

**Title:** How to Approach Modern Politics as a Mormon

**Kicker:** Thomas B. Griffith, discusses how faithful members of the Church can become involved in politics.

For Thomas Griffith, a circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals, politics is a way of life. As a practicing member of the Church, he is also a judge who grew up with a lasting interest in American politics. Considering his interests and devotions, he believes that his political and religious convictions can be combined in a devotion to a single effort. As Griffith sees it, politics can be a religious activity despite the inherent risks within the field.

The answer is not to avoid politics altogether. In fact, it is our duty as members of the Church to improve our communities and the world around us. There is also no designated Church party. It is perfectly possible to become involved in politics within either party or at in any capacity if our involvement becomes an expression of expresses our God-given desire to be Christ-like and build Zion here on Earth. The key to balancing our religious and political convictions is to remember that the Church is the true vehicle for the salvation for of God's children, not a particular political organization. With that in mind, we must remember that everyone is a child of God, including political opponents or politicians we may disagree with.

In essence, Griffith argues that church members can use their knowledge of the restored gospel to influence the world for good. Whether it is by voting, joining active political causes, or becoming public officials themselves, members of the Church can be a part of the political arena and still keep the faith.

**Commented [NCC1]:** This is a little dry. I would try to make it more engaging by adding in implications or more active verbs.

**Commented [NCC2]:** I cut this out because it was redundant considering the previous sentence.

**Commented [NCC3]:** This is an example of a quick transition. It was just a little choppy.

**Commented [NCC4]:** Like Katie mentioned, either define the effort or use a phrase with more meaning and implication like a "single righteous outcome." (I'm not sure that phrase is what you're getting at, but that specification is necessary.)

**Commented [KC5]:** Perhaps here would be a good place to mention what that single effort is.

**Commented [NCC6]:** As Katie has specified, first specify a common Mormon issue or question before addressing a solution or non-solution. Right now you are jumping from his beliefs to a solution.

**Commented [KC7]:** You talk about "the answer" but haven't actually posed a question. Perhaps rephrase this or put in a sentence describing reasons church members avoid involvement in politics.

**Commented [NCC8]:** See Mormon Insights style guide

**Commented [NCC9]:** Maybe cite a statement that proves this. (12<sup>th</sup> article of faith? Or something from the original source.)

**Commented [NCC10]:** This once again transitions by showing a concern and then addressing it.

**Commented [NCC11]:** This is just an example of what needs to follow "the key." My first instinct is to ask, "the key to what?"

**Commented [KC12]:** Maybe it would be good to take this one step further and say something about how this doctrine should influence how we act when we get involved in politics.

**Commented [KC13]:** "Asserts" might be a better word here.

~~Read Source: You can access~~ Thomas Griffith's full article, "Title of the original publication," from *BYU Studies* here.

—Shane Peterson, *Mormon Insights*

This is well-written! You give some good specifics on how members can get involved. One suggestion I have would be to take a more definite stand on the subject: you mention that it is a member's duty to participate in their community, but most of the summary seems to say that one *can* do it, not necessarily that they *should*. (I'm assuming that Griffith is arguing that we *should*, not just that we *can* but that could be an incorrect assumption.) If you argue that members *should* get involved, then you are inviting your readers to take action, which is a powerful way to get them interested and help them want to do something (like read the article!).

**Commented [SP14]:** This article is only available through a paid subscription. What should we do about it?

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