Faithful Democracy Town Hall: Protecting Our Elections in the Face of COVID-19

Presented by the Faithful Democracy Coalition
Town Hall Agenda

• **Why We’re Here**  *Rev. Traci Blackmon, United Church of Christ*
• **Learnings from the Wisconsin Primary**  *Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, WI Faith Voices of Justice*
• **Congressional State of Play**  *Sr. Quincy Howard, NETWORK Lobby*
• **Q&A**  *Please type your questions into the Q&A Box*
• **Call to Action**  *Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins, Presbyterian Church USA*
Federal Funding is Needed!

• The $400 million for state election support in the CARES Act was a down payment, but it is simply not enough to ensure safe and fair elections in 2020.
• States and local jurisdictions need at least $4 billion to do the job right.
• $4 million for the Election Assistance Commission to administer grants quickly and effectively.
• Funding match requirements for states to receive election assistance.
Money Alone is Not the Solution!

- Prohibit polling place adjustments that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations
- Polling plans that protect the health and safety of poll workers and voters
- Expand registration options (online and same-day registration)
- Expand early voting (to minimize lines and crowded polling places)
- No-excuse vote-by-mail for every voter (w/ various options to request and return ballots)
- Maintain and expand opportunities to vote in person.
- Public education campaign (for new voting practices & squashing disinformation.)
Questions?
What You Can Do to Protect Our Elections!

• **Call your Senators:** *Tell them that $4B in federal funding is needed in the next COVID response package to support safe and fair elections in the pandemic. Make sure that funding prioritizes pro-voter, pro-safety solutions that equally protect voting rights and public health.*

• **Visit** [https://networkadvocates.org/faithfuldemocracy/](https://networkadvocates.org/faithfuldemocracy/) *and do two things:*
  1. Have your house of worship or faith-based organization sign on to Faithful Democracy’ COVID 19 letter to protect our 2020 election and ensure voting rights during the pandemic.
  2. Sign up to receive updates for the Faithful Democracy Initiative.