

*Bishop Richard Allen Mural - Philadelphia, 2016*



*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

# *AME Voter ALERT (V-ALERT)*

*A Movement/Plan to Increase Voter  
Education, Mobilization, and Registration*

## AME Collaborators:



### COVER:

A masterfully intricate, vividly colorful painting of Bishop Richard Allen wraps around the First Episcopal District headquarters of the AME Church located at 3801 Market Street. Transforming the building into an exceptional work of contemporary art. members of the AME Church have collaborated with Willis “Nomo” Humphrey, lead muralist for the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, to design the mural, which is intended to stimulate dialogue about, and expand understanding of, Richard and Sarah Allen’s importance in American history.

Collaborating were Jane Golden, founder and executive director of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program who worked closely with Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram, Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram and mural artist Willis Humphrey.

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# Acknowledgements

The General Board in session, June 2018 reaffirmed the longstanding commitment of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to make Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization a priority. As stated by the Council of Bishops, it is our legacy.

This toolkit has proven to provide guidance for mobilizing voter turnout in the communities where many of our churches provide ministry and service. Working together is always our preference, so we offer to you this opportunity to join the combined efforts of churches across the USA who will use the AME V-Alert Toolkit to organize, register, educate and mobilize for the election on November 6, 2018.

Along with the updated AME V-Alert 2018 Toolkit, our website ([www.amev-alert.org](http://www.amev-alert.org)) will include the AMMLC VESSELS tools, the Lawyers and Collars Toolkit, materials of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and links to numerous resources for rapid response to grassroots issues. Combined, these resources prepare you to engage effectively to make a difference.

We want to acknowledge our partners/collaborators/resources here.

## Partners

African American Ministers Leadership Council  
NAACP Legal Defense Fund  
Lawyers and Collars  
Sentencing Project  
NAACP  
PICO





DR. JEFFERY COOPER  
AME GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear AME Members:

Please find below a Public Statement from the A. M. E. Church Council of Bishops:



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

July 30, 2018

RE: Council of Bishops AME V-Alert Statement

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In 98 days, citizens across the United States will have the right and the responsibility to go the polls to elect federal, state and local officials. There is much at stake for our municipalities, states, and nation in this year's mid-term election. I do not have the words to convey how important this election is. Control of state legislatures, governor's offices, and control of the US Congress will be determined.

The outcome of elections across the country will be determined by you, the registered voters, who go to the polls and cast their ballots. Your vote represents your interest and participation in our democracy. It is your voice in our government. If each of us registers and votes, we will have tremendous power. It is not enough just to register, **WE MUST REGISTER AND VOTE.**

The bishops of the church ask each of you to focus your attention and give your commitment to the work of AME V-ALERT. This will help us to register, educate, organize and mobilize our citizens and communities to VOTE. The AME V-ALERT (<http://www.amev-alert.org>) Tool Kit and the AME Church Social Action Commission (<http://www.ame-sac.org>) website are available to assist you in creating your action plan to register and ensure all of our congregants and citizens vote. It is available to you, to be used.

Historically, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has met the challenges that are before us. If we register, educate, mobilize and vote, we can again rise to the occasion.

The Council of Bishops ask each of us, to be committed, responsible, register to vote and make our way to the polls to vote. Let's make the difference!

Yours and His,

Reginald T. Jackson  
President,  
Council of Bishops

Peace,

Jeffery Cooper  
General Secretary/CIO  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

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# A.M.E. 2018 V-Alert African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., Connectional Lay Organization Chair  
Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, Connectional Lay Organization President

## Coordinators:

**AME V-Alert Team (Inaugural - Mrs. Jaquelyn Dupont-Walker, Mrs. Annette Jones, Mr. Carl Davis, Mr. Reginald McGill)**

July 2018

**TO:** The African Methodist Episcopal Church

**FROM:** Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell

**RE:** AME 2018 V-ALERT (A Movement/Plan to Increase Voter Education, Mobilization, | and Registration)

WE CAN AND MUST MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!!

The Council of Bishops, has since 2000, supported and encouraged the Lay Organization's continuation of the AME V-Alert project to stimulate voter engagement at all levels. This effort, while begun in the Lay Organization **seeks to partner with all components and sectors of the AME Church** in making sure that our voices are heard at the polls during the upcoming elections in 2018.

We, as the lay leadership in our Zion "must" do our part, to ensure a positive and productive future for generations yet to come. If we don't step up to the plate, who will? It is left to us, to define what kind of future we want and deserve for ourselves, our families, our communities, and yes - our church. This means that we must urge every adult we can contact to VOTE in the upcoming general election on November 6, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Each Episcopal District is encouraged to identify a Coordinator that will be authorized to proceed with creating networks, refining issues for that region, and becoming visible in the area. The potential negative impact of these elections cannot be overstated and are quite evident as we watch the total disregard for the needs of the poor and disenfranchised, the recently disadvantaged, and the denial of any responsibility by the wealthy to bear equal burdens of taxation. Racism (xenophobia), sexism, and homophobia must end now.



Some of you may already be involved in a Get-Out-The-Vote effort. If so, bravo. Others intend to vote, but not make must fuss about it. If so, we urge you to go the extra mile and have provided you with this toolkit. I am asking that you reach out and include as many as **you can**, so that we can touch as many as **we can**.

**REMEMBER THE DATE:**

NOVEMBER 6, 2018  
ELECTION DAY

**REMEMBER THE PURPOSE:**

To bring alive the AME mission of encouraging self-determination, self-help, and reliance

**REMEMBER THE PURPOSE:**

Get Involved! The AME 2018 V-Alert Team, coordinators at the Episcopal District Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and local church levels are ready!!  
NOW! So, let's get busy and make it happen!

CC: Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr. - Chair, Connectional Lay Commission  
Enc. AME V-Alert Toolkit

NOTE: The November Elections in 2018 will include will include President and Vice President of the United States, Entire US House of Representatives, 1/3 of the US Senate, Gubernatorial, State legislators and local elected officials.



# From the Social Action Commission

To: Connectional AME Church

From: Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Chair – Social Action Commission,  
Mrs. Jacquelyn DuPont-Walker, Director

Re: AME V- Alert Toolkit

As you are aware November 6th will be Election Day in the United States of America. The President and Vice President of the United States, the entire House of Representatives, and 1/3 of the US Senate will be elected to serve in Washington, DC. Dozens of local, county, and state offices will also be on the ballot. Judgeships will be on the ballot. Sales tax initiatives will be on the ballot. Initiatives to change the quality of life, your rights as citizens, and your access to services will be on the ballot.

In 2012 the voter turnout among minorities was only 40% of eligible voters, while 56% of whites voted. The turnout among African-Americans was a phenomenal 80%. Yet our government seems to be stalemated and trending backwards while the needs in the communities we serve are largely unmet. This in large measure led to the leadership change in the House of Representatives and the polarization between Congress and the White House. Our concern and focus, is not and must not be partisan, but to see that every American, particularly African-American and other people of color exercise their right to vote.

As a church founded to insure the moral fibre of this nation's treatment of its residents, we are obligated to preach about civic engagement, take leadership in insuring voter turnout, and educate the community about the issues "set before them". The General Conference has affirmed the role of the Connectional Lay Organization in leading this organizing effort. The Connectional Lay Organization has reached out to every component/ministry in the AME Church and interfaith/civic partners to get the job done.

We are grateful to the Connectional Lay Organization for AME V-Alert, which has been a tool for voter education, mobilization, and registration since 1999. The AME V-Alert Toolkit has been updated and prepared for your use at the local, Annual Conference, and Episcopal District levels. Tools will be at your fingertip and the AME V-Alert team is ready to direct you to resources.

I urge each of you, to make mobilization for Election Day 2016 a priority. Most importantly, VOTE and urge others to vote!!

The Social Action Commission is available to assist you, just reach out to us. Please take the time to study this toolkit, use it to form partnerships and coalitions in your local area and/or Episcopal District, REPORT your progress to us at [www.ame-valert.org](http://www.ame-valert.org). Contact Sis "Jackie" Dupont-Walker, our Social Action Commission Director to brainstorm and network at 213-494-9493 or [ameValert@gmail.com](mailto:ameValert@gmail.com).



# From the Connectional Lay Organization

To: Connectional AME Church

From: Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., Chairperson  
Ms. Velarie Gary Bell, President

Re: AME V- Alert Toolkit

Dear Church of Allen,

Not just a difference, but we can make the difference. As a faith community we, in the towns and cities have the power to make the 2018 elections count...for our children, our community and our Church. It is our legacy!!

We must not waste this opportunity to give voice to our needs and concerns. On November 6, 2018, we must move our initiatives into real action by going to the polls and casting our vote. If we are to be recognized as a formidable force within our nation then it is crucial that we turn out in large numbers to vote. Now is our greatest opportunity to generate enough momentum to create an atmosphere that -- because of our large voter turnout -- will provide us with influence not only in Congress, the State House, and with judges, but also with local officials.

However, to be the difference in determining the quality of education in the 21st century, the access of affordable housing, end homelessness, the availability of "work", we must vote November 6th. To be the difference in determining whether racial profiling continues to be an all-too-real, yet undocumented reality for African-Americans, we must vote. To be the difference in determining whether the federal government will work to expand and ensure economic opportunities for all Americans, we must vote on November 6th. To end the crippling economic distress, we must vote. To insure HBCUs can survive we must vote on November 6th.

Bottom line: If you have the right to vote use it. Young and old, rich and poor, you and I, by bus, car or on foot must get to the poll to cast our vote on or before November 6th. Let's just do it!

For more information contact us at [ameValert@gmail.com](mailto:ameValert@gmail.com) or go to [www.amev-alert.org](http://www.amev-alert.org).



## From the V-Alert Team

To: Connectional AME Church

Dear Church of Allen,

Not just a difference, but we can make the difference. As a faith community we, in the towns and cities have the power to make the 2018 elections count...for our children, our community and our Church. It is our legacy!!

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Bottom line: If you have the right to vote use it. Young and old, rich and poor, you and I, by bus, car or on foot must get to the poll to cast our vote on or before November 6th. Let's just do it! For more information contact us at [ameValert@gmail.com](mailto:ameValert@gmail.com) or go to [www.amev-alert.org](http://www.amev-alert.org).

In Struggle,

AME V-Alert Committee



# 2018 AME V-Alert Call to Action

Seasoned members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME's) from the Lay Organization developed this voter education/motivation toolkit for local congregations. Its mission is to INSPIRE and ENCOURAGE and create a sense of urgency for a strong voter turnout in the states, cities, town, communities and neighborhoods where the churches are planted for ministry. It is GOOD STEWARDSHIP and consistent with the AME commitment to self-help, self-reliance, and self-determination. Spread the word!

## STRATEGY

**There are three ways to get started!**

If your PASTOR catches the vision and wishes to take leadership, **this is PULPIT INSPIRED:**

### 1. PULPIT INSPIRED

SET A GOAL (A specific number of new voters you will reach)

- A. Encourage weekly voter messages (give scriptural references)
- B. Publish bulletin announcements each week with countdown to the Voter Registration Deadline
- C. Organize Voter Registration on Sundays and Teams for the remainder of the week  
Tithing Day(s)  
Voter Registrars to bring evidence of voter registration efforts
- D. Set up Buddy System for new registrants, absentee voter applicants, and those with poor voting records
- E. (Target seniors in congregate living, youth at college, young adults, sick and shut in, etc.)
- F. Create event around turn out for Voter Registration Deadline – both June Primaries and November General Election
- G. Bring together Intercessory Prayer teams for the Informed Vote
- H. Canvass the congregation to identify unregistered voters
- I. Identify Regional and Local Coordinators
- J. Identify key people and spheres of Influence in the congregation (elected, appointed, community based leadership)
- K. Establish E-mail Alerts with A Countdown
- L. Set up Issues Forums – work in partnership with other churches, community groups, etc.
- M. Talk about Voter Suppression, new criteria for registering, Inform about inmate rights, rights of probationers/parolees, etc.

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NOTES:



If your PASTOR understands the need but wishes for a member to take leadership, **this is PEW COORDINATED:**

## 2. PEW COORDINATED

Follow all of the steps above (A - L)

- A. Create teams in the local congregation and Check Up Dates to report to the Pastor & Official Board of Church Conference
- B. Encourage every ministry to set a goal for # of people to register and track the people like the Class Leader system

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NOTES:



If your PASTOR nor your fellow members of the CHURCH are prepared to make a commitment and join with you, ask for support in being the church's representative in a community coalition. **This is COMMUNITY LEADER LED.**

### 3. COMMUNITY LEADER LED

- A. Identify key people and spheres of Influence in the congregation (elected, appointed, community based leadership) who will identify as a member of the church in their voter registration work.
- B. Create or join a coalition (NAACP, Masons, Elks, Daughters of Eastern Stars, sororities, fraternities, block clubs, neighborhood associations, college alumni groups, etc.) Follow Steps A - L from Pulpit Inspired.

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NOTES:

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FOR EFFECTIVE WORK IN AND AMONG CONGREGATIONS:

- 1. Obtain schedule of Annual Conferences and get on the Agenda
- 2. Prepare Mailing to Bishops, District Lay Presidents, Directors of Lay Activities, General Officers, AME School Presidents, and Connectional Officers under the signature of the Connectional (International) Lay President
- 3. Establish E-mail managers like, AME Christian Recorder Online, AME Chief Information Officer, Connectional Lay Organization webmaster, WMS webmaster, other connectional organization, and key AME who are conversant on the issues.
- 4. Contact key clergy to give scriptural guidance
- 5. Contact all local and national programs for resource assistance

## **STEPS** *for* **VOTER REGISTRATION** *and* **EDUCATION**

- F. See the attached step-by-step Guide for assistance. We encourage feedback via the E-mail Alert.



# A.M.E. V-ALERT TOOLS

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### A Movement/Plan for Voter Education, Mobilization, and Registration

A Voter education, Voter mobilization (Get-out-the-Vote), and Voter registration project is an excellent undertaking for a local church or committed ministries/organizations.

Efforts like AME V-ALERT provide the opportunity for personal contact with every member of the church, as well as personal contact with inactive church members and networking with community organizations. A successful voter registration project must be planned, organized, and coordinated in order to mobilize a significant number of eligible Black voters and others who are not registered. It continues to educate them about the issues and assist them in voting- either with reminders about election day and EARLY VOTING, rides to the polls or by voting by absentee ballot. Workers in the project must be committed, interested, and knowledgeable or willing to learn.

The following outline presents the basic steps in conducting a Voter Education Mobilization and Registration Operation led by a local organization and/or a coalition<sup>2</sup> of church ministries/organizations/community groups.

#### **Task 1:**

Know the laws which govern voter registration in your state, county, and municipality. This information may be obtained from the Secretary of State's office or the local elections office or online from the appropriate Registrars Office.

#### **Task 2:**

Visit the local elections office, ask questions, and get information. During the visit (it may take more than one visit) determine the registration procedure used in your locality; the residency requirements; the deadline for registration; purging practices; rules for ex-felons, probationers and parolees; early voting dates, procedures for provisional ballots, and the procedures for absentee voting.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lay Study Guide 1987, Dr. Paulette Coleman, pp.134-136; Lay Study Guide 1991, Dr. Paulette Coleman, pp.173-175; Updated and Edited by AME V-Alert Team - 2000, 2004, 2008; Delta Sigma Theta Social Action Work tool 2005, Updated and Edited by Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker - 2008; 2012; 2016



### **Task 3:**

Determine the number of unregistered voters in your local church and immediate neighborhoods/ ministry service areas. This can be done by obtaining a current list of registered voters and checking the church membership roster against the voters' list. Another method for accomplishing the same purpose is to contact every member on the church roster by telephone. The latter method requires more time and volunteers, but it is the most effective because it is a means of touching base with every member of the church and of updating the church membership roster. Robo Calling<sup>4</sup> is a new technique that accomplishes the same goal (It is automated calling with a programmed message and contact number for followup).

### **Task 4:**

Set a target for the project and plan the specifics of the voter education, registration drive, and trips to the polls. The target should be numerical and should include special groups such as the elderly, a residential locale (nursing home, group home, etc.) and first time voters at 18 years old. The project target for new registrants may be based on the number of unregistered voters in your church and the surrounding community. A written plan for the voter education and registration drive should specify the following:

- What will be done?
- Who will do it?
- How it will be done?
- Where it will be done?
- When it will be done?
- How much it will cost?

### **Task 5:**

Select key personnel for the project. In order to carry out a voter registration project in the local church, there are at least four important volunteer staff members required. There should be a Project Director who will be responsible for doing research on registration laws and procedures; serving as the contact with the local elections officials; recruiting and training volunteers; and keeping the project on schedule and with its budget.

There should be a Publicity Coordinator with experiences in public relations and contacts with local newspaper, and the television and radio stations. Local media contacts are especially important if your project extends beyond the local church. This person should also be responsible for developing flyers, posters, brochures, letters, and announcements about the voter registration drive, organizing issues seminars, as well as advertising rides to the polls.



Most voter education, registration, and mobilization projects depend on volunteers and donations for their survival. A project in the local church will have some expenses for things such as postage printing, training materials, gas, supplies, and possibly refreshments. There is a need for a budget and a Fundraising Coordinator when conducting a voter education and registration project in the local church which will identify organizations compensating for registrations and GOTV. If none is identified, encourage people to tithe resources.

Special groups – youth, homebound seniors, ex-felons, and other areas where voter turnout has been low. Local dealerships may lend vehicles for use if asked in sufficient time and the church provides evidence of insurance.

**Task 6:**

Verify Polling Place locations. If possible, request a church facility as the Polls. Encourage members to become poll workers and Election Day inspectors.

**Task 7:**

Register people to vote. Each weekend at the malls and public gatherings, and at church before and after the Sunday worship services are ideal times to register people to vote. Business meetings, church conferences, and meetings of boards and auxiliaries are also good times to register people to vote. If your voter registration drives include the community, volunteers in the drive should be scheduled at shopping centers, grocery stores, housing projects, schools, (if permissible), fast food restaurants, and recreational centers. Another good place to register people is in their homes. The best times to find people at home are weekdays from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturdays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Get the person to complete the registration immediately. Follow through to make sure the registration is accepted. Check all forms before turning them in to the election office to make sure that all information has been provided. Maintain a Master List of every person (with the individual's name, address, with zip code, and telephone number) that the drive registers. Encourage early voting and absentee voting.

**Task 8:**

Follow up and get the newly registered voters out to vote. There should be at least three contacts with the new registrants from the time of registration until Election Day. Consider Robo Calling here also. Using the master list of new registrants maintained by the local drive, send a one page educational and motivational letter or email to each potential new voter shortly after registration. About one week before Election Day, send a second letter and/or email that contains information on where, when, how and why to vote. After the two mailings, follow up with a telephone call on election eve or election day.



**Task 9:**

**ELECTION DAY:**

Election day activities might also include knocking on new voters' doors, using public address systems in neighborhoods where voters live/worship, providing babysitting and transportation services, passing out flyers door-to-door and bus stops, and posting signs on neighborhood street corners. Most importantly, provide **RIDES TO THE POLLS and ADVERTISE IT WIDELY.**

**Task 10:**

Re-contact registrants to encourage their civic engagement and secure permission to keep them informed of community issues. Provide referral to services if the church cannot meet an immediate or urgent need.



# EXHIBITS

## LETTERS: 8-10

From the Social Action Commission  
From the Connectional Lay Organization  
A Letter to Newly Registered Voters  
Call to Action

## FORMS: 19-24

Organization Chart for AME V-Alert Operations  
A.M.E. V-ALERT TOOLS: Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet  
A Revival - Operation EMR Voter Registration  
AME V-ALERT Event Reporting Form

## WORSHIP: 25-29

Voter Beatitudes  
Litany for Servant Leaders & Members  
A Litany for Children Slain by Violence and Traumatized by those Called to  
“Serve and Protect.”  
Alternative Litany  
A Call to Action - Social Justice Litany

## WORK TOOLS: 31-44

Do's and Dont's on Political Activities for Churches and Pastors  
Script /Pitch For Coalition Building  
TALKING POINTS - For Public Forums, Media and Pulpit  
Felon Voting Rights  
Barriers to the Restoration of Rights  
Proposed Electoral College Map: 2016 ad 2020  
Robocall  
Key Election Dates  
Some Action Steps  
Additional Resources



INSTRUCTIONS: Based on experience and willingness to serve, identify coordinators for each of the activities below. Use this Organization Chart to also list others who have volunteered for each activity area. This group becomes the core team for implementing the operations.

\_\_\_\_\_ AME Church

## Organization Chart for AME V-Alert Operations

(Voter Education, Mobilization & Registration)

### Its Organization

**Project Director** \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible for researching voter laws, election rules, project oversight including budget, timeline, etc.

Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Publicity Coordinator** \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible for public relations, media relations and creation of promotional items

Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fundraising Coordinator** \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible for assembling resources including funds, in-kind donations, and volunteer recruitment

Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Transportation Coordinator** \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible for developing the plan for volunteer movement, voter turnout transportation, and other mobility matters

Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Administrative Coordinator** \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible for collecting data, maintaining files, providing updates for newsletter & website

Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE INITIATIVE!

## A Letter to Newly Registered Voters

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TO:

FROM:

RE:

A CALL TO ACTION.....

Not just a difference, but we can make the difference. As a community we, in the greater Los Angeles area have the power to make the 2012 elections count...for our children, our community and our Church. It is our legacy!!

We must not waste this opportunity to give voice to our needs and concerns. On November 6, 2012, we must move our initiatives into real action by going to the polls and casting our vote. If we are to be recognized as a formidable force within our nation then it is crucial that we turn out in large numbers to vote. Now is our greatest opportunity to generate enough momentum to create an atmosphere that -- because of our large voter turnout -- will provide us with influence in not only the White House but Congress and the State House too.

However, to be the difference in determining the quality of education in the 21st century, the access of affordable housing, the availability of "work", we must vote November 6th. To be the difference in determining whether racial profiling continues to be an all-too-real, yet undocumented reality for African-Americans, we must vote. To be the difference in determining whether the federal government will work to expand and ensure economic opportunities for all Americans, we must vote on November 6th . To end the crippling economic distress, we must vote. To insure healthcare for all we must vote on November 6th.

Bottom line: If you have the right to vote use it. Young and old, rich and poor, you and I, by bus, car or on foot must get to the poll to cast our vote on or before November 6th. Let's just do it.

For more information contact us at \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ .com.

*Church Name, Address an Contact Info here.*



Date:

To:

From:

RE:

## A CALL TO ACTION

Not just a difference, but we can make the difference. As a community we, in the greater (CITY) area have the power to make the 2016 elections count for our children, our community and our Church. It is our legacy!!

We must not waste this opportunity to give voice to our needs and concerns. On November 6, 2018, we must move our initiatives into real action by going to the polls and casting our vote. If we are to be recognized as a formidable force within our nation then it is crucial that we turn out in large numbers to vote. Now is our greatest opportunity to generate enough momentum to create an atmosphere that -- because of our large voter turnout -- will provide us with influence in not only the White House but Congress and the State House too.

However, to be the difference in determining the quality of education in the 21st century, we must vote November 6, 2018. To be the difference in determining whether racial profiling continues to be an all-too-real, yet undocumented reality for Blacks, we must vote. To be the difference in determining whether the federal government will work to expand and ensure economic opportunities for all Americans, we must vote on November 6th. To end the military combat around the world, we must vote. To protect access to healthcare coverage for all Americans, to insure re-districting at all levels protects the right to elect candidates of our choice, to reduce the growing number of unemployed, to eliminate the racist rhetoric masked as political commentary, and finally to protect the gains made in achieving social justice and equality for all, we must vote.

Bottom line: If you have the right to vote use it. Young and old, rich and poor, you and I, by bus or car must get to the poll to cast our vote on or before November 6, 2018. Let's just do it.

For more information contact us at @ .com.





# AME V-ALERT Event Reporting Form

Instructions: Please complete and submit reports from EACH event/service when AME V-Alert work takes place.

- We Hosted \_\_\_\_\_ # Events on \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ #people attended the event/service.
- \_\_\_\_\_ # people tweeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ #people eblasting, robo calling, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ #new people registered to vote
- \_\_\_\_\_ #committed to vote by November 6th!

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Information:

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the information in this form to: [ameValert@gmail.com](mailto:ameValert@gmail.com)  
Or submit this form online at [www.ame-valert.org](http://www.ame-valert.org).



# Voter Beatitudes

By Rev. Dr. Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo, a South African AME clergywoman;  
Adapted by Sis Jackie Dupont-Walker

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up to the stage, and when He was set on the podium his countrymen and women came to Him. He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying...*

BLESSED are they that **VOTE**, for their personal **VOTE** will make a difference.

BLESSED are the **voters** with pure hearts, who educate and encourage **voters** with apathy and disillusionment to register and VOTE, for they shall see a **voter** turnout on Election Day.

BLESSED are the **voters** who are not intimidated by the political machinery, money, and candidate's supporters and vote their conscience, for they shall inherit the fruits of democracy.

BLESSED are they that VOTE for the candidate who stands for their rights and views, for they shall receive change in their lives.

BLESSED are the **voters** that mourn for better housing, education, and safer and secured neighborhoods, for they shall be comforted by their winning candidate.

BLESSED are the **voters** who are merciful to candidates who did wrong in the past and who have acknowledged and apologized for those mistakes, for they (voters) shall obtain mercy.

BLESSED are they that hunger after free and fair elections, for they shall inherit prosperity and peace in the land.

BLESSED are the peacemakers during the campaign and on Election Day, for they shall be called patriotic citizens.

BLESSED are the **voters** who are persecuted for **voting** according to their conscience, for theirs is the Power within.

BLESSED are the **voters** who are insulted, called all sort of names and wicked things falsely when they VOTE against the corrupt establishment. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in the strength of democracy in the land. Remember that there were citizens before you who were persecuted for standing up for human and civil rights.

*You are the salt of the city, the state, and the country, but if you do not vote, you will lose your power. How will your power to change the status quo be restored? If you don't VOTE, your issues will be thrown out of the debate.*

*You are the light of the world of democracy - The country that is a superpower. Let your patriotic duty of voting be seen on Election Day, so that young men and women can see the process of democratic elections and praise the smooth transition of government and give glory to the Father and Mother on earth and in heaven. Revised 2016*



# LITANY FOR SERVANT LEADERS & MEMBERS

## GOD - I WILL.....

LEADER: It's time for some "straight talk". For the record: If there are limits on what God can do, those limits would be self-imposed by us.

PEOPLE: Now hold on...Would I place limits on God, who is omnipotent, who is omnipresent?

LEADER: Well, do you remember that Jesus could do very few miracles in his hometown, not because his power was restrained in that place, but because the people there would not believe and allow him to release his power to help them.

PEOPLE: No, no, I believe that Jesus was God in the flesh and I know that God can do anything. I profess that every Sunday. I promise to do better every day. So I'm on the right track, right?

LEADER: Do you remember that doing God's will without knowing the outcome is "Faith". Our God touches the hills and they tremble; God touches the thief and he or she repents. God's word instructs us to give when we don't know how and we prosper. God provides before we know what we need.

PEOPLE: I believe. So, my prayers will be for God to take control. I will stop expecting God to respond to small requests generated by small dreams. I believe that God is awesome, so I will not hesitate to dream big, beyond MY ability to make it happen.

LEADER: Is there any job God begins that God cannot finish? Is there any task too hard for God to complete?

PEOPLE: No, God can finish everything! God can complete any task!

ALL: So let us declare this day. God, we believe you can finish the work in each of us... helping us to truly love one another making THIS AME Church a serving station for the people and community. God, this day, we reject our small dreams of yesterday, and move boldly by faith into limitless dreams for YOU to be glorified in our daily walk. God, this day, do everything you desire in me. God, this day, I will give up what I think to do YOUR will, and in the days ahead, God I am completely and totally yours! AMEN

(Prayerfully written by Sistah "Jackie" Dupont-Walker based on James 2:14, 4:2 - any translation)



# **A LITANY FOR CHILDREN SLAIN BY VIOLENCE AND TRAUMATIZED BY THOSE CALLED TO “SERVE AND PROTECT”**

August 17, 2014

LEADER: Sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children. She refuses to be comforted, for they are dead.

ASSEMBLY: We pray for the families of children who have been slain by gun violence, left to die on streets with less dignity than is given to animals.

LEADER: A sound is heard in every city. Communities are weeping generationally for their children. Our sons, like Emmett Till, Treyvon Martin, Ezell Ford, Michael Brown and John Crawford. Our daughters, like Ayanna Jones, Miriam Carey, Malisa Williams and Tarika Wilson.

ASSEMBLY: As people of God, we weep for the lives of all children who instead of enjoying the sweetness of innocence become victims of hate, victims of war, and victims of violence.

LEADER: Now, let us rise up and interrupt these rushing waters of violence that leave children and communities wounded and paralyzed, traumatized by internal disintegration and state terror. Let us rise up and demand this nation abandon its affair with beliefs, practices and laws that are rooted in militarism, justified by racism and propped up by systemic inequities.

ASSEMBLY: We will rise up against laws rooted in evil that have no concern for life, nor any concern for God’s love. We will rise up until justice rolls on like a river and righteousness like a never failing stream.

LEADER: Oh Lord, we commit ourselves to seeing all children the way that you see them. No matter their age or race, they are precious gifts made in your image, created with transformative purpose and unlimited promise.

ASSEMBLY: And for that cause, we pledge to be hedges of protection for their lives, we pledge to stand against anything that threatens their potential or promise. We are all Rachel crying for the children! Therefore, we pledge to lock arms in solidarity with the families of the slain.

ALL: We embody the universal spirit of Ubuntu, “I am because we are and because we are, I am.” We pledge to let our voices be heard all over this nation and the world, for we know we are called to do what is just and right. We commit to be heard by VOTING in every election, letting no barriers stop us.

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# ALTERNATIVE LITANY

## LITANY & RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE by Sistah “Jackie” Dupont-Walker:

ALL: ““Here’s another way to put it. You are here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By Opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14 - 16, The Message)

LEADER: It’s time for some “straight talk”. For the record: If there are limits on what God can do, those limits would be self-imposed by us.

PEOPLE: Now hold on...Would I place limits on God, who is omnipotent, who is omnipresent?

LEADER: Well, do you remember that Jesus could do very few miracles in his hometown, not because his power was restrained in that place, but because the people there would not believe and allow him to release his power to help them.

PEOPLE: No, no, I believe that Jesus was God in the flesh and I know that God can do anything. I profess that every Sunday. I promise to do better every day. So I’m on the right track, right?

LEADER: Do you remember that doing God’s will without knowing the outcome is “Faith”. Our God touches the hills and they tremble; God touches the thief and he or she repents. God’s word instructs us to give when we don’t know how and we prosper. God provides before we know what we need.

PEOPLE: I believe. So, my prayers will be for God to take control. I will stop expecting God to respond to small requests generated by small dreams. I believe that God is awesome, so I will not hesitate to dream big, beyond MY ability to make it happen.

LEADER: Is there any job God begins that God cannot finish? Is there any task too hard for God to complete?

PEOPLE: No, God can finish everything! God can complete any task!

ALL: So let us declare this day. God, we believe you can finish the work in each of us... helping us to truly love one another. ..making THIS AME Church a serving station for the people and community. God, this day, we reject our small dreams of yesterday, and move boldly by faith into limitless dreams for YOU to be glorified in our daily walk. God, this day, do everything you desire in me. God, this day, I will give up what I think to do YOUR will, and in the days ahead, God I am completely and totally yours! AMEN (Based on James 2:14, 4:2 – any translation)



# A CALL TO ACTION - SOCIAL JUSTICE LITANY

## “Our Prophetic Calling”

*Authored by: Roderick Dwayne Belin, Pastor - Lee Chapel AME Church, Nashville, Tennessee*

We are called by God to shine light on evil deeds perpetrated against oppressed peoples of every color in this country and around the world. For answering the call, we have been lynched, murdered, threatened, unjustly investigated by the federal government and under appreciated by our own communities. Still, we must never be deterred from heeding God’s call:

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! (Isaiah 58.1)**

The prophetic tradition of the Christian Church is grounded in the earnest desire of a people to emerge from the tyranny of injustice and poverty. It is an holy desire rooted in sheer human dignity and the divine right breathed into us by our God at creation. Echoing in our hearts is the command:

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

The ills and -isms in this world threaten not only the quality but life itself for far too many oppressed people living under injustice and myriad forms of abuse. It is because of them that we must passionately obey:

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because of foreclosures, the exponential growth of the prison industrial complex, and gangs growing faster than many churches

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because this church was born in a community of sun-kissed children of God whose indomitable spirit demanded a house of worship in which the Word of God would not come mediated through racist and exclusivist and oppressive matrices of interpretation.

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because this Church was conceived in the collective mind of a disciplined people who were faithful practitioners of the disciplines of the spirit, those who learned and practiced wilderness-discipline.

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**



Because the legacies of Bishop Richard Allen, the Reverend Archibald Carey, Jr., the Reverend Oliver Brown, and Mother Rosa Parks compel us

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because personal wealth and material gain is not the aim of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because there is no escaping this truth: Jesus cares about the poor, the imprisoned, the outcast, the sick, the orphan, the widow, the ugly and the afflicted.

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because the power of God in us gives power to the words we utter

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because life and death are in the power of our own tongues

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet!**

Because God commands it and our lives depend on it

**Cry out, do not hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! Amen! It is so!**



# Do's and Dont's on Political Activities for Churches & Pastors

**DO** discuss the candidates' positions on issues to the congregation.

**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/officeholders.

**DO NOT** allow your (the church leaders) personal opinions inflict the opinions of the congregation. Please note: the Pastor's personal views and personal donations (not affiliated with the church) can be used to his own discretion, as long as these views/endorsements are not imposed upon the congregation.

As a congregation and/or as an individual church leader; **DO** lobby and campaign for or against legislation.

**DO NOT** publish church editorials that are meant to support or oppose candidates.

**DO** publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied...**DO NOT** publish these ads as a donation.

**DO** publish news stories about campaigns...the congregation must be kept informed as best as possible.

**DO** rent out church facilities (e.g. kitchens, athletic facilities, board/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 church events/services.

As a part of the congregation, **DO NOT** distribute candidate campaign literature; however the individual church leader is allowed to do so.

**DO** distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of officeholders.



**DO NOT** pay for a candidate's or office holder's attendance at a caucus or political party convention. While the congregations **CAN NOT** pay for this, the church leader **CAN** do so on an individual basis.

**DO** participate in non-partisan voter registration and identification: these activities **CAN NOT** be affiliated with a political party.

**DO** provide non-partisan voter education: **CAN NOT** be affiliated with a political party. As a congregation, **DO NOT** give contributions to political action committees, but the church leader may **DO** this on his or her own terms.

**DO** use the church van for transportation to the polls, **DO NOT** use the van to advertise for candidates or allow candidate discussions in the van.

Source: "Preaching Politics from the Pulpit", Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.  
[www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)



# LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE INITIATIVE!

## AME CHURCH

### Script /Pitch For Coalition Building

The following script is suggested as a way to approach stakeholder groups, stakeholders, and others likely to work collaboratively in impacting the 2016 GENERAL Elections. It is being developed so that each committee member can comfortably approach and communicate the message in their circle of influence and help us to assemble a Network for AME V-ALERT. Remember to make it YOUR OWN.

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ AME Church, and we want to work with you in increasing the voter turn out for the upcoming GENERAL Elections.

Your organization \_\_\_\_\_ can join with us and approximately 20 other community groups, churches, clubs and businesses to make a difference. Each organization would be identified by name/logo on all materials.

In the last mid-term election, only approximately 19% of the registered voters actually voted. Our history dictates that this low voter turnout is unacceptable, and the mission of both our groups is still to make sure that our community goes to the polls and is represented in the delegations of elected officials. Together we can and must make this a reality.

If you can and will influence your group to join this Network, you would commit to:

1. Voter Education-Sponsor Community Forums and Speakers Bureaus -To educate the voter re issues and community needs.
2. Voter Mobilization- - Partner with other groups to get people out on Election Day.
3. Voter Registration - Target the first time "eligibles", those whose circumstances have changed (moved, returned from prison, changed name), or anything that is needed to become a voter.

We will work out the details together, but the first opportunities will be \_\_\_\_\_

Can I submit your name, or your group's name so that we can do this? (Get name of group, key contact person and their contact information).



# TALKING POINTS – For Public Forums, Media and Pulpit

*By former Social Action Commission Chair, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson*

- President Obama has been stymied in his efforts to get progressive legislation passed. If we don't send Senators who care about us and our communities, confirmations will continue to be stalled and we won't have "good" judges in our courts, US Supreme Court vacancies would not be filled, our federal departments would have solid leadership, Obamacare (our ACA healthcare plan) could be repealed. For all practical purposes the Obama presidency would be over.
- In 2010 less than 40% of Blacks voted nationwide. Possibly twenty (20) House seats would have different Congresspersons if Blacks had voted. Let's overcome apathy and any obstacles to achieve 100% voter turnout.
- If we do not vote this fall we once again put vital programs for our community at risk—for example: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Pell Grants, education, housing and a host of other programs would be cut, placing a severe burden on low income families, including the working poor.
- If Blacks turn out in large numbers and vote their interest we could determine the outcome of key state elections but also overwhelmingly impact our presidential elections.
- If we elect officials who want to roll back the clock or stop progress, our Supreme Court, State Houses, (governor and legislature) , and all local levels will move quickly to further suppress minority voters, cut spending on safety net programs, increase laws like "Stand Your Ground", terminate unemployment benefits, privatize more prisons, de-stabilize social security system, stop gun control legislation, and militarize police departments.
- What do we do next? Three things:
  1. Find out the voting and registration laws in your area
  2. Get registered and early vote
  3. Volunteer and make sure 10 people in your network or family vote
- Anyone can register to vote, update their registration and receive election information by text messages and in their email by visiting [www.BlackandBrownPeopleVote.org](http://www.BlackandBrownPeopleVote.org) or [www.amev-alert.org](http://www.amev-alert.org)



# Felon Voting Rights

**TABLE ONE: RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS AFTER FELONY CONVICTIONS**

NEVER LOSE RIGHT TO VOTE	LOST ONLY WHILE INCARCERATED   AUTOMATIC RESTORATION AFTER RELEASE	LOST UNTIL COMPLETION OF SENTENCE (PAROLE AND/OR PROBATION) AUTOMATIC RESTORATION AFTER	LOST UNTIL COMPLETION OF SENTENCE   IN SOME STATES A POST-SENTENCING WAITING PERIOD   ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED FOR RESTORATION (1)
Maine	District of Columbia	Alaska	Alabama
Vermont	Hawaii	Arkansas	Arizona
	Illinois	California (2)	Delaware
	Indiana	Colorado	Florida
	Maryland (3)	Connecticut	Iowa
	Massachusetts	Georgia	Kentucky
	Michigan	Idaho	Mississippi
	Montana	Kansas	Nebraska
	New Hampshire	Louisiana	Nevada
	North Dakota	Minnesota	Tennessee
	Ohio	Missouri	Virginia
	Oregon	New Jersey	Wisconsin
	Pennsylvania	New Mexico	Wyoming
	Rhode Island	New York (4)	
	Utah	North Carolina	
		Oklahoma	
		South Carolina	
		South Dakota	
		Texas	
		Washington	



# Recent State Action

In 2018, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order removing the restriction on parolees voting. New York already allows those on probation to vote. The order may be challenged in court.

In 2017, Alabama HB 282 provided a list of felonies that involve “moral turpitude” that disqualify a person from exercising his or her right to vote. Previously there was no comprehensive, authoritative source for defining a disenfranchising crime in Alabama.

In 2017, Wyoming enacted HB75 automatically restoring the rights of nonviolent felons.

In 2017, Louisiana enacted HB 168 improving reporting requirements between The Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Department of State.

In 2016, California passed legislation allowing those in county jails to vote while incarcerated, but not state or federal prison. In 2017 California passed additional legislation requiring information be provided about voting rights restoration on the internet and in person to felons exiting prison.

In 2016, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced an executive order automatically restoring voting rights to convicted felons who have completed their prison sentence and their term of supervised release (parole or probation) as of April 22. This decision was a source of contention with the legislature. In July 2016, the Virginia Supreme Court overturned the order.

In 2016, Maryland’s legislature enacted HB 980 and SB 340 (overriding a veto) so that voting rights are automatically restored after completion of the term of incarceration.

In 2015, outgoing Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear signed an executive order to automatically restore the right to vote (and to hold public office) to certain offenders, excluding those who were convicted of violent crimes, sex crimes, bribery, or treason. The order was reversed by incoming Governor Matt Bevin.

In 2015, Wyoming enacted HB 15 requiring the department of corrections to issue a certification of restoration of voting rights to certain non-violent felons after completion of sentence.

In 2013, Delaware eliminated the five-year waiting period before voting rights are restored.

In 2013, Virginia Governor McDonnell signed an executive order creating new rights restoration processes for persons with prior felony convictions.

In 2012, South Dakota mandated that felons on probation would not have voting rights restored. Previously, only felons on parole or incarcerated had their voting rights suspended.

In 2011, the Florida Board of Executive Clemency (comprised of the governor and three cabinet members) reversed a 2007 policy change that automatically restored voting rights to non-violent offenders upon the completion of their sentence. The new policy requires that all ex-felons wait between five and seven years depending on the crime before applying to regain voting rights.

In Iowa, the governor in 2011 reversed an executive order issued in 2005 under the previous governor. The 2005 order automatically restored the voting rights of all ex-felons, but under the 2011 order they will now have to apply to regain rights.

In 2011 in Tennessee, HB 1117 was enacted, adding to the list of felons who are not eligible for automatic restoration.



In 2009, Washington restored the right to vote to felons who completed their sentences, while requiring them to re-register to vote.

Between 1996 and 2008, 28 states passed new laws on felon voting rights.

- Seven repealed lifetime disenfranchisement laws, at least for some ex-offenders.
- Two gave probationers the right to vote.
- Seven improved data-sharing procedures among state agencies.
- Nine passed requirements that ex-offenders be given information and/or assistance in regaining their voting rights at the time they complete their sentence.
- Twelve simplified the process for regaining voting rights, for instance, by eliminating a waiting period or streamlining the paperwork process.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For more detailed information on state legislation dealing with the voting rights of convicted felons, visit [NCSL's 2011-current Election Legislation Database](#) and select the subtopic "Voters-Felon Voting Rights." For legislation from the period 2001-2010, visit [NCSL's 2001-2010 Election Legislation Database](#).

If you're seeking general information on state policies regarding felon voting rights, please contact [NCSL's elections team](#) for more information by email or at 303-364-7700.

If you're looking for information on how you or someone else can regain the right to vote, NCSL is unable to help with or offer advice on this process. We suggest that you contact [election officials](#) in the appropriate jurisdiction to get the most current and accurate information available.

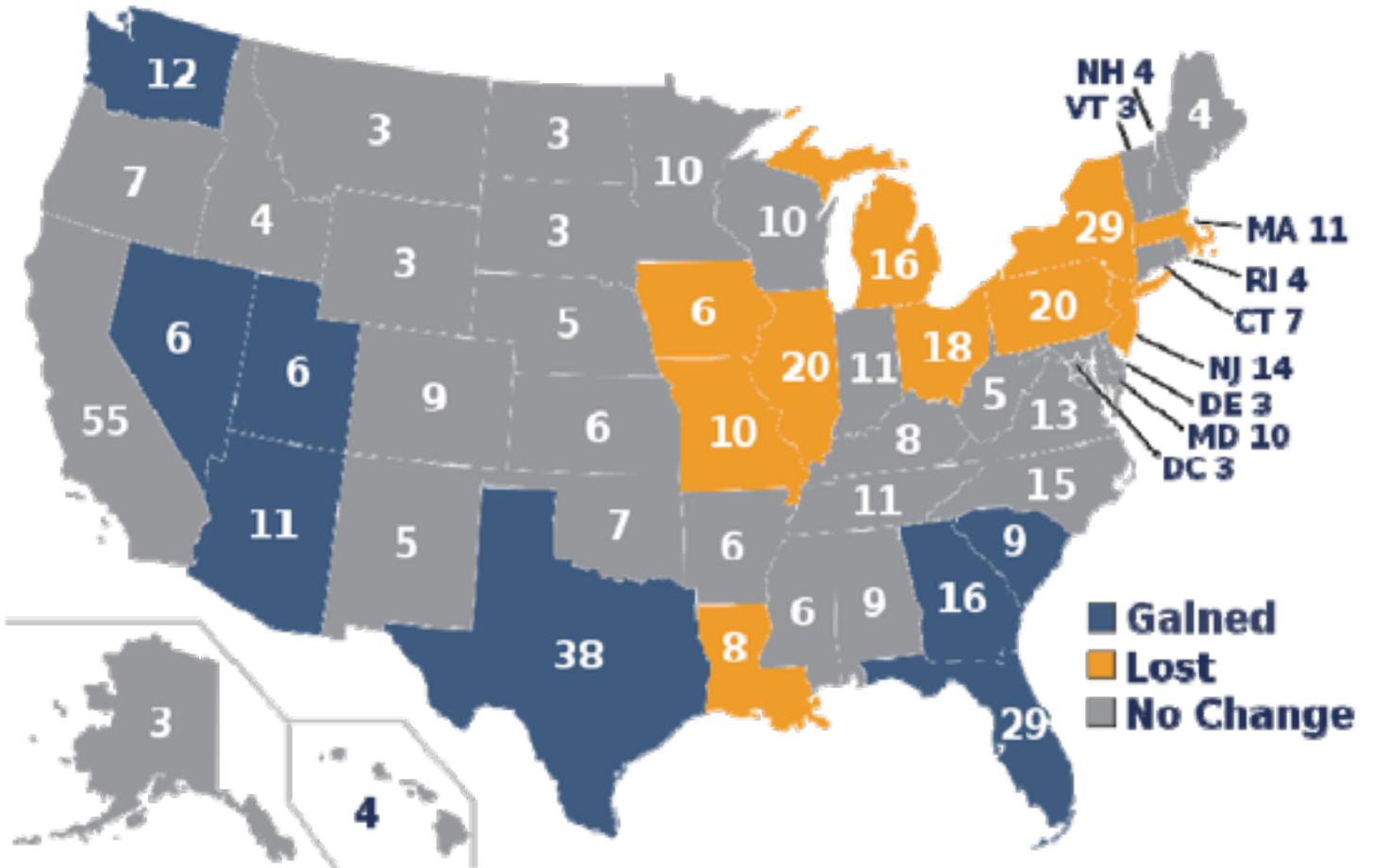
The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) has a webpage listing links for each state's process of restoring the right to vote.

[The Sentencing Project](#) is an advocacy group that offers information on felon disenfranchisement in the states. Its page [Felony Disenfranchisement: A Primer](#) contains a state-by-state chronology of state action on felony disenfranchisement laws since 1997.

The [Restoration of Rights Project](#), from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, also provides assistance on felon disenfranchisement.



# Proposed Electoral College Map 2016 and 2020



# Robocall

Robocalls are made by all political parties in the United States, including but not limited to both the Republican and Democratic parties as well as unaffiliated campaigns, 527 organizations, unions, and individual citizens. Political robocalls are exempt from the United States National Do Not Call Registry. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone. The automated phone call uses a computerized auto dial which

Robocall is a term for an automated phone call that uses both a computerized autodialer and a computer-delivered pre-recorded message. The implication is that a “robocall” resembles a telephone call from a robot. Robocalls are often associated with political and telemarketing phone campaigns, but can also be used for public-service or emergency announcements.

Despite heavy media publicity of the database, only seven politicians in the United States voluntarily pledged to respect the list during the 2008 general election cycle. Of those seven, only three made it to the general election and only Virginia Foxx (R) was successfully reelected in November 2008.

On September 1, 2009, a new regulation of the Federal Trade Commission went into effect, banning most robocalls without written opt-in from the receiver. Political campaigns, surveys, charities, debt collectors, and health care providers are exempt, as are calls to businesses. Calls from banks, insurers, and phone companies are out of the jurisdiction of the FTC. In situations under federal jurisdiction, the federal law will supersede a slightly less restrictive law in the state of California.

[edit] 2009 Federal Trade Commission action against an illegal robocall provider

In May 2009, in response to numerous complaints, the Federal Trade Commission asked a federal court to shut down a telemarketing campaign that has been bombarding U.S. consumers with hundreds of millions of allegedly deceptive robocalls in an effort to sell them vehicle service contracts under the guise that they are extensions of original vehicle warranties. The FTC took action against both the promoter of the phony extended auto warranties, as well as the telemarketing company that it hired to carry out its illegal, deceptive campaign. The FTC contends that the companies are operating a massive telemarketing scheme that uses random, pre-recorded phone calls to deceive consumers into thinking that their vehicle’s warranty is about to expire. Consumers who respond to the robocalls are pressured to purchase extended service contracts for their vehicles, which the telemarketers falsely portray as an extension of the manufacturer’s original warranty. According to papers the FTC filed with the court, however, the robocalls have prompted tens of thousands of complaints from consumers who are either on the United States National Do Not Call Registry or asked not to be called. Five telephone numbers associated with the defendants have generated a total of 30,000 Do Not Call complaints.



# Key Election Dates

## **SEPTEMBER 2018**

National Voter Registration Day

[www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/)

## **NOVEMBER 2018**

6th: Election Day - Nationwide

*For voter registration deadlines for your state, please visit our website: Freedom Sunday Coalition as well as key partners:*

*National Association of Secretaries of State or Rock the Vote!*

<http://www.nass.org/elections-voting/2016-presidential-election/>

*Rock the Vote:*

[www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com)

*Black and Brown People Vote:*

[www.blackandbrownpeoplevote.org](http://www.blackandbrownpeoplevote.org)



**STATE****STATE PRIMARY | RUNOFF DATE**

Alabama	June 5	July 17
Alaska	Aug. 21	
Arizona	Aug. 28	
Arkansas	May 22	June 19
California	June 5	
Colorado	June 26	
Connecticut	Aug. 14	
Delaware	Sept. 6	
Florida	Aug. 28	
Georgia	May 22	July 24
Hawaii	Aug. 11 (Sat.)	
Idaho	May 15	
Illinois	March 20	
Indiana	May 8	
Iowa	June 5	
Kansas	Aug. 7	
Kentucky	May 22	
Louisiana	Nov. 6	Dec. 8*
Maine	June 12	
Maryland	June 26	
Massachusetts	Sept. 4	
Michigan	Aug. 7	
Minnesota	Aug. 14	
Mississippi	June 5	June 26
Missouri	Aug. 7	
Montana	June 5	
Nebraska	May 15	
Nevada	June 12	
New Hampshire	Sept. 11	
New Jersey	June 5	
New Mexico	June 5	
New York	Sept. 13 (Thur.)	
North Carolina	May 8	
North Dakota	June 12	
Ohio	May 8	
Oklahoma	June 26	Aug. 28
Oregon	May 15	
Pennsylvania	May 15	
Rhode Island	Sept. 12 (Wed.)	
South Carolina	June 12	June 26
South Dakota	June 5	
Tennessee	Aug. 2 (Thur.)	
Texas	Mar 6	May 22
Utah	June 26	
Vermont	Aug. 14	



**STATE****STATE PRIMARY | RUNOFF DATE**

Virginia	June 12
Washington	Aug. 7
West Virginia	May 8
Wisconsin	Aug. 14
Wyoming	Aug. 21

\*Louisiana holds its primary for all parties on the same day the rest of the country holds the general election. If needed, a runoff is held in December.

National Voter Registration Day

<https://www.wheniscalendars.com/national-voter-registration-day-2018/>

Mark your calendar for 2019, 2020

- National Voter Registration Day 2019 is observed on Tuesday, September 4, 2019
- National Voter Registration Day 2020 is observed on Tuesday, September 2, 2020

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Election Day - Midterm Elections

Voters will elect:

All 435 members of the US House of Representatives

One-third of the US Senate

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES IN ALL STATES & TERRITORIES

<https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines/>



# Some Action Steps

**Two Weeks before Election Day**, Every Faith Community could help voters...

- Develop worship tools such as litanies, prayers, meditations, pastor's words, newsletter articles, web announcements and phone trees to remind voters that Nov 8th is Election Day.
- Set up robo calling to operate on Election Eve to remind voters to cast their votes. Warn voters that the "political polling" process is NOT equal to votes.
- Make plans for radio call-in, TV blogging and Facebook entries that will encourage voters to VOTE.
- Create an Election Day Countdown Calendar at your church and/or on your church web- site. Of course, it should not promote a candidate or a ballot measure, but simply urge voters to VOTE.
- Ask members to create networks of at least 5 registered voters who they will track until Election Day to encourage them to vote.
- Stay engaged until the Polls close on Election Day.

**On Election Day**, Voters will need help...

- Create your own resources or join a network in your community. Call in to your local radio and TV talk shows to make them aware of the ways you can help voters. Yes use every means that God gives you.
- Provide rides to the polls
- Plan a voting celebration—Praise Service, Watching Party AFTER THE POLLS HAVE CLOSED!
- Remind those with networks to send a message to their constituents, "Vote!" "Take some- one to the polls today."
- Prepare the voters to decipher the "negativism" of the media and act to share the truth in the midst of Election season. Remind voters that every vote counts! Polls only reflect what someone thinks not the ACTION that we must take.
- Stay engaged until Election Day.



# Additional Resources

Below is a list of organizations to partner with for local events around Criminal Justice Reform and Voting Rights. Many are a part of our coalition and have been champions for informing and empowering communities around voting rights, voter protection, civil and human rights issues.

## Faith-Based

- African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Voter ALERT - [www.amev-alert.org](http://www.amev-alert.org)
- The Freedom Sunday Coalition - <http://theblackchurchreport.com/votingtoolkit/>
- Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference (SDPC) - <http://sdpconference.info/>
- PICO LIVE FREE Campaign - <http://www.piconetwork.org/campaigns/live-free>
- African American Ministers Leadership Council - Vessels Vote Initiative <http://www.pfaw.org/VESSELS>
- Faith in Public Life - [www.faithinpubliclife.org](http://www.faithinpubliclife.org)

## Civic/Community

- The John Legend #FREEAMERICA Initiative [www.letsfreeamerica.org](http://www.letsfreeamerica.org)
- Black and Brown People Voter [www.BlackandBrownPeopleVote.org](http://www.BlackandBrownPeopleVote.org)
- The Advancement Project - [www.advancementproject.org/](http://www.advancementproject.org/)
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund [www.naacpldf.org/](http://www.naacpldf.org/)
- NAACP - [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)
- American Civil Liberties Union- [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)
- Project Vote - [www.projectvote.org/](http://www.projectvote.org/)
- Rainbow Push Coalition -[www.rainbowpush.org/](http://www.rainbowpush.org/)
- AFL-CIO - [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org)
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation - [www.ncbcp.org/](http://www.ncbcp.org/)
- The National Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights [www.lawyerscommittee.org](http://www.lawyerscommittee.org)
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights - [www.civilrights.org](http://www.civilrights.org)
- Voto Latino - [www.votolatino.com](http://www.votolatino.com)
- National Council of La Raza - <http://www.nclr.org/>
- Rock The Vote - <http://rockthevote.org/>
- National Conference of State Legislators  
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx>
- My Time to vote -  
[http://www.mytimetovote.com/United\\_States\\_Elections-2015.html](http://www.mytimetovote.com/United_States_Elections-2015.html)
- The Brennan Center for Justice -  
<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/voting-rights-election>
- MomsRising - <https://www.momsrising.org/blog/topics/momsvote>

## Youth-Initiated

- Black Lives Matters - [www.blacklivesmatter.org](http://www.blacklivesmatter.org)
- The Dream Defenders - [www.dreamdefenders.org](http://www.dreamdefenders.org)
- Gathering of Justice - <http://www.gatheringforjustice.org/>
- Ferguson Action - <http://fergusonaction.com/>
- Black Youth Project - <http://byp100.org/>
- Black Youth Vote - <http://ncbcp.org/programs/byv/>

