

How To Conduct A Voter Registration Drive In Your Church

- 1 **Get permission** from church leadership. Review “What Churches Can and Cannot Do.”
- 2 **Select the date(s)** for your drive. Two or three consecutive weeks may allow more people to register. Refer to the insert “2014 General Election Schedule and Deadlines.”
- 3 **Make copies of the enclosed Illinois Voter Registration Applications.** You may also obtain copies at your county clerk’s office, or download copies at the Illinois State Board of Elections website: www.elections.state.il.us.
- 4 **Advertise** your voter registration drive in announcements, bulletins, newsletters, and/or posters during the week(s) prior and during the registration drive. The most effective is an announcement from the pulpit!
- 5 **Recruit volunteers** to work the voter registration table. Let them know how much you and the organization leaders appreciate their help!
- 6 **Prepare the registration table** with the following items:
 - Clearly mark your table (table signs or signs on three sides of table with “Register to Vote.”)
 - Voter Registration Applications ○ Black or blue pens
 - Optional items:** ○ List of IFT’s “**Springfield Update**” which we provide upon request and emphasizes the importance of voting for candidates with shared values.
 - Sign-up sheets for people who want to be involved in your culture awareness group in your church. ○ Patriotic décor ○ Bowl of candy, mints, etc. ○ Chairs if needed
- 7 **Make eye contact, smile and ask people,** “Are you registered to vote?” or, “Are you going to be 18 by the next election?” or “Have you moved or changed your name?”
- 8 **Mail** completed voter registration applications to the appropriate election authority. An election authority list is enclosed. Consider leaving registration forms out in a public area after the drive in case anyone missed it.
- 9 **Legal Tips:** Emphasize registration, not politics. Allow people from every political party to register. Don’t make issue statements like, “Do your part for pro-life candidates” which can be construed as an endorsement. Don’t tell people who you are voting for during registration.



*We hold these truths to be self-evident that...
Governments deriv[e] their just powers
from the consent of the governed.
— Declaration of Independence*