

How To Conduct A Voter Registration Drive In Your Church

- 1** Get permission from church leadership. Review ADF's "Guidelines for 'Political Activities' by Churches and Pastors."
- 2** Select the date(s) for your drive. Two or three consecutive weeks may allow more people to register (depending on size of your church). Refer to the bulletin insert "(Year) 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 ○ Laptop(s) to register online
 - Optional items: ○ IFT's "Springfield Update" which we provide upon request. This list emphasizes the importance of voting for candidates with shared values.
 - Sign-up sheets for people who want to be involved if you have a cultural 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.



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