



FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Sister Linda Gant, President

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ACTION

Sister Kathleen Turpin-Merritt, Chair

DISTRICT WIDE STATEMENT ON LAY WITNESS SUNDAY

Lay Ministry and Outreach are extremely important during these present times. In 1969, the African Methodist Episcopal Church declared the second Sunday in October as Lay Witness Sunday. As the AME church's teaching and training arms, we aim to empower the pew and its members with all the available spiritual tools and training resources in the building of God's Kingdom, partnering with pastors and clergy in fulfilling the mission and objective of our beloved denomination of faith.

In the spirit and audacity of our founder, Bishop Richard Allen, we want to bring particular attention to the political climate and attacks upon the freedoms of citizens across the entire District and country. We have a long and lasting record of advocating for voting rights, speaking truth to power in social justice spaces since our founding, there is no better time to raise our voices and to be clearly heard through the ballot box.

We must be vigilant in our respective states, cities, counties, municipalities, and townships, taking our souls to the polls! Tuesday, November 4, 2025, is Election Day throughout the United States. No VOTE – No VOICE! Voting is the strongest response to those who try to silence us. We are asking every member to plan and VOTE.

Someone once said that all politics is local. It is time for us to sound that clarion call throughout our local churches, communities, and families to be encouraged, to get educated, to be engaged in your government. We, the people, must rise to meet the present-day challenges of these times through voter engagement and participation. We must ensure that every voter age-eligible person in our homes, our families, our neighborhoods, our churches is registered to vote. It is your civic responsibility to do everything in your power to GET OUT THE VOTE!



Vote By Mail, Vote Early, Vote In Person...

**First Episcopal District Lay Organization
Committee on Social Action
2025 Lay Witness Sunday Message**