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## WHAT CAN MY CHURCH DO?

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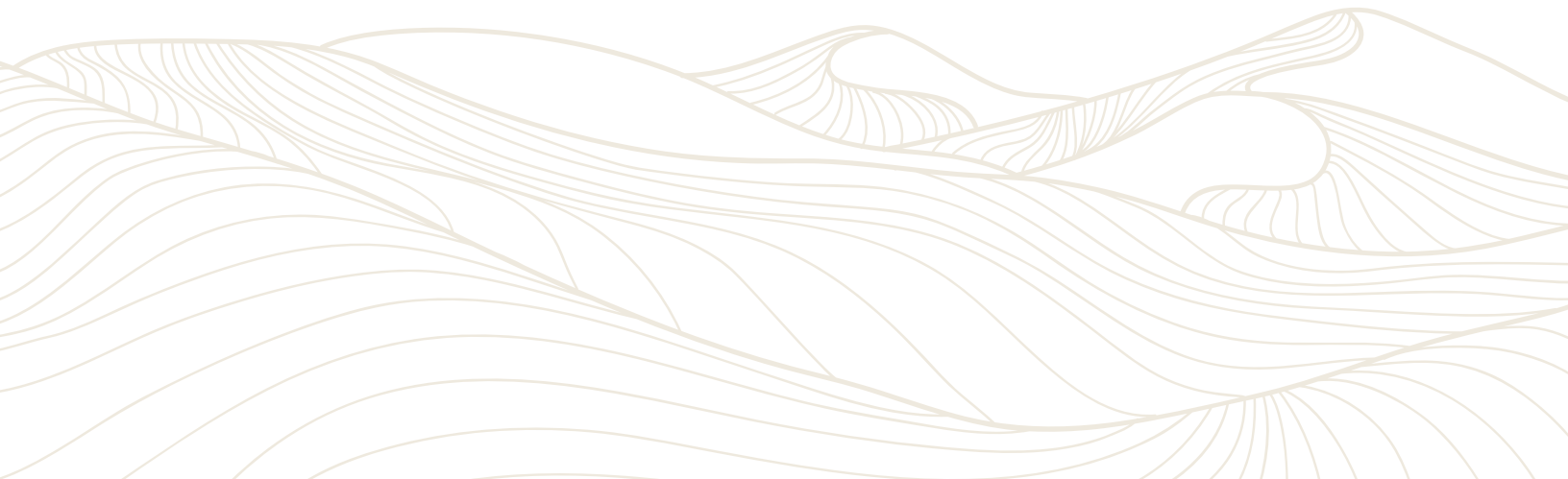
### Legally:

- A pastor has *complete freedom* to preach about biblical perspectives on current social issues without discussing any specific pending legislation. There is no limit when preaching in general terms about social issues.
- In keeping with 501(C)(3) regulations, churches may support or oppose specific legislation with their time and resources to an insubstantial degree. Most tax practitioners generally advise that charities can safely devote 3–5% of their overall activities toward these types of activities which are considered lobbying by the IRS.
- The church may distribute position papers that support or oppose specific proposed legislation.
- The church may use its facilities to allow lobbying groups to discuss social issues (subject to 5% rule).
- The church may engage in education on the political process and provide information regarding political issues.
- IRS Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>

The hands of the church are NOT tied by 501(C)(3) regulations. There is much the local church can do to oppose this radical ballot initiative.

On Nov 7, 2022, voters in Michigan approved a similar radical pro-abortion amendment to the state's constitution – with 55.7% of the vote. Here's a major reason why Michigan pro-lifers lost their battle, from a pastor in Stark County, Ohio:

***“One of the most shocking revelations after Michigan’s loss was that church goers claimed they had no idea this amendment was even on the ballot. The most grievous fact was that their pastors knew about it (from Right to Life groups) but refused to speak or become involved. The enemy is truly coming in like a flood (Is. 59:19) and we cannot be like Michigan pastors and stay silent.”***



## To Inform Members and the Community:

- Pulpit, class, and large event announcements– Especially important dates for the Aug. 8 special election (Voter Links and QR codes can be shown on any screen)
- Church-wide emails about the ballot initiatives and voting date reminders
- Social Media posts about the ballot initiatives and voting date reminders
- Community-wide postcard mailings to inform residents about the ballot initiatives and election dates
- Contact Jenny Shoup to schedule a speaker to address both elections (jenny@hoperising.org or 937-250-6569)

## Important Dates:

- **June 23** – Military & Overseas Absentee Voting begins
- **July 11** – Early In-Person Voting begins and includes the Saturday and Sunday before Election Day
- **July 11** – Absentee Voting By Mail begins
- **August 1** – Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.
- **August 8** – Election Day (Polls Open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

