Human Life Amendment
ND Choose Life Campaign

TIMETABLE for Church Involvement

THEME: Educate Your Vote
March through May:
1. Recruiting and Training Church Coordinator Volunteers
2. Formation of Prayer Initiative
3. Education Materials/Table - Churches
4. Gathering Contact Information - Churches

THEME: Pledge Your Vote
June through September
1. Absentee Ballot Registration
2. Gathering Information - Churches
3. Developing Pastoral Relationships

THEME: Cast Your Vote
October through November 4
1. Follow-up on Mailing Absentee Votes
2. Calling the Body of Christ to Voting/Stewardship - Voting for All Non-Absentee Voters

What should I do?
1. CHURCH COORDINATOR: If possible, find a parish/church coordinator to handle most of the tasks. The coordinator would be responsible for setting up the informational table, gathering contact information for educational material on the Human Life Amendment/ND Choose Life Campaign.

2. HUMAN LIFE SUNDAYS: Preferably choose three to four weekends with each “THEME TIME PERIOD” to carry out the critical action items needed done. Whether education, gathering signatures and contact information, registering people to get an absentee ballot, multiple weekends will be required to accomplish these need steps of connecting with church members interested in the Human Life Amendment.

3. SERMONS: Consider mentioning the importance of the Human Life Amendment in your homilies/sermons.
4. PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS: Use a prepared announcement to share the details for the informational table and the signature gathering.

5. BULLETIN INSETS: Keep the message positive. The purpose of the initiative is to protect the common-sense pro-life laws passed through our legislative process.

**Why do we need this amendment? Why now?**

North Dakotans are a just and compassionate people. We recognize that human life is a gift that deserves protection. Similarly, we believe that abortion is morally wrong. Reflecting our values, the Legislature has passed several pro-life laws to protect women and children, including ensuring that women are given full disclosure of information prior to an abortion, making sure parents are notified if their daughter is seeking an abortion, and prohibiting children who are partially born from being killed by an abortionist before their birth can be completed.

Unfortunately, wealthy out-of-state special interest groups regularly challenge North Dakota’s pro-life laws and attempt to persuade judges to invent a state constitutional right to abortion as a way of overturning these laws. The Human Life Amendment will give the state needed legal protection against a judge inventing a right to abortion.

**Where can I find more information?**
The North Dakota Family Alliance, North Dakota Catholic Conference, North Dakota Concerned Women for America, North Dakota Right to Life have been instrumental in forming a campaign committee called ND Choose Life. The campaign is taking the lead on the day to day operation of seeing the measure pass. We are represented on the committee.

The contact person for all questions is Campaign Director, Chris Hupke. He can be reached at (701) 388-4966, or chris@ndchooselife.com. The campaign website is www.NDChooseLife.com. Please visit the website as it will be the main connection for educational materials and campaign events.
Absentee Ballot Information

Absentee Ballots Available
Absentee ballots are made available to military voters and their families stationed away from their North Dakota residence and residents residing overseas (UOCAVA voters) on the 46th day before the General Election. Absentee ballots for all other North Dakota residents (domestic voters) are made available on the 40th day before the General Election.

UOCAVA/Overseas Military voters ballots made available............Friday, September 19, 2014
Domestic voters ballots made available..............................Thursday, September 25, 2014

North Dakota Secretary of State Website:
https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx

Are there legal restrictions on this kind of activity on a Ballot Initiative?
No. There are not restrictions on activities in support of or opposition to a Ballot Initiative.

Should the church/clergy be involved in such “political activity”?
The Church teaches that all Catholics have a moral obligation to participate in the political process. Both the Holy Father and the U.S. Bishops have state that this obligation extends to protecting human life at all stages of development, which is among the fundamental rights of the human person.

What are the dates regarding the Election Process?
September 25: County Auditors begin mailing Absentee Ballots
November 4: General Election