

Proposed Resolution to Encourage Voting in the National Election

Whereas in our Baptismal Covenant we promise to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being, and

Whereas the 2020 national election is crucial for determining our country's future, and our world's, and

Whereas the 2020 national election may be threatened by contagious disease and attempts to disenfranchise lawful voters, and voters of color are particularly vulnerable to both of these threats, and

Whereas applications for registration in Pennsylvania must be received by County Board of Elections by October 19 and requests for a mail-in or absentee ballot must be received by October 27, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese encourages all eligible members of the diocese to register, to help others to register, to vote, and to spread information about mail-in voting, and

Encourages churches to include information about registration, the votespa.com website for registration and ballot requests, the Vote411.org candidate information website, mail-in ballots, and assistance in voting in their bulletins, announcements, and email messages, and

Encourages those for whom it is appropriate to volunteer to drive people to the polls or provide child care so that they can vote, or to join organizations such as Election Protection and Lawyers and Collars, and

Urges its members to ask their County Boards of Elections to provide sanitation supplies for poll workers and voters and face shields and face masks for poll workers, and masks to offer to voters whose faces are not covered.

Explanation: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has said, "It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls."

Although the convention will take place only two days before the deadline for registering, seeing this resolution beforehand will be a reminder to some, and online registrations by October 19 will still be on time.

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