

TURNOUT SUNDAY

Faith-Based Voters Toolkit



Photo by James Karales

For 2018 **Midterm Elections**
and Beyond

Compiled by:

Skinner Leadership Institute &
The National African American Clergy Network
www.skinnerleadership.org

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Leadership Call to Action



Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner,
Co-Convener National African
American Clergy Network

The precious right to vote is soaked in blood and untold sacrifice or trailblazers and ordinary citizens. Cast your vote in the November 6th Midterm Election for the candidates who you think will best advance your interests and the interests of those you love. That's the first step. The second step is holding those elected accountable to keep their promises to promote the wellbeing of all citizens.



Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr.,
Co-Convener National African
American Clergy Network

Not voting is a vote for those who oppose your interest and possibly your livelihood. Not voting is not counting. Cast a vote on November 6th, not just for yourself, but for all those you love and seek the best of what American offers - affordable health care, voting rights, civil rights protection guaranteed by our Constitution, and more.



Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.,
Co-Convener National African
American Clergy Network

The blood of these young freedom fighters, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, is united with the blood of Trayvon Martin and many more. This cries out from the ground saying register innocent [blood, cries out from the ground saying register, vote, participate and help somebody else in the process. Their voices speak to and through us today saying, "Get On Up" and "do the right thing." Vote and never give up."



Bishop Vashti McKenzie,
Presiding Bishop, 10th
District African Methodist
Episcopal (AME) Church

In the coming November 6th Midterm Election, your very economic security is at stake. Programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Criminal Justice Reform, and voting rights are threatened. Each one of us must not only vote. We must take someone else with us to vote. We won moral and policy victories in the Civil Rights Movement and we will win again in the Midterm Election.

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Turnout Sunday Campaign Vision & Partners

Skinner Leadership Institute has launched a **2018 Turnout Sunday Campaign** in collaboration with the **National African American Clergy Network (NAACN)**. The campaign will inspire African American faith-based community voter engagement and turnout during the 2018 Midterm Election. This Turnout Sunday Toolkit will benefit voters of all ages in states across the nation. We need every vote to count in decisions at the national and local level impacting our communities.

We are especially grateful to the **National African American Clergy Network (NAACN)**, an informal network of denomination, independent, and mainline church leaders for their commitment to join the 2018 Turnout Sunday Campaign. Their influential faith-based network will help to address the challenge of historically lower African American voter turnout in the Midterm election. During the 2014 Midterm, NAACN collectively touched over one million African American voters in over 3,500 churches with their Freedom Sunday Toolkit and social media outreach.

The 2018 Turn-out Sunday Campaign will offer educational **webinars and guidance on hosting voter education and mobilization activities such as: prayer breakfasts' and National Turn-out Sunday Services and GOTV trainings**, to equip pastors across the nation with vital tools such as:

- What's at State in the 2018 Midterm
- Pastors and Churches Rights When Participating in Elections
- Pre-Election Engagement Activities
- Election Day Turnout Planning and Support

The National African American Clergy Network (NAACN), represents some 20 million members. They include the following organizations, periodically convened for policy briefings by Skinner Leadership Institute:

- African American Episcopal (AME)
- African American Episcopal Zion (AMEZ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME)
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
- Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship Int'l (FGCF)
- National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBCUSA)
- Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC)
- The Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference
- Global Alliance Interfaith Network
- Conference of National Black Churches

Turnout Sunday Campaign Activities

African American Pastors across the nation are planning to host a series of **Turnout Sunday** events leading up to Election Day that will educate, inspire, and mobilize members to turn out to vote on **November 6, 2018**. Below is a list of the **Campaign Activities** we are calling on our churches to engage in:

OCTOBER 1st - 31st | Host a **Turnout Sunday Prayer Breakfast** in your area to energize voter engagement, build relationships and plan with pastors from around the city for election day.

NOVEMBER 4th | Host **Turnout Sunday services and GOTV trainings** focused on voter turnout and protection of vulnerable voters at targeted precincts.

NOVEMBER 6th | **ELECTION DAY**. We call on all clergy to **wear your sacred collars to the polls** on election day and to collaborate with lawyers in precincts of vulnerable populations across the country and Voter Engagement Teams to activate mobilization plans with your members. **Please submit and share your outreach via a praise report.**



Voting on November 6th

+

**Holding elected officials
accountable**

=

**Empowerment
for you and your community**

What's at Stake? November 6, 2018 Midterm Election

NOT VOTING IS DANGEROUS! What will be lost if you do not vote?

- ☐ Affordable Health Care
- ☐ Civil & Human Rights Protection from Hate Crimes
- ☐ Criminal Justice Reform
- ☐ Economic Sustainability
- ☐ Fair 2020 Census Count
- ☐ Fair Policing
- ☐ Food Nutrition Assistance - SNAP)
- ☐ Common Sense Gun Control
- ☐ Historically Black Colleges
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Medicare
- ☐ Protection Against Sexual Assaults of Women
- ☐ Redistricting
- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ Voting Rights Enforcement
- ☐ Immigration Reform



People of faith have an important role to play in helping to educate, inspire, register, protect, and mobilize the vote of the most vulnerable citizens in Midterm Election 2018.

THE MIDTERM ELECTION WILL IMPACT:

1. Who receives life-sustaining government resources
2. Policies discussed during the political debate leading toward the 2020 Presidential election
3. A fair 2020 Census count;
4. Increase the Prospects for Fair Congressional redistricting;
5. The election of leaders of integrity at the national and local levels who are committed to racial and economic justice and the common good.

Sample Talking Points

Power of the African American Vote

African Americans, at 47 million, are 15% of the U.S. population of 330 million people. They are the margin of victory in national and local races, needed to protect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, lower prescription drug prices, and secure other vital human care programs.

The challenge is that African Americans vote lower in the Midterm than in General Elections. For example, African Americans voted 59% on the 2016 general election, but only 40% on the 2014 Midterm Election. This trend must change in the 2018 Midterm when so much is at stake for African Americans.

Importance of African American 50+ Faith-Based Voters

With over 7 million African Americans currently unregistered to vote, 2018 voter engagement and turn-out efforts must involve African American voters of all generations. However, **50+ Americans faith-based voters are the nation's most powerful voting block so turnout efforts must pursue them as vigorously as younger voters.**

Voter Engagement Messages



- **Government is broken:** Politicians don't seek common ground. They cast insults instead of creating results. It's time for politicians to put voters first and get to work.
- **Issues Matter:** Critical issues like Medicare, Social Security, caregiving and our financial security are all on the line.
- **No more messing around:** Use your vote to hold the politicians accountable and make them pay attention to the issues that really matter to you.
- **Go have your say:** Every vote counts -- including yours.

Sample Talking Points

Vital Policy Issues At Stake

Fair Policing. Police killings of unarmed African Americans must stop! We pay taxes to support well trained police committed to protecting all citizens regardless of race. Congress must insist.

Criminal Justice System Reform. We will actively work to assist in the healing of relationships between law enforcement and our communities. We will work closely with the government, youth movement groups, civil rights organizations and other key stakeholders to advocate for a comprehensive Criminal Justice System Reform Platform that is fair and equitable for our communities.

Defense and Expansion of Voting Rights. We will fight to protect the legal right for every citizen to vote without fear of voting barriers. . We will work with partners across the country to ensure that our communities are educated and protected.

Source: National African American Clergy Network (NAACN)



How to Talk About the Issues

Medicare is a deal that must not be broken. We must keep the promise of affordable quality health care for seniors.

Seniors: Medicaid should ensure seniors have access to the services they need to stay in their homes, where they want to be. This not only saves taxpayers money, but is the right, common sense policy.

Low Income: Medicaid should continue to provide healthcare for our most vulnerable.

Rural: Medicaid is essential to keeping our rural communities healthy and strong, helping rural hospitals cover costs for those in need when an accident or illness strikes. Without that support, rural hospitals could be forced to close, leaving everyone in the area without the access to care they need.

Prescription Drugs: There is no reason why Americans should continue to pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. No one should have to choose between food and medicine.

Seniors: More than 40 million Americans care for older parents, spouses, children and adults with disabilities and other loved ones, helping them to live independently in their homes and communities —where they want to be. These family caregivers are the backbone of America's care system, yet they continue to face physical, emotional and financial challenges; caregiving families deserve better support.

Affordable Health Care: For 50+ African Americans not old enough for Medicare, affordable health care is critical. Congress must roll back efforts to eliminate the pre-existing condition provision of the Affordable Care Act.

Caregiving: More than 40 million Americans care for older parents, spouses, children and adults with disabilities and other loved ones, helping them to live independently in their homes and communities —where they want to be. These family caregivers are the backbone of America's care system, yet they continue to face physical, emotional and financial challenges; caregiving families deserve better support.

Source: AARP

General Election Registration Deadlines By States

Source: www.voterparticipation.org

	General Election	Registration Deadlines			
		Mail-In	Online	In-Person	Same Day Registration
Alabama	November 6	October 22 (postmarked)	October 22	October 22	No
Alaska	November 6	October 7 (postmarked)	October 7	October 7	No
Arizona	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
Arkansas	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	N/A	October 9	No
California	November 6	October 22 (postmarked)	October 22	November 6	Yes
Colorado	November 6	October 29 (to automatically receive a mail ballot)	October 29	November 6	Yes
Connecticut	November 6	October 30 (postmarked)	October 30	November 6	Yes
Delaware	November 6	October 13 (postmarked)	October 13	October 13	No
District of Columbia	November 6	October 16 (received)	October 16	November 6	Yes
Florida	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
Georgia	November 6	October 9	October 9	October 9	No
Hawaii	November 6	October 9	October 8	November 6	Yes
Idaho	November 6	October 12 (postmarked)	October 12	November 6	Yes
Illinois	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	November 6	Yes
Indiana	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
Iowa	November 6	October 27 (received)	October 27	November 6	Yes
Kansas	November 6	October 16 (postmarked)	October 16	October 16	No
Kentucky	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
Louisiana	December 8	November 7 (received)	November 17	November 7	No
Maine	November 6	October 16 (received)	N/A	November 6	Yes
Maryland	November 6	October 16 (postmarked)	October 16	November 1	Yes—during early voting period
Massachusetts	November 6	October 17 (postmarked)	October 17	October 17	No
Michigan	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	N/A	October 9	No
Minnesota	November 6	October 16 (received)	October 16	November 6	Yes
Mississippi	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	N/A	October 8	No
Missouri	November 6	October 10 (postmarked)	October 10	October 10	No
Montana	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	N/A	November 6	Yes
Nebraska	November 6	October 19 (postmarked)	October 19	October 26	No
Nevada	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 18	October 16	No
New Hampshire	November 6	N/A	N/A	November 6	Yes
New Jersey	November 6	October 16 (received)	N/A	October 16	No
New Mexico	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
New York	November 6	October 12 (postmarked)	October 12	October 12	No
North Carolina	November 6	October 12 (postmarked)	N/A	November 3	Yes—during early voting period
North Dakota	November 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
Ohio	November 6	October 9 (received)	October 9	October 9	No
Oklahoma	November 6	October 12 (postmarked)	October 12	October 12	No
Oregon	November 6	October 16 (received)	October 16	October 16	No
Pennsylvania	November 6	October 9 (received)	October 9	October 9	No
Rhode Island	November 6	October 7 (received)	October 7	October 7	No
South Carolina	November 6	October 8 (postmarked)	October 7	October 5	No
South Dakota	November 6	October 22 (received)	N/A	October 22	No
Tennessee	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 9	October 9	No
Texas	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	N/A	October 9	No
Utah	November 6	October 9 (postmarked)	October 30	November 6	Yes
Vermont	November 6	October 31 (received)	October 31	November 6	Yes
Virginia	November 6	October 15 (postmarked)	October 15	October 15	No
Washington	November 6	October 8 (postmarked)	October 8	October 29	Beginning in 2019
West Virginia	November 6	October 16 (postmarked)	October 16	October 16	No
Wisconsin	November 6	October 17 (postmarked)	October 17	November 6	Yes
Wyoming	November 6	October 22 (received)	N/A	November 6	Yes

Estimated African American Unregistered Voters & Population by States

Source: NAACP

STATE	UNREGISTERED VOTERS	POPULATION	STATE	UNREGISTERED VOTERS	POPULATION
Alabama	170,703	1,342,508	Montana	1,667	11,359
Alaska	8,094	39,611	Nebraska	26,113	115,041
Arizona	87,063	415,501	Nevada	48,896	327,269
Arkansas	125,096	493,264	New Hampshire	6,092	28,729
California	520,255	2,994,626	New Jersey	217,074	1,540,133
Colorado	42,664	310,304	New Mexico	12,133	68,396
Connecticut	84,676	471,232	New York	433,094	3,792,045
Dist. of Columbia	12,365	336,753	North Carolina	177,421	2,383,097
Delaware	37,694	37,594	North Dakota	4,764	27,249
Florida	336,235	3,717,392	Ohio	271,421	1,650,075
Georgia	349,675	3,430,662	Oklahoma	90,859	367,456
Hawaii	5,837	50,825	Oregon	16,551	125,542
Idaho	3,068	22,635	Pennsylvania	227,464	1,667,095
Illinois	296,306	2,002,304	Rhode Island	18,868	103,558
Indiana	162,253	719,940	South Carolina	192,078	1,416,465
Iowa	30,973	145,822	South Dakota	4,180	23,460
Kansas	60,994	220,608	Tennessee	375,364	1,203,469
Kentucky	114,067	416,731	Texas	758,165	3,755,316
Louisiana	274,832	1,567,721	Utah	9,659	60,753
Maine	3,717	27,559	Vermont	2,944	2,944
Maryland	199,656	1,945,309	Virginia	311,154	1,789,312
Massachusetts	95,163	676,366	Washington	79,062	409,981
Michigan	240,787	1,530,704	West Virginia	30,481	83,452
Minnesota	81,781	411,323	Wisconsin	93,242	437,357
Mississippi	189,710	1,149,120	Wyoming	3,349	11,292
Missouri	189,544	788,431			

Motor Voting

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION (MOTOR VOTER STATES)

14 States plus the District of Columbia have enacted **Automatic Voter Registration**, also known as **Motor Voter** laws. These states include: **Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington**. 5 States have implemented the process into the state elections. To find out the details of your state's automatic voter registration, see the handy state by state chart by visiting www.voterparticipation.org

Absentee and Early Voting

Early voting can be done a variety of ways depending on your state's laws. They include:

- ☐ Early voting in person.
- ☐ Early voting by Absentee Ballot (No Excuse Required)
- ☐ Early voting by Absentee Ballot (Excuse Required)
- ☐ Early voting - All Mail
- ☐ Early voting - Permanent Absentee Status

To determine the early voting requirements of your state, visit, www.voterparticipation.org

Church-based Voter Registration

- ☐ The Internal Revenue Service - Tax Guidelines for Churches and Religious Organizations allows churches to provide nonpartisan voter registration of members and those seeking membership.
- ☐ Registration of church members in the pews during the worship service is the most effective way to promote basic voter registration and participation. Registration cards may be obtained from your state election office.
- ☐ Most states require that voter registration cards be turned in within 10-15 days from the date of the signature so your members may promptly receive their official confirmation as a registered voter.

Source: IRS Publication 1828, *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations* 3 (Rev. September 2006) [hereinafter "Pub. 1828"].

Top 10 Things Voters Should Know As They Go to the Polls

1. What forms of identification are accepted at the polls ... Because of new or unfamiliar voter ID laws in some states, new technology that's not remotely consistent in many jurisdictions from year to year, and the sheer number of voters turning out, we expect more confusion each and every time an election is held. ID requirements vary by state, so check TODAY with your local election office for information on what you'll need to provide.

2. How to vote if you are a formerly incarcerated person (ex-offender) ... No federal laws exist on felon voting and therefore the legal ability of people with felony convictions to vote varies from state to state. Check with your local elections office to know your rights – especially if you were convicted of a felony and have fully served and completed your sentence and are no longer on probation or parole. In 13 states and the District of Columbia, your voting rights are automatically restored upon release from prison and you can register to vote and exercise that vote.

3. How to vote if English is not your first language ... If you require assistance reading an English ballot and casting your ballot on Election Day, in some districts you have the right to receive voting materials in your own language. Contact your local elections office to find out.

4. How to vote if you are disabled ... Despite HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002) reforms, many polling places still aren't easily accessible to disabled voters or persons with special needs including reading. Contact your local election office for information about accessibility at your polling place and how you will be able to cast your vote.

5. How to vote early ... Does your state have early voting or is it known as "absentee ballots" that can be requested by phone, in person or by mail? Contact your local election office to find out and take advantage.

6. How to cast an absentee ballot ... In a timely fashion, properly complete and send in your absentee ballot application and then submit your absentee ballot before the deadline. Be aware of and meet all deadlines for the absentee application and the absentee ballot itself. Contact your local election office if you need assistance.

7. How to cast your ballot ... Before Election Day, ask your local election office which machine you will be using on Election Day. Familiarize yourself and always ask for assistance if you are unsure how to cast your vote. Poll workers are required to provide you with assistance.

8. When the polls are open ... Polling hours vary by state. Confirm the time with your local election office. Always plan ahead and arrive early with 2 or more voting age persons prepared to vote. Also, if you are in line to vote when the polls close you have the right to cast your vote.

9. Where local polling places are located ... Has it changed since the last time you voted? Have you moved? Polls are generally located in public buildings, with voters assigned to locations based on where they reside. Contact your local election office to find your polling place.

10. Who and what is on the ballot ... Be an informed voter! Know about all the candidates as well as any ballot initiatives.

Source: Reprinted courtesy of Minister Leslie Watson Malachi,
Director, African American Ministers Leadership Council (AAMLC), People For the American Way

Overcoming Voting Barriers for 50+ Voters

The [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), the [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)](#), and other federal laws require that all Americans—including seniors and people with disabilities—have the same opportunity to participate in the voting process.

As a voter with a disability, you have the right to:

- Vote privately and independently
- Have an accessible polling place with voting machines for voters with disabilities

Specific requirements for physical accessibility of polling places include:

- Wheelchair-accessible voting booths
- Entrances and doorways that are at least 32 inches wide
- Handrails on all stairs
- Voting equipment that is accessible to voters who are blind or visually impaired

If you have a disability, you may either:

- Seek assistance from workers at the polling place who have been trained to use the accessible voting machine, or
- Bring someone to help you vote.

You can also ask your [local election officials](#) to tell you about other options available to you.

- Some states offer “curbside voting,” in which a poll worker brings all voting materials to your car.
- Some locations set up mobile polling places at long-term care facilities.
- Local organizations often support people with disabilities by providing transportation to the polls and identifying the accessibility of polling places.
- Many states offer [absentee voting](#), so you can receive and return your absentee ballot through the mail.

Source: www.Forbes.com; www.U.S.Senate.gov (Senate Subcommittee on Aging)

Frequently Asked Questions and Voting Helps

How do I verify that I am registered to vote and find my voting precinct?

www.Headcount.org; <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered>
AnswerSite.com

How Do I register to vote online?

www.usa.gov ; www.turbovote.org

Who do I call if my right to vote is challenged?

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

How do I obtain information on absentee ballots and early voting?

www.usa.gov, www.voterparticipation.org

How Do I Vote As A Student Away From Home? www.brennancenter.org

How Do I Restore My Voting Rights If I Have a Criminal Record?

www.brennancenter.org

How Do I Vote As A Member Of The Military? www.brennancenter.org

How Does A Church Register Voters? www.d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net

What is Turbo Voting, Online and Same Day Voting. www.aarp.org

What is state a motor voting or automatic voting state. www.voterparticipation.org

How do I overcome barriers to 50+ voters. www.u.s.senate.gov
(Subcommittee on Aging)

Do's and Don'ts on Political Activities for Churches & Pastors

- **DO** discuss the candidates' positions on issues to the congregation.
- **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** allow your (the church leaders) personal opinions inflict the opinions of the congregation. Please note: the Pastor's personal views and personal donations (not affiliated with the church) can be used to his own discretion, as long as these views/endorsements are not imposed upon the congregation.
- As a congregation and/or as an individual church leader; **DO** lobby and campaign for or against legislation.
- **DO NOT** publish church editorials that are meant to support or oppose candidates.
- **DO** publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied...**DO NOT** publish these ads as a donation.
- **DO** publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible.
- **DO** rent out church facilities (e.g. kitchens, athletic facilities, board/community rooms) for political activities...regular rates MUST apply.
- **DO** provide rentals of membership lists at regular rates.
- **DO** allow **BOTH** candidates to make appearances at church events/services.
- As a part of the congregation, **DO NOT** distribute candidate campaign literature; however the individual
church leader is allowed to do so.
- **DO** distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders.
- **DO NOT** pay for a candidate's or office holder's attendance at a caucus or political party convention. While the congregations CAN NOT pay for this, the church leader CAN do so on an individual basis.
- **DO** participate in non-partisan voter registration and identification: these activities CAN NOT be affiliated with a political party.
- **DO** provide non-partisan voter education: CAN NOT be affiliated with a political party. As a congregation, **DO NOT** give contributions to political action committees, but the churchleader may DO this on his or her own terms.
- **DO** use the church van for transportation to the polls, **DO NOT** use the van to advertise for candidates or allow candidate discussions in the van.

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"].

Social Media Guide



Sample TWITTER POSTS

#TURNOUTSUNDAY2018

- Our ancestors died for our right to vote. Don't take it for granted. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- Medicare is a deal that must not be broken. Let's vote to keep the promise of affordable quality health care for 50+ Americans. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- Critical issues like Medicare, Social Security, caregiving, and our financial security are all on the line in the Midterm election.. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- Police shootings of unarmed black and brown people will not end unless you vote. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- You have the freedom to vote! Protect it. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- African Americans and other Americans of color STILL face oppression and discrimination. Voting says not to discrimination. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- It's 2018: it is time we are all treated EQUALLY. Discrimination belongs in HISTORY. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- Let's secure a better future for our youth by voting. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- Our Vote determines our communities' future! **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- No one should serve a second sentence by permanently losing their right to vote! **#restoreexfelonvotingrights, #TurnoutSunday2018, #FREEAMERICA**
- 5.85 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people w/felony convictions. **#TurnoutSunday2018, #FREEAMERICA**
- Immigrant detention, operated by Homeland Security, cost taxpayers over \$2 billion in 2012 alone **#TurnoutSunday2018**



SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

- Know the early voting dates for your state. Go to www.iwillvote.com to find out where and when you can vote. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- 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 everyone eligible to vote actually votes. **#TurnoutSunday2018**
- 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. **#TurnoutSunday2018**

Sample Pulpit Announcement

The prophet Amos reminds us to “**let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**” (Amos 5:24)

This year, we will be participating with other churches across the nation in Turnout Sunday Services in preparation for the November 6th elections. We, as Black Americans, and people of faith simply cannot afford to stay home. In fact, not voting has become increasingly dangerous to the economic and spiritual vitality of our community:

- With voting, we now have over 10,000 Black elected officials and helped to elect the first African American President in the White House.
- With voting, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Lower Prescription Drug Costs, police/community relations, criminal justice reform, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) and other financial stability programs are sustained.
- With voting, we have the power to vote for leaders who will support life-sustaining programs, for underserved Americans.

We ask all members to look out for instructions from our civic engagement coordinator (name/phone/email) as we prepare for one of the most important November 6th Midterm Election.

I ask each of you to commit to encouraging 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

Sample Church Bulletin Announcement

Your right to vote has been bought and paid for in blood and sacrifice!

Exercise your power to protect it by:

1. Registering you and 5 friends, family members and co-workers to vote in the upcoming November 6th Midterm 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.

Sample Sermon Scriptures

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

Psalms 10:17-18 - 17 Lord, You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will listen to their cries and comfort them. 18 You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so people can no longer terrify them. NLT

Psalms 82:3-43 - Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. 4 You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them. THE MESSAGE

Proverbs 14:31 - Those who oppresses the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him. NLT

Proverbs 31:9 - Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. NIV

Amos 5: 21, 23, 24 - 21 I hate, I despise your religious festivals; I cannot stand your assemblies...23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! NIV

Micah 6:8 - He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. NIV

Zechariah 7:9-10 - 9 this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. 10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other. NIV

Matthew 25:31-46, 41 - 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.'" NIV

1 John 3:16-18 - 16 this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. NIV

Scriptures are taken from New International Version (NIV), New American Standard (NAS), New Living Translation (NLT) and THE MESSAGE

Sample Prayer Breakfast Agenda

Months of October

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. What's at Stake for the African-American Community in our city?
4. Overview of the Turnout Sunday Campaign Calendar
 - **November 4th** – We are asking each of you to Organize a **Turnout Sunday Get Out the Vote** Event at your church. Pastors will preach on what's at stake and after service, designate a local coordinator and 10 volunteers to lead volunteer trainings on election day activities: Know Your Rights at the Polls, Phone banking, Providing rides to the polls, poll watching activities with clergy in collars leading prayer vigils around the polling place.
 - **November 6th – Election Day Plans:** ensure all of your members **“Know their Rights”** going into the voting booth, have rides to the polls and are protected. We will be at the polls wearing our collars holding vigil to ensure no vote is suppressed. We call on all clergy to wear your sacred collars to the polls on election day and to collaborate with lawyers in precincts of vulnerable populations in across the country.
5. Call to Action
 - Let us know if you're church will be participating in the Nov. 4th **Turnout Sunday GOTV** Event. Sign the Turnout Sunday Pledge Card at your table and turn in to the usher (volunteer), A local Turnout Sunday coordinator will contact you to help you plan your Turnout Sunday event.
 - We will ask host pastor(s) to turn in pledge forms to a team member
 - We call on all clergy to wear your sacred collars to the polls on election day and to collaborate with lawyers in precincts of vulnerable populations in across the country.
6. Closing Prayer

Sample Turn Out Sunday Service Plan

Sunday, November 4th, 2018

The Sunday before Election Day, we call on churches to:

1. **Prepare a TURN-OUT SUNDAY sermon or study circle** where you preach and teach on the biblical call to justice and righteousness.
2. Provide your congregation with **Voting Dates, Times and Locations** and encourage members to **take 5 family and friends to the polls during Voting**.
3. **Designate a Turn Out Sunday Team of 10 volunteers** who will create a **phone tree and call every member of the church** to ensure they are registered and turned out to vote. This team could:
 - **Provide transportation to the polls** during early voting through Election Day for those in need.
 - **Leading up to Turn Out Sunday Conduct weekly absentee voter application completion sessions** after service and **provide postage** to mail them to the correct offices.
4. **Partner** with local sororities, fraternities, HBCUs, Civic, Community Organizations and Labor Unions to co-host Turn Out Sunday activities.
5. **Share a praise report about your event** via email to:
2018TurnoutSunday@gmail.com

Most importantly: **Remind your members that voting means:**

- We can repeal Stand Your Ground Laws and elect law enforcement officials who will protect our children from being killed arbitrarily.
- We can retain programs like Head Start Program, Food Stamps, Supplemental Assistance for Women and Children (SNAP), Pell Grants, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women Infant and Children's Program (WIC), Minimum Wage, voting rights, and many others.

To host Turn Out Sunday Services, email us at **2018TurnoutSunday@gmail.com**.

Turn Out Sunday Events Praise Report

We Hosted a Prayer Breakfast event on October _____

We Hosted #_____ of Turn out Sunday Services on Nov. 4th

_____ #people attended the event/service.

_____ # people committed to vote by November 6th!

Church Information:

Pastor: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Total: _____

Please return via email to 2018TurnoutSunday@gmail.com