



## Political Guidelines and Protocol

Because Aglow International incorporated as a 501c3 in 1972, and is tax exempt, there are certain guidelines set by the IRS that we must adhere to. The beauty of Aglow is that women and men from all denominations have found ways to come from different religious and ethnic backgrounds to merge into the Body of Christ.

As a ministry we are non-partisan. Publicly, we are not Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, or any other political party. (Partisan means biased, opinionated, taking sides; therefore, Aglow is to not favor one party over the other as information is presented in outreach meetings, prayer calls, retreats, or conferences.)

- We do not support candidates by name.
- We can support issues, but you need to know the Biblical basis for an issue. (You can view Aglow's Core Values and our Belief Statements to help you know where Aglow stands.) For example, Aglow stands for life. Children are a gift from God. God is the One who formed children in the womb; therefore, Aglow supports candidates that support life for the unborn.
- Aglow prays **for** and supports as opposed to praying **against** something or someone.
- Biblically we are to pray for our leaders, not tear them down. Pray for those who aren't saved, to come to know the Lord.
- We need to encourage people to be informed and vote and to register to vote.
- We can encourage people to let their voices be heard by calling their legislatures to let them know how we stand on issues.
- If you receive political emails from candidates you support privately, PLEASE DO NOT forward political emails to your Aglow email lists.
- As a private citizen, you are free to participate in a political campaign. However, the federal government has given Aglow an exemption from federal income taxes provided we do not promote political candidates or campaigns, or contribute money to a candidate.
- Simply put, this means we shouldn't say or do things like the following in our Aglow meetings:
  - "Mary Jean Brown, a Lighthouse President, is running for a seat on the Seattle school board. She really wants to bring back biblical principles to the schools, so get out and vote for her."
  - "Max King is a family friend, a good Christian and is running for Sherriff. Please vote for Max."
  - "We will be having a garage sale next Friday and Saturday to help Mary Jean Brown in her quest to earn a seat on the Seattle school board. All the proceeds will go into her campaign fund."
- As people of influence, we can safely make statements concerning moral issues facing our nation. You CAN say and do:
  - "As American citizens, we have the privilege of voting for our government leaders. Please vote responsibly and prayerfully for candidates reflecting moral and godly principles."
  - Conduct voter registration
  - "A new abortion rights bill is being voted on next week. Aglow strongly supports life, so get out and vote for life!"
  - "I'm handing out a pamphlet listing the church attendance and the voting records of all the candidates running for office this year."