



APPENDIX C: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES POLICY

For the protection of the 40 Days for Life Mission, it is essential to keep 40 Days for Life and political activity completely separate. Political activity is a legal term that means:

1. Stumping for a particular candidate;
2. Stumping for a particular platform;
3. Raising money for candidates and platforms;
4. Collecting signatures for a candidate;
5. Holding a rally with only one candidate.

Failure to keep 40 Days for Life out of politics poses many concerns, including:

1. Revocation of 501(c)(3) charitable, tax-exempt status;
2. Fines and/or administrative or court hearings;
3. Dilution of and time away from the mission.

What you CAN do:

1. Encourage everyone to “vote pro-life” at your vigil or campaign events.
2. Encourage people to support pro-life legislation and to oppose pro-abortion legislation in general at your vigil or campaign events.
3. Educate people on pro-life issues and laws that have been passed or are being considered at your vigil or campaign events.
4. Forward proposed state and local pro-life laws and initiatives to 40 Days for Life HQ for further guidance.
5. Encourage people to vote at your vigils and events (“GET OUT THE VOTE”). BUT remember, use of participant information is solely for vigil use, so you can’t send an email to your participants just about voting. You can email them about events that may include speakers and education about abortion-related initiatives and laws.



6. Educate people on state constitutional ballot initiatives (referenda) and legislative bills that address abortion at your vigil or campaign events.
7. Encourage people to VOTE NO on pro-abortion referenda or legislation at your vigil or campaign events.
8. Encourage people to VOTE YES on pro-life referenda or legislation at your vigil or campaign events.

What you CANNOT do:

1. Endorse or encourage people to vote for a particular candidate or platform.
2. Endorse a particular political party or party platform. Vigil participants should not wear political apparel or hold political signs while at the vigil site.
3. Raise or accept money for, or give money to, a political candidate, platform, or party.
4. Raise or provide (through your vigil) funds or in-kind donations to endorse or defeat particular legislation.
5. Obtain petitions for a particular candidate, party, platform, legislation, or referenda (except for 40 Days for Life petitions).
6. Use your 40 Days for Life email and participant list to send information about abortion-related initiatives and legislation.
7. Wear 40 Days for Life gear or identify yourself by your 40 Days for Life role when engaging in personal political activism.



No Endorsement of or Opposition to Candidates

On the campaign application, every approved local campaign leader pledges “to keep completely separate from your local 40 Days for Life efforts advocating for or against any candidate for elective office.”

This does not mean that local leaders may not engage in political activity as individuals. They simply cannot do so in their capacity as 40 Days for Life leaders. They cannot use the 40 Days for Life name, mark, webpages, intellectual property, local vigils, volunteer lists, or campaign events to do so.

Furthermore, it does not mean that local campaigns may not support pro-life positions, pro-life ballot initiatives or referenda, and pro-life legislation at their vigils or campaign events. For example, a campaign can promote defunding Planned Parenthood — or even educate on and encourage support for specific legislation (e.g. to defund Planned Parenthood) — at the vigil and in-person campaign events. However, a campaign should not use 40 Days for Life email lists for legislative advocacy.

A campaign should always focus primarily on activities directly related to 40 Days for Life objectives of prayer, fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigil.



POLITICIANS AT EVENTS

Local 40 Days for Life leaders often like to have politicians speak at their vigils and campaign events.

While 40 Days for Life is not opposed to this, certain precautions must be taken. If you wish to host a politician at a campaign event, please request written clearance from your 40 Days for Life headquarters team contact (See Appendix A: Headquarters Team Contacts). In your request, please provide the following information:

1. What is the politician's name and political party?
2. Who invited the politician? Or did the politician make an unsolicited offer to speak?
3. Are any other politicians invited/attending?
4. Is the politician from the district where the vigil is held? If not, how far away is the district?
5. When is the politician next running for election?
6. What would the politician speak about?

Your primary 40 Days for Life headquarters contact will notify you whether the proposed speaker is approved and will send you further instructions on confirming that the politician understands and agrees to our policies.

A politician can never solicit votes or campaign contributions while speaking at a 40 Days for Life event.

The vigil cannot endorse the candidate or raise money.