



Do's and Don'ts for Michigan Churches

What Churches MAY DO:

- Pastors may endorse candidates from the pulpit based on faith values
- Conduct non-partisan voter registration drives
- Distribute non-partisan voter education materials (i.e. CTV voter guides)
- Host forums where all viable candidates are allowed to speak
- Allow candidates and elected officials to speak at church services
- Educate members about pending legislation
- Lobby for legislation and may spend a small amount of its budget (5% is safe) on direct lobbying activities
- Pastors (and members) may endorse candidates in their capacity as private citizens
- Participate fully in political committees that are independent of the church

What Churches MAY NOT DO:

- Endorse candidates directly or indirectly on behalf of the church
- Contribute funds or services (such as mailing lists or office equipment) directly to candidates or political committees
- Distribute materials that clearly favor any candidate or party
- Pay fees for partisan political events from church funds
- Allow candidates to solicit funds while speaking in church
- Set up a political committee that would contribute to candidates

Sources: Salt and Light Global and Alliance Defending Freedom

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