

Voting Rights

In partnership with the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) has developed this 10-step guide for your church and community to elevate and protect your right to vote.

1. Start a Civic Education Class - Have an initial conversation with your pastor, church leadership, and community leaders to gauge interest and plan a class on frameworks, relationships, and systems related to voting rights that may be from 6 to 8 weeks in duration.
2. Check Your Registration Status - Contact your county to see if you need to update any information with their record of you as an eligible voter.
3. Research the Candidates - Learn more about those running for office usually listed on the County Board of Elections website or that of the candidate.
4. Learn About Early Voting and Same Day Voting Options - Find out more about the times, dates, and locations of early voting. Check with your County Board of Elections or State Board of Elections.
5. Share Your Voting Plans - Let those in your social circle know about how and when you will vote so that it might encourage them to do the same with their friends.
6. Host Voter Engagement Events - Consider hosting candidates and members of the community at your church building for Town Hall Meetings, Political Forums, or Debates that make space for the voicing of concerns as well as the prayers of the people.

7. Run a Letter Writing Campaign - A congregation and community can express their concerns and hopes for a candidate or official to consider during their campaign and tenure by writing to them directly.
8. Write Letters to the Editor - Getting your perspective published in a newspaper can garner support for a position and even persuade decision-makers and voters on an issue.

9. Check Additional Resources

- [United States Election Assistance Commission](#)
- [Vote 411](#)
- [Better Civics](#)
- [Ballot Ready](#)
- [Ballotopedia](#)
- [ACLU-Know Your Rights](#)
- [VOTE](#)
- [When We All Vote](#)
- [Rock The Vote](#)
- [Vote Riders](#)

10. Pray With Us - We are praying for and with you in this election season. Join us in this prayer:

God of all the nations,

We thank you for the gift and grace of rights and liberties. We are thankful for the sacrifice and commitment of our ancestors to ensure that we would be able to not only be recipients but participants in the benefits of these yet-to-be United States. We pray that you would be with each congregation, community, and state as they embark upon the ministry of voting and civic participation. We pray their protection and that your Holy Spirit might inspire them to speak up and speak out; to organize like Nat Turner; mobilize like Harriet Tubman; write like Phyllis Wheatley and David Walker; preach like Martin Luther King, Jr; challenge like Bayard Rustin; encourage like Rosa Parks; and fight for their rights like Malcolm X. We thank you in advance for the added souls to the polls, the voters, their families, and their dreams. We ask that you bless each congregation, each leader, and each community member. Allow them to grow in the grace and strength of your power. It is in Jesus the Christ, our redeemer, our liberator, and our advocate we do pray.

Amen and Ase.