

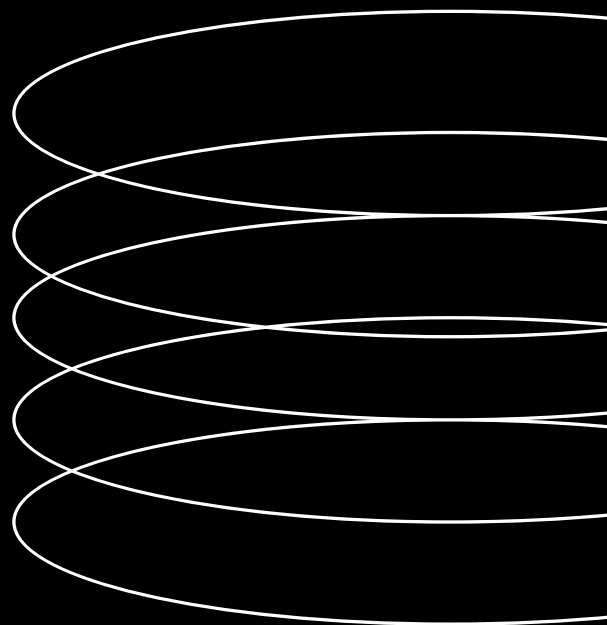


OPERATION BALLOT

Resource Guide



A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE
Strategic Voter Mobilization Campaign





Dear Brothers

It is our honor to present this Operation Ballot: Men of Faith, Men of Action Resource Guide, a practical tool designed to equip, encourage, and mobilize men of faith to take an active role in shaping the future of our communities through informed civic participation. As men called by God to lead with integrity, steward our families with wisdom, and serve our communities with purpose, we must not allow voter apathy to diminish our collective influence or responsibility.

This guide was created to help you prepare for civic engagement by providing resources for voter readiness, voter registration verification, election information, and other helpful voting tools that will enable you to participate confidently in the democratic process. In addition, it offers guidance for implementing the Brothers Shuttle Initiative, ensuring that transportation barriers do not prevent eligible citizens from exercising their right to vote on Election Day.

Operation Ballot remains a strictly nonpartisan effort. Our mission is not to advocate for any political party, candidate, or agenda, but to encourage responsible citizenship rooted in faith, personal accountability, and community commitment. When men of faith become men of action, families are strengthened, communities are empowered, and future generations benefit from our engagement and leadership.

We encourage every brother to use this guide, share its resources, and inspire others to participate. Together, let us demonstrate that faithful leadership extends beyond the walls of the church and into every area of community life, including the sacred responsibility of civic engagement.

Yours in Christian Service,

James Blackman, Sr.

James Blackman, Sr.
General Secretary, Ministry to Men
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr.

Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr.
Chair, Ministry to Men
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

OPERATION BALLOT
MEN OF FAITH, MEN OF ACTION

CHAPTER N.1

The Framework



"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it." — John Lewis

Operation Ballot

Operation Ballot: Men of Faith, Men of Action is a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative designed to dismantle voter apathy among men by connecting civic participation with spiritual leadership, family stewardship, and community responsibility. The campaign challenges men to move beyond passive observation and become active participants in strengthening their communities through informed and responsible engagement in the electoral process.

The framework follows a discipleship model, recognizing that effective action requires preparation, education, mobilization, and deployment. Each month builds upon the previous month's accomplishments, creating a pathway from voter readiness to voter participation.



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CHAPTER N.2

August Fact Checking



"A vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user." — Theodore Roosevelt

Objective

Assess readiness, identify barriers, and ensure every brother is prepared to participate in the electoral process.

Why This Matters

Before any mission can succeed, leaders must know the status of their team. Many eligible voters discover too late that they are not registered, have outdated information, lack required identification, or are unaware of voting options available in their state. August focuses on removing these obstacles before they become barriers to participation.

This phase reinforces personal responsibility and accountability while creating opportunities for men to encourage one another through brotherhood and shared commitment.

Launch Date: 9 August 2026

Key Initiative: Brothers Roll Call

It is our desire that each local church establishes a voter readiness station immediately following worship services for the month of August. This is not specifically for brothers only, but all members of the church are encouraged to participate.

Objectives

- Verify voter registration status
- Confirm voter identification requirements
- Educating voters on early voting opportunities
- Provide absentee and vote-by-mail information where applicable
- Connect participants with election resources
- Build accountability among brothers/church members

Brothers Roll Call Resources

Participants should have access to:

- **Vote.gov**
- **Election Assistance Commission (EAC) – www.eac.gov**
- **State election websites**
- **Early voting information**
- **Absentee ballot guidance**
- **Election calendars and deadlines**

All of this is available at all of the first three bullet sites.

Desired Outcomes

- **Increased voter readiness among men**
- **Greater awareness of election requirements**
- **Accurate voter registration information**
- **Stronger brotherhood accountability networks**

OPERATION BALLOT
MEN OF FAITH, MEN OF ACTION

CHAPTER N.3

September

Sharpening the Mind



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent
about things that matter." — Martin Luther King Jr.

Campaign Objective

Equip men with the knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible participants in civic life while celebrating the gift and graces that God has bestowed upon Men.

Why This Matters

Many voters disengage because they feel uninformed or overwhelmed by political information. Misinformation, confusion about local elections, and lack of civic education often contribute to voter apathy. Faith communities have a unique opportunity to equip men with factual information, critical thinking skills, and civic literacy without endorsing political parties or candidates. Knowledge creates confidence, and confidence increases participation.

Featured Events

Pews and Politics Brotherhood Breakfast (Virtual) – September 19, 2026

A connectional-wide virtual gathering focused on civic education and brotherhood engagement.

Core Topics

Civic Literacy

Helping participants understand:

- How local government impacts daily life
- School boards, city councils, county commissions, and judiciary elections
- The relationship between public policy and community wellbeing

Misinformation Awareness

Teaching participants:

- How to identify reliable information
- How to verify election-related claims
- Responsible use of social media

Generational Engagement

Encouraging older men to mentor younger men regarding:

- Civic responsibility
- Voting habits
- Community leadership
- Public service

Connectional Ministry to Men Day Worship Service – September 20, 2026 -hybrid

▪ The worship experience will celebrate brotherhood, faith, and service while challenging men to become agents of positive change in our homes, churches, and communities. Through prayer, scripture, music, testimony, and proclamation, we will be reminded that men of faith are called to lead with integrity, act with courage, and serve with compassion.

Desired Outcomes

- Increased civic understanding
 - Greater voter confidence
 - Reduction of misinformation
- Stronger intergenerational leadership
- Increased commitment to participation

OPERATION BALLOT
MEN OF FAITH, MEN OF ACTION

CHAPTER N.4

October: Securing the Vote



"Do not think your single vote does not matter much. The rain that refreshes the parched ground is made up of single drops." — Thomas Sowell

Campaign Objective

Transform education into action by helping people access the voting process.

Why This Matters

Even well-informed voters may face practical obstacles such as transportation, uncertainty about voter rights, or lack of confidence navigating the voting process.

October is designed to eliminate these barriers and ensure that every prepared voter has a pathway to cast their ballot.

Brotherhood Shuttle Program - Transportation Ministry Planning Meeting October 6, 2026

Churches who are able to utilize their vans will prepare transportation strategies to serve:

- Senior citizens
- Persons with disabilities
- Individuals without transportation
- Community residents requesting assistance

Church Requirements

Each participating church submits:

Transportation Plan

- Service area coverage
- Early voting routes
- Election Day routes

Volunteer Driver Roster

- Licensed drivers
- Vehicle availability
- Contact information

Rider Estimates

- Number of anticipated riders
- Special accommodation needed

Post-Election Report

- Number of riders served
- Volunteer participation totals
- Ministry impact stories
- Photographs

Incentive Program

Churches submitting completed post-election reports will qualify for gas voucher support and transportation ministry recognition.

Why It Matters

Transportation remains one of the most significant nonpartisan barriers to voter participation, particularly among seniors and economically disadvantaged populations.

Post-Election Report

- Number of riders served
- Volunteer participation totals
- Ministry impact stories
- Photographs

Incentive Program

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Why It Matters

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Voter Shield 11 October 2026

Voter Shield Initiative in conjunction with other departments and ecumenical relations!



The Voter Shield Initiative is a virtual training where participants will provide training on:

Voter Rights- Understanding protections are available to voters.

Voter Identification Requirements - Clarifying state-specific requirements.

Provisional Ballots - Knowing what to do if registration questions arise.

Voting Rights Restoration - Providing information regarding eligibility requirements where applicable.

Voter Protection Resources- Sharing nonpartisan voter assistance hotlines and support services.

Why It Matters

Many citizens choose not to vote because they are uncertain about procedures or fear making mistakes. Education replaces uncertainty with confidence and preparedness.

Desired Outcomes

- Increased early voting participation
- Reduced transportation barriers
- Improved voter confidence
- Greater awareness of voter rights
- Expanded community engagement

CHAPTER N.5

NOVEMBER D-DAY



"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

Objective

FULLY MOBILIZE MEN OF FAITH TO SUPPORT VOTER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT ELECTION DAY.

Why This Matters

After months of preparation, education, and mobilization, Election Day represents the culmination of the campaign. The objective is not simply voter turnout but visible servant leadership that demonstrates care for neighbors and commitment to community wellbeing.

Deployment Day transforms preparation into action.



SUCCESS MEASURES

At the conclusion of Operation Ballot, participating churches should report:

PARTICIPATION METRICS

- Number of voter registration checks completed
- Number of men engaged through Brothers Roll Call
- Number of participants attending civic education events
- Number of transportation volunteers recruited
- Number of rides provided

IMPACT METRICS

- Stories of voter assistance
- Community partnerships established
- Generational mentoring relationships formed
- New Ministry to Men engagement opportunities created

THE FINAL CHARGE

Operation Ballot: Men of Faith, Men of Action is more than a voter engagement campaign. It is a call for men to embrace their God-given responsibility to lead, serve, and strengthen their communities. Through preparation, education, mobilization, and deployment, we demonstrate that faithful men do not stand on the sidelines of community life. We answer the call to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and act with purpose. When men of faith become men of action, families are strengthened, communities are empowered, and the future is shaped by informed and engaged servant leadership.

