



## THE MISLEADING METAPHOR

A comment like “the man upstairs,” almost certainly comes from one who lacks a personal relationship with our Creator through His Son, Jesus Christ. Similarly, the use of the misleading metaphor “separation of Church and State,” reveals a flawed view of both *Scripture* and our *Bill of Rights*.

## GENESIS ACCOUNT

In the beginning, God ordained three primary institutions: FAMILY, GOVERNMENT, and CHURCH—in that order. Though separate, they are cooperative partners by design. *Families*, for instance, are charged by God to educate their children but not prohibited from receiving support from either the government or the church. *Government* is obliged by God to protect the family and the church from lawbreakers and is permitted by the Constitution (Art 1, Sec 7) to rest on Sunday. By tradition, the *Church* offers chaplains to the Armed Forces and clergy to solemnize public events. By command, it chooses government leaders who are “just men who will rule in the fear of God.” (2 Sam 23:2, 3)

...The authorities that exist have been established by God. --Romans 13:4

## Supporting or Opposing Candidates

	Church	Pastor
Endorsing or opposing political candidates.	NO	YES
Contributions to political candidates.	NO	YES
In-kind and independent expenditures for or against political candidates.	NO	YES
Contributions to Political Action Committees (PAC).	NO	YES
Appearance of political candidates at church meeting or service.	YES	N/A
Political candidates to preach or read Scripture (contributions should not be solicited and sermon should be non-partisan).	YES	N/A
Voter registration (non-partisan).	YES	YES
Distribution of non-partisan voter guides and incumbent voting records (avoid editorial opinion).	YES	YES
Rent or loan church mailing lists to political candidates (lists must be made available to all candidates on similar terms and prices).	YES	YES
Church bulletin editorial where the pastor or staff member endorses or opposes a candidate.	NO	NO
Church bulletin editorial with two different church members taking opposing views on a candidate.	YES	N/A
Use of church facilities by political candidates (as long as all other candidates are allowed or invited).	YES	N/A
Fundraising for candidates.	NO	YES
Campaigning for candidates.	NO	YES
Educate the members or the public about viewpoints of candidates.	YES	YES
Discuss church doctrine pertaining to candidate views (such as abortion).	YES	YES
Granting use of name to support a political candidate.	NO	YES
Support or oppose judicial, department, or cabinet appointments.	YES	YES
Support or oppose judicial candidates.	NO	YES
Support or oppose other political appointments of non-elected officials.	YES	YES

## Supporting or Opposing Legislation

	Church	Pastor
Use of church facilities by lobbying group to discuss social issues.	YES	N/A
Rent or loan church mailing list to lobbying groups.	YES	N/A
Preach on social and political issues and activism.	YES	YES
Educate on political process and political/social/legislative issues.	YES	YES
Petition drives supporting or opposing legislation.	YES	YES
Support or oppose legislation unrelated to the church organization	YES*	YES
Support or oppose legislation that directly relates to the organization.	YES**	YES
Encourage members to voice their opinions in favor or in opposition to certain legislation.	YES*	YES
Lobby candidates to support or oppose legislation.	YES*	YES
Distribute position papers supporting or opposing legislation.	YES*	YES
Distribution in church parking lot of political statements and opinions on political issues (so long as no church endorsement).	YES	YES

Political involvement is not an option. We are commanded to:

- Pray for our leaders (1 Tim 2:2);
- Let our values be evident to all (Matt 5:13);
- Avoid the temptation to sleep while the enemy sows tares (Matt 13:25).

\*Churches may support or oppose legislation so long as such activity comprises an insubstantial part of the overall operation.

\*\* A church may support or oppose legislation that directly affects the organizational structure and operation.

Note: This document is a general guideline only. A church may wish to seek legal counsel regarding its involvement in candidate and initiative campaigns.