

**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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