

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has a policy of encouraging informed participation in the democratic process while maintaining the tax-exempt status of its member congregations.

Especially during national political elections, Unitarian Universalist (UU) churches need to adhere to the following policies:

- 1. Non-endorsement: Congregations and UUA organizations cannot endorse or oppose specific candidates.**
 - a. **Non-partisanship**: UU churches do not endorse specific candidates or political parties.
- 2. Educational activities: Congregations can sponsor educational activities, such as candidate forums, debates, and voter registration drives, as long as they remain neutral and unbiased and do not solicit contributions.**
 - a. **Voter registration and education**: Churches may engage in non-partisan voter registration drives and provide educational resources on voting and civic engagement.
 - b. **Issue advocacy**: Churches can advocate for specific issues, such as social justice, environmental protection, or human rights, without endorsing candidates.
 - c. **Candidate forums**: Churches may host candidate forums, debates, or meet-and-greets, as long as **all candidates are invited, and the events are moderated.**
- 3. Individual involvement: Members and staff can participate in political campaigns and share their personal opinions on personal social media, but they should clearly indicate that they are speaking as individuals, not as representatives of the UUA or their congregation.**
 - a. **Ministerial involvement**: Ministers can speak publicly on issues but cannot endorse candidates. They must maintain a clear distinction between their personal views and their role as a spiritual leader.
- 4. Church resources: Churches cannot use their resources (e.g., facilities, newsletters, or websites) to promote specific candidates or parties.**
- 5. Tax-exempt status: The UUA reminds its member congregations that they must maintain their tax-exempt status by avoiding partisan activities, which include endorsing or opposing specific candidates.**
 - a. **Tax-exempt status**: As 501(c)(3) organizations, UU churches must maintain tax-exempt status, which prohibits **direct or indirect participation** in political campaigns.

6. Respect for diverse views: UU churches aim to create a safe space for diverse perspectives and respectful dialogue. These guidelines ensure UU churches maintain their non-partisan stance while promoting civic engagement, social justice, and informed discourse during national and local political elections.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Social media guidelines: Congregations and UUA organizations should establish the following social media guidelines for posting on **church social media sites** to ensure that online communications comply with these policies.

1. Non-partisanship: Members should not post endorsements of specific candidates or political parties.
2. Respectful dialogue: Encourage respectful and civil conversation, even when disagreeing.
3. Issue-focused discussion: Encourage discussion on issues, rather than personal attacks or candidate endorsements.
4. No campaign materials: Prohibit posting campaign materials, such as flyers, posters, or candidate literature.
5. No solicitation: Prohibit soliciting votes, donations, or support for or against specific candidates or parties.
6. UU values: Encourage posts that reflect UU values, such as social justice, equality, and compassion.
7. Moderation: Designate a moderator to review posts and ensure they align with church policies.
8. Personal responsibility: Remind members that their posts reflect on the church and encourage personal responsibility.
9. Timeline restrictions: Consider restricting political posts during certain timeframes, such as the week before an election.
10. Education and resources: Provide resources and educational content on voting, civic engagement, and UU values. These policies help maintain a non-partisan stance, promote respectful dialogue, and ensure church social media aligns with UU values during national and local political elections.

Please note that these guidelines are subject to change.