

FAITHS UNITED to **SAVE DEMOCRACY**

MULTI-RACIAL, MULTI-FAITH, &
MULTI-GENERATIONAL
VOTER TOOLKIT

2022 Election & Beyond

A product of the Skinner Leadership Institute, Sojourners, and the
Center for Faith & Justice at Georgetown University



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FAITHS UNITED to SAVE DEMOCRACY

A PROJECT OF TURNOUT SUNDAY / LAWYERS & COLLARS

Faiths United to Save Democracy (FUSD) is a nonpartisan, multi-racial, multi-faith, and multi-generation 2022-2024 voter justice campaign focused in the states of **AL. AZ. FL. GA. MI. NC. OH. PA. TX. WI**

The **FUSD** campaign exists to overcome the unprecedented assault on democracy aimed at making it more difficult for people living in poverty, vulnerable voters including the targeting voters of color, the elderly, students, and the disabled to exercise their sacred right to vote.

FUSD is a **Turnout Sunday/Lawyers & Collars Voter Protection Campaign project**. It is built on the 2020 Turnout Sunday/Lawyers & Collars campaign that brought together diverse clergy in sacred collars and election protection lawyers protecting primarily Black citizens at vulnerable voting sites.

In 2020, **over 400 new voter restriction laws and proposals in 49 states**, many of them empowering state legislative takeover of votes, ignited the creation of the Faith United to Save Democracy campaign. The campaign is rooted in the belief that everyone is made in the image of God and deserves to vote for their convictions in free, fair, and safe elections.

FUSD CORE TEAM MEMBERS



Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Skinner Leadership Institute



Rev. Jim Wallis
Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice



Rev. Adam Taylor
Sojourners



Rev. Terrance McKinley
Sojourners



NATIONAL +
AFRICAN AMERICAN CLERGY
NETWORK

SOJOURNERS

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON
FAITH + JUSTICE

FUSD NATIONAL DIVERSE PARTNERS



**REV. DR. OTIS
MOSS III**
Trinity United
Church of Christ



REV. ELI VALENTIN
National Latino
Evangelical
Coalition



**DR. LANCE D.
WATSON**
St. Paul's Baptist
Church



REV. HYPEIN IM
Faith & Community
Empowerment
Asia Pacific



**RABBI JONAH
PESNER**
Religious Action
Center of Reform
Judaism



**IMAM DR. TALIB
M. SHAREEF**
The Nation's
Mosque

FUSD STATE LEADS



**Bishop Harry
Seawright**
ALABAMA



**Dr. Warren
Stewart**
ARIZONA



**Minister Kim
McCray**
FLORIDA



Dr. Cynthia Hale
GEORGIA



Dr. Steve Bland
MICHIGAN



**Dr. James
Perkins**
MICHIGAN



**Bishop Claude
Alexander**
NORTH CAROLINA



**Dr. Allyn
Waller**
PENNSYLVANIA



**Dr. William
Curtis**
PENNSYLVANIA



**Ms. Jaladah
Aslam**
OHIO



**Dr. Frederick
Haynes II**
TEXAS




**Rev. Joy L.
Gallmon**
WISCONSIN

NATIONAL ALLIES

- AME Church (GA-6th District)
- A.M.E./VAlert
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
- C.M.E. Church Social Action
- Conference of National Black Churches
- DeKalb County (G) Black Pastors Association
- National Association of Black Evangelicals
- National Council of Churches
- The Proctor Conference
- United Church of Christ

FUSD SPIRITUAL MANDATE



God's people must have the power to vote for leaders who:

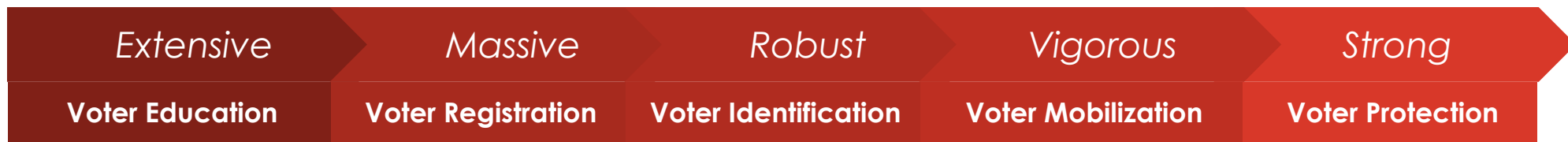
- Care for the “least of these”
- Stand up for the mistreated
- Protect the elderly; the disabled
- Meet needs of the vulnerable
- Help those with language barriers
- Give children a hope & future
- Engage younger voters

The **Faiths United to Save Democracy (FUSD)** campaign exists to overcome the unprecedented assault on democracy aimed at making it more difficult for people living in poverty and vulnerable voters including and targeting voters of color, the elderly, students, the disabled, and returning citizens to exercise their sacred right to vote.

The political and moral goal of this campaign is to build a genuine multiracial democracy in the yet-to-be fully United States of America in which “liberty and justice for all” is truly extended and protected for everyone.

The spiritual foundation of this campaign is rooted in the belief that **everyone is created in the image of God** (Genesis 1:26), and deserves to vote in free, fair, and safe elections. Voting is a sacred right rooted in who God created us all to be of equal values and worth in the sight of God. Our political campaign has a moral imperative to save democracy and a faith infrastructure which has the spiritual power to unite all who say they are the people of God. We believe that **the battle on voting rights will be both a test of democracy, and a test of faith.**

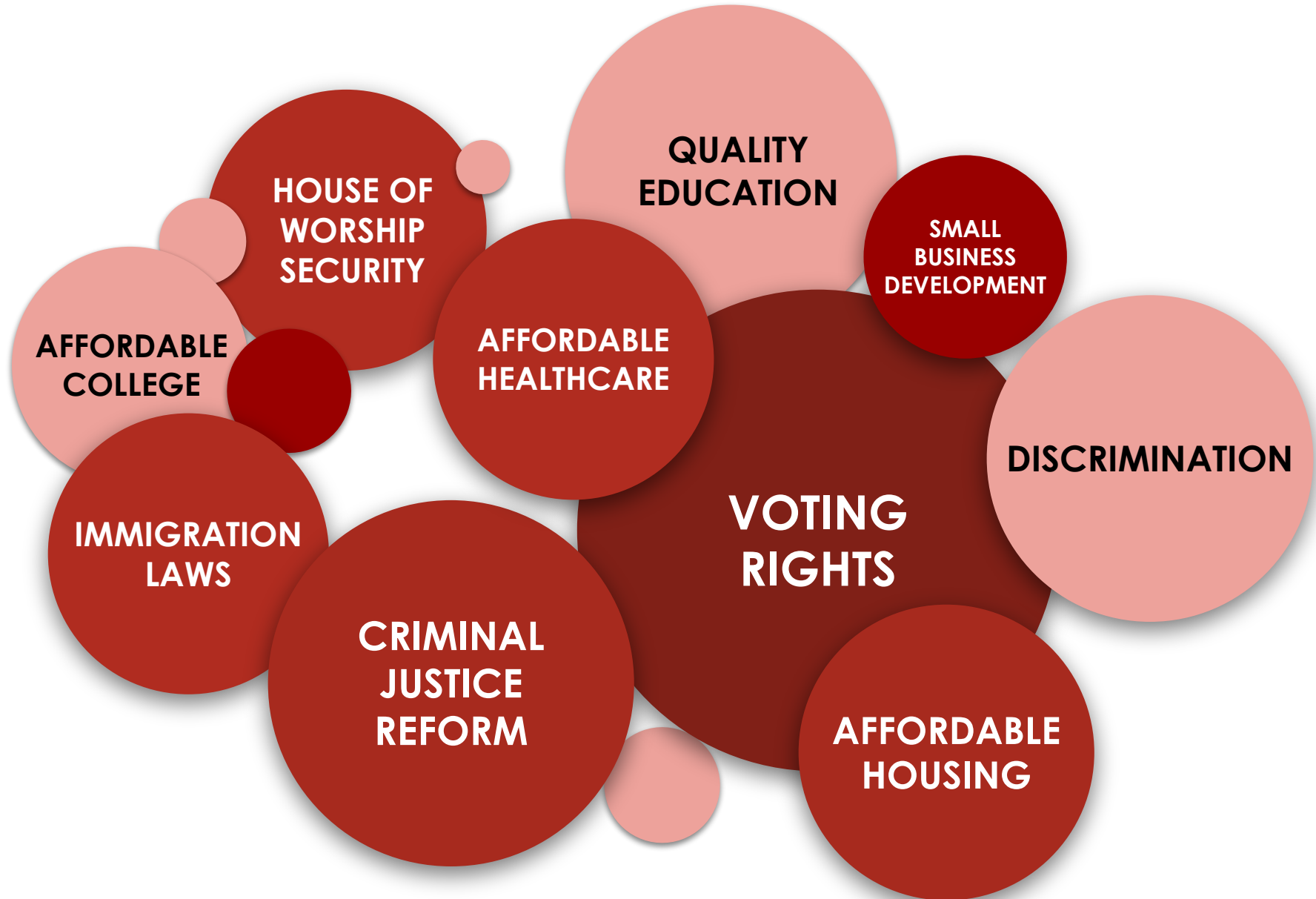
STRATEGIES



FOUR PHASE PLAN & TIMETABLE

<p>Phase I (January - March)</p> <p>Voter Education includes educational webinars on vital issues, voting laws, voter registration, and voter identification required through "What's at Stake?" and "Know Your Rights" webinars. The webinars will reflect the priority issues of the diverse faith partners. The overall number of leaders attending the webinars will vary based on the state size.</p>	<p>Phase II (April - June)</p> <p>"We Are Watching" Voter Protection meetings will be held with state election officials and a small, representative group of clergy leaders in each state to alert election officials that clergy will be monitoring the election process to ensure free, fair, and safe elections. Voter Registration continues in this phase.</p>	<p>Phase III (July - September)</p> <p>Voter Mobilization & Turnout</p> <p>Summer Outreach Events either virtual or in-person depending on COVID protocol in each state, so numbers are hard to predict. Entertainment, sports, and faith influencers would be engaged to inspire and mobilize voters. Begin Voter Protection recruitment for the "Poll Chaplain program."</p>	<p>Phase IV (Oct – November)</p> <p>Finalizing Voter Mobilization and Voter Protection Plan. Assign Poll Chaplains connect to Clergy Legal Hotline For Early Voting for the November 8, 2022, Midterm election. The campaign will mobilize diverse clergy in sacred collars at vulnerable polling sites.</p>
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KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR DIVERSE FAITH VOTERS





LANGUAGE | Many elderly among Latino/Asian Pacific/Indigenous do not speak English. Some polling locations have no one to assist with language challenges

POLLING STATION MOVED | FROM City at Worship House, School, or Library with access to Public Transportation TO Suburbs with no access to Public Transportation

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT VOTING | (2x more young people than elderly) *Source: U.S. Census*

PURGED VOTING ROLLS | 17 million U.S. Voters Purged (2016 – 2018)

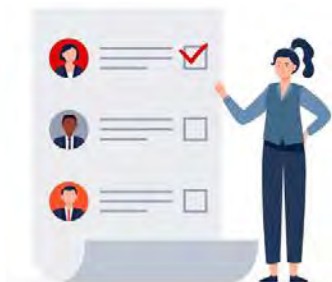
VOTER RESTRICTIONS | Ex-Offender, Military, Disabled, Moved, Student. College Student ID not accepted in some states

LACK OF DROPBOXES FOR THE DISABLED OR ELDERLY

DON'T KNOW ISSUES ON BALLOT OR CANDIDATES

FAILURE TO PROTECT THE VOTE AT POLLING SITES

VOTER DISINFORMATION & INTIMIDATION



10 THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW AS THEY GO TO THE POLLS

1. **WHAT FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION ARE ACCEPTED AT THE POLLS** | ID requirements vary by state, so check TODAY with your local election office for information on what you'll need to provide.
2. **HOW TO VOTE IF YOU ARE A FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSON (EX-OFFENDER)** | Check with your local elections office to know your rights – especially if you were convicted of a felony and have fully served and completed your sentence and are no longer on probation or parole.
3. **HOW TO VOTE IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE** | If you require assistance reading a ballot and casting your ballot on Election Day, in some districts you have the right to receive voting materials in your own language. Contact your local elections office to find out.
4. **HOW TO VOTE IF YOU ARE DISABLED** | Many polling places still aren't easily accessible to disabled voters or persons with special needs including reading. Contact your local election office for information about accessibility at your polling place and how you will be able to cast your vote.
5. **HOW TO VOTE EARLY** | Does your state have early voting or is it known as "absentee ballots" that can be requested by phone, in person or by mail? Contact your local election office to find out and take advantage.
6. **HOW TO CAST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT** | In a timely fashion, properly complete and send in your absentee ballot application and then submit your absentee ballot before the deadline. Be aware of and meet all deadlines for the absentee application and the absentee ballot itself. Contact your local election office if you need assistance.
7. **HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT** | Before Election Day, ask your local election office which machine you will be using on Election Day. Familiarize yourself and always ask for assistance if you are unsure how to cast your vote. Poll workers are required to provide you with assistance.
8. **WHEN THE POLLS ARE OPEN** | Polling hours vary by state. Confirm the time with your local election office. Always plan ahead and arrive early. If you are in line to vote when the polls close you have the right to cast your vote.
9. **WHERE LOCAL POLLING PLACES ARE LOCATED** | Polls are generally located in public buildings, with voters assigned to locations based on where they reside. Contact your local election office to find your polling place.
10. **WHO AND WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT** | Be an informed voter! Know about all the candidates as well as any ballot initiatives.

KNOW YOUR STATE'S VOTING LAWS

Click on a target state to download basic voting information. For updated and/or additional voting laws on target states or states not listed, contact your local State Attorney's Office.



BAD LEADERS ARE ELECTED BY GOOD PEOPLE WHO DO NOT VOTE

Voter registration represents the first but critical step in exercising your sacred vote. While policies and procedures vary by state, **every state requires registration of some sort**. *Houses of worship can play a major role in voter registration*, which can be carried out effectively either before or after a service and/or by volunteers in a high trafficked area at or near your house of worship. It is important to be friendly and assertive and where possible, share a personal story about why you are so passionate about voting.

REPORTED UNREGISTERED VOTER POPULATION

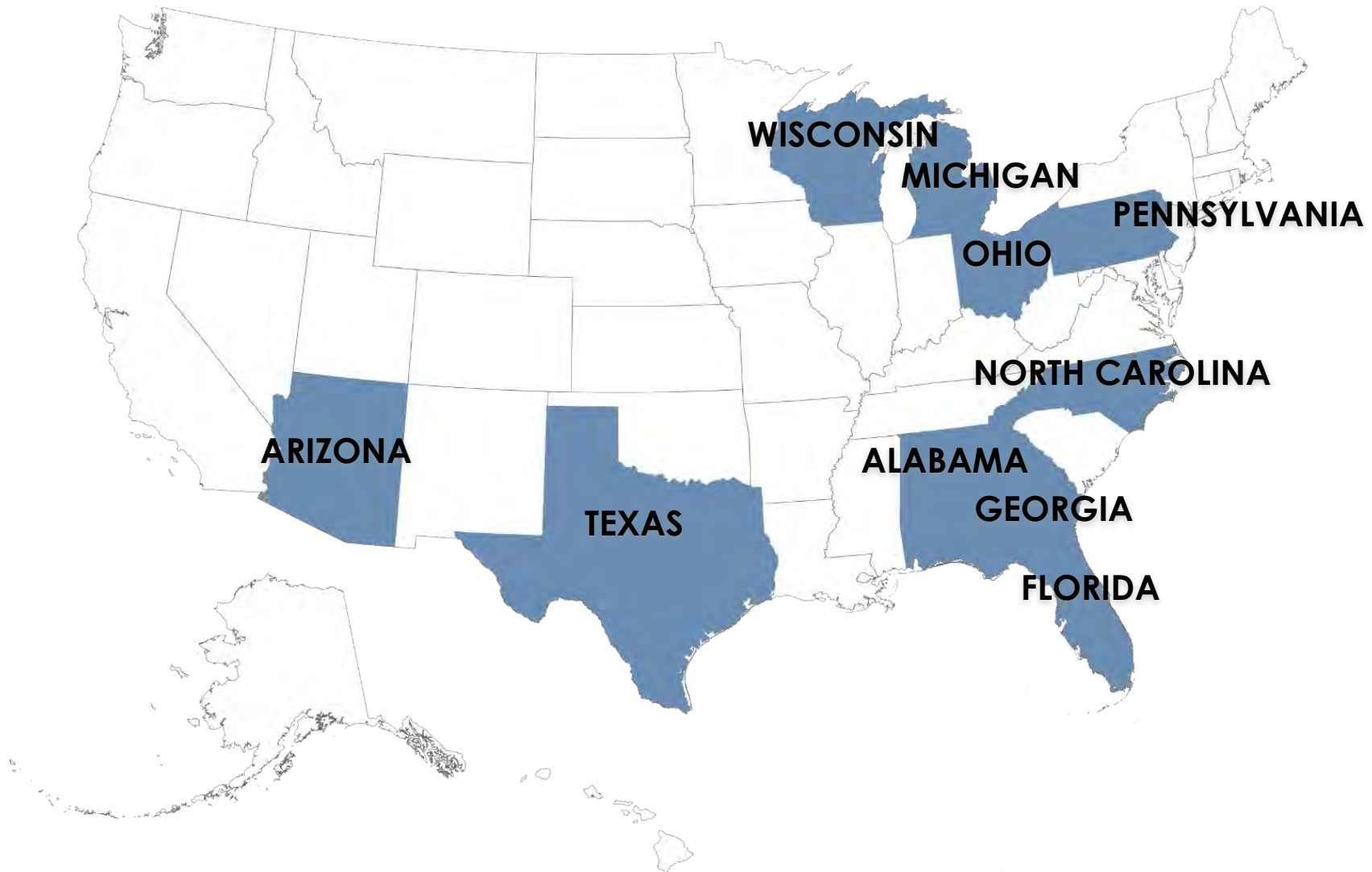
BY STATE	
ALABAMA	33.0%
ARIZONA	31.2%
FLORIDA	39.1%
GEORGIA	34.8%
MICHIGAN	29.2%
N. CAROLINA	36.4%
OHIO	24.8%
PENNSYLVANIA	25.9%
TEXAS	37.9%
WISCONSIN	25.3%

BY RACE	
WHITE (alone)	30.9%
BLACK (alone)	35.3%
ASIAN (alone)	54.3%
HISPANIC (of any race)	55.9%

BY AGE	
18 to 24	44.2%
25 to 34	39%
35 to 44	67.8
45 to 64	30.1
65+	24.2

KNOW YOUR STATE'S REGISTRATION LAWS

Click on a target state to download registration information. For updated and/or additional registration laws and deadlines on target states or states not listed, contact your local State Attorney's Office.



VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Many states have put in place more stringent voter identification requirements. In many cases, the elderly, students, many low-income, and marginalized citizens are less likely to possess these valid ID's. In order to ensure that these barriers do not prohibit anyone from voting, **it is imperative to raise awareness about what type of ID is required and provide additional support to your congregants and community members** to access the appropriate IDs. In many cases, it may involve helping them access and fill out the appropriate form, giving them a ride and/or accompanying them to the proper place; in other cases, it means helping with the fees associated with getting a voter accepted ID.

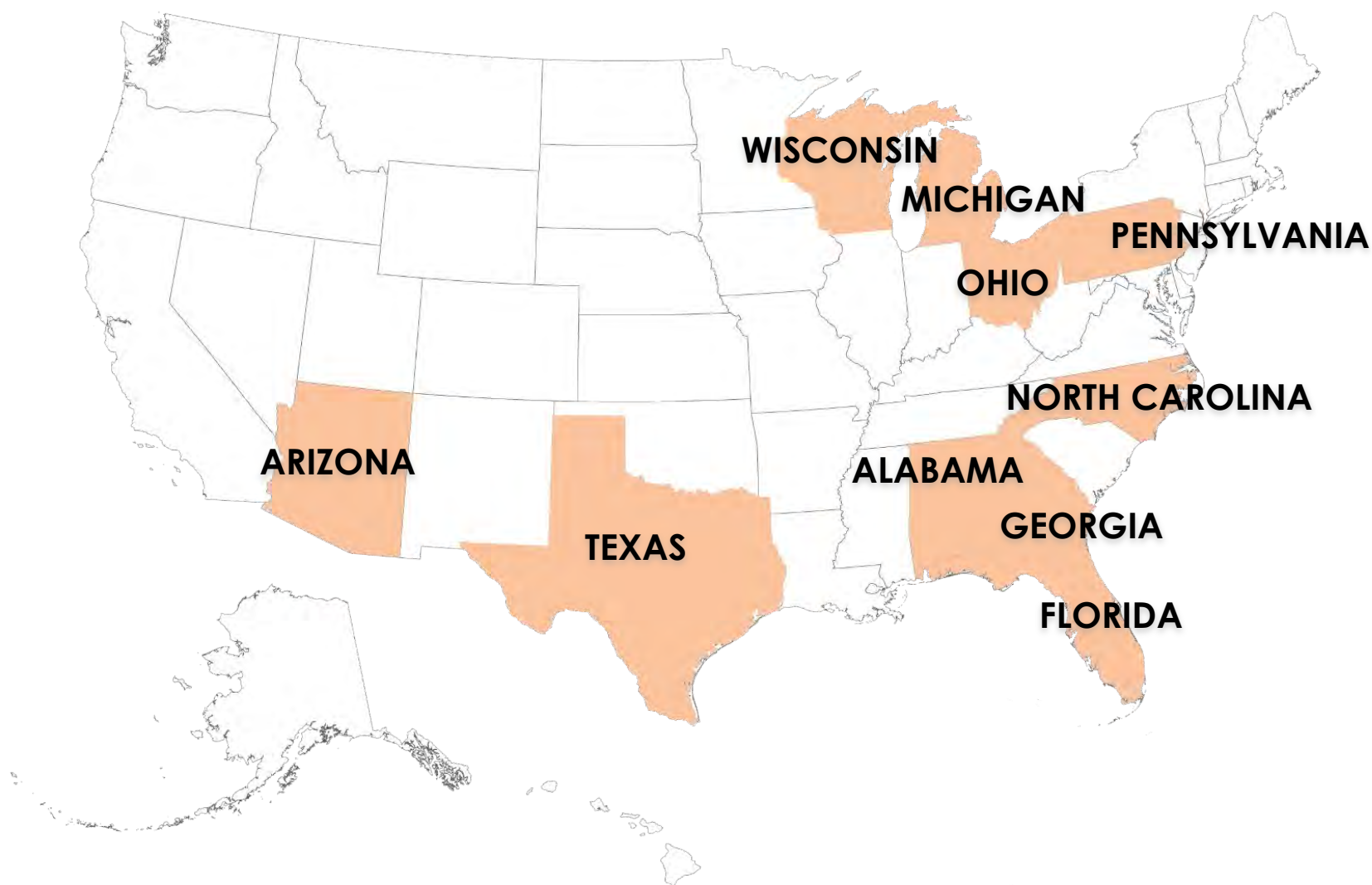


35 states have laws **requesting or requiring voters to show some form of identification** at the polls.

The remaining 15 states and the District of Columbia use other methods to verify the identity of voters. Look up the requirements and laws in your state **[here](#)**.

KNOW YOUR STATE'S IDENTIFICATION LAWS

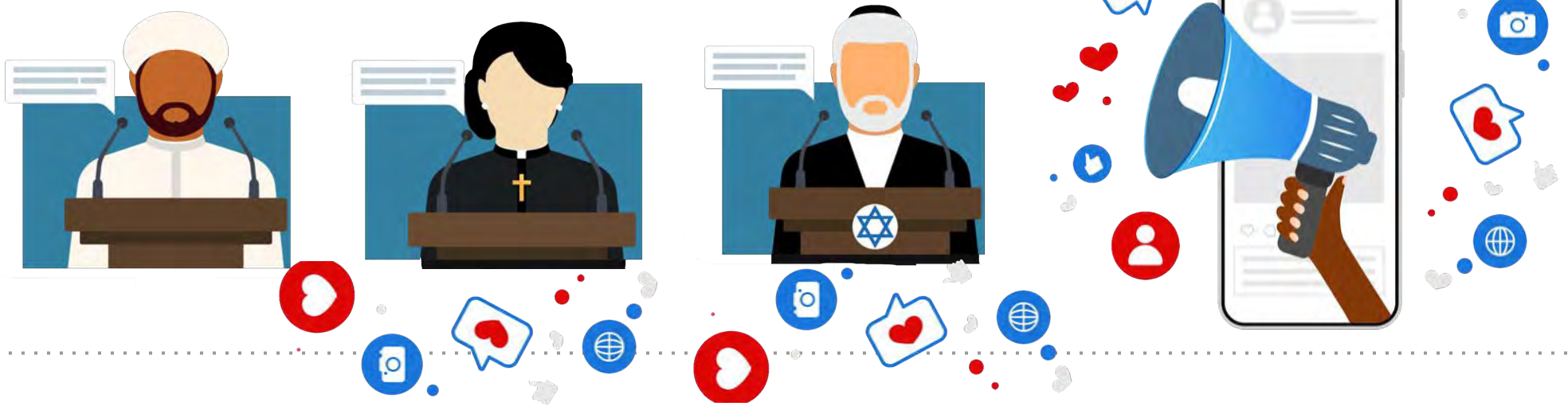
Click on a target state to download identification information. For updated and/or additional identification laws on target states or states not listed, contact your local State Attorney's Office.



Voter Mobilization

HELP YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP OR ORGANIZATION PREPARE

- **PREACH:** Messages on justice and righteousness.
- **EDUCATE:** Teach on the issues impact your members. Make sure you and your members know basic voting facts. Understand what you/your house of worship can legally do in elections.
- **REGISTER:** Make sure your congregation is fully registered.
- **PRAY:** Gather your prayer teams to pray for free, fair, and safe elections.
- **CONDUCT:** Social Media campaigns encouraging voter turnout. Encourage your younger members to vote.
- **HOST TURNOUT SUNDAY SERVICE:** Prepare your House of Worship to get out and vote.
- **PLAN:** Organize volunteers to transport and assist elderly & disabled members to voting sites.
- **POST:** Polling Site location & Changes up to Election Day
- **WATCH:** Gather your faith leaders to visit polling sites of your members.



DO



DO: Publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible. Also, discuss candidates position on issues with congregation.

DO: Rent out the faith organization facilities (e.g. kitchens, athletic facilities, community rooms) for political activities...regular rates MUST apply.

DO: Provide rentals of membership lists at regular rates.

DO: Allow candidates to make appearances at the organization's events/services.

DO: Distribute candidate campaign literature as an individual faith leader.

DO: Distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders.

DO: Publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied.

DO: Use organization's vehicle to transport people to vote.

DO: Lobby & Campaign for or against legislation as congregation or individual.

DO NOT



DO NOT: Support or oppose the candidates on the congregation's behalf.

DO NOT: Use the congregation's funding to give financial contributions of any kind to the candidates/office holders.

DO NOT: Impose your opinions on the congregation.

DO NOT: Publish faith organization editorials that support or oppose candidates.

DO NOT: Publish political ads as a donation.

DO NOT: Display candidate's literature on organization's vehicle used to transport people to vote.

DO NOT: Distribute candidate campaign literature as a congregation.



SAMPLE TWITTER POSTS

- Not voting IS a vote against your own interests. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Bad people are elected by good people who do not vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Every person is created in the image of God and deserve to have their vote protected. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Let's vote to keep the promise of affordable quality health care for all Americans. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Critical issues like criminal justice reform, voting rights, quality education, and affordable housing Medicare, Social Security, caregiving, and our financial security are all on the line in the next election. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Police shootings of unarmed black and brown people will not end unless you vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Americans of color STILL face oppression and discrimination. Voting says no to discrimination. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- It is time we are all treated EQUALLY. Discrimination belongs in HISTORY. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Let's secure a better future for our youth by voting. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- No one should serve a second sentence by permanently losing their right to vote! **#restoreexfelonvotingrights, #FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- 5.85 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people with felony convictions. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**



SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

- Know the early voting dates for your state. Go to www.iwillvote.com to find out where and when you can vote. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- Issues like voting rights, Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, criminal justice reform, immigration, protection against police brutality, and life sustaining programs for low income citizens will not be protected unless we all vote **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**
- We've come a long way since the terror-filled years of the 1960s, but we still have a long way to go since bigotry still raises its ugly head daily. We need to be vigilant to prevent returning to those days when an individual was judged by the color of their skin rather than by their character. **#FAITHSUNITEDTOSAVEDEMOCRACY**

Sample Announcement

The prophet Amos reminds us to “**let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**”

This year, we will be participating with other faith communities across the nation in **Faiths United to Save Democracy** preparation for the upcoming elections. We, as people of faith simply cannot afford to stay home. In fact, not voting has become increasingly dangerous to the economic and spiritual vitality of our communities:

- With voting, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Lower Prescription Drug Costs, police/community relations, criminal justice reform, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) and other financial stability programs are sustained.
- With voting, we have the power to vote for leaders who will support life-sustaining programs, for underserved Americans.

We ask all members to look out for instructions from our civic engagement coordinator (name/phone/email) as we prepare for important upcoming elections.

I ask each of you to commit to encouraging 5 family members, friends, and co-workers to vote on Election Day and make sure they get to the polls. If you need to register to vote, or update your registration information, you can do so online at www.voterparticipation.org.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

Exercise your power to protect your right to vote by:

1. Registering you and 5 friends, family members and co-workers to vote in the upcoming election.
2. Make sure they turn out between now and Election Day.
3. Sign up to join our Civic Engagement Team and Volunteer to help educate and register others to vote.

Contact our Voter Engagement Team Coordinator _____ at _____ (phone number/email) for more information on joining our Voter Engagement Team.

God's Concern for Justice, the Poor, and the "Least of These"

Isaiah 10.1-2 "What sorrow awaits the unjust judges and those who issue unfair laws. They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and take advantage of orphans." New Living Translation

Amos 5: 24 24" But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" New International Version

Micah 6:8 - He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." New International Version

Matthew 25:42-45 " For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me...'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" New International Version

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free." New Living Translation

"God does command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due and when you judge between man and man that you judge with justice. Verily how excellent the teaching which He gives you. For God is He Who hears and sees all things."- **Holy Qur'an, 4th Chapter, 58th verse**

Overcoming Voter Obstacles

- ♦ Find out If You're **Registered to Vote** www.headcount.org
- ♦ Locate Your **Voting Precinct** www.vote.org
- ♦ Locate **Easy Voting Tools** www.voterparticipation.org
- ♦ If you want **your rights restored** - criminal record, www.restoreyourvote.org
- ♦ If you are in the **military** www.fvap.gov
- ♦ **Voting problem** - Call 1-866-OURVOTE (1-866-687-8683) to report
- ♦ Remedies If your name is **purged** [https://ballotpedia.org › Voter caging and purging](https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_caging_and_purging)

Articles: Overcoming Voter Obstacles

- ♦ <https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/block-the-vote-voter-suppression-in-2020/>
- ♦ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/voter-purge-rates-remain-high-analysis-finds>

Voter Mobilization

ENGAGING YOUNGER VOTERS

GEN Z and Millennials **ARE NOT** apathetic, however they:

**ARE
ENGAGED**

**ARE
INTERESTED**

**WANT TO BE
HEARD**

**WANT A SEAT AT
THE TABLE**

If they are contacted and invited to participate, **they will!**

Motivating factors in the 2020 election:

- Economic and physical dislocation due to COVID
- Climate
- Protests turned young people into political activists i.e. racial justice reoning after George Floyd, the gun violence movement came out of Parkland etc.,
- After 2020 election racial justice and systemic racism was reported as the top issue for younger voters

For young voters, voting is important when it is connected to their issues!

They see issues as interconnected and respond when important issues are connected to voting. **Issues for them are even more important than political personality, or political party.** Messages that make those connections resonate more with this demographic than messages that tie voting to the activism of the past. **They will participate when they believe it will lead to meaningful change and it is connected to their issues.**

- 18 – 35 yr old voters - **largest most diverse voting bloc** in the nation
- **53-55%** of registered 18-29 year old voters **voted in 2020** (*up 11% from previous general election & highest percent ever recorded for this demographic*)
- **80% supported the racial justice movement** and the George Floyd protests
- **1.1M** registered in the first half of June in the summer of protests

Myth: Younger Americans will not vote. 2020 data proves this is false.

Fact: Gen Z and Millennials **ARE** voting generations!

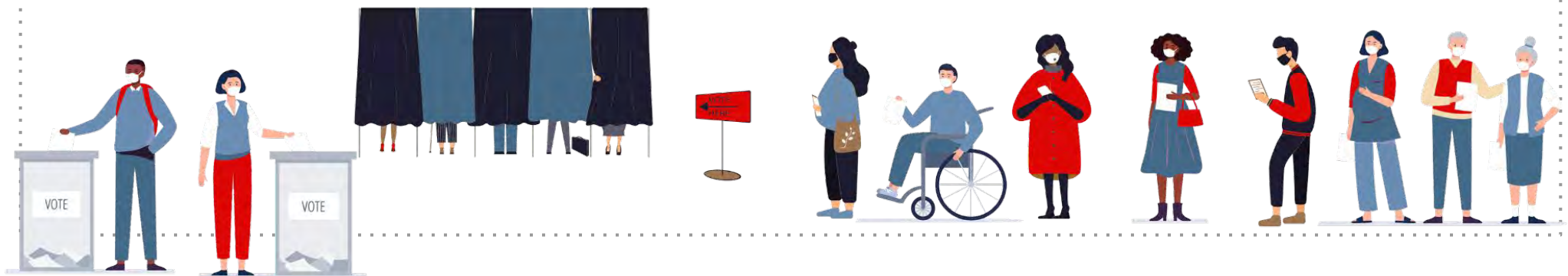


ORGANIZE “WE ARE WATCHING” MEETINGS WITH STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS

1. They provide local Clergy with exact information on **voter identification required to vote**; **polling location changes**, and **how states are protecting the election from the risk of hacking** that is being predicted, or other voter restriction tactics.
2. They put state election officials on notice that local clergy leaders and the elections protection lawyers with whom they partner, will be watching for free, fair, and safe elections so every citizen can exercise the power to vote their convictions.

PARTICIPATE IN THE “POLL CHAPLAIN PROGRAM” FOR VULNERABLE VOTERS

The 2022-2024 **Faiths United to Save Democracy** (FUSD) campaign is a continuation of the 2020 [Turnout Sunday-Lawyers & Collars Campaign](#) in which clergy, in sacred collars, provide support, information, and protection to citizens at vulnerable voting sites. The Faiths United “**Poll Chaplain Program**” will work in partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Clergy Hotline (1-866-OURVOTE or 1-866-687-8683).



FAITHS UNITED to **SAVE DEMOCRACY**

MULTI-RACIAL, FAITH, & GENERATIONAL VOTER TOOLKIT

2022 Election & Beyond

**For more information visit
www.TurnOutSunday.com**

Voting

A product of the Skinner Leadership Institute, Sojourners, and
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