

# Meeting with Election Officials Guide

*This list has been compiled using information and resources from [A More Perfect Union](#) with permission.*

A More Perfect Union has outlined the following steps for engaging with election officials:

## Step 1: Research the questions, concerns, and opportunities in your community

- How is misinformation affecting people in your community?
- Does your county use electronic voting machines and if so, when and where are they tested? This will be publicly available on the board of elections or county clerk's website.
- What is happening with your local election board?
- How are voting and the voting process perceived?
- Were there disproven allegations of fraud in the previous election and if so, how has that shifted public perception of election security?

## Step 2: Choose one of the following ways your community wants to engage:

- **Interfaith clergy gatherings are one way to bring together multiple stakeholders for a conversation with election officials.** Because feelings, fears, questions, and concerns about American elections can differ dramatically by community, organizing these leaders for a single conversation with local election officials is an efficient way to build transparency quickly and at scale.
- **Host Community Events with Election Officials:** Faith leaders can help in building greater trust, awareness, and understanding among constituents and election officials about election processes. If you have physical infrastructure like a synagogue with a sanctuary or social hall, you can hold community forums that help an election official reach hundreds of constituents at once.



- **Attend Logic and Accuracy Tests (and other public tests):** By law, before every election, each board of elections must publicly test automatic tabulating equipment used in the county to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all questions and issues. You can attend these tests and invite other community members to attend — without needing to schedule a specific meeting.
- **Attend Election Board Meetings:** Locally elected or appointed election boards have a great deal of power over the way elections run in our communities. Like the previous engagement opportunity, these meetings are open to the public and occur at regular intervals, making them easy to plan for and accessible to a variety of stakeholders to attend individually or as a group. There is a consistent need for neutral, unbiased, level-headed community members in attendance to preserve and ensure decorum and to offer support for respectful dialogue on challenging issues.

### **Step 3: Consider what new and existing coalitions might collaborate**

- As you are thinking about your institution's path forward, consider what coalitions or networks you are already part of that could be activated or perhaps what new ones could form around these opportunities, for example: Congregational partnerships across denominations and faith traditions; coalitions of local faith bodies, small businesses, and community centers; local good government coalitions.

### **Step 4: If applicable, reach out to your local election officials**

- If pursuing an activation that requires coordination with an election official or their office, the best thing you can do is reach out via email or phone with a concrete ask and clearly identify yourself as a constituent. Most election administrators operate with a staff of fewer than five, so make it as easy as possible for them to answer your questions, approve your request, or schedule a conversation.

### **Step 5: Prepare your questions and topics**

- The goal is to obtain as much information as possible to address the concerns of those in your sphere of influence and build additional transparency and accountability into our elections.

## Step 6: Educate your community

- Consider the following options:
  - Prepare and deliver a sermon about your experience, our role as citizens in a democracy, and what your faith tradition has to offer during an election season.
  - Write an op-ed in the local faith-based or secular newspaper or media platform.
  - Share your experience with your social media network (and make it a public, shareable post if you're comfortable).
  - If you have a podcast, record an episode on the topic and share widely with friends and neighbors.
  - Add a write-up to an organizational or denominational newsletter or publication.