



Knights of Columbus

NONPARTISAN

National Voter Registration Program

2016

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Webinar Presenters



Fraternal Mission
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Knights of Columbus and Faithful Catholic Citizenship



OVERVIEW



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Duties of Knights as Faithful Catholic Citizens

All Catholics should become active and informed participants in the political life of the local community and their country



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Duties of Knights as Faithful Catholic Citizens

- Knights and their families are Catholic citizens
- Parishioners of local Catholic Parishes
- Residents of their communities
- Constituents of local elected officials
- Look to local bishops and pastors for formation of conscience and pastoral guidance



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Duties of Knights as Faithful Catholic Citizens

- READ: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*
[<http://www.usccb.org/>]
- Teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics
- Guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties
- Watch video:
<http://bcove.me/cdya02wu>



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Duties of Knights as Faithful Catholic Citizens

- Knights should petition elected officials as Catholic residents (not Knights) active in their parishes and their community
- A Catholic's most effective petition to elected official is as a voting constituent
- NOT as a member of, or in the name of, the Knights of Columbus



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Duties of Knights as Faithful Catholic Citizens

Members are not authorized to
engage in partisan political
activity in the name of the
Knights of Columbus



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Partisan Political Activity

Partisan Political Activity - activity directed toward success or failure of a:

- political party
- candidate for partisan political office
- partisan political group
- ballot initiative
- proposition



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Prohibited Activities of Knights

- Any partisan political activity in the name of the Knights of Columbus
- Making of any partisan political statements in the name of the Knights of Columbus
- Any activities endorsing or opposing a candidate or party in a campaign for public office



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Remember the Third Degree:
partisan politics are not allowed
in the Order or in any of its
council chambers!



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Permitted NONPARTISAN Political Activities of Knights

As Faithful Catholic Citizens (not in the name of the Knights) members should:

- participate in efforts that support candidates or ballot measures that are in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Look to local bishops and pastors for formation of conscience and pastoral guidance



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Permitted NONPARTISAN Political Activities of Knights

- Conduct nonpartisan “Get Out The Vote” program to bring Catholic voters to the polls
- Knights of Columbus Nonpartisan National Get Out The Vote Program
- <http://www.kofc.org/vote>



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Permitted NONPARTISAN Political Activities of Knights

- Register to vote and encourage other Catholic Citizens to register to vote
- Knights of Columbus Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
NONPARTISAN
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM



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Media Inquiries/Public Relations

Any questions concerning the Knights of Columbus and political activity from the media or any other public relations issues should be directed to:

Joe Cullen,

Sr. Communications Specialist

Phone: **203-800-4923**

Email: **joseph.cullen@kofc.org**



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Knights of Columbus NONPARTISAN National Voter Registration Program



GUIDELINES



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Knights of Columbus NONPARTISAN National Voter Registration Program

Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program key features:

- Enable members to help fellow Catholics exercise their right to vote
- Parish-based
- NONPARTISAN



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Parish-Based and NONPARTISAN

- Catholic parishes are I.R.C. 501(c)(3) exempt organizations that are absolutely prohibited from engaging in partisan political activity
- All members participating in parish-based Knights of Columbus National Nonpartisan Voter Registration Program must remain nonpartisan at all times



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States Requiring Registered Drives or Deputy Registrar's Presence

Colorado	Nebraska
Delaware	New Mexico
Florida	Texas
Illinois	Wisconsin



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States Requiring Registered Drives or Deputy Registrar's Presence

Knights in these states should limit their involvement to:

- encouraging Catholic citizens to register to vote
- encouraging Catholic citizens to get out to vote
- promoting *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*:
- *display KofC "VOTE!" Posters with permission of the pastor, can be ordered through KnightsGear*



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State Deputy Checklist



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State Deputy Checklist

1. As a State Deputy, what is the first thing I should do?

- State Deputy contacts local bishop(s) and/or Catholic Conference to ask whether they will authorize Knights of Columbus to conduct a nonpartisan voter registration program in their diocese(s).



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State Deputy Checklist

2. If local bishop grants permission, then what?

- State Deputy asks the bishop to recommend or appoint a diocesan official as a point of contact between the Knights of Columbus and the diocese
- State Deputy contacts the local Catholic Conference and/or local bishop to ***obtain specific guidance*** on how the Knights of Columbus should conduct its registration drive in each participating diocese and local parish



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State Deputy Checklist

3. Who will help me as State Deputy in managing the program?

- Diocesan Coordinators for each participating diocese in a jurisdiction
- serves as liaison between the state council and participating local diocese(s) on matters pertaining to the Knights of Columbus Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program



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State Deputy Checklist

4. What is the first thing the Diocesan Coordinators can do to support the State Deputy?

- Notify all Grand Knights of the program and ask that they organize teams of volunteers (minimum of 2 or 3) from their local parish councils
- Establish Point of Contact with a diocesan official (Diocesan Communications Director, Vicar General, etc.) with whom to communicate on these matters



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State Deputy Checklist

5. *How do we know what the rules are?*

- Review state voter registration rules and regulations on U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) website

http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/contact_your_state.aspx

- Diocesan Coordinators should take time to familiarize themselves with the resources available on the EAC website, especially the “Resource For Voters” section



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RESOURCES FOR VOTERS

VOTING SYSTEM TESTING & CERTIFICATION

ELECTION MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

PAYMENTS AND GRANTS

RESEARCH AND DATA

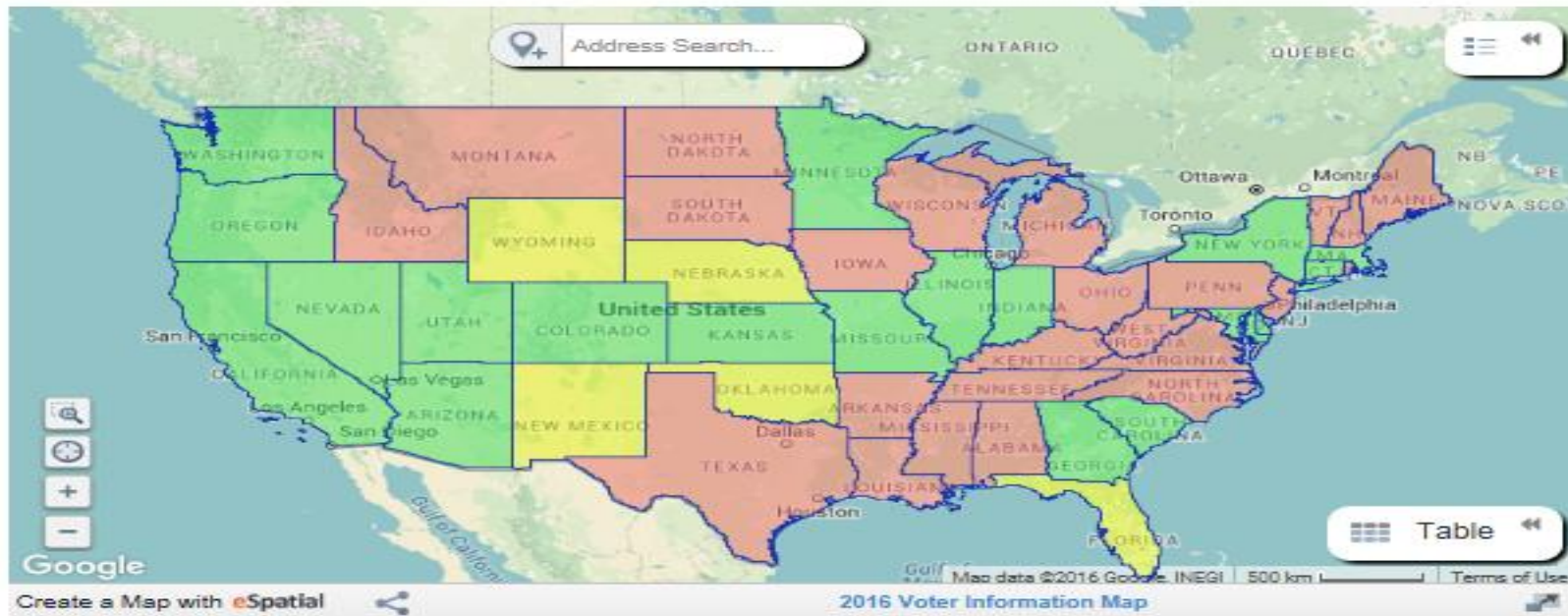
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

Home > Resources for Voters > Register & Vote in Your State

Register & Vote in Your State / Work at the Polls on Election Day

This interactive map and page allows users to quickly access key information in their state about registering to vote, where to vote, what's on the ballot, and more...

Do you have a desire to serve your community and country? One of the most rewarding ways to do this is to become an Election Day Poll Worker. Find your state on the map to get details on how to serve your community.



View a larger version of 2016 Voter Information Map created with eSpatial mapping software.

A-F	G-M	M-N	N-S	S-W
Alabama	Georgia	Maryland	New Mexico	South Dakota
Alaska	Guam	Massachusetts	New York	Tennessee
American Samoa	Hawaii	Michigan	North Carolina	Texas
Arizona	Idaho	Minnesota	North Dakota	Utah
Arkansas	Illinois	Mississippi	Ohio	Vermont
California	Indiana	Missouri	Oklahoma	U.S. Virgin Islands
Colorado	Iowa	Montana	Oregon	Virginia
Connecticut	Kansas	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	Washington
Delaware	Kentucky	Nevada	Puerto Rico	West Virginia
District of Columbia	Louisiana	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Florida	Maine	New Jersey	South Carolina	Wyoming

State Deputy Checklist

6. What about any specific legal concerns or questions?

- Contact your Catholic Conference for guidance
- Direct specific concerns or questions to the state elections division
- Identify a competent and trustworthy election law attorney licensed in the state



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State Deputy Checklist

7. Diocesan Coordinator follows-up with Grand Knights/Faithful Navigators to obtain volunteer information:

- obtains lists of the names and contact information of members from local councils and assemblies willing to run the program in their parish after each Mass on the designated registration weekend(s)



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State Deputy Checklist

8. The Diocesan Coordinator sets up a meeting to train each volunteer member:

- ensures that each volunteer has been provided with copies of -
 - (1) specific local diocesan and state Catholic Conference guidance, if any
 - (2) Knights of Columbus Guidelines For Political Activity
 - (3) This Knights of Columbus National Nonpartisan Voter Registration Program presentation



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State Deputy Checklist

9. Diocesan Coordinator provides volunteers with a Acknowledgment Form for the volunteer to read and sign.

- The volunteer must return the signed form back to the Diocesan Coordinator, who should retain and file on behalf of the State Council



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

1. What should I do as a Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator if my council or assembly intends to participate in the Knights of Columbus Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program?

- Meet with the pastor of the parish to request permission to hold the nonpartisan voter registration drive in the parish



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

2. If the pastor approves the program, what next?

- Work with the pastor to determine the best dates and times for nonpartisan voter registration drive to be held
- To maximize the impact of the registration effort, each participating council and assembly should plan on three weekend registration drives in every parish in September or October



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

3. Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator also discuss with the pastor:

- most suitable placement of the registration drive table(s) in the parish
- proposed bulletin and pulpit information and announcements
- hanging of posters around the parish at locations approved by the pastor



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

4. At next council/assembly meeting, request members to volunteer in the program; set a schedule.

- grand knight/faithful navigator asks for 2 to 3 (or more) volunteer members to staff the voter registration tables at days and times approved by the pastor
- set a volunteer schedule for each Mass



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

5. Submits the names and contact information of volunteers to the Diocesan Coordinator:

- diocesan coordinator can then follow-up with and train volunteers



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

6. On the designated day(s) and time(s) of the nonpartisan voter registration drive, Grand Knights/Faithful Navigators should:

- ensure that that nothing is attached to the voter registration forms, including any kind of organizational flyers, membership forms, or other information
- ensure that membership forms are not kept on the table during the registration drive, but are kept out of sight, separate and apart from voter registration forms
- although membership is not the focus of this program, Forms 100 may be made available, if asked for, to recruit new members



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

7. On the designated day(s) and time(s) of the nonpartisan voter registration drive, volunteers should:

- greet parishioners as they leave church and invite them to register to vote
- if asked, recommend that parishioners check with the city or town hall where they are domiciled to find out if they are registered to vote
- volunteers may access a website maintained by The National Association of Secretaries of States at <http://www.canivote.org> to find out if a parishioner is registered using a smartphone or iPad/Tablet/laptop w/ Wi-Fi



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

8. What about helping parishioners getting to polls on election day?

- At the table, volunteers should have information on how to get to the polls and a sign up sheet for parishioners who may need a Knight to help them to the polls on Election Day.



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

9. How do volunteers keep track of how many parishioners they register?

- Volunteers use the Registration Tally Worksheet to track each person's completed voter registration then turn in their worksheet to the Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator when done
- The Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator go to the **Registration Survey** at <http://NNVRP.questionpro.com> to input the total number of completed registrations
- The Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator retains a copy of the worksheet and submits the original worksheet to the Diocesan Coordinator appointed by the State Deputy



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Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Checklist

10. What do volunteers do with the completed registration forms?

- A selected volunteer returns the completed voter registration forms within the applicable deadline
- Mail or hand deliver as soon as possible!
- Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators ensure that all completed registration forms have been delivered



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Examples and Illustrations



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A Model Voter Registration Program

- A council based in Smallville gains the permission of their pastor to setup a table outside after Mass with information on how citizens can register to vote.
- At the table, volunteer Knights from the council have information on how to get to the polls and a sign up sheet for parishioners who may need a Knight to help them to the polls on Election Day.
- When parishioners approach the table, Knights ask if they are registered to vote. If not, they ask if they would like to register and provide the form.
- Knights working the table also check to make sure that parishioners know where their polling place is located and let them sign up for rides to the polls if they need help on Election Day.



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Prohibited Items

- Any material that advocates the victory or defeat of a candidate for political office or the victory or defeat of a ballot measure or referendum (i.e. bumper stickers, posters, web videos, etc.)
- Any clothing, when on display or worn by volunteers, that advocates the victory or defeat of a candidate for political office or the victory or defeat of a ballot measure or referendum (i.e. shirt, ball cap, sticker, pin, etc.)



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Examples of Prohibited Activity

- A council based in Springfield sets up a table outside of church after Mass without the pastor's permission.
- When parishioners approach the table after Mass, Knights ask if they are registered to vote and encourage parishioners to register so they can go to the polls and defeat Candidate X.
- When a parishioner requests help to the polls on Election Day, a Brother Knight asks for whom they plan to vote and then only offers assistance to those who will be voting for Candidate Y.
- The table used by the council is covered in bumper stickers in favor of or against candidates or ballot measures.



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Summary Prohibited Activity

- The drive may not show bias for any party, candidate, issue or voting position
- No partisan or campaign materials may be distributed, nor should they be in the vicinity of the voter registration tables
- If a member does not feel that he can abide by these rules, he should contact the Grand Knight or Diocesan Coordinator so another volunteer can be appointed



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REPORT IRREGULARITIES

As stewards of the Knights of Columbus brand, state deputies, grand knights, and faithful navigators have a responsibility to know what is going on in their jurisdictions, councils, and assemblies, and to report to the Supreme Council any irregularities, misconduct, or abuse.



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ORDER POSTERS FROM KNIGHTSGEAR

- Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and State Deputies log into ***Officers Online*** and select ***KnightsGear*** to order posters:
 - REGISTER TO VOTE – (#10401)
 - VOTE! Poster – (#10402)



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For information about the Knights of Columbus
Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program

www.kofc.org/vote

If you have specific questions call
Fraternal Mission at (203) 752-4270



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