



I ote  
to End Hunger  
[bread.org/vote](http://bread.org/vote)

# Churches and the Elections

## Our Goal

Bread for the World is helping to build the growing political will to end hunger in the United States and around the world by 2030. In September 2015, 100 leaders of various faiths committed to encourage their communities to work for this goal. That same month, countries around the world agreed on a comprehensive set of goals that include ending hunger and poverty.

To accomplish this goal, our next president and Congress need to make hunger and poverty a higher national priority in 2017. Bread for the World, churches, and the secular Vote to End Hunger coalition are working together to elect a president and members of Congress who will take action in 2017 to put us on the path to end hunger. We are doing this in a bipartisan way, pushing the issue, not a particular party or candidate. We believe God is moving in our time to advance justice and an exodus from hunger.

Here's how you can join us:

### ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide?

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 **breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

### We want all candidates to:

- make ending hunger and poverty by 2030 a legislative priority
- make their positions on these issues public
- commit to meeting with Bread leaders within 30 days of being elected

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# How Your Church Can Participate

- 1. Sign the “I vote to end hunger” pledge.** Get members to commit to joining our voices and urging our political leaders to make hunger, poverty, and opportunity a higher political priority in the 2016 presidential and congressional races. People can sign the pledge at [www.bread.org/vote](http://www.bread.org/vote).
- 2. Pastors: Preach about the elections and the issue of hunger.** Pastors can preach about the importance of ending hunger and how to engage in the elections as Christians. Encourage everyone to ask the hunger question of candidates, what they would do to end hunger and poverty if elected. Surely, this is one concern that is in the heart of God.

**Resources from Bread available at [www.bread.org/library/elections-resources](http://www.bread.org/library/elections-resources) (unless otherwise specified):**

- Read the Faith & Elections series on Bread Blog
- Download “The Bible and Elections”
- Sign up for Bread for the Preacher, a monthly lectionary-based email newsletter ([www.bread.org/preacher](http://www.bread.org/preacher)).

- 3. Observe Bread for the World Sunday this October.** Every year, we encourage congregations to dedicate at least one Sunday to understanding the issues of hunger and poverty better. This year, Bread for the World Sunday materials highlight the importance of the elections to people who are hungry in our country and around the world.

**Resources from Bread:**

- Download “Bread for the World Sunday Guide” at [www.bread.org/sunday](http://www.bread.org/sunday).

- 4. Watch the candidate videos and use the study guide.** The Circle of Protection coalition has asked the major party candidates to produce videos about what they would do to provide help and opportunity to people who are hungry and poor in our country and around the world. Visit [www.circleofprotection.us](http://www.circleofprotection.us) to watch the videos and download the study guide.

- 5. Amplify your voice: Use Facebook, Twitter, texting, write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, and blog.** Candidates are watching local media for what is important to local residents. Your flock wants to know what is important as well. By using all of your social media tools and writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, you can publicly raise the issues and ask the hunger question. You can also write a letter to the editor and post photos after meeting with a candidate. The letter could come from the pastor, the leadership of the church, or a group of local pastors.

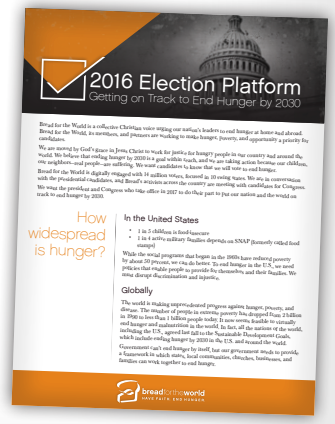
**Resources from Bread:**

- Use the “Social Media Kit for #IVote2EndHunger”
- Follow us at [www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld](http://www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld) and [www.twitter.com/bread4theworld](http://www.twitter.com/bread4theworld)
- Read Bread Blog at [www.bread.org/blog](http://www.bread.org/blog)
- Download “How to Write a Letter to the Editor” at [www.bread.org/vote](http://www.bread.org/vote)
- Download “Elections Matter”

- 6. Write letters to the candidates.** Just like an Offering of Letters to members of Congress, letters can be written to candidates asking the hunger question: If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and abroad? Will you meet with us?

**Resources from Bread:**

- “Bread’s Election Platform” provides a snapshot of the domestic and international policies that Bread for the World believes will help put the world on track to end hunger by 2030.
- Download “Elections Matter”



- 7. Take a church group to town hall meetings or to visit candidates' campaign offices.** At meetings, you can ask the candidate questions about what he or she will do to end hunger and poverty. You can confirm that you and many voters plan to vote to end hunger. Ask them to publicize their position on hunger and poverty and for a follow-up meeting after the elections. Leave behind “Bread’s Election Platform” and elections survey information. Bread can help you prepare for these meetings. Call 800/822-7323 and ask for the elections coordinator.

**Resources from Bread:**

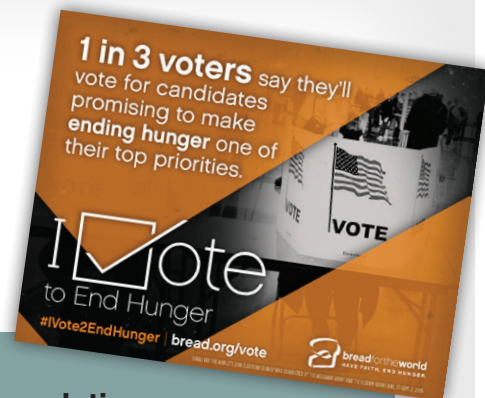
- Print out “Bread’s Election Platform”
- Use “Elections Matter”
- Use “Effectively Using Public Meetings to Engage with Congressional Candidates”
- Print out “Bread for the World’s 2016 Elections Survey” (about Americans’ attitudes toward hunger and the role of the government) and use the related graphics.
- Download fact sheets about hunger in your state under “Hunger and Poverty State Fact Sheets”

- 8. Hold a candidate forum at your church.** Invite candidates to a public forum hosted at your church. Be sure to invite all major candidates, ask the hunger question, and get commitments from candidates. Learn more using the “Elections Matter” booklet.

- 9. Report your actions.** Let Bread and the public know what you do and what your candidates promise to do.

**Resources from Bread:**

- Share on social media using the hashtag #IVote2EndHunger, and tag your candidates.
- Share what you did with Bread’s Elections Coordinator by clicking on the Activist Field Report Form at [www.bread.org/vote](http://www.bread.org/vote) or by email at [election@bread.org](mailto:election@bread.org).



**To comply with IRS regulations on churches and other 501(c)3 organizations**

**DOs**

- Educate your organization and know the rules (they are in the “Elections Matter” booklet)
- Remain non-partisan
- Encourage voting, hold voter-registration drives, and engage in get-out-the-vote activities
- Invite candidates to address churches and/or denominations

**DON'Ts**

- Endorse or oppose a specific candidate
- Give support to specific candidates
- Tie voter education with voter registration

**Remember:**

- Bread for the World does not endorse any candidate or political party.
- Bread reaches out to all candidates with substantial voter support (those with 15 percent or more support).
- You can contact Bread for information: 800/822-7323 or [election@bread.org](mailto:election@bread.org)

**Find Bread’s election resources in Spanish and English at [www.bread.org/library/elections-resources](http://www.bread.org/library/elections-resources) (unless otherwise noted above).**



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