



**LUTHERAN
OFFICE
FOR PUBLIC
POLICY**
in Wisconsin

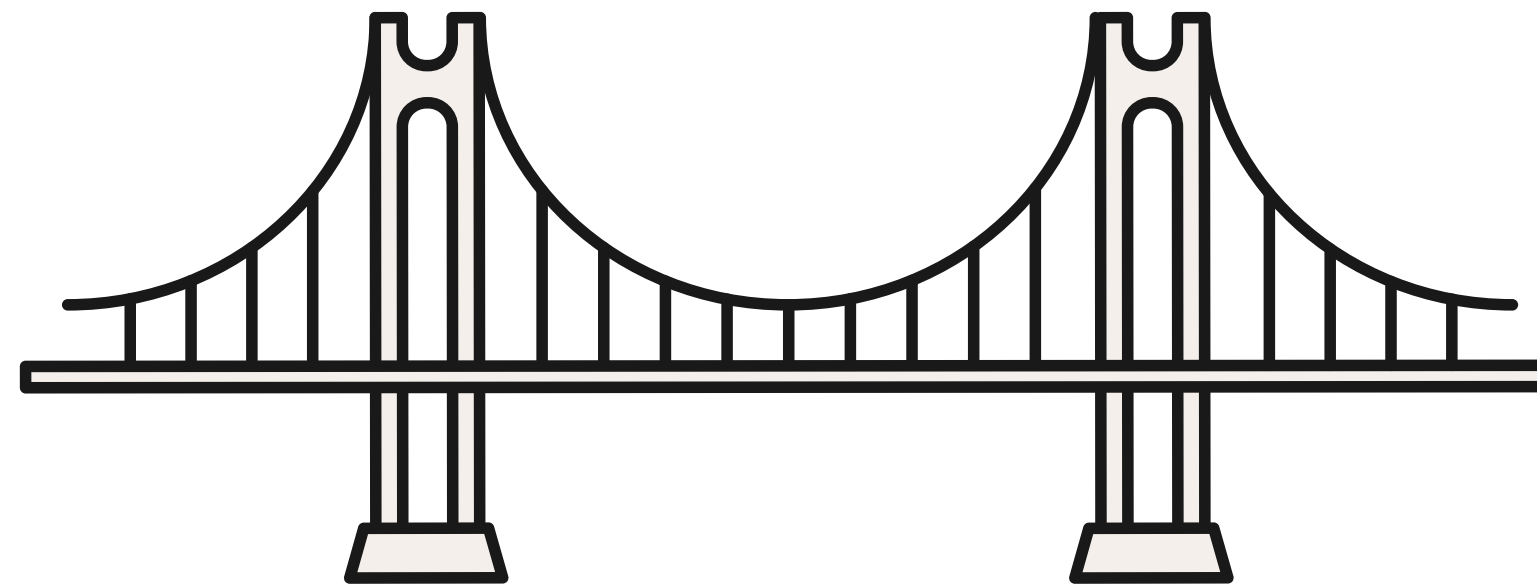


Civic Engagement Resources, Toolkits, and Opportunities

What is LOPPW?

- A ministry of the ELCA
- Advocates for policies that promote **justice, peace, and care for creation**
- Supports civic engagement
- Nonpartisan
- Bridge:

Lawmakers



Congregations
& Individuals



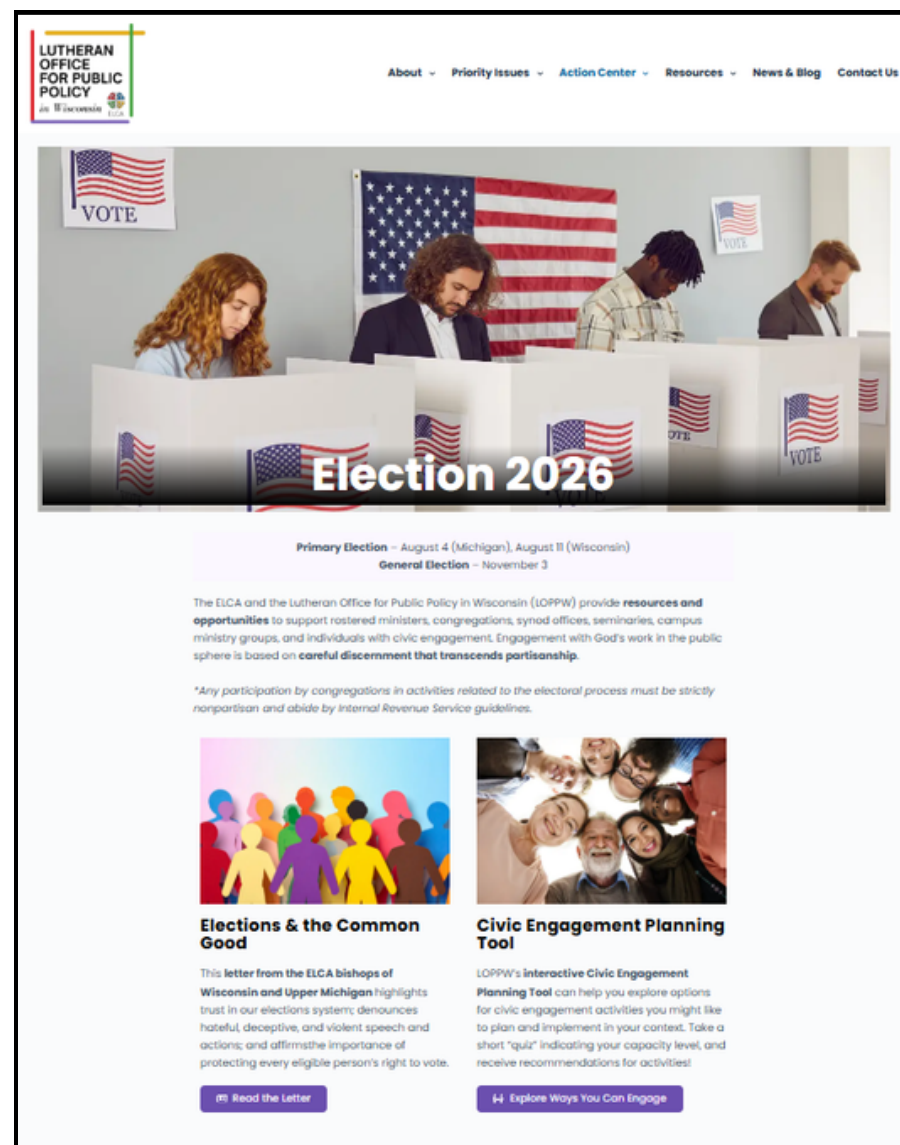
Elections

- **Primary Election - August 11 (WI)**
- **General Election - November 3**
- Voting options: Election Day, Absentee, In-person absentee (some municipalities)
- Registration: Online, Mail, In-person
- Voting requirements: Photo ID
- Trusted source on elections: [MyVoteWI.gov](https://www.MyVoteWI.gov)

What's on the Ballot?

- U.S. House of Representatives
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- State Legislature:
 - Assembly Representative (all districts)
 - State Senator (1/2 districts)
- Local offices - Sheriff, County Clerk, etc.
- Constitutional Amendments

Resources & Toolkits



LOPPW Elections Page

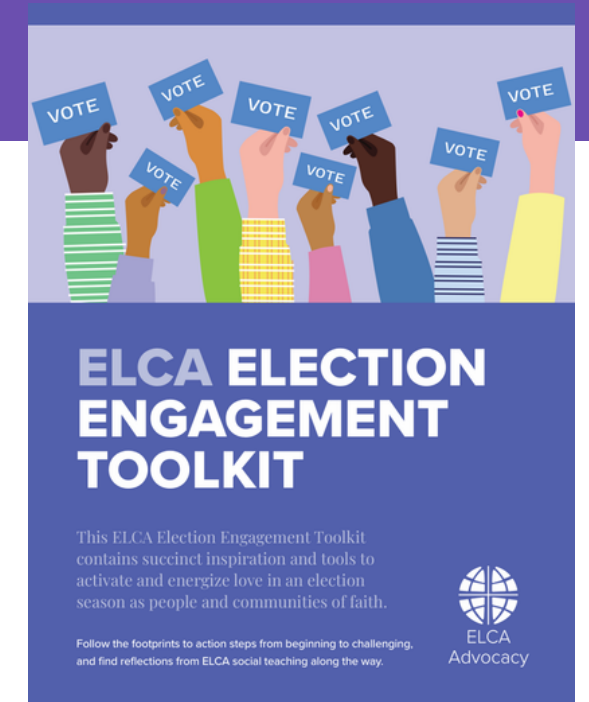
Landing page for accessing all other materials
Links to ELCA resources

loppw.org/election

Key Resources

From the ELCA:

- Being a Public Church in the Electoral Process
 - ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit
 - ELCA Civic Engagement Guide
 - Prepared to Vote Checklist
 - Faithful Election Engagement - Convo Starters (Young Adults)
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- Letter from the 6 ELCA bishops with congregations in WI



From LOPPW:

- Blurbs for newsletters and bulletins
- Civic Engagement Planning Tool
- One-page guides (excepted: Aug/Sept)
- Constitutional Amendment Voting Guide (expected: Aug/Sept)





Planning to Vote



As you smack the alarm on your bedside table, you catch the notification: Election Day Today. Good thing you have a plan! Or do you?

Gathering information and sharing it can help you, your neighbors and your neighborhood prepare. Here are some touchpoints that can be fuzzy without forethought. Jump to actions below for a way to share with others!

WHEN IS VOTING DAY?

This tidbit shouldn't be taken for granted! A visual reminder of the day and date helps.

REGISTRATION

This is a biggie. It is a good idea for each of us to check our registration status to avoid possible roadblocks on Election Day. If someone has not registered yet, independently or with assistance, that person should check state guidelines and deadlines to proceed. Vote.gov is a great place to start, as is searching your state's official election website.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY RULES

Our Christian communities include people with as many backgrounds as can be found among God's children! There are some basic stipulations about who can and cannot vote, but questions can arise. Does being convicted of a felony impact one's access to voting? For those experiencing homelessness, does not having a residential address impact access? Explore local rules with tools at usa.gov/who-can-vote and contact your state or local election office with questions.

WAYS TO CAST A BALLOT

- **Absentee and vote by mail:** These voting methods have stipulations that determine if they are available to a voter in your locality. Variations include how to request use, why a method would be available in lieu of in-person voting, and where to return a ballot.
- **Early voting:** State laws vary greatly. Find some state-by-state early voting information at vote.org/early-voting-calendar and your state's official election website.

Although he had voted many times in his town, Alex did a quick check of his voting registration status and was surprised to learn he had been dropped from the rolls! He was glad he checked — seems a new phone number caused the error — but now he had time for correction.

—Experience told to an ELCA staff member



Voter Registration Initiatives

Many obstacles can keep people from getting to the polls during elections, and lack of knowledge about voter registration is one of the biggest. Voter registration initiatives can be a valuable act of nonpartisan election engagement in service to our neighbors and neighborhoods.

Some of us need to register for the first time. Some of us need to check our voter registration status for confirmation — for identifying lapses, inaccuracies or surprises that may require action. Some of us face significant barriers to registering at a government office or online and could benefit from assistance.

Registration is a state-by-state process. In general, your state's official election website will readily navigate you to accurate registration information — starting with registration deadlines! The site vote.gov/register can serve as a starting place to **register** to vote, **update** info if you're already registered, **check** your registration status and **obtain** a voter registration card.

"At my retirement complex, they announced volunteers would be there one afternoon to help us vote. I sat down with Janey who checked that my new address was on my voter registration record and told me what to expect. She was very nice. So I guess I will vote this year!"

—Experience told to a granddaughter



Beginning

- Pick a Sunday or another gathering day in your worship community to **host a table equipped with a computer (or QR codes to websites if people use their own devices) and staffed with volunteers to help people confirm their voter registration status.** Confirming or initiating the process will keep registration from being a barrier to casting one's ballot!
- Why not **offer this service at a neighborhood event or location** as an act of community service. Voter Registration Day falls in September, which could be an opportunity! As involvement must be strictly nonpartisan, review "[Being a Public Church in the Electoral Process: A Guide for Churches and Rostered Ministers.](#)"



Election Protection

While voting can be a meaningful celebration of exercising our rights and an opportunity to have a voice in building our free society, the experience at polling locations does not always feel that way for everyone. At times, the atmosphere can be marked by tension or uncertainty, and elections can stir a wide range of emotions as people approach them with hope, concern or even anxiety. In some cases, this sense of unease may be intensified by the visible or rumored presence of government agencies unrelated to the election process at polling locations, such as the National Guard, police or immigration enforcement, which can leave individuals feeling vulnerable rather than at ease.

Every eligible voter deserves to feel safe, respected and able to participate in elections with confidence. Here are some ideas for helping your community stay safe and aware during election season.



Beginning

- **Bring your phone to the polling place.** Placing a phone call for assistance or recording a troubling exchange can be a service.
- **Save the Election Protection Hotline number — 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) — to your contact list.** Staff of the **national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition** are trained to answer voting-related questions. Multilingual assistance is available in Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese and Spanish.
- **Problems at the polls? The 866-OUR-VOTE hotline can assist** and give counties and the state help to find solutions to common voting issues, from language assistance needs to misunderstandings of election rules by poll workers.

ELECTION PROTECTION 866 OUR VOTE

ENGLISH 866-OUR-VOTE
866-687-8683

SPANISH 888-VE-Y-VOTA
888-839-8682

ASIAN LANGUAGES
888-API-VOTE
888-274-8683

DISABLED VOTERS 888-796-VOTE
888-796-8683

ASL 301-818-VOTE
1-301-818-8683

If you experience or observe any voting issues, call or text the Election Protection Hotline





Beginning

- **Pull together a team months in advance** to plan and implement Election Day turnout.
- Get out those computers or online tools and invite people to pledge to vote! Election Day may be in the news, but **nothing takes the place of personal contact to encourage one another.**
- Use what you know in lived experience and community accompaniment to contemplate barriers. Campus groups, young families, nondrivers and others may benefit from targeted GOTV support such as **preelection registration-check booths, Election Day childcare or church van transportation.**



Ready for More

- **Provide reminders.** This could include a congregation phone tree or outreach to people who invited that action during a voter pledge activity.
- **Use social media to build nonpartisan momentum** toward Election Day.



Challenging

- **Visit areas that others may ignore** with your GOTV and voter pledge initiatives, such as shelters and senior living residences.
- **Broaden outreach** with activities such as canvassing your neighborhood and obtaining lists to text or phone nonpartisan Election Day reminders.



Civic Engagement Planning Tool

How do you plan to engage in civic engagement this year? The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) has created a database of activities to help you discern the way(s) you feel called to engage.

Plan Your Election Season Engagement

This **interactive Civic Engagement Planning Tool** is like a miniature “quiz” that can help you pinpoint activities that you are excited about and have the capacity to implement. To use this tool, simply answer the question below and follow the link to explore recommendations.

What is your capacity to plan and implement civic engagement initiatives?

Click on the button below that best describes your capacity level. Recommendations will focus on activities that align with the time, resources, and energy you have, but you will also have an opportunity to explore the database with all options.

 **High** – We have an enthusiastic team with time, energy, and experience!

 **Moderate** – We have moderate time, experience, and/or energy.

 **Limited** – We need activities that are manageable with limited time/resources.

Upcoming Events: Opportunities

Click Smart, Think Smart Training - Youth Educators/Mentors

Tomorrow, July 29, Noon-2pm

Free training on mis/disinformation, social media, AI

Presentations to Congregations/Groups (in-person/virtual)

Contact Kacy to schedule - kacy.kostiuk@elca.org

Coffee, Connections, & Calls

Tuesdays 8:30-9am - [Register here](#)

The Election is Over, Now What? Post-Election Processing & Ongoing Engagement

November 2026 - Registration link forthcoming