



There's nothing Christian about making it harder for people to vote.

That's why people of faith are being asked to join in a nonpartisan campaign to counter the effect of new election rules.

Thousands of our fellow citizens lack drivers licenses or other forms of photo ID they'll need to vote starting in 2016.

The campaign will help them get the proper IDs.

Early voting periods are shortened and same-day registration during early voting is eliminated.

The campaign will help people register and make sure they can get to the polls.

Voters will be subject to new levels of scrutiny, perhaps intimidation, when they go to cast their ballots.

The campaign will enlist volunteers to help protect voters' rights.

Christians believe it is their duty to help care for the weak and needy among us. Standing up for the right to vote free of unnecessary hindrances and according to rules that encourage, not discourage, voter participation is fully in keeping with that duty.

To help put its beliefs into action, the N.C. Council of Churches is partnering with a nonpartisan coalition called Operation Jumpstart the Vote.

IT IS A FORM OF WITNESS TO THE FAITH THAT WE SHARE.

The N.C. Council of Churches, representing 17 Christian denominations, through its Governing Board recently reaffirmed its decades-long commitment to the right of all citizens to vote under rules that are fair, reasonable and wholly in the spirit of America's representative democracy.

"The right to vote of every citizen is fundamental to democracy, rooted in the principle of consent of the governed, a core concern of Christian ethics as it is of American political history. It is a primary means in a republic to allow the dispossessed, the poor, and racial and ethnic minority groups a voice in the public square. Indeed it is what guarantees that there is a public square for all citizens."
— Excerpt from *Statement on Guaranteeing Suffrage, the Right to Vote*
NC Council of Churches, December 10, 2013

The Council and its partners in Operation Jumpstart are eager to help lead the way toward elections in which all citizens have a fair and equal say. We invite volunteers from churches to learn how to conduct voter education and outreach for their congregations and communities.

Every church should educate its members about the voting law changes so the right to vote is not curtailed.

Broad participation in Operation Jumpstart is crucial. Please contact the Council or Democracy NC, the campaign's coordinator, to become involved, or sign up now at www.democracy-nc.org/jumpstart.

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