



Voter Action Guide

FOR CONGREGATIONS



Overview

Through voter mobilization, civic education, community organizing, and faith-rooted engagement, this resource offers one practical way for your congregation or faith community to help build informed, engaged, and empowered communities prepared to use their collective voice on behalf of children.

This guide is designed to help you take action now with your congregation.

The goal is simple:

Help your congregation and community check their voter registration and polling location, and take additional voter engagement actions as appropriate during National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Weekend.

Using this Resource

This guide is designed to be flexible. Faith leaders may choose to focus on one voter engagement action, several actions, or the full set of actions available through the voter engagement tool. While this guide prioritizes verifying voter registration status and identifying polling locations, leaders may also encourage participants to register to vote, sign up for election reminders, or explore absentee ballot options when appropriate. Each action can be conducted independently or combined with others throughout the remainder of the 2026 election season.

This action takes approximately 10-15 minutes and can be incorporated into worship services, Bible studies, ministry meetings, civic engagement events, or community gatherings.

Why This Matters

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® calls communities of faith to engage in Gathering, Learning, Advocacy, and Impact, moving from worship to witness and from reflection to action. Helping people verify their voter registration status and polling location is one small but meaningful step toward strengthening civic participation and building communities with the power to advocate for children and families.

Children's Defense Fund Action envisions a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being, and communities have the power to help ensure every child thrives.

Together, Children's Defense Fund Action and Children's Defense Fund work to strengthen the conditions children and families need to grow with dignity, hope, and joy.

Decisions about education, healthcare, child poverty, community safety, and economic opportunities are made by elected leaders at every level of government. That is why we affirm that voting rights are children's rights.

When communities can fully exercise their voice, they are better equipped to advocate for strong schools, affordable healthcare, safe neighborhoods, economic opportunities, and public policies that support children and families. When communities lose representation or political power, children often experience the consequences first.

Voting rights are not a single action. They require preparation, participation, and follow-through. Helping people verify registration, know where they vote, register if needed, and stay informed about upcoming elections strengthens the ability of communities to advocate for children and families.

Before the Service

First Step: Access the CDF Action Voter Engagement Link and QR Code

Before leading this action, visit <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines/> to review voter registration deadlines for your state. Children's Defense Fund Action has provided an official voter engagement link and QR code that can be used to support this action. The QR code will connect participants directly to the voter engagement tool, where they can verify voter registration status, identify polling locations, register to vote if needed, and access additional voter participation resources.

CDF Action Voter Engagement Link

<https://cdf-action-vote.vercel.app/>

CDF Action Voter Engagement QR Code



Use the official CDF Action QR code for this activity. Display it during worship, include it in printed materials, project it on a screen, or share it electronically with participants.

Leader Tips for Success

- Use the official CDF Action QR code provided with this guide to ensure participants are directed to the correct voter engagement resource.
- Display the QR code before worship begins so attendees can see it as they arrive.
- Ask ushers, youth leaders, or ministry volunteers to be available to help participants who are less comfortable using smartphones.
- Encourage participants to remain patient and help one another complete the process.
- Consider inviting young adults or youth to assist older members with accessing the voter engagement tool.
- If internet access is limited, encourage participants to save the QR code and complete the action later that day.
- Ensure that you do this BEFORE the Benediction

Leading the Action

Sample Introduction

Beloved community, as we observe the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths®, we are reminded that our concern for children must be reflected not only in what we believe, but also in what we do.

Children's Sabbaths calls communities of faith to move from worship to witness and from reflection to action through Gathering, Learning, Advocacy, and Impact. One way we can act is by strengthening civic participation in our congregation and community.

Voting rights are children's rights because elected leaders at every level of government make decisions

about schools, healthcare, community safety, economic opportunity, and many other conditions that shape the lives of children and families.

Say it with me: **Voting rights are children's rights.**

One more time: **Voting rights are children's rights.**

This conviction moves beyond political leanings, party affiliations, or individual candidates. This is about our children, their well-being, and ensuring that communities have the power to advocate for the conditions every child needs to thrive.

Today, our congregation is joining Children's Defense Fund Action and partners across the country in encouraging civic participation and strengthening the power of communities to advocate for children and families.

This action is simple. We are going to take a few minutes together to check our voter registration status and polling location. Depending on individual needs, some participants may also choose to register to vote, sign up for election reminders, or explore absentee ballot options. Today's focus is making sure each person takes the next step that helps them prepare to participate.

This is not about supporting or opposing any candidate or political party. It is about participation, preparation, and ensuring that our community is ready to use its voice on behalf of children and families.

So, let us take a few moments together and participate in this action."

Step 1: Invite Participants to Get Their Phones

1. "Please take out your phone and open your camera app."
2. Pause.
3. Give participants a moment to get ready.

Step 2: Display the QR Code



1. Show the QR code on a screen or provide printed copies.
2. Say: "When you scan the QR code, it will take you directly to the voter engagement page."
3. Pause.
4. Ensure participants have successfully accessed the page.

Step 3: Walk Participants Through the Tool

1. Say: *"You should now see the voter engagement page. Begin by verifying your voter registration status and reviewing your information. Next, identify your polling location so you know where you will vote. If you discover that you are not registered, or need to update your registration information, follow the instructions provided through the tool. Participants may also choose to sign up for election reminders to stay informed about important election dates. Depending on state requirements and individual circumstances, some participants may also explore absentee ballot options through the tool."*
2. Pause.

3. Allow participants time to complete the process.
4. If anyone has trouble accessing the page, don't worry.
5. Raise your hand and someone will assist you.
6. If you do not have a smartphone, you can take a picture of the QR code to complete the action later or ask a family member or church volunteer for assistance.

Step 4: Encourage Reflection While They Complete the Process

1. As people work, you may say: "The ability to participate in our democracy is something many people struggled, marched, and sacrificed for."
2. "Today we honor that legacy by making sure we are prepared to use our voice."
3. "And we do this because the future of our children and communities matters."
4. "Throughout our history, people of faith have played a vital role in expanding access to democracy and protecting the dignity of every person."
5. "Today, we honor that legacy by preparing ourselves and helping others participate."

Step 5: Confirm Completion

1. After several minutes, ask: "How many people were able to confirm their voter registration status?"
2. Allow for a show of hands.
3. Then ask: "How many were also able to identify their polling location?"
4. Allow for a show of hands.
5. Then ask: "How many signed up for election reminders?"
6. Allow for a show of hands.
7. Then ask: "How many discovered additional actions they needed to take before Election Day?"
8. Celebrate participation.

Connecting This Action to a Larger Movement

Sample Closing

Today's action is about more than checking voter registration.

It is about helping people participate in decisions that affect children, families, and communities.

Across the country, Children's Defense Fund Action is working with partners and faith communities to strengthen civic participation, encourage voter engagement, and ensure that communities have the power to advocate for children's well-being.

By participating today, our congregation or faith community becomes part of a broader effort to build informed, engaged, and empowered communities that can speak up for children and families.

Children's Sabbaths calls us not only to gather, learn, and advocate, but also to create lasting impact beyond this moment. Today's action is not the finish line. It is the starting point.

The goal is not simply to verify our own registration status. The goal is to build a culture of participation and engagement within our congregation and throughout our community.

Taking It Beyond the Worship Gathering

The voter engagement tool can support multiple actions throughout the 2026 election season.

Congregations may focus on voter registration and polling locations during one gathering, then revisit election reminders, registration, or absentee voting options at another. Leaders are encouraged to adapt the action to the needs of their congregation and community.

Faith leaders may consider:

- Go to <https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines/> and ensure that you know your voter registration and update deadlines
- Hosting a voter check station after worship or community gatherings through Election Day.
- Including the QR code in bulletins, newsletters, emails, and other communications.
- Sharing the QR code during study groups, youth gatherings, ministry meetings, and community events.
- Encouraging leaders and participants to invite family members, friends, and neighbors to take part.
- Creating a “Bring One Person” challenge in which each participant helps another person verify their registration status and polling location.
- Encouraging participants to sign up for election reminders so they stay informed about important voting deadlines and election dates.
- Hosting a voter registration update or registration event for individuals who discover that their registration information is inaccurate or incomplete.

Taking It Beyond the Worship Gathering

- Providing additional opportunities for participants to revisit the voter engagement tool as Election Day approaches.

Your Commitment

As a faith leader committed to children and families, we invite you to commit to:

- ✓ Leading this action in your congregation
- ✓ Encouraging members to check their voter registration status

- ✓ Encouraging members to confirm their polling location
- ✓ Sharing the QR code with your broader community
- ✓ Joining CDF Action, Black Church Freedom Fund, and All Road Lead South in strengthening civic participation and community power

Remember, this action is not the end of the work. It is one step in building informed, engaged, and empowered communities that can advocate for children and families long after Hall-Proctor concludes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Children's Defense Fund Action involved in voter engagement?

Because the policies that shape children's lives are made by elected leaders. Helping communities participate in democracy is one way to strengthen advocacy on behalf of children.

Is this partisan activity?

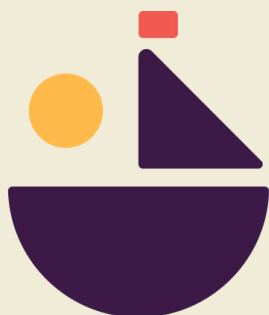
No. This action does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. Its purpose is to help people verify their voter registration status and polling location.

Do people have to share how they vote?

No. Participation is entirely personal and private.

What if someone discovers they are not registered?

Encourage them to follow the information provided through the voter engagement tool and applicable state processes.



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