What can pastors really do?

CUPA has provided this list with the approval of the Alliance for Defending Freedom. This is to serve as a guideline to empower pastors to inspire their congregations to engage the civil realm.

Pastors Can Legally...

Engage in voter registration activities*

Distribute educational materials to voters, including voter guides*

Preach on moral and social issues and promote civic involvement

Conduct forums for candidates and issues to the congregation provided there is equal opportunity

Invite candidates or elected officials to speak at church services**

*Pastors can do anything in an individual capacity, but must be careful when acting on behalf of the church.

**No candidate should be prohibited from addressing a church if others running for the same office have been allowed to speak. Exempt from this are candidates or public figures who may speak at a church, but they must refrain from speaking about their candidacy.

Pastors Should Avoid...

Endorsing candidates on behalf of the church

Setting up a political committee that would contribute funds directly to political candidates

Underwriting the cost of political events

Giving permission to distribute material on church property that favors any one candidate or political party

Using church funds or services to contribute directly to candidates or political committees

Allowing candidates to solicit funds while speaking

