

VESSELS A-B-C's For Candidate and Legislation Support or Opposition

AAMLC

AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTERS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A Non-Partisan Project of People For the American Way Foundation

Religious institutions have a non-profit, non-partisan 501c3 IRS designation. The following should be observed by pastors, staff and church leadership.

Allow Political Candidates to Use Name For Support

No – Church

Yes - Pastor¹

Allow Political Candidates to Preach or Read Scripture Without Contribution Solicitation or Personal Vote Message During Service

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

Appearance of Candidate(s) at Church Meeting/Service Without Complimentary Words or Remarks from Candidate(s)

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

Campaign for Candidates (Including Church Members)

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Church Bulletin/Program/Website Announcement By Staff/Pastor Endorsing/Opposing Candidate

No – Church

No – Pastor

Church Bulletin/Program/Website Posting Commentary on Political Issues Without Direction as to Who to Vote For

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

Church Bulletin/Program/Website Posting Of All Candidate Views on Political Issues

Yes – Church

N/A - Pastor

Conduct Non-Partisan Voter Registration and Education Efforts Pursuant to State Guidelines

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Contribute to Political Action Committee (PAC's)

No – Church

Yes - Pastor

Contribute to Political Candidates

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Distribute Statements and Opinions for All Candidates in Church Parking Lot (no endorsement)

Yes – Church

N/A - Pastor

Distribute Candidate Surveys and Incumbent Voting Records (without comment)

Yes – Church

Yes – Pastor

Distribute Position Papers Supporting or Opposing Legislation or Citizen Initiatives

Yes – Church²

Yes – Pastor

Educate Current and Future Voters on Viewpoints of All Candidates

Yes – Church

Yes – Pastor

Educate on Political Process and Social/Economic/Political Legislative Issues at Local, State and Federal Levels

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Encourage Community and Church Members to Vote For or Against Legislation or Citizen Initiatives (Ballot Initiatives)

Yes - Church³

Yes - Pastor

Endorse or Oppose Political Candidates (Any Office)

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Fundraise for Candidates

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

In-kind and Independent Expenditures For or Against a Political Candidate

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Introduce Political Candidates at Church (no endorsement)

Yes – Church

Yes – Pastor

Invite All Candidates To A Church Organized Community Forum

Yes – Church (lobby limits as a 501c3)

Yes – Pastor

Lobby or Advocate for Candidates to Support or Oppose Legislation or Citizen Initiatives

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Participate in Petition Drives/Ballot Initiatives Supporting or Opposing Legislation or Citizen Initiatives

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Preach Sermons on Social Issues and Concerns to Encourage Activism

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Rent Church Facilities (all candidates must be allowed or invited to similarly rent)

Yes – Church

N/A - Pastor

Rent or Loan Church Mailing/Email List to All Candidates – Same Terms, Same Price

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

Rent or Loan Church Mailing/Email List to Advocacy/Lobby Group

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

Speak At A Political Event

No-Church

Yes-Pastor (As an individual)

Support or Oppose Judicial, Department or Cabinet Appointments

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Support or Oppose Judicial Candidates

No – Church

Yes – Pastor

Support or Oppose Legislation that Directly Relates to the Church as an Organization

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Support or Oppose Legislation Unrelated to Church as an Organization

Yes – Church

Yes - Pastor

Support or Oppose Other Political Appointments of Non-Elected Officials

Yes – Church

Yes – Pastor

Use of Church Facilities by Advocacy/Lobbying Groups to Inform of Social Issues

Yes – Church

N/A – Pastor

**ARE YOU READY TO BE A VESSEL?
ARE YOU READY TO ADVOCATE - VOTE?**

VESSELS are people of faith - clergy, pastors, ministry and community leaders, men, women and young adults - firmly committed to increasing civic participation in communities that traditionally have been disenfranchised or discriminated against. **VESSELS** provides a non-partisan way to engage in the political process that resonates with the identity of faith communities. **VESSELS** stand firmly against apathy and disengagement and the ploys of the conservatives who engage in voter suppression tactics. **VESSELS** create opportunities to conduct non-partisan voter registration, voter information and voter (issue) education to maximize the participation of informed voting age African Americans in the electoral process in every special, local, state, national election. **You Are A VESSEL** Full of Power! Join us at www.VESSELSVOTE.org or call 202-467-4999 for more information.

VESSELS is a non-partisan, faith based model for civic engagement, voter empowerment, year round initiative of African American Religious Affairs (AARA) department of People For the American Way Foundation (www.pfaw.org) and implemented by the members of the African American Ministers Leadership Council (AAMLC) and its partners. Visit vesselsvote@pfaw.org.

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202-467-4999 * www.vesselsvote.org

1. In his or her own individual capacity, a pastor may endorse or oppose any candidate for elective office and accordingly, "Pastor" is referenced herein in that respect. A pastor may also include his or her title and church affiliation in a personal endorsement with the disclaimer: "Title and affiliation for identification purposes only."
2. As a 501c3 organization churches can support or oppose legislation as long as doing so does not become a substantial part of the overall operation. 501c4 organizations, of which churches are not, can support or oppose legislation without limits.
3. Same as stated above.
4. See footnote #2
5. As a 501c3 a church can support or oppose without limits legislation that directly affects its structure and operation as an organization. Example: Efforts to repeal tax-exempt status of churches, places of worship.
6. See footnote #2

Operation E.M.R.

Register... Educate... Mobilize

AFRICAN AMERICAN
CATHOLIC CONGREGATION



A project of the A.M.E.Church