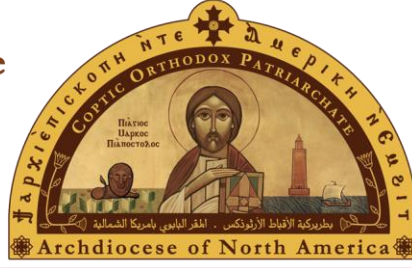


**Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese
of North America**

H.H. Pope Tawadros II
118th Pope of Alexandria



المقر البابوي بأمریکا الشمالية
للأقباط الأرثوذكس
قداسة البابا تواضروس الثاني
بابا الإسكندرية الـ ١١٨

Saturday October 16, 2021

**Special Statement on the Upcoming November 2nd Elections
for the Coptic Orthodox Churches in the State of New Jersey**

Dear Beloved Congregations,

We as Coptic Orthodox Americans have the privilege and responsibility of electing our public officials. Our votes influence public policy, affect our communities, and impact the future of our children and nation.

Now more than ever, when our Christian values have never been more unrepresented, each of us can take action. Each of us can do two things to make a difference:

1. Learn the positions of candidates for public office on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity and performance; and
2. Consider early voting, which is not the same as voting by mail. Voting early can help ensure safer voting during the Pandemic, without missing the deadline to vote, while affording the same constitutional protections as voting on election day. Vote early by yourself or join us for one of our congregational “Get Out and Vote” days.

Every county will provide registered voters with the option to vote early. They will designate in-person early voting locations that will be open Saturday, October 23 through Sunday, October 31. Hours will be Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary. See nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml

In this 2021 General Election, offices on the ballot for NJ, include:

- Governor & Lieutenant Governor
- State Senate (to represent different districts)
- State General Assembly (to represent different districts)
- School Boards of Education
- Others offices and ballot measures

While our Coptic Orthodox Church maintains its neutrality in partisan political matters, it is vital that her members as individuals never shy away from voting Orthodox Christian values.

To this end, our regional Archdiocese is promoting a “Get Out and Vote” drive immediately following Divine Liturgy for the next two Saturdays and Sundays (October 23-24, and 30-31); and, will be calling for a Voting Day of Prayer, the day before the election, on Monday, November 1. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the Fathers if you need transportation to vote, or poll location information.

May we all become increasingly active and informed to preserve our religious liberties and safeguard our Orthodox Christian values.

In Christ,

The Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of North America