

# #WitnesstheVote

## Matthew 25 Voter Protection Project

Bearing Witness to the Right of Every American to Vote



### How to **Organize** your **Faith Community** to **Bear Witness** on **November 8**

We are fast approaching one of the most contentious Election Days in modern history. New voter suppression laws will be in place in [14 states](#) for the first time since the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. One campaign is actively recruiting people to “[observe](#)” (and stop) so-called election fraud and has encouraged supporters to target voting districts of color.

At the same time, [The Washington Post](#) reported recently that the Justice Department is significantly reducing the number of federal observers stationed inside polling places this election season.

In many precincts across the country voter turnout won't be enough on November 8th. We must prepare to bear witness to the right of every American to cast their vote.

**Join the #WitnesstheVote Matthew 25 Voter Protection Project in partnership with a national initiative to [protect citizen's right to vote](#).** Partners include Sojourners, PICO, CCDA, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and the National African-American Clergy Network.

### Step 1. Watch the #WitnesstheVote Overview Webinar

Click [here to watch the #WitnesstheVote Overview Webinar](#).

### Step 2. Show up, serve, tweet/post using #WitnesstheVote

Serve the vulnerable and spread the news on Twitter and Facebook. Always use the hashtag #WitnesstheVote. You can also add #Matthew25.

### Step 3. Establish a small planning committee

Identify a small group from your church or faith network that will take responsibility to organize your group’s ministry at the polls on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Step 4: Choose how you will engage in the #WitnessTheVote Project

<b>Election Protection Volunteer / Liaison / Translator</b>	<b>Serve “the Least of These”</b>
Call 866.OUR.VOTE or visit <a href="http://www.protectthevote.net">www.protectthevote.net</a>	Register your action by emailing <a href="mailto:election@sojo.net">election@sojo.net</a>
Complete 1 hour in-person or online training	Watch the non-violent action training video
Receive your polling station assignment	Decide how your group will serve the most vulnerable voters on November 8
Show up and protect the vote!	Show up, serve, and celebrate the right to vote!

### Step 5. Get Organized

- **Event Planning Sub-committee**
  - Responsible for all event logistics.
  - Contacts 866.OUR.VOTE to find out the election laws that regulate citizen engagement at the polls in your state. Regulations include how far from the polling place you can set up, what kind of signage is permissible, whether it is permissible to enter the polling place for any reason.
  - Plan the action.
  - If your group is large enough, you may need to secure a permit from your local police department to use the sidewalk to gather a crowd. Let them know how long your action will last. They may require that you use no sound equipment. In that case, craft a creative way to communicate to the whole group during the action.
  - Make sure you have all you’ll need to serve the vulnerable in the way your group decides to serve:
    - Sandwiches to feed the hungry in long lines OR
    - Bottled water for the thirsty OR

- Blankets, lawn chairs, umbrellas, or plastic ponchos for the sick or elderly OR
    - Translation services for non-English speakers and protection for returning citizens OR
    - Carpools to the polls for impoverished people OR
    - Your choir celebrating the right to vote in our democracy through worship and praise!
  - Appoint someone to document your action. Take video and photos of your event post them online and send them to [election@sojo.net](mailto:election@sojo.net) when your action is over. We want to make sure your story gets told!
  - Watch the Non-Violent Action Google Hangout (will be sent to everyone that registers for the event). Determine your strategy for how your group could help counter any possible threats to vulnerable voters with acts of love and creative resistance on election day.
  - Recruit 2-3 people to focus entirely on covering your action in prayer—before and during the event.
- **Outreach/Recruitment Sub-committee**
    - This sub-committee should make up the bulk of your planning committee. Its sole function is to make sure people show up for your #WitnesstheVote action! Set a recruitment benchmark timeline (e.g. first eblast sent by X date, flyers posted by X date, second eblast by X date, personal emails and phone calls to remind your networks completed by X date).
    - The best recruitment efforts ask people to register to participate in the event. A great free way to do this is through [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com). (You can also provide an email address and phone number that people can use to sign up as well.)
    - Each sub-committee member should identify exactly who will they recruit to participate.
    - Make flyers about your #WitnesstheVote action and create a distribution plan.
    - Send an eblast to your network announcing the action at least one week prior to the event (by November 1st).
    - Send another eblast reminding your network 3 days before, and one more eblast the day before the action.
    - Each member of this sub-committee commits to email, telephone friends, colleagues the day before the #WitnesstheVote action to remind them to attend.
    - Alert your local media about your efforts.

## Step 6. Let us know your plan!

Email us at [election@sojo.net](mailto:election@sojo.net) to register your action with us.

## Step 7. Follow Up

Send photos, stories, and video from your #WitnesstheVote action to [election@sojo.net](mailto:election@sojo.net).

Send a follow up email thanking all participants in your action! Include a few key photos, stories, and/or video clips!