



Our Faith Our Vote: Racial Justice Ministries

Voting is an Act of Resistance and Spiritual Practice. Justice cannot be achieved unless the rules for governing the democratic process are fair to all, yet voter rights have been significantly undermined in recent years. We have seen state efforts to restrict voter rights through stringent voter identification laws and rollbacks in early voting, and last year's Supreme Court decision eliminated key provisions of The Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Almost every ballot measure and candidate policy platform have implications for racial justice because racial disparities are woven into every part of our political system and common life. But those implications are often masked by the language being used. Here are some ways that questions of racial justice will likely show up in a ballot box near you this election season:

Measures and platforms that explicitly involve racial justice:

- Voting Rights and Voter Suppression: be aware of policies and legislation aimed at restricting voting access, including making mail voting more difficult, implementing stricter photo ID laws, curtailing registration drives, intimidating eligible voters, or creating obstacles to voting, all of which create racial inequities in the exercise of democracy.
- Racial Equity Education: The UCC's national body approved [a resolution supporting public school educators, academic freedom and equity efforts in schools](#) during General Synod 34. Racial Justice Ministries continues to watch for restrictions on education and book bans involving critical race theory, (multi)cultural education, ethnic studies, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). These efforts will often include language prohibiting the discussion, training, and/or understanding that the U.S. is inherently racist as well as any discussions about conscious and unconscious bias, privilege, discrimination, and oppression. Consider how your vote can support education toward a more racially just future with helpful resources, [Anti-censorship tool kit](#), Anti-racist formation of children and youth, and [movements against book bans](#).
- A National Call for Reparations and Apology for the Enslavement, Systemic and Institutional Racist Policies, and Denial of Wages for over 250 years for People of African Descent in the U.S. [Reparations are measures that seek to rectify actions by English North American colonies and inhumane acts of enslaving people of African descent as human chattel](#). From local initiatives to federal commissions, the question of monetary and other forms of recompense to address and repair systemic and structural racial harm and inequity are emerging at every level of government. There are ongoing calls for national conversations, political action, and recompense for over 45 million African Americans in the United States. [UCC Conferences continue to advocate for conversations to study and calls for actions for reparations for African Americans](#).