

LET FREEDOM RING



A GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN VOTERS
THE 6 Ps OF VOTING

GREGG MATTE



ALSO AVAILABLE ON VIDEO

WATCH THE SERIES

Every P in this booklet, walked through on video by Pastor Gregg Matte. Six short episodes — one for each P — plus two longer conversations with scholars from Houston Christian University, filmed on the campus of HCU inside an exact replica of Philadelphia's Independence Hall.



WHY VOTING MATTERS

Dear Friends,

Election seasons have a way of capturing our attention. Conversations become louder, opinions become stronger, and it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by everything happening around us. As followers of Jesus, however, we are called to engage differently.

Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. While the Bible does not tell us which candidate to choose, it does teach us how to approach every decision with wisdom, prayer, conviction, and peace. The following pages present *The 6 Ps of Voting*, a simple biblical framework that guides us to begin with God and His Word, rather than beginning with personalities or political parties.

This resource is not about telling you which candidate to vote for. It is about helping you think carefully about how to vote faithfully. As you work through these pages, you'll have the opportunity to identify the issues and priorities that matter most to you, while also allowing God's Word to shape those priorities. Some issues are clearly addressed in Scripture, while others require wisdom and discernment. As Christians, our desire should not simply be to vote according to our own preferences, but to continually align our hearts and convictions with God's truth.

Thank you for taking the time to walk through this resource. May the Lord give you wisdom, discernment, and peace as you seek to honor Him in every area of your life—including your civic responsibility.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg Matte



The first step in preparing to vote well is **prayer**.

Long before considering candidates, policies, or political parties, we should bring our hearts before the Lord. Throughout Scripture, God's people are instructed to seek Him in every season, and election season is no exception.

The Bible continually points believers toward dependence on God, reminding us that prayer is not simply something to discuss. It is something to practice.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote, *"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."*

— Jeremiah 29:7 ESV

That command extends naturally to our communities, our state, and our nation. So pray for the people already in office, and pray for the ones running for election. Ask God to raise up leaders at every level who will govern with wisdom and integrity.

Prayer also prepares our heart. We can approach the ballot box anxious and frustrated, or we can approach it settled. God remains sovereign over this election and over every generation before it. When we hand Him our concerns, those fears give way to trust. That is how we cast a ballot from a place of peace instead of stress.

Instead of simply talking about the election, talk to God about it. Pray for the candidates. Pray for the issues. Pray for wisdom. Pray for the nation.

If politics alone could solve our deepest problems, it already would have. **What our nation needs most is a move of God.**

As believers prepare to cast their vote, prayer should be the first priority; not only during election season, but throughout the year. When prayer comes first, voting becomes an act of faithful stewardship, rather than an anxious reaction.

Almighty God, we make our earnest
prayer that Thou wilt keep the
United States in Thy holy protection ...
and entertain a brotherly affection
and love for one another and for their
fellow citizens of the United States.

— George Washington —

REFLECTION

In what ways does my heart need to change before Election Day?

What worries me most about this election season? Write it below as a prayer.

START YOUR JOURNEY

I keep a small Alamo medallion on the prayer kneeler in my office to remind me to pray for Texas, and a presidential seal paper weight beside it to remind me to pray for our state and nation. You may need reminders like that, too.



Choose one physical reminder (an object, a photo, a note on your mirror) and place it where you'll see it daily. Use it to pray for your city, your state, and your nation between now and Election Day.



POLICIES

POLICIES OUTLAST PEOPLE



Every election is about ideas. Candidates come and go, but policies stay. That is why we consider not only **who** we are voting for, but **what** we are voting for.

The founding documents of the United States remind us of this reality. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution established policies that would long outlast the people who signed them. That is the beauty of those documents, and the same principle is true today.

The importance of policy is often overshadowed by a candidate's likeability. But the consequence of policy lasts far longer than the person in office. Ultimately, we strive for great policies implemented by great people of character.

WHICH POLICIES HAVE BIBLICAL ROOTS?

This is our primary starting point.

We live in a fallen world, so bad policy is nothing new. American history includes sinful policies of child labor, discrimination, and segregation. At the same time, those laws were changed under Judeo-Christian influence. That is why we examine policies carefully before we vote.

Begin by asking: *What issues has God already spoken to in His Word?* Scripture clearly speaks to several foundational issues.

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

God values every human life: the unborn, the elderly, the orphan, the poor, and every person created in His image.

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

Marriage is not merely a secular contract but a sacred covenant between one man and one woman for a lifetime. This is a design established in Genesis and affirmed throughout the New Testament.

BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

God created us male and female. His Word calls us to sexual holiness and speaks clearly about sexual immorality. While we live in an increasingly sexualized culture, the gospel offers hope. Jesus forgives. He redeems. He rescues. As believers, we are called to show love and compassion to those who are struggling.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Like Daniel, believers should remain free to worship the Lord and faithfully live out a biblical worldview and share the gospel freely.

What other issues matter to you? Not every policy issue is addressed directly in Scripture, but many still require wisdom and thoughtful consideration. Decide what matters to you and investigate the candidates' views on those issues.

It really doesn't matter what the person looks like, or how they conduct themselves, or how tall they are, or how they dress.
What matters is the policies they're advocating.

— Dr. Christopher Hammons —
Director and Professor of Government, Houston Christian University

Policies often reflect the worldview of a candidate or political party. Are they looking through the lens of faith, God, and creation? Or are they looking through the lens of man's strength, atheism, and evolution?

Rather than being swayed by popularity alone, investigate what each candidate believes, what policies they intend to pursue, and what those policies will mean for your community.

Remember this simple principle: **Policies Outlast People.**

REFLECTION

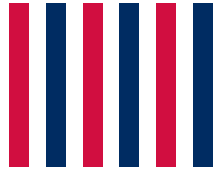
What are three to five policy issues that matter most to me?

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Beside each issue you listed, write a plus (+) if the candidate's views are aligned with your convictions and a minus (-) if they are not. Leave it blank if you don't know yet; then research to find out.

PARTNERSHIPS

NO ONE GOVERNS ALONE



No elected man or woman can do it alone. Imagine being a one-person basketball or baseball team. It's impossible. Now imagine running a city or a country by yourself.

Just being elected into office requires a team of donors, volunteers, strategists, and hopefully the prayers of friends and family. Even more, the politician will build a team to help him or her to govern.

So we need to ask this question: *Once this person is in office, who will they partner with to accomplish the task?*

This will differ at the federal, state, and local levels, but we know that one person can't do it all. First, consider **who they will hire and appoint**. For example, let's consider the P at the presidential level. Which candidate would likely appoint federal judges and Supreme Court justices who best represent your faith and beliefs? Keep in mind, federal judges are appointed for life.

Also consider who would fill positions with people most likely to align with your values. These include Cabinet positions such as Secretaries of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human

Services, Homeland Security, Justice, the Treasury, Veterans Affairs; the list goes on. And maybe most importantly: which vice presidential candidate do you want a heartbeat away from the presidency?

Next, at the local, state, and federal level, consider **what organizations endorse the candidate**. This often shows the policies they will seek to champion if elected. Do you respect and agree with the endorsing groups? Do they hold your values? Or better question: Do they hold biblical values?

Finally, consider **the party platform of the candidate**. This can be particularly helpful for down-ballot candidates. It can be difficult to thoroughly know each candidate in detail, so their chosen political party platform can help bring clarity about who lines up with your views.

The partners in leadership say a lot about the candidate and what they hope to accomplish. So don't focus only on the candidate. Also look at who surrounds them and who will be chosen to serve on their team. We know this from our own lives. The people closest to us shape who we become. That is true for all of us. It is even more true for someone running a city, a state, or a country.

If you do just a little bit of research into who their supporters are, you can predict who the affiliated parties are going to be, based on who their big campaign contributors are. And that's true on both sides.

— Dr. John Tyler —
Professor of Law and Jurisprudence
Houston Christian University

REFLECTION

Considering their partnerships, who best represents my vote and values for this election?

How do partnerships reveal a candidate's values? What groups and people give me confidence? What groups and people raise concerns?

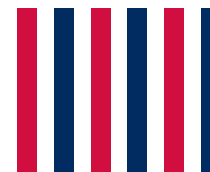
DIG DEEPER

Visit My Faith Votes for nonpartisan, faith-based voting resources, including voter information and party platform resources.



PERSON

KNOW THE CANDIDATE



Have you ever heard of Roger Sherman? He was a mayor, judge, delegate to the Constitutional Congress, US Representative, and US Senator; but most people haven't heard of him. He was a self-taught man from Connecticut and a strong Christian who spent his career as a public servant. And he was one of only two men, along with Benjamin Franklin, who signed all three of our founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

So, famous or not, his office held such power that he signed our country's three most important documents. The point is: **Who we vote into office is crucial.**

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

Start with what you know about the candidate. What is their background? What is their education? What experiences and previous vocations have shaped them? Then consider their strengths and weaknesses. Everyone has both. How have those strengths and weaknesses influenced their life and their policies? How might they influence the office they desire to hold?

WHAT IS A CANDIDATE?

There is an interesting history behind the word candidate. In ancient Rome, politicians wore gleaming white togas to symbolize the purity of their intentions. The garment was known as the toga candida, from which we get the word candidate. The white symbolized purity and truthfulness. They were expected to be candid in their words – meaning truthful.



So ask: *What is their track record like? What is their life like? Who are they? How would they use this position of influence to make a difference in our city, state, or nation?*

As Christians, we also have to ask about a candidate's faith. *What do they believe about Jesus? Do they know the Lord? Do they love the Lord? Do they live it out?* Of course, we are electing a politician, not a pastor. But the answers still tell us something important.

Unfortunately in today's political landscape, there is a question many people ask: *What if you don't like either candidate?* At that point, fall back on the other Ps. You may have to vote for the Policies and Partnerships over the Person.

This is why there are six Ps. As you look up and down the ballot, ask yourself, *"Which person aligns with the majority of my Ps?"*

REFLECTION

What do I know about this candidate's life, leadership, and track record beyond the headlines?

LOOK IT UP

Texas Voters:

Scan the QR code to see candidates and ballot-order information provided through the Texas Secretary of State.



Outside Texas?

Visit usa.gov/state-election-office to find your state's official election website.

When the righteous flourish,
the people rejoice, but when the wicked
rule, people groan.

— Proverbs 29:2 CSB —



“We the People.”

Those three words remind us that participation is essential to the American election process. We can watch the news about voting. We can talk about voting. But unless we the people actually vote, it means nothing. We’ve got to participate and actually cast our vote.

As believers in Christ, an important reason our participation matters is because the government has become more theological over the past few decades. Many people would say the church has become too political, but perhaps it is better phrased this way:

The church hasn’t become too political. The government has become too theological.

Government is intended to be a minister of God, a servant of God. Not God Himself. Yet issues of theology have increasingly become issues of government policy. Therefore, the church and believers in Christ, in particular, need to vote.

If you choose not to vote, you’ve also chosen something else: not to complain until the next election in which you vote!

In a tight race, a non-vote may actually help a candidate you disagree with. Higher voter turnout is key to the American election process, and each of us has a vote to steward.

That vote is envied by many and paid for by the sacrifice of others who came before us. Around the world, people walk miles and risk their lives to cast a ballot. Throughout our history as a country, people have died to give us this right to vote. So let’s take advantage of this right.

Participation can go beyond casting a ballot. Maybe you want to run for office. Go for it! We need good people running for office, from the local school board to Capitol Hill. You can also make an impact by serving at a polling place or volunteering on a candidate’s campaign. There are many ways to help the process. But none is as easy or more important than casting your ballot.

So take the time and participate. Steward your vote well, and cast it knowing that it is a precious gift.

REFLECTION

Is there an election in the past I regret not voting in?

Do I prefer early voting or voting on election day? Do I agree that not voting is unwise?

MAKE YOUR PLAN

Texas Voters: Scan the QR code to check your voter registration and find the information you need to cast your ballot.



Outside Texas? Visit usa.gov/state-election-office to find your state's official election website.

Don't leave your vote to chance. Write out your plan below.

- My voting date and time: _____
- My polling location: _____
- My plan to get there: _____
- Who I will invite or go with: _____
- One thing I will do to prepare: _____

Initial below if you decide not to vote (not recommended):
_____ I will not complain about the results until the next time I vote.

The Lord doesn't tell us to just do the things that we think are big. We're supposed to be good stewards. We're supposed to love our neighbor — and part of doing that is being responsible when it comes to choosing our leaders.

— Dr. John Tyler —

Professor of Law and Jurisprudence, Houston Christian University



Whether your candidate wins or loses, at whatever level in government, *walk in peace*.

Times have been worse. Times have been better. **But God is still on His throne!** Especially during an election season, there is an important question for believers to wrestle with: **Do I really believe in the sovereignty of God?**

Do I really believe that God is at work in our country and that the Lord will take me through anything, whether it is what I want or what I don't want?

Sure, many society issues are hard to reconcile. The violence. Leadership that is not what it should be. Anti-biblical policies. The vitriol, the suffering, the division. But God is still a good God. God is in control, and He can bring good things even out of bad things.

Paul tells us in **Romans 12:18 CSB**: *"If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

We need to emphasize peace in all of our relationships. We don't want to lose friends and family over politics. We don't want to

fight with coworkers, people at church, or others around us. Instead, we are called to live at peace with all people.

We are also commanded in **Philippians 4:6–7 ESV**: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

And **Colossians 1:16–17 ESV** reminds us that all things were created through Christ and for Christ; *“whether thrones, powers, rulers, or authorities...He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

Peace has to take root in our hearts first. The Prince of Peace should first reign there. Then peace will be reflected in how we talk, post, argue, and treat people.

So whoever you vote for, whether they win or lose, and whatever happens up and down the ballot, trust in the peace of Jesus Christ. He is the One who can lead our hearts and souls, and He is the One who can lead our country, state, and city as well.

Trust in the peace that never changes, because **He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.**

REFLECTION

What am I hoping this election will fix?

How am I trusting God regardless of the election results?

REACH OUT

Think about one person you disagree with politically, whose relationship you don't want to lose. Reach out to them this week about something other than the election.

I have an obligation to vote and be involved and to fight for the things I believe in — but I don't want to lose sight of the fact that I'm just a traveler coming through, and I don't want to destroy friendships or family along the way.

— Dr. Christopher Hammons —
Director and Professor of Government, Houston Christian University



Times have been worse.
Times have been better.

**But God is still
on His throne!**



6 Ps, ONE BALLOT

You have worked through six principles. Before you close this booklet, take one more look at all of them together.

1. **PRAYER** — Begin with God.
Before you consider anyone on the ballot, bring it to Him.
2. **POLICIES** — Policies Outlast People.
Vote for what will remain after the person is gone.
3. **PARTNERSHIPS** — No One Governs Alone.
Look at who they will bring with them and who endorses them.
4. **PERSON** — Know the Candidate.
Look past the headlines to the life and the record.
5. **PARTICIPATE** — Steward Your Vote.
Make your plan to vote.
6. **PEACE** — Walk in Peace.
No matter what, God is still on His throne.

REFLECTION

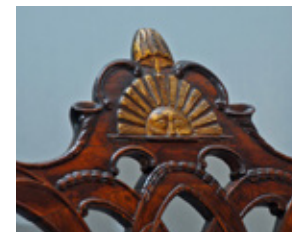
Which P comes most naturally to me?

Which P do I tend to neglect?

A framework does not always make an election season feel lighter. If you close this booklet and still feel uneasy about where our country is headed, you are in good company.

At the end of the Constitutional Convention, the delegates were exhausted. They had argued through a hot Philadelphia summer, and they were not certain the thing they had built would hold.

Benjamin Franklin asked for a moment to speak before they left. All summer, he said, he had been looking at the chair where George Washington sat, where the sun was carved into the back of it. All summer, he had wondered whether it was a rising sun or a setting sun.



Having read the Constitution and understanding the principles beneath it, Franklin said he was more convinced than ever that it was a rising sun.

There is a replica of that chair at Houston Christian University's Independence Hall. Dr. Christopher Hammons says that when he feels discouraged, he walks past it and prays that Franklin was right.

That is the posture to carry into Election Day. Not naive, and not afraid; prayerful, informed, and at peace.

CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENT & PRAYER

Thank you for taking the time to walk through these pages.
Before you go to the polls, pray this prayer aloud, thinking
of the candidates and your fellow voters.

Father, I pray as I will soon cast an important vote.

*Before anything else, draw me to Yourself. Let me approach the ballot
in prayer rather than in anxiety. Give me wisdom, discernment, and
peace as I weigh policies, ideas, and conversations that are rarely simple.*

*I pray for my city. Be with our mayor and our city council, our county
judge and commissioners, and those who serve on our school boards.
Give them integrity in the work they have been entrusted with.*

*I pray for my state. Speak wisdom into our governor and lieutenant
governor, our attorney general, the members of our legislature, and the
judges who serve Texas. Let their decisions serve the people in their care.*

*I pray for my nation. Let Your people call upon Your name and pray,
and bring healing to this land. Lord, do what politics cannot do.
Change hearts all across America. And in this season, let us speak
to one another with civility and honor You with our words.*

*And I pray for a peaceful witness. Whatever the outcome of this
election, may our nation and the world look at Your Church and
see the Prince of Peace.*

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Our hope is not in elections.
Our hope is in Christ.

A NOTE ABOUT VOTING RESOURCES

This guide was created with Texas voters in mind. While the principles apply to anyone voting in an upcoming election, some resources throughout these pages link directly to Texas election information. If you live outside Texas, visit [usa.gov/state-election-office](https://www.usa.gov/state-election-office) to find official voting information for your state.

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