

Guidelines for “Liberal and Conservative” Bible Study –

1. we will not endorse any single candidate for office
2. we will not “bash” any candidate or group
3. we will respect others opinions when we disagree
4. we will not tell people how to vote
5. we will not receive or solicit funds for any party

Guidelines for Congregations and Clergy on Political Action

Political Activities	Churches?	Clergy as Individuals?
Discuss the position of candidates on public issues	Yes	Yes
Endorsement of political candidates	No	Yes
Contributions to political candidates	No	Yes
In-kind expenditures in favor of or against political candidates	No	Yes
Independent expenditures in favor of or against political candidates	No	Yes
Contribution to PACs	No	Yes
Appearance of political candidate at church meeting or service*	Yes	N/A
Payment of expenses for candidate to appear	No	Yes
Distribute at church:		
1) Nonpartisan candidate surveys or guides**	Yes	Yes
2) Voting records	Yes	Yes
3) Candidate political statements	No	Yes
Rent church list at market value if offered at same rate for all candidates	Yes	N/A
Publish in church newsletter, bulletin, or magazine***:		
1) Political ads sold at market rate	Yes	N/A
2) Political ads sold at less than market rate	No	N/A
3) News stories	Yes	N/A
4) Editorials endorsing or opposing a political candidate	No	N/A
Nonpartisan voter education and registration	Yes	Yes
Nonpartisan get-out-the-vote drives	Yes	Yes

* A political candidate may appear at a church service. The appearance of candidate before a church service, however, is limited as follows:

- Any other candidate for the same office that requests to appear must be given the same opportunity; and
- No solicitation for funds may be made by any representative of the church. In addition, a church may allow political candidates to use the facilities of the church for events or meetings on the same basis that civic groups and other organizations are allowed. If civic groups and other organizations are required to pay rent for using the church property, the political candidate should be charged the same amount.

** A church may publish or distribute the results of surveys of candidates on public issues. Such surveys, however, must be non-partisan. As a result, 501 (c)(3) church groups should observe

the following conditions in publishing or distributing the survey:

- Publish the response of all the candidates for the particular office by use of 'yes' and 'no.' The survey should not specify what is the desired response.
- Do not include any words indicating either endorsement of or support for any of the candidates or their positions on issues.

*** Church publications:

- Political Ads: A church newsletter or magazine may publish an ad for a political candidate, as long as the ad is purchased at the regular rate for ads in that publication.
- News Stories: A church newsletter, bulletin or magazine may publish, without limitation, news stories on political candidates and political campaigns.
- Editorials: A church may not publish an editorial supporting or endorsing a candidate for political office or political party.