



African Methodist Episcopal Church

AME Voter ALERT (V-ALERT)

A Movement/Plan to Increase Voter
Education, Mobilization, and Registration
for the 2020 United States Elections

AME V-ALERT 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 in Philadelphia. 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 2020, with concurrence by the Council of Bishops, declared that the African Methodist Episcopal Church would kick off the 2020 voter mobilization season with renewed vigor. Within days, the Connectional Lay Organization collaborated with the Social Action Commission to invite all AME components/organizations to partner along with key national groups. The goal is to increase the 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 US who will use the AME V-Alert Toolkit to organize, register, educate and mobilize for the election – November 3, 2020.

Along with the updated AME V-Alert 2020 Toolkit, our website (www.ame-valert.org) will include the AAMLC VESSELS tools, The Freedom Sunday Toolkit, The NAACP Civic Engagement Guide 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 – Vessels Vote Initiative (www.pfaw.org/VESSELS)
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund (www.naacpldf.org)
- NAACP (www.naacp.org)
- The Freedom Sunday Coalition (<http://theblackchurchreport.com/votingtoolkit/>)
- Component organizations of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

We welcome partnership with all stakeholders who seek liberty and justice for all. Contact us at email and visit our official website: www.ame-valert.org

Signed,

The AME V-ALERT Team

and Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Director, AME Social Action Commission



African Methodist Episcopal Church

AME Voter ALERT (V-ALERT)

A Movement/Plan to Increase Voter Education, Mobilization,
and Registration for the 2020 United States Elections

NAME:

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

LOCAL CHURCH:

ORGANIZATION / COMPONENT: PARTNER:

OTHER:

NOTES:



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Council of Bishops

Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell | President

520 North Locust Street | North Little Rock, AR 72114 | 501-375-4310 | BishopMitchell134@gmail.com

“In Unity and without Question!!”

July 29, 2020

Dear AME Church Membership:

We are now only a few months away from the November 3rd elections, where we will vote for key federal, state and local offices. Undoubtedly, you have watched elected leaders in their decision-making roles more than normal during this COVID-19 period. Have you found some who you voted for and wish they would retire from public office? Are there others who do not appear to act in the best interest of their constituents or the whole of humankind? Have you watched candidates attack their opponents and twist the issues to their own benefit? Do the pollster predictions impact your vote?

We strongly suggest that as you ponder the answers, the common denominator is YOU. You CAN make a difference. YOU are the key to the outcome of the election. Do not let poll projections sway your vote. Poll projections are mere guesses at the outcome of an election. WE hold the power when we cast our votes to shape our beloved country. The upcoming elections are so important that we ask you to put everything that is not essential on hold and focus your attention on the work of AME V-ALERT. We are sounding an alarm! We must educate, mobilize, and register our communities to VOTE. Our mission is clear. We CAN make a difference! We MUST make a difference! It is OUR TURN; OUR watch and we must ACT!

If you have not already created your own action plan, please utilize this toolkit from the AME V-Alert (amev-alert.org) website. Partners have resources that can help you. On our site, you can share your events and outcomes with us. Expect the daily countdown 60 days prior to the election & take action to help us achieve 100% voter turnout. Let our voices be the voice of the voiceless. Let us use our talents, our resources, and our time to insure justice for all!

Your Council of Bishops speaks in a unified voice challenging you to become engaged, to catch the vision, and to move forward in the fulfilling of the dream of a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Mitchell

Bishop Michael Mitchell, President
Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Senior Bishop
Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Secretary

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD . . . VOTE!!!

“While you have the right to sit this election out, the responsibility is so enormous and the consequences so grave that no one can or should sit this one out.” (Source unknown)

Bishop

Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
Senior Bishop

Bishop

E. Anne Henning Byfield
Secretary

Bishop

Ronnie E. Brailsford
Assistant Secretary

Bishop

Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Bishop

Gregory G. M. Ingram

Bishop

Wilfred Jacobus Messiah

Bishop

Paul Jones Mulenga Kawimbe

Bishop

James Levert Davis

Bishop

David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.

Bishop

Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.

Bishop

E. Earl McCloud, Jr.

Bishop

Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath

Bishop

Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.

Bishop

John Franklin White

Bishop

Clement Willie Fugh

Bishop Reginald

Thomas Jackson

Bishop

Harry Lee Seawright

Bishop

Stafford J.N. Wicker

Bishop

Frank Madison Reid, III

Retired:

Bishop Frederick C. James

Bishop Frank C. Cummings

Bishop Phillip R. Cousin, Sr.

Bishop Henry Allen Belin, Jr.

Bishop John Richard Bryant

Bishop Robert Vaughn Webster

Bishop William P. DeVaux, Sr.

Bishop Theodore L. Kirkland

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris

Bishop Preston W. Williams, Jr.

Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry

Office of the Bishop

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



BISHOP ADAM JEFFERSON RICHARDSON, JR., Presiding Prelate

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Dear Beloved 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 2020 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 3, 2020**, 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 3rd. To be the difference in determining whether racial profiling continues to be an all-too-real yet determining undocumented reality for African-Americans, we must vote. To be the difference in whether the federal government will work to expand and ensure economic opportunities for all Americans, we must vote on November 3rd. To end the crippling of lives in prisons and jails with restoration denied, we must vote. To insure HBCUs can survive we must vote on November 3rd.

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 3rd. Let's just do it! For more information contact us at ameValert@gmail.com or go to www.amev-alert.org.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Senior Bishop

*Florida • Central • South • West Coast • East • Bahamas
Annual Conferences*





Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, President - Connectional Lay Organization
Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Chairperson - Lay Commission

Date: January 2020
From: Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Fourteenth District – Lay Commission Chairperson
To: AME Members
Re: AME V-Alert Initiative

As you are aware November 3, 2020 will be Election Day in the United States of America. Prior to the General Election, Primary elections will narrow the field of eligible candidates for office at every level. Our halls of government, state houses, county halls of administration, city halls, courts, and school boards will be on ballots awaiting voter decision. The fate of our towns, cities, public education, and eco-systems will be settled as initiatives are voted up or down. The quality of life as we know it will be determined by those who vote and impacted by those who fail to show up at the polls or cast an absentee ballot.

In 2016 the voter turnout among minorities, millions of eligible voters did not vote, while whites voted in larger numbers. The turnout among African-Americans was lower than in 2008 or 2012 at a time when we still needed to send of message that strong leadership with integrity was needed. While there appeared to be more evidence of voter suppression tactics, it is clear that best efforts to reach those who feel shut out of the process fell short our goals.

As the chair of the Lay Commission, it is my honor to work closely with dedicated leadership of the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) to provide the African Methodist Episcopal Church with an excellent time tested strategy for taking action to mobilize voters who did not show up in 2016 to vote in the upcoming 2020 election series. We are grateful to the CLO for AME V-Alert, which has been a guide 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. Training will be offered beginning at the 51th quadrennial session of the AME Church and continuing through Election Day. 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 2020 a priority. Most importantly, VOTE and urge others to vote!





Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

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July 30, 2020

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Director of Lay Activities
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Director of Public Relations
Dianne H. Battle

Young Adult Representative
Jamesha Williams

The Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) is humbled to continue its stewardship of Voter registration, education and mobilization for another election season in the United States of America. Our success comes, however, because so many partners have committed to full engagement in this important effort in 2020.

My predecessor, Sis Valerie Gary Bell set as one of her highest priorities the work of AMEV-Alert as the vehicle to stir up the passion of our founders, and honor the legacy of the Free Africa Society Movement that became the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Today, I remind us that so many of her priorities are key to positively impacting ministry in the twenty-first century.

Further please take note that the outcome of voting in the USA truly impacts the whole world. In years past, the US financial support has undergirded governance around the globe. Observing the model of democracy and justice has inspired millions to seek freedom at home. The AME Church, working in 39 nations on 5 continents has melded the best of talents with resources to find solutions and "make bricks without straws". Yes, I am proud to salute the strong leadership of our church, and the supportive and loyal followship who decry the injustices against persons of African descent. Together let us declare that we will do all we can to make *the* difference on November 3, 2020.

Thank you to a strong core of collaborators – AME Council of Bishops, AME Christian Education Department, AME Publishing House, AME Scouts, Clergy Family Information Center, Connectional Lay Organization, CONN N' SWAWO plus PKs, International Health Commission, Music and Christian Arts Ministry, Richard Allen Young Adult Council, Social Action Commission, Sons of Allen, The Christian Recorder, Women In Ministry, Women's Missionary Society, and Young Peoples Division.

We pledge to remove the silos, creating a movement of people determined to be heard through the partnership with the African American Ministers Leadership Council, Lawyers and Collars, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and NAACP.

When the polls have closed, we want to be on record as having left no stone unturned. We remain faithful and available to do God's will.

Matikane Abednego Makiti,
President



Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, President - Connectional Lay Organization
Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Chairperson - Lay Commission

DATE: January 2020
TO: African Methodist Episcopal Church
FROM: Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, President - Connectional Lay Organization
RE: AME V-Alert Initiative

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 2020.

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 eligible adult we can contact to VOTE in the upcoming general election on November 3, 2020.¹

Some of you may already be involved in a Get-Out-The-Vote effort. If so, *BRAVO!* Others intend to vote, but not make much 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 3, 2020 is ELECTION DAY

REMEMBER THE HISTORIC PURPOSE! To bring alive the AME mission of encouraging self-determination, self-help, and reliance

REMEMBER THE PURPOSE! The AME 2020 V-Alert team, coordinators at the Episcopal District Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and local church levels are ready! Let's get busy and make it happen!

1 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.



The 2020 AME V-ALERT TOOLKIT

The "AME Voter Alert" Campaign (AMEV-Alert) is committed to keeping everyone informed, educated, and pro-active about voting in upcoming elections.

#LiftEveryVote in 2020!



#WeAreAME #AMESocialAction #AMEGLD1912 #AMEVAlert





2020 AME V-ALERT TOOLKIT

Seasoned members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from the Lay Organization developed this voter education/motivation toolkit as a guide 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, towns, 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!***

Three Strategic Ways To Get Started

If your pastor catches the vision and wishes to take leadership, refer to this PULPIT INSPIRED approach:

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 a Buddy System for new registrants, absentee voter applicants, and those with poor voting records. Target seniors in congregate living, youth at college, young adults, sick and shut-in, etc.
- E. Create event around turn out for voter registration deadline – both for the June primaries and the November general election
- F. Bring together intercessory prayer teams for the informed vote
- G. Canvass the congregation to identify unregistered voters
- H. Identify regional and local coordinators
- I. Identify key people and spheres of Influence in the congregation (elected, appointed, community based leadership)
- J. Establish email alerts with a countdown
- K. Set up *issues forums* – work in partnership with other churches, community groups, etc.
- L. Talk about voter suppression and new criteria for registering. Inform about inmate rights, rights of probationers/parolees, etc.

If your pastor understands the need but wishes for a member to take leadership, then refer to this PEW COORDINATED approach:



PEW COORDINATED

- A. Follow all of the steps above (A – L)
- B. Create teams in the local congregation and check up dates to report to the pastor & official board of church conference.
- C. Encourage every ministry to set a goal for the number of people to register and track the people like the Class Leader system

If your pastor understands the need but wishes for a member to take leadership, then refer to this PEW COORDINATED approach:

PEW COORDINATED

- D. Follow all of the steps above (A – L)
- E. Create teams in the local congregation and check up dates to report to the pastor & official board of church conference.
- F. Encourage every ministry to set a goal for the number of people to register and track the people like the Class Leader system

If neither your pastor nor your fellow members of the CHURCH are prepared to make a commitment and join with you, then ask for support in being the church's representative in community coalition, using this **COMMUNITY LEADER LED** approach.

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.)
- C. Follow Steps A – L from Pulpit Inspired approach.

For Effective Work In And Among Congregations

- A. Take the message to the upcoming annual conferences, planning & mid-year meetings
- B. Obtain schedule of annual conferences and get on the agenda
- C. Prepare mailing to bishops, district lay presidents, directors of lay activities, general officers, AME school presidents, and connectional officers. Use the letters in the toolkit under the signature of the council of bishops, connectional lay organization president and/or others in the toolkit
- D. Establish email 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.

- E. Contact key clergy to give scriptural guidance
- F. Contact all local and national programs for resource assistance

Steps for Voter Registration and Education

See the attached step-by-step guide for assistance. We encourage feedback via the e-mail alert.

NOTES



AME V-ALERT TASK LIST

A voter education, voter mobilization (“Get Out The Vote”), and voter registration project is an excellent undertaking for a local congregation or committed members in local churches. Efforts like AME V-ALERT provide the opportunity for personal contact with every member of the congregation, 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, rides to the polls or by voting by absentee ballot. Workers on 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 local churches and/or a coalition of churches.

- Task 1:** Know the laws that 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.
- 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** is a new technique that accomplishes the same goal It is automated calling with a programmed message and contact number for follow-up.



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, sick and shut in list, 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 who has experience in the public relations field and who has contacts with local newspapers, television, and radio stations. Local media contacts are especially important if your project extends beyond the local chapter. 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 who will identify organizations compensating for registrations and GOTV.

The Transportation Coordinator develops a plan for transporting voters to the polls. Every person registered by the project needs to be re-contacted. All publicity should mention the transportation. Special outreach might reach special groups – youth, seniors 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, chapter 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**¹ 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.

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; 2020



USE YOUR LETTERHEAD

LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE INITIATIVE! A Letter to Newly Registered Voters

TO:
FROM:
RE:

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 2020 election series 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 3, 2020, 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 3rd. 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 3rd.

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 3rd. Let's just do it.

For more information contact us at [enter email address here]

CHURCH NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFO HERE.



USE YOUR LETTERHEAD

TO:
FROM:
RE:

A CALL TO ACTION

Not just a difference, but we can make the difference. As a community we, in the greater [enter city here] area have the power to make the 2020 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 8, 2020, 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 3, 2020. 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 3rd. 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 un-employed, 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 3, 2020. Let's just do it.

For more information contact us at [enter email address here].

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.

[enter church name here]

ORGANIZATION CHART FOR AME V-ALERT OPERATIONS

(Voter Education, Mobilization, and Registration)

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:



Post and circulate this sign-up sheet prominently in order for each volunteer to identify his or her preferred area of activity. If a volunteer does not choose an area, please make an assignment. Also, list each volunteer on this sign-up sheet.

AME V-ALERT TOOLS

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

[illegible]

Develop a list of all persons who are registered in AME V-ALERT. Send to each the new registrants letter. Contact them when early voting and absentee voting begins. Contact them on election eve and Election Day if needed.

[enter church name here]

VOTER MOBILIZATION IS OUR GOAL – LET’S GO!

[illegible]

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete and submit reports from events or services when AME V-Alert work takes place.

AME V-ALERT EVENT REPORTING FORM

We Hosted _____ # Events on _____
_____ #people attended the event/service.
_____ # people tweeting
_____ #people who receive email blasts, robo calls, etc.
_____ #new people registered to vote
_____ #committed to vote by November 3rd!

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 or submit this form online at www.ame-valert.org.

VOTER BEATITUDES

By the late 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 2020



LITANY FOR SERVANT LEADERS and 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 AND RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

By Sis. 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 (James 2:14, 4:2)

A CALL TO ACTION – SOCIAL JUSTICE LITANY

“Our Prophetic Calling”

Authored by Dr. Roderick Dwayne Belin
President/Publisher AME Sunday School Union

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 DON'TS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHURCHES AND PASTORS

- DO** discuss the candidates' positions on issues to the congregation.
- DO** lobby and campaign for or against legislation.
- DO** publish political ads; as long as the regular rates are applied (but **DO NOT** publish these ads as a donation).
- DO** publish news stories about campaigns in order to keep the congregation informed.
- 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. But, as a part of the congregation, **DO NOT** distribute candidate campaign literature. An individual church leader is allowed to do so.
- DO** distribute candidate surveys and/or voting records of officeholders.
- 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 (it **CAN NOT** be affiliated with a political party).



DO'S AND DON'TS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHURCHES AND PASTORS - Continued

DO use the church van for transportation to the polls.

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 to 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 or her own discretion, as long as these views are not imposed upon the congregation.

As a congregation and/or as an individual church leader, **DO NOT** publish church editorials that are meant to support or oppose candidates.

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.

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 NOT use the church van to advertise candidates or allow candidate discussions in the van.

Source: "Preaching Politics from the Pulpit." Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. | www.pewforum.org



LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE INITIATIVE!

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 2020 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 U.S. presidential election, overall voter turnout was a record high of 61.4% in 2016. But the Black vote decreased, while the White vote increased. Our history dictates that this low voter turnout is unacceptable. 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 on 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 “eligible,” 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 OR PUBLIC FORUMS, MEDIA, AND PULPIT

- President Obama was stymied in his efforts to get progressive legislation passed. Both the US House and US Senate rejected progressive legislation, denied him the opportunity to appoint capable and eligible jurists to the courts, and unfunded initiative to help empower people who need and deserve our government's support. If we don't maintain a majority in the US House of Representatives and send more Senators who care about us and our communities to serve decades of civil rights and human rights will be reversed. Confirmations of judges to insure fair and equitable interpretation of the law is required to have a more just society guaranteeing justice and liberty for all.
- President Trump has not demonstrated an understanding for or sensitivity to the needs of our communities and people who fall below the rich and very rich on the economic ladder. If we have "shown up" in 2016, possible twenty (20) seats in the House would have had difference Congresspersons. Let's overcome apathy and any obstacle that would keep us from achieving 100% voter turnout.
- If we do not vote this spring and 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, and poisoning of air water, and soil will continue to pollute our environment .
- 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 or www.amev-alert.org



VOTING RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS

Never Lose Right to Vote	Lost Only While Incarcerated; Automatic Restoration After Release	Lost Until the Completion Of Sentence (Parole and/or Probation); Automatic Restoration After	Lost Until Completion of Sentence In Some State A Post-Sentence 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**	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	

* First time offenders have rights restored upon completion of sentence. Repeat offenders must have them restored through pardon.

** Convictions for buying or selling votes can only be restored through pardon.

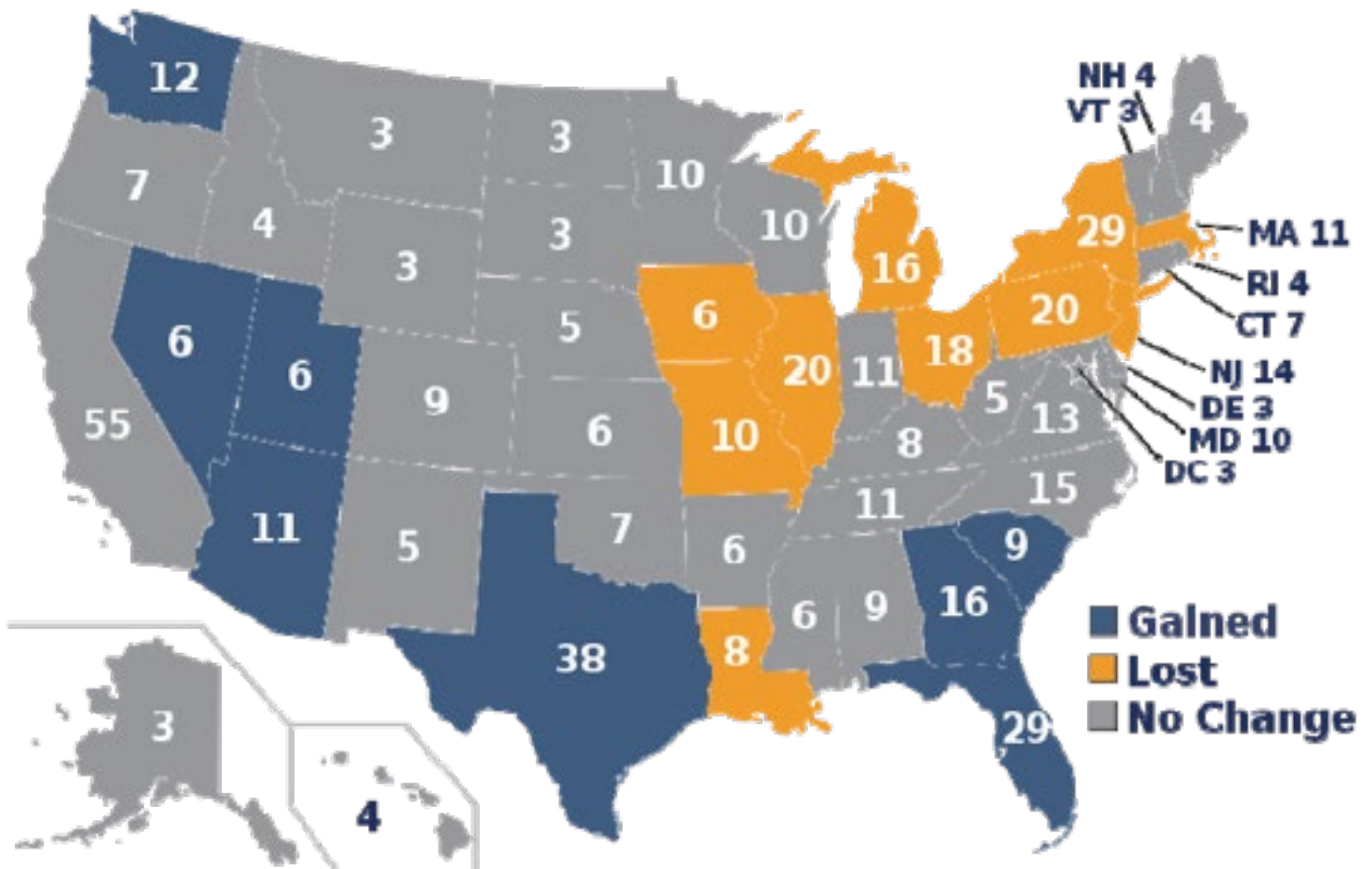
*** Rights restored after two year waiting period after completion of sentence.

**** Rights are restored upon completion of sentence for first time felon offenders convicted of less serious crimes. Others must do so through court action or pardon.

***** In 2015, Wyoming restored rights to those convicted of non-violent felonies upon completion of sentence.



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 auto dialer 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.

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

National Voter Registration Day | www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 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

www.nass.org/elections-voting/2020-presidential-election/

Rock the Vote:

www.rockthevote.com

Black and Brown People Vote:

www.blackandbrownpeoplevote.org

SOME ACTION STEPS

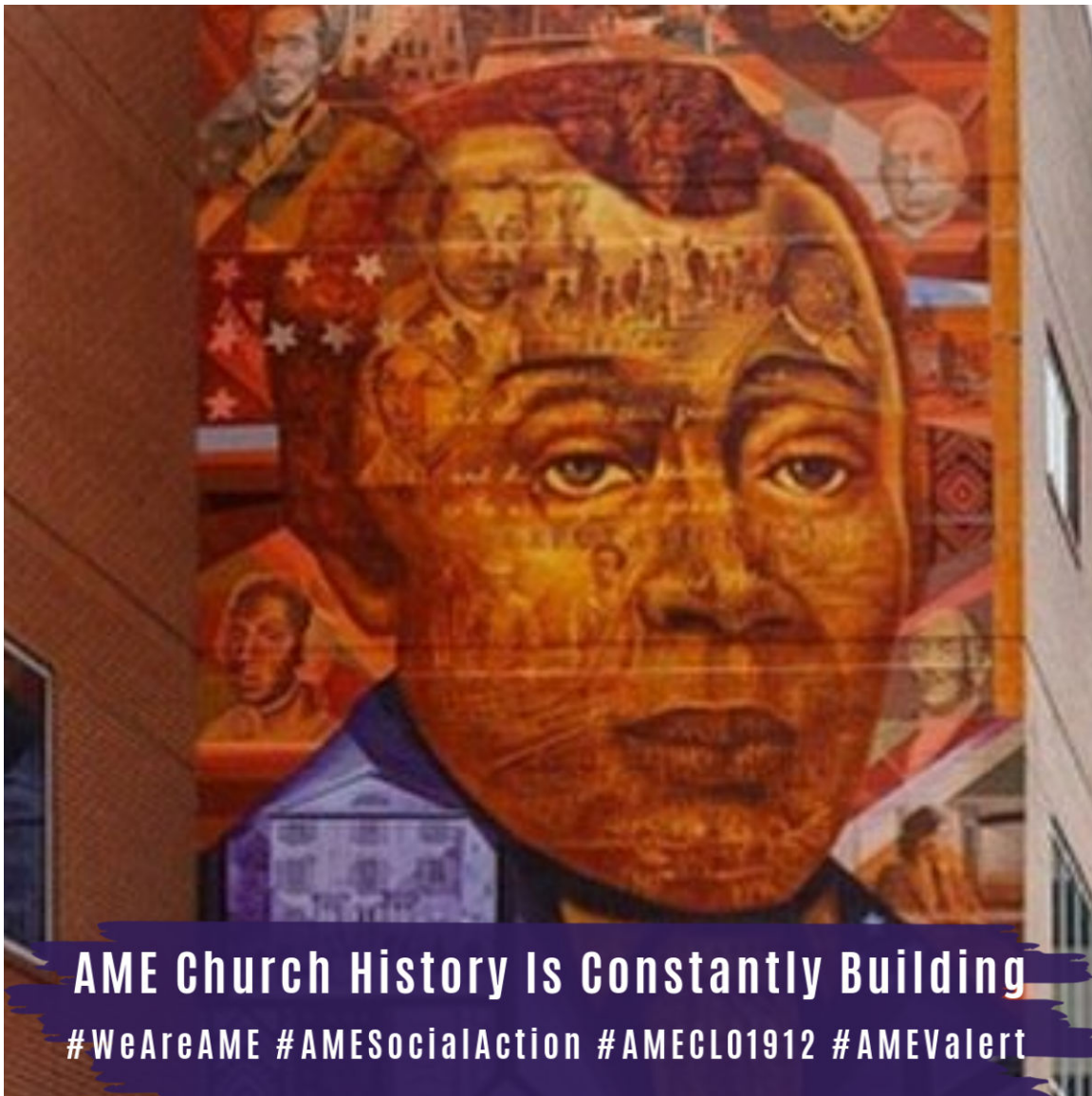
TWO WEEKS BEFORE ELECTION DAY, EVERY FAITH COMMUNITY COULD HELP VOTERS TO...

- Develop worship tools such as litanies, prayers, meditations, pastor's words, newsletter articles, web announcements and phone trees to remind voters that November 3, 2020 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 five (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 someone 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

The following is a list of organizations to partner with for local events around criminal justice reform and voting rights topics. 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 ORGANIZATIONS

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

CIVIC and COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

- The John Legend #FREEAMERICA Initiative - www.letsfreeamerica.org
- Black and Brown People Voter - www.BlackandBrownPeopleVote.org
- The Advancement Project - www.advancementproject.org/
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund - www.naacpldf.org/
- NAACP – www.naacp.org
- American Civil Liberties Union - www.aclu.org
- Project Vote – www.projectvote.org/
- Rainbow Push Coalition - www.rainbowpush.org/
- AFL-CIO - www.aflcio.org
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation - www.ncbcp.org/
- The National Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights - www.lawyerscommittee.org
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights - www.civilrights.org
- Voto Latino - www.votolatino.com
- National Council of La Raza - <http://www.nclr.org/>
- Rock The Vote - <http://rockthevote.org/>
- National Conference of State Legislators - www.ncsl.org
- My Time to vote - www.mytimetovote.com/United_States_Elections-2015.html
- Brennan Center for Justice – www.brennancenter.org
- MomsRising - www.momsrising.org

YOUTH-CENTERED ORGANIZATIONS

- Black Lives Matters - www.blacklivesmatter.org
- The Dream Defenders - www.dreamdefenders.org
- Gathering of Justice - www.gatheringforjustice.org/
- Ferguson Action – www.fergusonaction.com/
- Black Youth Project - www.byp100.org/
- Black Youth Vote – www.ncbcp.org/programs/byv/

