

Tips for Registering Voters in Your Church

What you will need:

- Voter Registration Cards (VRCs) – they are available from your County Elections Office, Secretary of State or by downloading [HERE](#).
- Wyoming may not use the national VRC. Your VRC can be accessed [HERE](#).
- VRCs should be postmarked 30 days before each election to ensure their legality in most states. Other states, like Iowa and New Hampshire, do not require registration prior to Primaries or caucuses. Check for your state [HERE](#).
- Ten percent of church attendance is a good gauge for the number of cards to have on hand.
- Black ballpoint pens.
- Stamps. ***Mail the completed cards individually, not in a large envelope all together.***

To ensure that every state guideline is observed, it is best for the person registering to vote to place the completed VRC in a pre-addressed envelope for mailing. If congregants are from several counties, have letter-sized envelopes preaddressed from each county. It is not illegal to handle mail. In some states, it is illegal to handle completed VRCs unless you are deputized. That will not be a problem if they are in individual, stamped envelopes.

Who may register?

- American citizens (not legal residents who are not yet citizens.)
- Voters who are new to the county (you can only be registered and vote in one place).
- Voters who have moved, even within the same precinct.
- Voters who have changed their name through marriage, etc.
- Youth who will be 18 by Election Day.
- Individuals serving in the military.

When should you plan your voter registration drive?

- Citizenship Sundays – December 4 and 11, 2011.
- In most states the deadline for VRCs to be postmarked is 30 days prior to Election Day. Some are less. Check [HERE](#) and scroll down for the deadline in your state.

For the Pastor:

- Nonpartisan Voter Registration is entirely legal for churches and 501(c) 3 organizations. [CLICK HERE for legalities.](#)
- Make an announcement from the pulpit encouraging the congregation to register to vote.
- Ask all the registered voters to stand to their feet. Pass out voter registration cards to those still seated who are of voting age. It's best to pass the cards out and pick them up in the offering plate, but a table at the back of the church or foyer is adequate.
- To participate in the Presidential Preference Primary, in some states you must register by party. Don't let that dissuade you. If we don't vote in the Primaries, then our choice in the General Election is often between the bad and the worse. Voting in Primaries helps good candidates move forward so that they can be there for the General Election.

Please encourage your congregation to vote in every election so that their faith and values will influence the leaders who serve in public office.