

# **GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## **THE FOLLOWING POLICY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE ELDER BOARD REGARDING THE CHURCH AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS**

As a church, we seek to teach clearly from the Scriptures on moral issues. Where the Scriptures speak, we will teach without apology, even if this violates public opinion. We encourage all our members to participate actively in national and local political processes as Christian citizens, representing views in keeping with the Scriptures.

However, God has ordained the church for purposes far beyond any nation's political processes. He did not ordain the church as a political institution. Therefore, we must be careful not to allow the church to be used as a political tool. The Scriptures are clear on the purposes for the public meetings of the church (such as worship, edification, prayer, evangelism, etc.). In general, it is unwise and inappropriate to allow these public gatherings to become intertwined with specific candidates, initiative petitions, or other political endorsements, even though many of them may be very worthy. To do so risks displacing the God-ordained purposes of the church and reducing it to something less than it is supposed to be. This position is strongly in keeping with principles of religious tolerance for which Baptist churches have stood within American history.

Because of this, the Board of Elders takes the following position regarding candidates and petitions:

- The church does not endorse specific candidates.
- The church does not allow distribution of campaign literature in the church.
- The church does not allow initiatives/petitions to be circulated on church premises except in rare cases, with approval of the Board.