

Pastor to Pastor Letter

Dear Pastor and Church Leaders,

As faith leaders we are called to proclaim the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) and the truth about His attributes, His will, His works, and His way of salvation. We are to teach believers not only to know the truth, but to live it as salt and light in this culture according to Matthew 5:13.

Voting is a privilege and a duty. Christian citizens can vote their values by selecting candidates who closely align with their biblical values. You are invited to review and agree with the following statements and to recommend www.WeBelieveWeVote.com as an excellent resource for voters in your congregation.

Review WBWV's Evaluation Process and Core Beliefs. If you agree, please let Peggy Paullin, WBWV's Executive Director, know and she will add your name to the list of pastors who are encouraging their congregations to use the voter resources at www.WeBelieveWeVote.com. You can contact Peggy at 509-868-55890, or peggy@WeBelieveWeVote.com.

Suggested bulletin announcement: "As Christian citizens we have the privilege and duty to vote our biblical values by [date of election]. While not endorsing any candidate, I recommend [WeBelieveWeVote.com](http://www.WeBelieveWeVote.com) as a website with several non-partisan resources available for your review. [Pastor's name]"

Please take a moment to join the Mailing List on the website to receive the Voter Guide by email so you can forward to your personal contacts as a private citizen.

Together for Christ and Community,

Pastors from Diverse Congregations (see list on website)

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?" [1781, Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII]

"The church must take right ground regarding politics....The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them...God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground. Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God... God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics." Charles Finney in *America's God and Country* by William J. Federer

Pastors encourage their congregations to vote for good reasons. God Instituted Civil Government and Purposed it to:

- Provide social order. Dt 1:15-16, 10:12-13; 17:14-20
- Preserve human dignity. Genesis 4:9-15, 5:1
- Protect peace. I Timothy 2:1-2; Proverbs 11:14
- Promote Justice. Psalms 82:2-4; Daniel 4:27; Romans 13:3
- Punish evil, praise goodness. Romans 13: 3-7; I Peter 2:13-14; Proverbs 14:34

Civic Leaders are God's Servants and Are Called to Rule Righteously, in Romans 13:4-6, God says that rulers are God's servants who carry a sword (authority). For this, we pay taxes to support governing authorities who are God's servants, giving their full time to governing. In Exodus 18:21 and Deuteronomy 16:18-20, God says to select capable and trustworthy men who fear God and hate dishonest gain and appoint them as officials.

God Calls Christians to Be Active Citizens. Christians are to pray for the nation's leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Christians are to pay taxes (Matthew 22:21). Christians are to follow the law, submitting to "every authority instituted among men..." (1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:2-5). Christians are to show authorities proper respect (Romans 13:4). Christians are to stand up and speak out when man's law conflicts with God's law as Peter and the Apostles did in Acts 5:29.

Why Christians Should Vote. God says to "select capable men from all the people — men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain — and appoint them as officials (Exodus 18:21 emphasis added). In America, we have the privilege of voting our leaders into service. God says Christians are the "salt of the earth" and we can help influence public policy for good when we vote for leaders who share our values (Matthew 5:13).

Silence in the face of evil is sin (Proverbs 24:11); but Christians in this country can speak out with their vote, as well as their voice. [Taken from "Biblical roles of Government and Citizenship" www.libertyinstitute.org] "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." Samuel Adams, Founding Father