



What can churches do to promote a state constitutional amendment declaring there is not an unlimited “right to abortion” in the Kansas Constitution?

Churches may speak for or against legislation (proposed laws), existing laws, ballot questions, or constitutional amendments. Churches may publicly endorse the passage of an amendment like this because it is issue-specific. Churches may even spend money on issue advocacy (for example, advocating for pro-life laws) as long as it is an “insubstantial amount” of the church’s total operating budget. “Insubstantial” is not specifically defined, but courts have found expenditures of less than 5% of a church’s operating budget for the year, to be “insubstantial.”

Issue advocacy is different from a church taking a position in support of or in opposition to a *candidate* for public office (which is not allowed under IRS regulations for churches).

What can churches do to encourage voter registration and voting?

Churches may conduct voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts as long as they do not favor a particular political party. Encouraging members to be involved in the voting process is allowed, and such activities can take place on church property.

What can churches do regarding elections?

Churches may host a candidate forum, as long as all candidates are invited and given an equal opportunity to speak, and as long as questions are asked on a variety of issues.

Churches may not distribute endorsement lists (such as the KFL-PAC voter guide) in the church, nor may the church *give permission* for these to be distributed on church property or at church events. However, if individual citizens distribute voter guides on church property — without asking permission — it is legal for them to do so.

What can pastors do regarding elections?

A pastor has the same rights as any citizen, provided he makes it clear he is acting as an individual and not as the official spokesperson for the church. A pastor may join a political party, contribute to a campaign, endorse a candidate, and allow his name to be published as a supporter of a particular candidate — as long as all of this is done as an individual and not on behalf of the church.

Elevate life.