



VALUE THEM BOTH

How to Host A Voter Registration Drive

By hosting a voter-registration drive, you can help Christians make their voices heard in elections that ultimately determine the future of Kansas. This kind of effort assists people in your church who need a convenient way to register for the first time or update their registration. Many churches designate “Citizenship Sundays” that feature civic responsibility sermons and voter-registration tables.

Step 1: Ask.

It’s important to get church leaders’ permission for every new activity so you earn and keep their trust. When asking permission to do a voter registration drive, emphasize that this type of effort is:

- **Biblical.** By encouraging voter registration, pastors lead their church to follow the Romans 13 mandate to fulfill civic duties as well as Matthew 5’s command to be the light.
- **Legal.** The IRS says church voter-registration drives are legal, and even encouraged, as long as they’re nonpartisan and don’t endorse or oppose candidates, though materials on issues like VALUE THEM BOTH are allowed.

Step 2: Prepare.

Your goal should be to register every church member who has not yet registered or needs to re-register due to a change of name, address, or to update party affiliation. Easy ways to obtain registration cards:

- **Kansas form** - Voter registration forms are available at:
<https://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/voterregistration.pdf>
- **Local registrar’s office:** You also can go directly to your county clerk’s or secretary of state’s office to obtain registration cards. Voters can mail their own cards, but it’s more efficient to collect them from church members and mail or return them in bulk.

Step 3: Plan.

- **Schedule** registration drives on two consecutive Sundays more than a month before the election. Kansas requires registrations be postmarked or received no later than 21 days prior to an election.
- **Advertise** your drive through church bulletins, newsletters and posters, but for best results, make an announcement from the pulpit.



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Tips for Staying Nonpartisan

- Emphasize registration, not politics.
- Remain party-neutral. Encourage registrants to mark a political party affiliation, but don't talk positively or negatively about any party.
- Avoid any issue statements during the drive, such as, "Do your part for pro-life candidates," which could be construed as endorsements.
- Don't share who you are voting for or your affiliation during the registration drive.

Step 4: Register.

- **Pews.** The most time efficient and effective method is to let ushers distribute registration cards in the pews, allowing parishioners a few minutes to fill out the cards before they're collected.
- **Tables.** If your pastor prefers a more passive approach, set up booths in the foyer. Make sure your registration table is in a prominent, high traffic area in your church and has a patriotic style. Have volunteers scheduled to man the registration table, answer questions, and collect forms.
- **Take initiative.** Equip volunteers with clipboards so they can approach and invite people to register or update their records. If you wait for registrants to come to you, you're likely to get a low response.
- **Ask questions** like: Have you turned 18 or almost ready to? Have you had an address change? Would you like to make sure you're registered or update your registration?

Step 5: Follow up.

- Have separate sign up sheets for people who want more information on important issues that may be impacted by the next election.
- Be sure to deliver or mail all collected forms to your County Election office (addresses are on page 2 of the registration form, found here: <https://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/voterregistration.pdf>) as soon as you are able and, to avoid delays, at least one month before the election.
- Send thank you notes to the church leaders and volunteers who made the voter-registration drive possible.