

COLE COMMUNITY CHURCH PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

We believe that God has called us as individuals and as a church to love the people around us. This means that we care intimately about what happens in our society. It means that we are involved in the lives of our neighbors, work associates, schools and communities. It also means that each of us will become involved in the political processes of our community to the degree and in the manner we feel to be consistent with the love that our Lord has called us to and has given us.

As leaders of Cole Community Church we feel that Cole's role is not to dictate, predict or direct that involvement in the political process but to equip the believers of this body to engage in that process from a strong foundation of Biblical truth and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. This means that people will be speaking the truth in love. Biblical truth is not merely propositional, it is relational. In other words, the truth is profoundly compromised and distorted if not presented in love (and love is compromised and distorted if divorced from truth).

We also acknowledge that mature, Spirit-filled believers are going to disagree on the strategy and priorities of any given political organization, any specific political action, any specific legislation or specific candidacy. Recognizing this, **we as a church will not endorse any political organization, action, legislation or candidate.** Instead, our intention is to teach Biblical principles that will enable each member of our body to think through the issues biblically for himself or herself in such a way that they can come to their own conclusions about each issue and arrive at their own convictions concerning the political role to which God is calling them. They then will be able to engage in dialogue with others based on love and respect.

Because of this philosophy, other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not give announcements, place inserts in the bulletin nor will we distribute literature or authorize leafletting in the parking lot for any political organization, candidate or specific legislation.

[NOTE: The scripture teaching on this policy can be found in the teaching tape by David Roper on the book of Jude for April 14, 1993-#93.014]

Council of Elders
Revised April, 1993