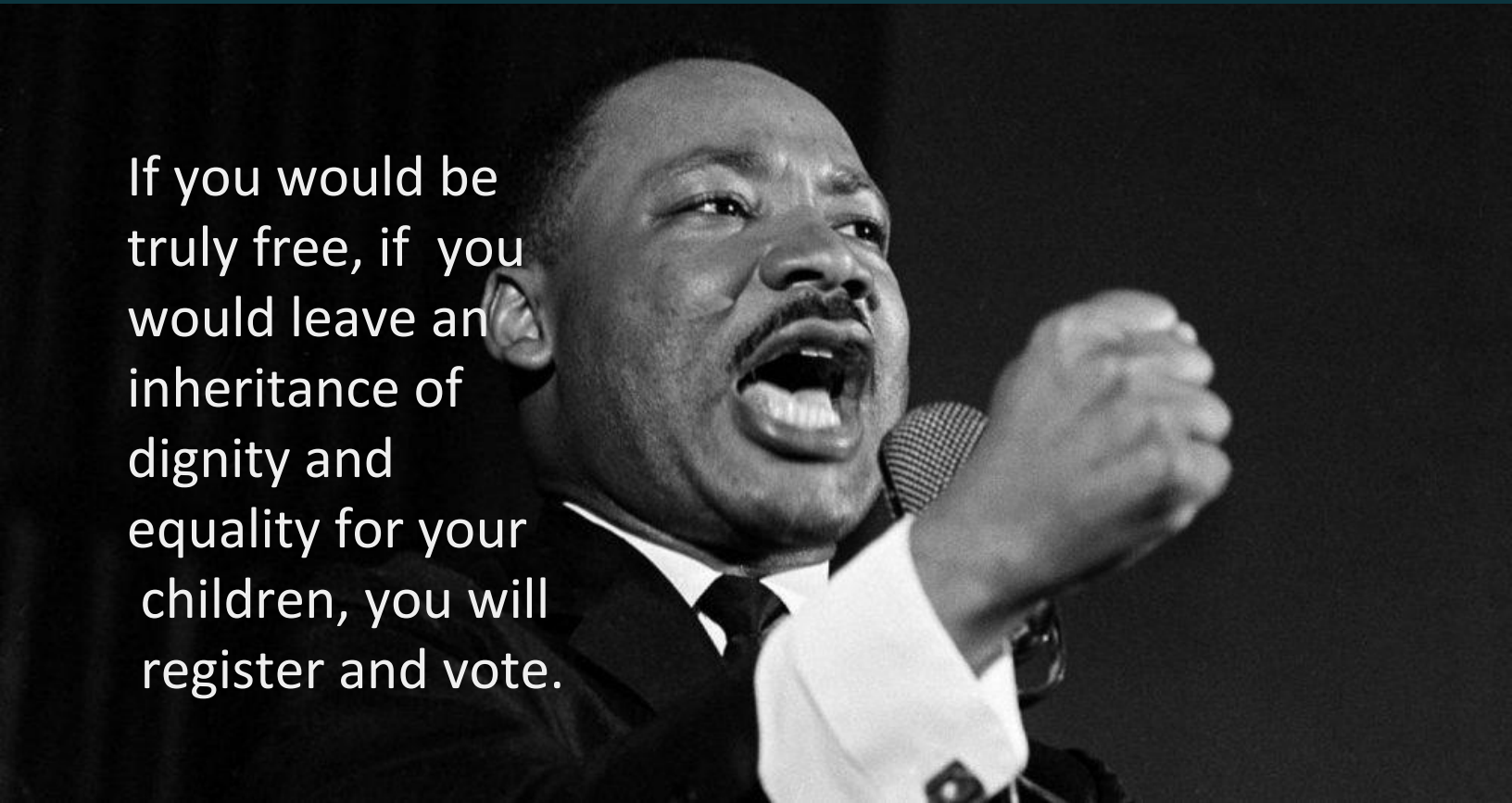


— 2018 —



If you would be truly free, if you would leave an inheritance of dignity and equality for your children, you will register and vote.

LAWYERS & COLLARS

Voter Education and Protection Program

TOOLKIT

Co-coordinated by Skinner Leadership Institute and Sojourners, In partnership with Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Brennan Center, together with diverse faith-based organizations.

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- ❑ What's at Stake in 2018? A Multi-racial & Multi-Faith Call to Action
- ❑ IRS Do's and Don't's for Churches During Election Activity
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Current partners:

African Methodist Presbyterian Church USA
 Progressive National Baptist Church
 Convention, Inc.
 United Churches of Christ



VISION AND PURPOSE

The **Lawyers and Collars** program is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, multiracial, faith-inspired voter protection effort of Sojourners and Skinner Leadership Institute in partnership with faith-based and civic engagement organizations for the **Midterm Elections 2018 and future elections.**

In the 2016 election, voter restrictions, intimidation, and suppression contributed to a significant decline in the voter participation rate by African Americans. Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, it is now easier for states to adopt voting laws that can have an adverse impact on minority voters including changes in voting laws that eliminate polling places, move them to less accessible locations, or reduce the hours that polls are open; tighten voter ID requirements; and reduce early voting and Sunday voting - popular among minority voters in certain regions.

The purpose of the Lawyers and Collars program is to equip and empower pastors and local church leaders to work alongside lawyers to protect vulnerable citizens at voting precincts. Together they will provide a combined legal and moral presence against voter suppression, intimidation, and harassment expected to rise in Midterm Elections 2018. Where possible, the effort will welcome and involve Imams, Rabbis, and other faith leaders.

Our faith teaches us that that all people are created in the image of God. Protecting the right to vote affirms the divine image and inherent value of all of God's children. Nothing diminishes the rule of law and our precious democracy more than voter suppression and efforts to marginalize and diminish the impact of vulnerable voters.

Many congregations and faith communities will focus on voter registration and mobilization during the 2018 Midterm Election. Sojourners and Skinner Leadership Institute strongly support these efforts even as we direct our attention to *ending voter suppression*. This toolkit provides pastors, clergy and other faith leaders with basic tips, tools, and resources to assist congregations in voter education and protection.



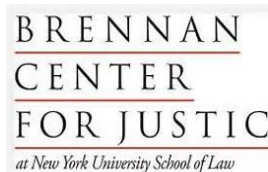
Rev. Jim Wallis
 Sojourners



Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
 Skinner Leadership Institute

VOTER EDUCATION AND PROTECTION PARTNERS

The Lawyers and Collars Program has a number of vital civic engagement partners, Below are legal partners who will work side by side with clergy in the voting precincts of vulnerable citizens. Other partners will join Lawyers and Collars Program during the course of the campaign.



- *African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)*
- *National African American Clergy Network*
- *National Council of Churches of Christ*
- *Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.*
- *Presbyterian Church USA/Office of Public Witness*
- *United Churches of Christ*

Lawyers and Collars program will equip and empower pastors, other clergy and church leaders, working in partnership with election protection lawyers and civic engagement organizations, to mobilize communities of faith in **voting rights education and **protection of our most vulnerable citizens** at polling stations and beyond.**

WE ARE WATCHING

An essential activity of the **Lawyers and Collars** voter education and protection program will be the **"We Are Watching" meetings with state election officials in such states as AL, FL, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, WI.** These meetings will serve two main purposes. First, they will be the strategic vehicle used to galvanize pastors and clergy persons that lead local campaign coalitions. Second, the meetings will serve as the official start to the local phase of the national campaign. For easy reference, a partial list of Secretaries of State is below.

ALABAMA

Hon. John Merrill, Secretary of State
www.sos.Alabama.gov
John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov

FLORIDA

Hon. Ken Detzner, Secretary of State
SecretaryofState@DOS.MyFlorida.com

MICHIGAN

Hon. Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State
www.michigan.gov/sos

MINNESOTA

Hon. Steve Simon, Secretary of State
www.sos.state.mn.us
secretary.state@state.mn.us

NEW YORK

Hon. Rossana Rosado, Secretary of State
www.dos.ny.gov; INFO@elections.ny.gov

OHIO

Hon. John Husted, Secretary of State
<https://www.sos.state.oh.us>

PENNSYLVANIA

Hon. Carol Aichele, Secretary of State;
www.dos.pa.gov

WISCONSIN

Hon. Doug La Follette, Secretary of State
statesec@sos.state.wi.us

We Are Watching - will be used to remind officials that Lawyers and Collars will be monitoring the election process from start to finish to ensure every citizen is able to exercise their right to vote. State-level gatherings and voter protection training sessions will also be implemented during this period of the campaign.

We are Building a Network - We will help to build and work with state networks of pastors and church leaders to collectively request Secretaries of State and/or other key election officials. We will also assist with equipping and preparing these coalitions for these meetings, drawing on relevant information on recent local and state level trends and policy changes.

2018 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION DATES* ALL LEADING UP TO

STATE (TARGET)	STATE PRIMARY RUNOFF DATE	STATE (TARGET)	STATE PRIMARY RUNOFF DATE
*Alabama	June 5 July 17	Nebraska	May 15
Alaska	Aug. 21	Nevada	June 12
Arizona	Aug. 28	New Hampshire	Sept. 11
Arkansas	May 22 June 19	New Jersey	June 5
California	June 5	New Mexico	June 5
Colorado	June 26	*New York	Sept. 13
Connecticut	Aug. 14	North Carolina	May 8
Delaware	Sept. 6	North Dakota	June 12
*Florida	Aug. 28	*Ohio	May 8
Georgia	May 22 July 24	Oklahoma	June 26 Aug. 28
Hawaii	Aug. 11 (Saturday)	Oregon	May 15
Idaho	May 15	*Pennsylvania	May 15
Illinois	March 20	Rhode Island	Sept. 12 (Wednesday)
Indiana	May 8	South Carolina	June 12 June 26
Iowa	June 5	South Dakota	June 5
Kansas	Aug. 7	Tennessee	Aug. 2 (Thursday)
Kentucky	May 22	Texas	Mar 6 May 22
Louisiana	Nov. 6 Dec. 8*	Utah	June 26
Maine	June 12	Vermont	Aug. 14
Maryland	June 26	Virginia	June 12
Massachusetts	Sept. 4	Washington	Aug. 7
*Michigan	Aug. 7	West Virginia	May 8
*Minnesota	Aug. 14	*Wisconsin	Aug. 14
Mississippi	June 5 June 26	Wyoming	Aug. 21
Missouri	Aug. 7	*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. Source: National Conference of State Legislatures	
Montana	June 5		

*Lawyers and Collars Target States

How Faith Leaders Can Protect the Right to Vote!

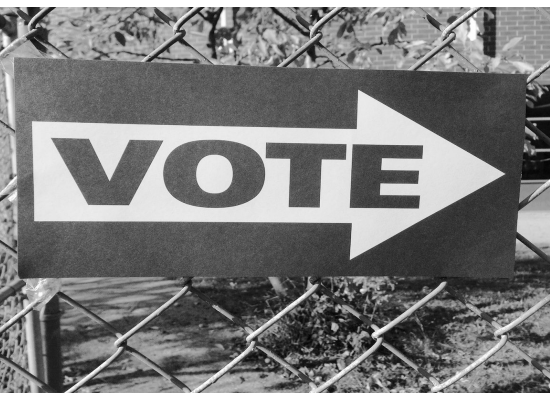
-How many people will be disenfranchised this November because their precincts have changed?

-Will they have time to go to a new site if they are working on Election Day?

How will people who rely on bus transportation to their polling places deal with such a change?

A few key steps, every faith leader can take:

1. Make sure all your members are registered to vote.
2. Educate your house of worship about updated voter identification laws, polling places, dates, and rights.
3. Preach and teach the importance of voting as a core part of discipleship and advancing justice in your house of worship.
4. Recruit clergy and church leaders to spend election day at the polls supporting and assisting voters working alongside lawyers.
5. Where possible, churches assist people with transportation to the polls



As faith leaders, we can combat voter suppression efforts by ensuring our congregations are registered to vote and by providing them with the resources to find their correct polling places. **Let's make sure every vote is counted.**

WHAT'S AT STAKE? WHY YOU MUST VOTE IN 2018

2018 Midterm Election has **LIFE OR DEATH** implications for vulnerable Americans!

The rise of white supremacy, xenophobia, and attacks on the poor, people of color, immigrants, Muslims, and Jews, makes voting for leaders of conscience imperative.

Many special interest groups, under the guise of preventing voter fraud, have sought to sow fear, chaos, and uncertainty.

The election will impact: (1) Who receives life-sustaining resources because of decisions that Congress makes; help set the terms for political debate leading toward the 2020 Presidential election (2) A fair 2020 Census count; (4) Increase the Prospects for Fair Congressional redistricting; (5) The election of leaders of integrity at the national and local levels who are committed to racial and economic justice and the common good.

People of faith have an important role to play in helping to educate, inspire, register, protect, and mobilize the vote of the most vulnerable citizens in Midterm Election 2018.

WHAT WILL BE LOST IF YOU DO NOT VOTE?

- Affordable Health Care
- Civil and Human Rights Protection Against Hate Crimes
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Fair 2020 Census Count = More Money for Vital Services
- Fair Policing (protection against radicalized policing and police violence)
- Food Nutrition Assistance - SNAP) (Food Stamps)
- Common Sense Gun Control
- Historically Black Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions
- Immigration Reform and DACA (Dream Act) Renewal
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Protection Against Sexual Assaults of Women
- Redistricting
- Social Security
- Voting Rights Enforcement
- Among many others

Join us in protecting the image of God that is assaulted through every act of voter suppression, harassment, and intimidation. Contact Information; email, website, [Twitter: @lawyersandcollars](#)

FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS & VOTING HELP WEBSITES

How do I verify that I am registered to vote and find my voting precinct? www.Headcount.org;
<https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered>
AnswerSite.com

How Do I register to vote online?
www.usa.gov ; www.turbovote.org

Who do I call if my right to vote is challenged?
1-866-OURVOTE - or - 1-866-687-8683

How do I obtain information on absentee ballots and early voting?
www.usa.gov

How Do I Vote As A Student Away From Home?
www.brennancenter.org

How Do I Restore My Voting Rights If I Have a Criminal Record?
www.brennancenter.org

How Do I Vote As A Member Of The Military? www.brennancenter.org

Each human being is made in God's image and likeness and the denial of the right to vote due to racial discrimination and bigotry are brutal assaults of the image of God in the children of God.



DO'S AND DON'TS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR FAITH LEADERS

- **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/office holders.
- **DO NOT** impose your opinions on the congregation. Please note: the Pastor's personal views and personal donations (not affiliated with the organization) can be used to his or her own discretion, as long as these views/endorsements are not imposed upon the congregation.
- As a congregation and/or as an individual faith leader; **DO** lobby and campaign for or against legislation.
- **DO NOT** publish faith organization editorials that 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 the faith organization 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 the organization's events/services.
- As a part of the congregation, **DO NOT** distribute candidate campaign literature; however the individual faith leader is allowed to do so.
- **DO** distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of office holders.
- **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 faith 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 which **CANNOT** be affiliated with a political party. As a congregation, **DO NOT** give contributions to political action committees, but the faith leader may **DO** this on his or her own terms.
- **DO** use the organization van for transportation to the polls, **DO NOT** use the van to advertise for candidates or allow candidate discussions in the van.

10 DIGITAL TIPS FOR REACHING YOUNG VOTERS

1. Make an announcement requesting IT professionals and/or youth to meet with the faith leader or designee following service.
2. Share the importance of Turnout Sunday with the IT professionals and youth; indicate how you want this community involved in this important effort.
3. If you have a digital minister or multimedia ministry, instruct them to create regular posts and tweets about Lawyers and Collars.
4. Request the congregation to post and/or tweet Turnout Sunday information on their personal social media accounts.
5. Print articles and messages in the church bulletin about Turnout Sunday.
6. Create a "quote campaign;" have youth post and tweet famous quotes about the importance of voting daily on Instagram.
7. Post audio clips of members who experienced discrimination speaking about the importance of voting on your media sight.
8. Allow a young people to tweet in service at a specified time about Turnout Sunday.
9. Reward the young person who receives the most re-tweets, new friends or followers as a result of Turnout Sunday.
10. Create a **Youth Digital Ambassador** who will from the pulpit share how to post, tweet and text for freedom.



SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT-

#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts



Sample TWITTER POSTS

- Our ancestors died for our right to vote. Don't take it for granted. **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**
- Our nation has become more diverse, this should be celebrated. **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**
- The image of God must not be diminished in any of God's children through voter suppression or intimidation. **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**
- Police shootings of unarmed black and brown people will not end unless you vote. **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**
- The rise of white supremacy and white privilege stops when we vote for leaders of high moral conscience. **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**
- You have the freedom to vote! Protect it. **#LawyersandCollars**
- African Americans and other minority groups STILL face oppression and discrimination. **#LawyersandCollars**
- It's 2018: it is time we are all treated EQUALLY. Discrimination belongs in HISTORY. **#LawyersandCollars**
- "Voting is the language of American democracy: if you don't vote, you don't count." Let's make everyone count. **#LawyersandCollars**
- Let's protect the lives of our Youth **#LawyersandCollars #EveryVoteCounts**

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. **#LawyersandCollars**
- Lawyers and Collars puts lawyers who defend the legal right to vote and faith leaders, who ensure the moral right to vote, in voting precincts of vulnerable citizens to help protect their vote. **#LawyersandCollars.**
- Issues like voting rights, criminal justice reform, immigration, protection against police brutality, DACA renewal, a consistent ethic of life and life sustaining programs for low income citizens will not be protected unless everyone eligible to vote actually votes. **#LawyersandCollars**
- 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. **#LawyersandCollars**

ADDITIONAL VOTING PROTECTION RESOURCES

Below is a list of organizations to partner with for local events around Voting Rights. They have been champions for informing and empowering communities around voting rights, voter protection, civil and human rights issues.

- AFL-CIO – www.aflcio.org
- American Civil Liberties Union – www.aclu.org
- Brennan Center for Justice - www.BrennanCenter.org
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund - www.naacpldf.org/
- NAACP – www.naacpnet.org
- Common Cause - www.commoncause.org/
- Demos - www.demos.org/
- Fair Elections Legal Network - www.fairelectionsnetwork.com/
- Hip Hop Caucus - www.hiphopcaucus.org/
- Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights – www.lawyerscommittee.org
- League of Women’s Voters - www.lwv.org/
- National Bar Association - www.nationalbar.org/
- National Action Network – www.nationalactionnetwork.net/
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund - www.naacpldf.org/
- NAACP – www.naacpnet.org
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation – www.ncbcp.org/
- People for the American Way – www.pfaw.org
- Project Vote – www.projectvote.org/
- Rainbow Push Coalition - www.rainbowpush.org/
- Skinner Leadership Institute - www.skinnerleadership.org
- Sojourners - www.Sojo.net
- The Advancement Project - www.advancementproject.org/
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights - www.civilrights.org

Our nation is currently in a **moral and political crisis** where the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, lower-income, immigrants, refugees, and people of color broadly are being further marginalized.