

SALMON SIMS THOMAS & ASSOCIATES PLLC
PRESS RELEASE

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Churches and Political Activity

The 2008 political campaign is upon us. It is extremely important for churches to remember what is permitted and what is strictly forbidden in connection with the political arena.

- **Permitted**

- Church may provide voting records of all members of Congress with no editorial opinion
- Church may provide neutral voter registration drives
- Church may invite all candidates for a political office to address the congregation – informing the congregation that the views expressed are those of the candidate not the church and the church does not endorse any candidate
- Church may provide a “forum” for all candidates to address the church
- Public comments made by ministers/church employees not made on church property should be prefaced by stating that these are personal comments and not representative of the church

- **Not Permitted**

- Church may not contribute monetarily to a political campaign fund
- Church may not endorse a candidate
- Church may not invite one candidate to address the congregation
- Church may not fundraise for a candidate
- Church may not place newspaper ads asking voters to vote for or against a particular candidate
- Church website may not contain information supporting and/or opposing a candidate
- Church cannot distribute voter guides that are biased towards a candidate
- Church cannot make public statements (oral or written) in favor or against candidates for office

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