

Election Activity - **GET OUT THE VOTE PHONE CALLS**

This is an action you will want your church team to help you with in the **final days before the primary and general election**. The objective is to telephone every member of your church prior to the election with a gentle yet urgent reminder to vote on Tuesday.

What you will need:

- A list of members.
- Candidate Comparison Information (Voter Guide)
- A sample script (see following)
- A few volunteers willing to make phone calls with friendly reminders to vote. For example, each person could be responsible for calling 10-20 families.

When you call:

- Remind them to review the Voter Guide and make an informed choice.
- Remind them where to vote, what time polling booths are open, etc

Suggestion: you might have a couple individuals from your church who are willing to offer rides to the elderly or those needing assistance on the day of the Election

Helpful Suggestions for Callers Making GOTV phone calls:

- Make every minute count. Most people have busy schedules and do not appreciate lengthy interruptions.
- Don't be drawn into long conversations. Keep your calls brief and to the point.
- Avoid arguments, simply remain polite and courteous. Do not attempt to be forceful.
- If there is no answer after 5 rings, go to the next person on your list. Be sure to record this so they can be called at another time.
- If you reach a voicemail, leave a polite, brief, detailed and professional message. Include a phone number they can call back if they need additional information when they return home.
- If someone says that they cannot get to the polls, consider offering transportation. This is especially valuable for shut-ins.
- If a question is asked about a particular candidate answer as best you can. Have voter information/voter guides available to refer to. If you do not know, offer to call them back with the relevant information or provide them with the candidate's campaign phone number.
- Be flexible. Not everyone's needs are the same. Treat each caller as an individual, and adapt your script as necessary.
- **Remember, as a Christian you are a living witness for Christ. God can use you to make a difference, but only if you maintain a servant-hearted attitude.**

Sample script for "get-out-the-vote" calls

Note: Please make sure CTV or Michigan Family Forum has voter guides available and your team has access to them before you offer this to your congregation or via the phone calls (see below).

"Hi _____, this is _____ from church. I am calling to remind you and your husband/wife to vote on (August 8, 2006) or (November 7, 2006). Were you planning on voting?" (Wait for response)

"We need you to vote this year more than ever. Voter turnout is expected to be low, and Christians can have a much greater impact this year."