

## [Model Policy]

### CHURCH POLICY RE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

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This church is a tax exempt charity under IRC 501(c)(3). As a nonprofit organization, this church does not:

- 1) endorse candidates, their organizations, or political parties;
- 2) oppose candidates, their organizations, or political parties;
- 3) financially contribute to candidate campaigns or in opposition to candidate campaigns;
- 4) participate or engage in political fundraising events;
- 5) distribute statements for or against particular candidates; or,
- 6) engage in any other activity that may favor or oppose a candidate for political office.

Notwithstanding the above, this church may, at its sole discretion, and in accordance with federal, state and local law, do any of the following:

- 1) use any of its property as a polling venue;
- 2) conduct a nonpartisan voter registration drive;
- 3) host a political forum for candidates so long as all candidates running are invited to attend;
- 4) distribute nonpartisan voter education materials;
- 5) engage in insubstantial lobbying activities; and,
- 6) allow a candidate or elected official to address the church if:
  - a. the person is not speaking in his or her capacity as a candidate;
  - b. neither the candidate, his or her representative, or any representative of the church, mention that the speaker is a candidate or whether there is an upcoming election;
  - c. no distribution of campaign literature or other activity take place on the premises which could be interpreted as campaigning;
  - d. a representative from the church states that the church does not endorse or oppose candidates for political office; and,
  - e. there is no implication that the church is endorsing the candidate.

Definitions: “Candidate” means an individual who seeks a publicly elected government office.

“Nonprofit organization” is a tax exempt entity as defined under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

“Lobbying” means an attempt to influence provide support or opposition to:

- 1) specific legislation voter initiatives;
- 2) ballot propositions;
- 3) referendums; and,
- 4) constitutional amendments.

“Insubstantial” means using not more than 5% of annual church employee time or church income.