

Dear Pastor,

I am a Christian attorney and the President of Pacific Justice Institute, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the defense of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties. As a result of working to assist individuals and churches with the aforementioned issues, our ministry has become knowledgeable about what pastors and ministers can do to educate their congregations, and what churches can do to advance traditional Christian principles in civil government.

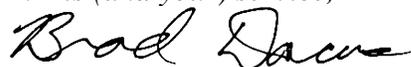
What Pastors and Churches Can Generally Do to Affect Public Policy with Traditional Christian Principles:

1. Conduct non-partisan voter registration drives, including having registration tables at church.
2. Allow the distribution of non-partisan voter education materials (e.g., voter guides and scorecards) that do not imply an endorsement for candidates. To accomplish this objective, voter guides should address some of the issues in which the church does not have a stated position (e.g., taxes, foreign policy, environment, immigration, health care, etc.). Voter guides may not be used to attempt to favor or oppose candidates for public elected office or political parties.
3. Educate members of the congregation about pending legislation.
4. Host candidate or issue forums where all candidates** are invited and allowed to speak (**Note that all candidates running for elected office must be invited to speak.)
5. Engage in issue advocacy (e.g., pro life, pro traditional marriage), spending no more than an insubstantial amount of the church's budget (usually no more than 5%).
6. A pastor may identify himself as a pastor in a public endorsement so long as it is made clear that the endorsement is not that of the church for which he works. A pastor should never make statements from the pulpit in support or opposition to a candidate for political office.
7. Pastors can participate fully in political committees that are independent of the church for which he works.

The purpose for sending this information to you is to clear up any misunderstandings about Christian participation in shaping public policy, and to shed the light of truth on the fact that non-partisan Christian participation in shaping the great moral issues of the day (e.g., protecting innocent life, protecting traditional marriage and family, opposing immorality) will NOT result in any threat to a church's non-profit 501(c)(3) status. I am at your service, working to advance Biblical principles in all three institutions created by God: family, church, and civil government.

These are general rules based on court and IRS rulings and interpretations of the law. If you have any questions or we can serve you in any way, please feel free to give us a call.

In His (and your) service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Dacus".

Brad Dacus, Esq.

President, Pacific Justice Institute

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