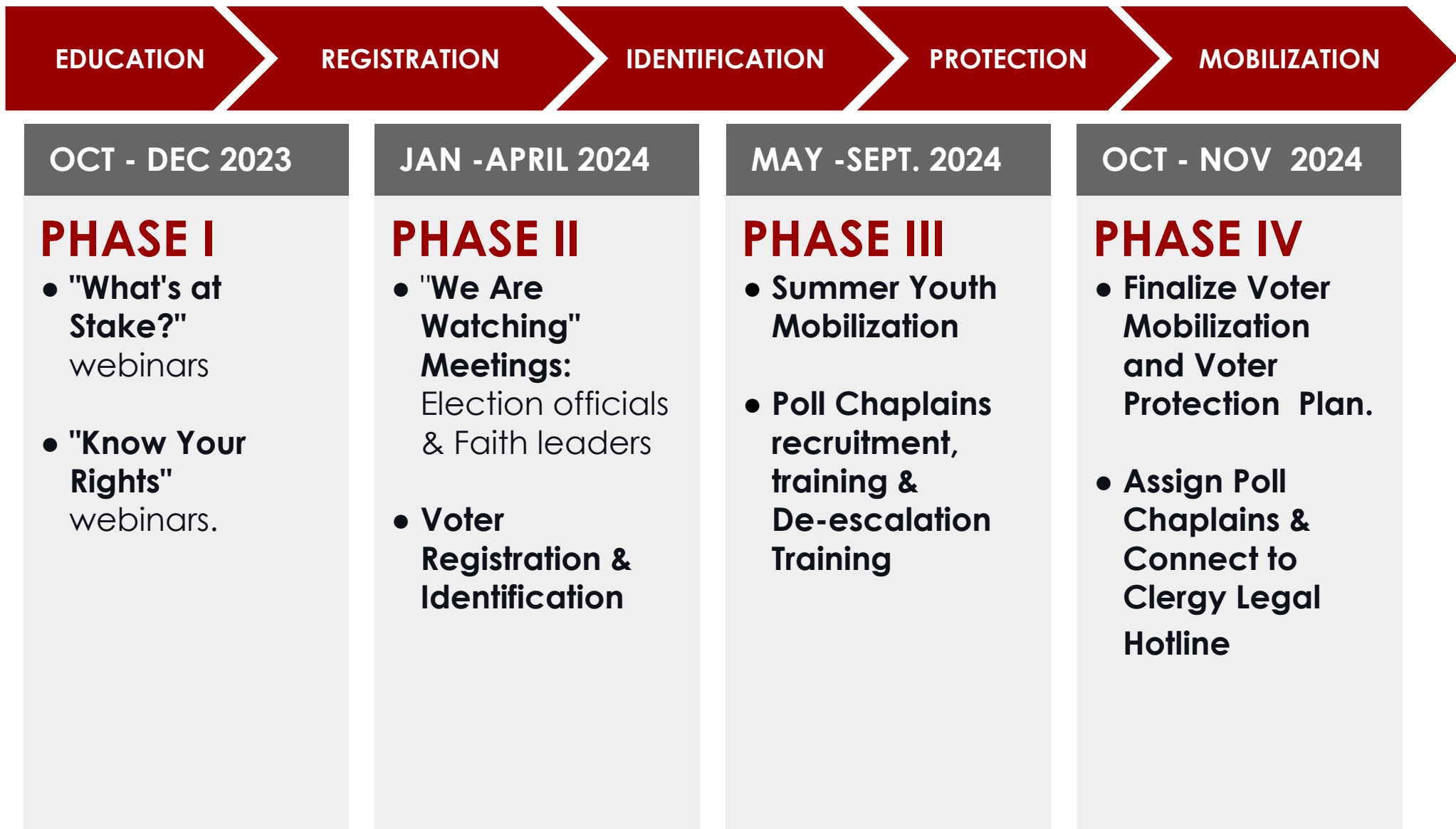


Rev. Joy L. Gallmon
WISCONSIN

NATIONAL ALLIES

- A.M.E. Church (GA-6th District)
- A.M.E./VAlert
- A.M.E. Zion Church
- A.M.E Zion Church
- AME Church
- Black Church PAC
- Carolina Church
- Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Social Action
- Conference of National Black Churches
- Faith and Community Empowerment (FACE/LA) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders)
- FaithWorks
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (Lobbying with Quakers)
- Friendship-West Baptist Church
- Full Gospel Baptist Church International
- Latino Christian National Network
- Live Free
- Missouri Faith Voices
- NAACP
- National Association of Black Evangelicals
- National African American Clergy Network
- National Baptist Church USA
- National Council of Churches
- National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NALEC)
- Ohio Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- The Ohio Baptist General Convention
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Sojourners
- The Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church
- The Nation's Mosque
- The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
- United Church of Christ
- Values Partnerships

FOUR PHASE CAMPAIGN PLAN & TIMETABLE

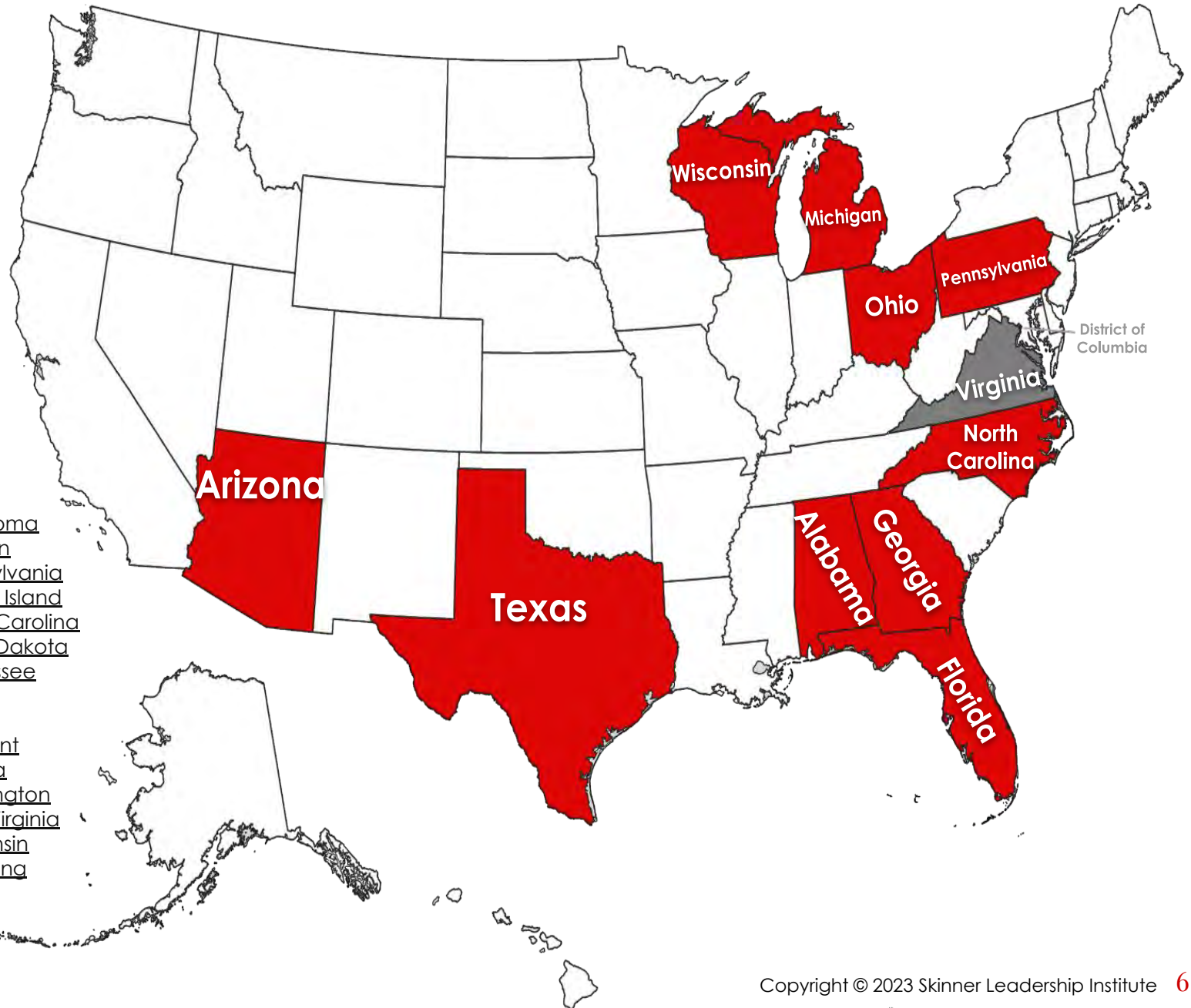


KNOW: YOUR STATE'S VOTING, ID, AND REGISTRATION LAWS (Register here!)

CLICK on the FUSD Interactive Target States Map or states listed to the left to download basic voting, ID, and registration information. Contact your local State Attorney's Office for updated and/or additional voting laws on target states or states not listed.

- [Alabama](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [California](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Delaware](#)
- [District of Columbia](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Hawaii](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Illinois](#)
- [Indiana](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Kansas](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [Louisiana](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Maryland](#)
- [Massachusetts](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Minnesota](#)
- [Mississippi](#)
- [Missouri](#)
- [Montana](#)
- [Nebraska](#)
- [Nevada](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [New Mexico](#)
- [New York](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [North Dakota](#)
- [Ohio](#)

- [Oklahoma](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)
- [South Carolina](#)
- [South Dakota](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Vermont](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Washington](#)
- [West Virginia](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)
- [Wyoming](#)



VOTER EDUCATION

TEACH: **The Spiritual Mandate For Voting**

- Care for the “least of these”
- Stand up for the mistreated
- Protect the elderly and the disabled
- Meet needs of the vulnerable
- Help those with language barriers
- Give children and youth a hope and future
- Protect human dignity
- Advance the common good
- Ensure everyone can thrive



PREACH & TEACH: **Civic Discipleship**

Civic Discipleship is the marriage between civic participation and faith that is rooted in the conviction that deep civic engagement is because of one's faith, not in spite of it.

Civic Discipleship Involves:

- Building relationships with elected officials
- Educating the community about the issues that matter most
- Working to remove all voting barriers
- Creating relational motivation to participate in the elections
- Creating practical tips for exercising faith by protecting vulnerable voters.



SHARE: **What The Vote Achieved (2020 -2022 Elections)**

- Rural Broadband Internet Vouchers
- Child Tax Credits
- COVID Relief for Struggling Americans
- Payroll Protection Program (PPP)
- Reduced Insulin Cost-\$35/mo. for the Elderly
- Assistance to Minority Farmers
- Protection for Minority Maternal Health
- HBCU Support
- Small Business Support and more.

TEACH: The Danger Of Not Voting

Hate Crimes Increased (11 % in 2021) www.justice.gov

- Black: 14% increase
- Jewish: 20% increase
- Hispanic: 35% increase
- Asians: 147% increase

Judicial Concerns:

- ❑ Affirmative Action in Colleges Ended www.npr.org
- ❑ Student Debt Loan Forgiveness Ended www.cnn.com
- ❑ Future Supreme Court & Federal Judicial Appointments
- ❑ Threats to the Voting Rights Act and increased future voter suppression

Child Tax Credits Limited

(Child Tax Credits Reduced Black and Brown Child Poverty by 50%) www.cbpp.org

Congress Failed to Pass

- *George Floyd Fair Policing legislation
- *John Lewis Voting Rights legislation www.lawyerscommittee.org
- Comprehensive Immigration

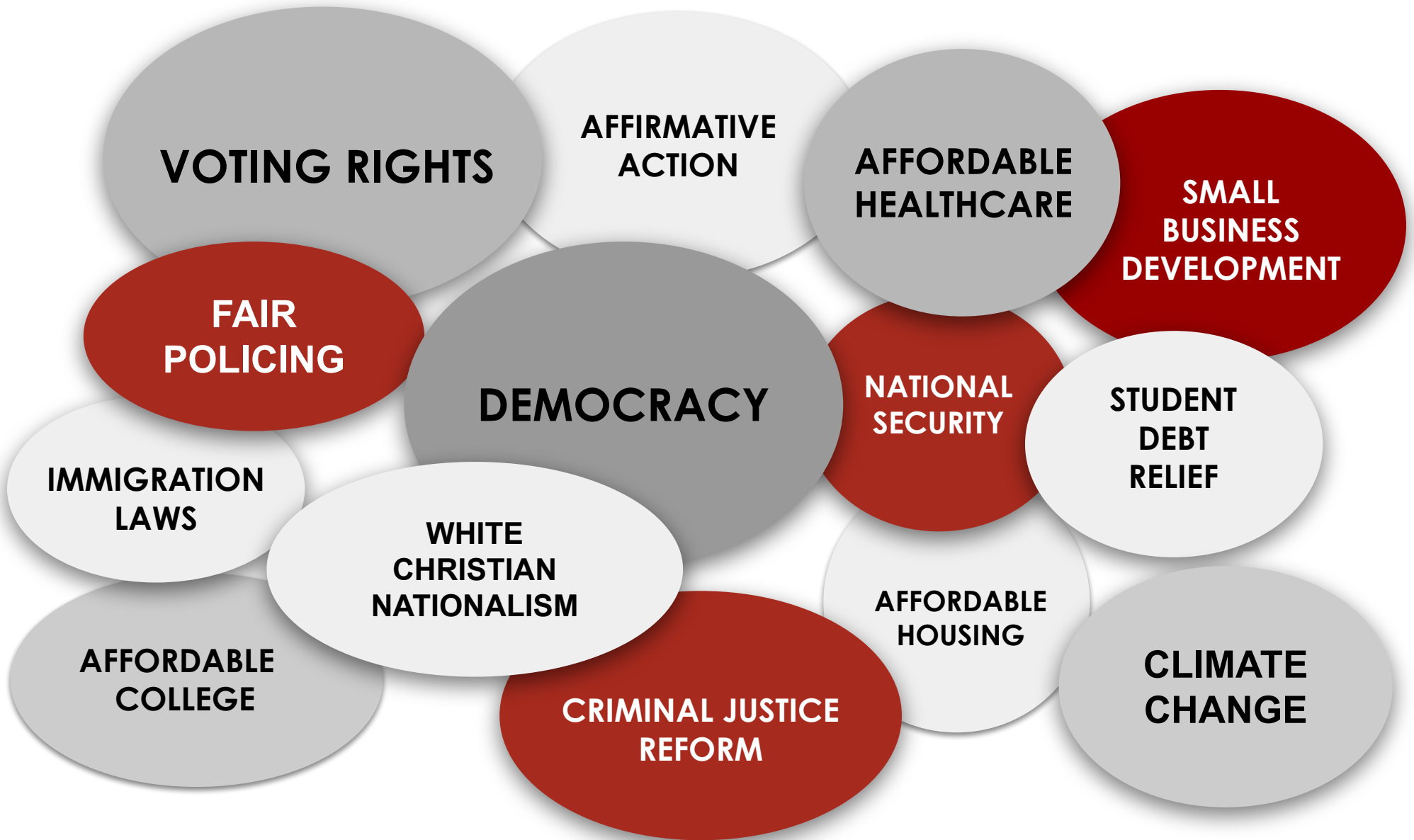
TEACH: What Not Voting Means

- **Not voting** is voting against your own interests.
- **Not voting** is giving away your power to someone who votes against your interests.
- **Not voting** ensures that your concerns will not be addressed.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/03/25/asian-hate-crime-fbi-black-lgbtq>



TEACH: Critical Issues At Stake in the 2024 Election



LEARN: Key Statewide Races

AL	AZ	FL	GA	MI
<p>State Board of Education (4 seats)</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p> <p>Court of Criminal Appeals</p>	<p>U.S. Senate</p> <p>State Senate and House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p> <p>Ballot Measure: To prohibit affirmative action in an entity</p>	<p>U.S. Senate</p> <p>State Senate and House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p> <p>Ballot Measure: To make School Board election partisan</p>	<p>State Senate and House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p>	<p>U.S. Senate</p> <p>State House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p>
NC	OH	PA	TX	WI
<p>Governor</p> <p>Secretary of State</p>	<p>U.S. Senate</p> <p>State Board of Education (6 seats)</p> <p>State Senate & House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p>	<p>U. S. Senate</p> <p>Attorney General</p> <p>State Senate and House</p>	<p>U. S. Senate</p> <p>State Board of Education (7 Seats)</p> <p>State Senate and House</p> <p>State Supreme Court</p> <p>Court Criminal Appeals</p>	<p>U.S. Senate</p> <p>State Senate and House</p>

TEACH: The Challenges Of Ex-Felon Voting

- **1 of 19 voting age African Americans** are disenfranchised as ex-felons. (3.5 times more than non-African Americans).
- **In 10 states**, including California, **Latinos** were 3 times more likely to lose their right to vote from felony disenfranchisement than the population at large.

TODAY: 4.6 Million American Ex-Felons are Disenfranchised

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/locked-out-2022-estimates-of-people-denied-voting-rights/>
<https://www.sfgate.com/politics/article/Disenfranchisement-high-among-Latino-felons-too-2821089.php>

LEARN: VOTER ISSUES

BLACK MALE VOTER ISSUES

(2020: 10% lower voter participation rates than Black Women)

01	Require Direct Contact	02	Impacted by Voter Suppression	03	Face Invisibility Syndrome
04	Large Number of Former Felons	05	#1 Focus: Personal Initiatives	06	#2 Focus: Economy & Business

BLACK VOTERS ISSUES (Male & Female)

10% Drop in Black Voter Turnout: 2018 (51%) vs. 2020 (41%)

01	Racism & White Supremacy	02	Police Brutality	03	Voter Suppression
04	Large Numbers of Ex-Felons	05	Student Debt Relief	06	Ignored Until Weeks Before Election

LATINO VOTER ISSUES

2022: One of 10 Voters was Latino who played a decisive role in the elections

01	Skeptical of Both Parties	02	Language Barriers	03	Evangelical Influence
04	Heavy Faith Influence	05	Top Issues: Abortion & Economy	06	Ignored Until Last Minute

ASIAN VOTER ISSUES

There was a 9% increase in eligible Asian voters in 2022 over the 2018 elections

01	Limited History of Voting Rights	02	Language Barriers	03	Unclear Impact On Community
04	Don't Identify with Either Party	05	Ignored by Candidates	06	Top Issues: Health Care, Anti-Asian Hate

<https://news.yahoo.com/2024-election-influence-black-male-voters-georgia-florida-gop-democrats-biden-trump-195650915.html>

<https://www.as-coa.org/articles/chart-how-us-latinos-voted-2022-midterm-election>

TEACH: 10 Things To Know Before Voting *(Click each item for website)*

1. [What Forms of I.D. are Accepted at the Polls](#)
2. [How to Vote if You are Formerly Incarcerated](#)
3. [How to Vote if English is Not Your First Language](#)
4. [How to Vote if You Are Disabled](#)
5. [How to Vote Early](#)
6. [How to Cast an Absentee Ballot](#)
7. [How to Cast Your Ballot](#)
8. [How to Know When the Polls are Open](#)
9. [How to Know Where Local Polling Sites are Located](#)
10. [How to Understand Who and What is on the Ballot](#)

UNDERSTAND: Key Barriers To Voting

LANGUAGE | Many elderly among Latino/Asian Pacific/Indigenous do not speak English. Some polling locations have no one to assist with language challenges

POLLING STATION MOVED | FROM City at Worship House, School, or Library with access to Public Transportation TO Suburbs with no access to Public Transportation

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT VOTING | (2x more young people than elderly) *Source: U.S. Census*

PURGED VOTING ROLLS | 17 million U.S. Voters Purged (2016 – 2018)

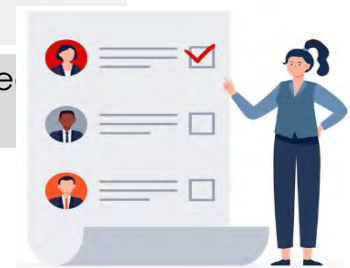
VOTER RESTRICTIONS | Ex-Offender, Military, Disabled, Moved, Student. College Student ID not accepted in some states

LACK OF DROPBOXES FOR THE DISABLED OR ELDERLY

DON'T KNOW ISSUES ON BALLOT OR CANDIDATES

FAILURE TO PROTECT THE VOTE AT POLLING SITES

VOTER DISINFORMATION & INTIMIDATION



VOTER REGISTRATION

UNDERSTAND: Your State's Voter Registration Laws

Click the FUSD map [\(page 6\)](#) to download registration information. For updated and/or additional registration laws and deadlines, contact your local State Attorney's Office.

UNDERSTAND: Voter Registration Matters

The Margin of Victory in 2016 Election Was Less Than The Unregistered Black Voters

States	Margin of Victory For The Winner	Black Population	Unregistered Black Voters
FLORIDA	112,911	2,999,862	336,235
GEORGIA	211,141	3,150,435	349,675
MICHIGAN	10,704	1,400,362	240,787
NO. CAROLINA	173,315	2,048,628	177,421
PENNSYLVANIA	44,292	1,377,689	227,464
TEXAS	204,505	2,979,598	758,165

UNDERSTAND: Bad Leaders Are Elected by Good People Who Don't Vote

Voter registration represents the first but critical step in exercising your sacred vote. Houses of worship can play a major role in voter registration.

REPORTED UNREGISTERED VOTER POPULATIONS

BY STATE		BY RACE		BY AGE	
ALABAMA	33.0%	WHITE (alone)	30.9%	18 to 24	44.2%
ARIZONA	31.2%	BLACK (alone)	35.3%	25 to 34	39%
FLORIDA	39.1%	ASIAN (alone)	54.3%	35 to 44	67.8
GEORGIA	34.8%	HISPANIC (of any race)	55.9%	45 to 64	30.1
MICHIGAN	29.2%			65+	24.2
N. CAROLINA	36.4%				
OHIO	24.8%				
PENNSYLVANIA	25.9%				
TEXAS	37.9%				
WISCONSIN	25.3%				

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

UNDERSTAND: Your State's Voter Identification Laws

Click on an FUSD target map [\(page 6\)](#) to download identification information. For updated and/or additional identification laws, contact your local State Attorney's Office.

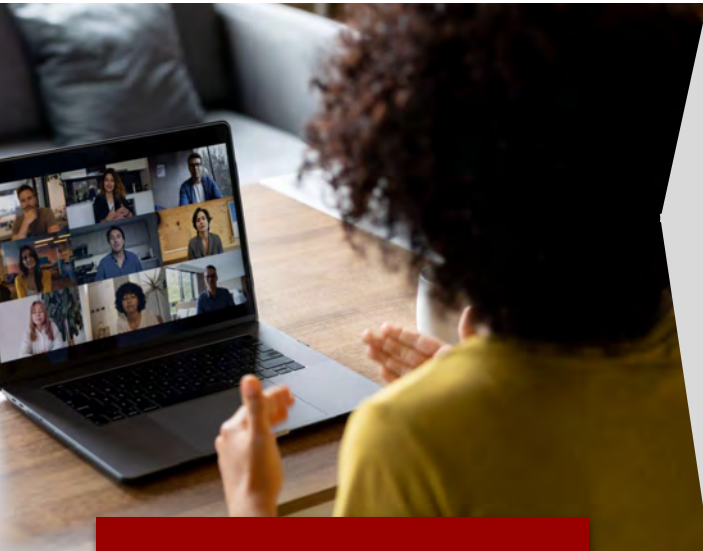
SHARE: The Type of I.D. Required In Your State

Support your congregants and community members to access the appropriate voter IDs.

- **35 states** have laws **requesting or requiring voters to show some form of identification** at the polls.
- The remaining **15 states and the District of Columbia** use other methods to verify the identity of voters.
- Look up the **requirements and laws** in your state [here](#).



VOTER PROTECTION



PARTICIPATE: “We Are Watching” Meetings

- With State Election Officials and Faith Leaders
- Receive the Most Current Voting Procedures, e.g. polling location changes, drop box locations
- Communicate to Election Officials: The Faith community **“will be watching”** to ensure free, fair, and safe elections

PARTICIPATE: FUSD “Poll Chaplain Program” of Ordained Clergy and Lay Leaders

Faiths United to Save Democracy (FUSD) Poll Chaplains work in partnership with the **Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Hotline** and **State Partners** to help answer voter's questions.

1-866-OURVOTE or 1-866-687-8683

ROLE OF POLL CHAPLAINS:

1. Provide basic voter information;
2. Assist vulnerable voters (e.g., disabled);
3. Provide a calming presence



PROTECTION

LEARN: How To Fight Voter Disinformation

Use **ONLY** trusted voting and elections sources like the Secretary of State and other nonpartisan election protection groups.

Some suggested links:

- <https://www.commoncause.org/voting-tools/>
- <https://866ourvote.org>
- <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote>
- <https://naacp.org>
- <https://votolatino.org>
- <https://apiavote.org>

LEARN: How To Detect Deceptive AI Disinformation

Websites that offer free or low-cost APPS to use for checking whether what you read is produced by AI or not.

- [Check by Meedan](#)
- [Logically.ai](#)
- [Sensity.ai](#) (more variety, more expensive, but they can detect deep fakes & AI images)
- [Bot Sentinel](#) (free resources)



VOTER MOBILIZATION



LEARN: **How To Prepare Your House of Worship**

- PREACH** Messages on **justice** and righteousness.
- EDUCATE** Teach the **issues on the ballot** impacting your members.
- REGISTER** Make sure your **congregation is fully registered.**
- PRAY** Pray now until election day 2024.
- CONDUCT** Post on **Social Media** encouraging voter turnout.
- HOST** Host **Turnout Sunday** Service (Sunday, November 3, 2024)
- PLAN** Plan **transportation for elderly** & disabled members to vote.
- POST** Post **Polling Sites** & changes up to Election Day
- WATCH** Have your faith leaders **visit polling sites of your members.**
- ADOPT** Adopt a **precinct** near you church.
- CANVASS** Go **door to door in your community** to encourage voting



IRS GUIDELINES FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP



DO: Publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible. Also, discuss candidates position on issues with congregation.

DO: Rent out the faith organization facilities (e.g. kitchens, athletic facilities, 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 the organization's events/services.

DO: Distribute candidate campaign literature as an individual faith leader.

DO: Distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders.

DO: Publish political ads; Apply regular rates.

DO: Use organization's vehicle to transport voter.

DO: Lobby & Campaign for or against legislation as congregation or individual.

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: Impose your opinions on the congregation.

DO NOT: Publish faith organization editorials that support or oppose candidates.

DO NOT: Publish political ads as a donation.

DO NOT: Display candidate's literature on organization's vehicle used to transport people to vote.

DO NOT: Distribute candidate campaign literature as a congregation.

Sources: "Preaching Politics from the Pulpit", Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. www.pewforum.org -IRS Publication 1828, *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations 3* (Rev. September 2006) [hereinafter "Pub. 1828"].

SHARE: Sample Social Media Messages



- Not voting **IS** a vote against your own interests. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Bad people are elected by good people who do not vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Every person is created in the image of God and deserve to have their vote protected. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Critical issues like criminal justice reform, voting rights, quality education, affordable housing, Medicare, Social Security, caregiving, andMfinancial security are all on the line in the next election. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Police shootings of unarmed black and brown people will not end unless you vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Americans of color STILL face oppression and discrimination. Voting says no to discrimination. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- It is time we are all treated EQUALLY. Discrimination belongs in HISTORY. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Let's secure a better future for our children and youth by voting. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Nearly 5 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people with felony convictions. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY #restoreexfelonvotingrights**
- Know the early voting dates for your state. Go to www.vote.org to find out where and when you can vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Issues like voting rights, Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, criminal justice reform, immigration, protection against police brutality, and life sustaining programs for low income citizens will not be protected unless we all vote **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- We've come a long way since the terror-filled years of the 1960s, but we still have a long way to go since bigotry still raises its ugly head daily. 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. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**

SHARE: Sample Pulpit Announcement

The prophet Amos reminds us to “let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” This year, we will be participating with interfaith communities across the nation in the **Faiths United to Save Democracy** preparation for the upcoming elections. We have the power to vote for leaders who will support life-sustaining programs, for our community.

- **With voting**, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Lower Prescription Drug Costs, police/community relations, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) and other financial stability programs are protected with our high turnout.

I ask each of you to commit to **encourage 5 family members, friends, and co-workers to vote on 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 www.voterparticipation.org.

SHARE: Sample Bulletin Announcement

Exercise your power and protect your right to vote by:

1. **Registering you and 5 friends, family members and co-workers** to vote in the upcoming election.
2. **Make sure they turn out** between now and Election Day.
3. **Sign up to join our Civic Engagement Team** and Volunteer to help educate and register others to vote.

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

SHARE: Sample Sermon Scriptures

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

Genesis: "God created human beings in his own image."

Isaiah 10.1-2 "What sorrow awaits the unjust judges and those who issue unfair laws. They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and take advantage of orphans." New Living Translation

Amos 5: 24 24" But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" New International Version

Matthew 25:42-45 " For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I 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... 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" New International Version

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free." New Living Translation

Holy Qur'an, 4th Chapter, 58th verse "God does command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due and when you judge between man and man that you judge with justice. Verily how excellent the teaching which He gives you. For God is He Who hears and sees all things."-



SHARE: Websites for Overcoming Voter Obstacles

- ◆ Find out If You're **Registered to Vote** www.headcount.org
- ◆ Locate Your **Voting Precinct** www.vote.org
- ◆ Locate **Easy Voting Tools** www.voterparticipation.org
- ◆ If you want **your rights restored** - criminal record, www.restoreyourvote.org
- ◆ If you are in the **military** www.fvap.gov
- ◆ **Voting problem** - Call **1-866-OURVOTE (1-866-687-8683)** to report problem.
- ◆ Remedies If your name is **purged** <https://ballotpedia.org>

UNDERSTAND: Importance of Engaging Younger Voters

GEN Z and Millennials **ARE NOT** apathetic, however they:

WANT TO
BE HEARD



ARE
ENGAGED



WANT A
SEAT
AT THE TABLE

Motivating factors for younger voters in the 2020 election:

- **Racial justice and systemic racism** was reported as the **top issues**.
- **18 – 35 yr old voters** - are the nation's largest, most diverse voting bloc.
- **53-55%** of registered 18-29 year old voters **voted in 2020** (up 11% from previous general elections)
- **80% supported the racial justice movement** and the George Floyd protests
- **1.1M** registered in the first half of June 2020 in the summer of protests

LEARN: How to Engage Younger Voters

For young people, voting is important when it is connected to their issues!

- They respond to important issues like climate justice, criminal justice, student debt forgiveness.
- Issues are more important than political personality, or political party.
- Messages on key issues resonate
- They will participate when they believe it will lead to meaningful change and it is connected to their issues.



FAITHS UNITED to SAVE DEMOCRACY

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**For more information visit
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