



## NEW JERSEY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

EMPOWERING FAITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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This guide provides tools, resources, and action steps for faith leaders, congregations, and community organizations to strengthen democratic participation.

### THE ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES IN DEMOCRACY

Faith leaders across traditions have long stood at the forefront of social justice.

That call includes:

- Educating congregations about their civic rights.
- Breaking down barriers to voter participation.
- Protecting vulnerable communities from misinformation and intimidation.
- Providing leadership in the fight for justice and equal access.

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### KEY BARRIERS TO VOTING & HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

Many people receive conflicting or false information about voting.

What You Can Do:

- Direct your congregation to [njdems.org](http://njdems.org) or for a non partisan option - [IWillVote.com](http://IWillVote.com).
- Share accurate dates and deadlines from [NJ Division of Elections](http://NJ Division of Elections).
- Call the DNC Voter Protection Hotline: 1-833-DEM-VOTE (1-833-336-8683).

### VOTER ID & ACCESS BARRIERS

While NJ does not require photo ID to vote, many may face challenges like transportation, mobility, or navigating the registration process.

Action Steps:

- Organize rides to the polls.
- Host registration drives with computer and internet access.
- Connect members to free ID services if needed.



## LANGUAGE & ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English speakers and those with disabilities may encounter difficulties at polling places.

**New Jersey Passed Bill A3837** which requires State government entities provide vital documents and translation services in at least seven most common non-English languages.

### Action Steps:

- Advocate for bilingual poll workers and materials.
- Ensure voters know their rights under Sections 203 & 208 of the Voting Rights Act.
- Share DNC hotline numbers:
  - English: 866-OUR-VOTE
  - Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA
  - Asian Languages: 888-API-VOTE

## 10 WAYS TO MOBILIZE YOUR CONGREGATION

1. Preach about the importance of voting.
2. Send election reminders via your congregation's email list.
3. Post key election dates on your community bulletin board.
4. Share social media resources and toolkits
5. Distribute "Know Your Rights" cards at services and events.
6. Celebrate new voters turning 18 with a "First Vote" blessing/prayer
7. Appoint a Civic Engagement Coordinator.
8. Launch a "Ride to the Polls" program.
9. Create a "Faith Voting Plan" for your congregation to vote together.
10. Encourage your members to bring a friend or family member to vote.

## FAITH ENGAGEMENT

Faith-based organizations can engage in voter engagement such as:

- Voter registration
- Voter education
- Get-Out-the-Vote efforts
- Meet & Greets



## MESSAGING FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

- As people of faith, we are called to pursue justice. One of the most powerful tools we have is the vote. Let us not take that for granted. Let's make a plan to vote and help others do the same.
- We are called to love our neighbors, not just in words, but in action. That includes standing up against hate, ensuring our families can afford healthcare and utilities, and making sure every person can cast their vote freely. Let's bring that moral clarity to the ballot box.
- Faith and action go hand in hand. Confirm your voter registration and join us in making our voices heard this November.
- Faith communities have always led the way, whether it's feeding the hungry, sheltering the vulnerable, or standing up to injustice. Today, that includes protecting our democracy, fighting hate in all its forms, and building a New Jersey where every family can thrive.
- Our diversity is our strength. Everyone, regardless of faith, should be able to pray, gather, and worship safely and proudly in New Jersey.
- Voting is a sacred act of service. Our communities are stronger when every voice is heard at the ballot box.
- Faith leaders are trusted messengers. We have a powerful role to play in correcting misinformation, organizing rides to the polls, and encouraging civic participation.
- No one should face barriers to voting. From language access to ID issues, we must stand up for every New Jerseyan's right to vote safely and easily.

### New Jersey Democrats are committed to:

1. Reviving the State Interfaith Council to foster connection, tolerance, and dialogue.
2. Ensuring the Attorney General actively prosecutes religious bigotry and hate crimes.
3. Making NJ a national model for religious inclusion and safety.

## NJDSC COALITIONS

Our ultimate goal is to increase the Democratic turnout in our Garden State specifically in minority and faith-based communities, in an impactful and sustainable manner.

**JOIN US**

