



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Promoting marriage, family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

Newsletter | Fall 2012



**PRO LIFE.
PRO MARRIAGE.
PRO FAMILY.**

from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

Throughout history, nations have risen by the power of kings, rulers, and even tyrants. The United States of America, on the other hand, has been sustained by a shared belief penned by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 in our Declaration of Independence. Perhaps the best known lines of this foundational document are found in the words:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by
their Creator with certain
unalienable rights,
that among these are life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness.
That to secure these rights, governments
are instituted among men, deriving
their just powers from the
consent of the governed...*

Though too many in our post-Christian culture deny it, the Declaration of Independence's claim that these truths are "self-evident" is really a statement confirming the Founding Fathers' belief in God's general revelation; the concept that God and not the mind of man is the source of these universal principles. And that He has revealed them generally to all people (including those who foolishly refuse to acknowledge God).



Those who want a purely humanistic nation absent of Judeo-Christian values — those who cry "separation of church and state" at even the slightest public mention of God or Scripture — continue to do all they can to separate the Declaration from the biblical influence that shaped its message.

But to separate the Declaration's proclamation that the Creator (God) endowed each of us with unalienable rights, is to make government the grantor of rights rather than the protector.

It is a sad reality that almost every day we hear of local, state or federal governments interfering with our freedom of religion — our first freedom. We read national headlines about the federal Health and Human Services department issuing a mandate that all employers, including religious ones such as Catholic hospitals and evangelical colleges like Moody Bible Institute, must cover contraceptives and abortion pills in their employee health plans, even in violation of their deeply held beliefs.

Here at the Illinois Family Institute, we champion the Founder's principles, and have sought to encourage responsible citizenship and a restoration of those principles to civil government.

As we approach the November 6th elections, let us all remember the limited role of governments and why they were "instituted among men." And let's remind our children, our neighbors and yes, even our President and other elected public officials that our rights come from God and not from man. ★

View Our New Website: www.illinoisfamily.org

The 2012 Challenge

As citizens of heaven, we have a duty to pray for those already in authority so that their decisions help us to live peacefully. As citizens of the United States, we have an obligation to participate in electing the men and women who will best represent our values. Whether you are voting for a state representative or the President of the United States, each one will impact the future of our nation, our values and our families. While we are grateful for a successful year in lobbying against anti-family bills in Springfield, our work is far from done. Those candidates who stand for abortion on demand, liberal drug laws, the redefinition of marriage and the denial of religious liberty are determined to make the Land of Lincoln the liberal bastion of the Midwest.



President Obama Governor Romney

Each one of us must do our part to register voters, promote voter education, help men and women who share our values get elected into office, and then turn out to vote on Election Day. We need your participation!

Decide today to participate by holding a Voter Registration Sunday in your church *before* October 6th.

Visit www.illinoisfamily.org to download everything you need to register voters at your church. ★

»»» VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6 & MAKE SURE YOUR LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS & RELATIVES VOTE TOO!



»»» GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

General Election November 6, 2012
Last Day to Register to Vote October 9, 2012

Grace Period Registration & Voting (*If you have just moved, you may register and/or vote at the election authority location.*)

Begins October 10, 2012
Ends October 30, 2012

Early Voting (*at the election authority location and designated locations*)

Begins October 15, 2012
Ends November 1, 2012

Absentee Ballot Voting

1st day to file for absentee ballot application . September 27, 2012

Application requests by mail

Must be received by November 1, 2012
Last date to vote absentee in person November 5, 2012

Fun.Run.Walk.

Second Annual
Illinois Family Institute Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, October 6, 2012
Hadley Valley Preserve
Joliet, IL
Located west of I-355,
at Gougar Road just north of Rt. 6 in Joliet, IL

Timed Run
T-Shirts
Food & Drinks
Prizes!

To make reservations call:
708-781-9328
Must pre-register for a T-shirt at:
www.illinoisfamily.org

Also in this Issue...

Stand With Us for Freedom	p. 3
Pastors Petition President	p. 3
IFI Voter Guides Now Available.	p. 3
We Agree with Michelle Obama!	p. 4
Atheists Oppose Sunday Discounts	p. 4
Constitutional Freedoms Guaranteed?	p. 5
Internet Porn Domains	p. 5
Homosexual Agenda	p. 6
UN Threatens Parental Rights.	p. 6
Upcoming Elections	p. 7
Support Chick-fil-A	p. 7
IFI Prayer Requests	p. 8

Stand **With Us** for Freedom

Two hundred thirty-six years ago, 56 men signed a document pledging their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor” to the cause of liberty. All of them made good on that pledge, and in the process, took bold and courageous stands for the cause of freedom. Many lost their wealth, land, families, and some their own lives as they helped to mold this nation. Unfortunately, perhaps more than ever in our history, their vision of freedom is under assault. This November’s election will determine whether one of the greatest legislative assaults on individual liberty will continue.

Now, we are asking you to take up the cause of Independence that began in 1776. We are not asking you to give up your families or your land, and definitely not your lives, but we are asking for your willingness to volunteer some of your time until November to make sure that people who share your values get out and vote in support of freedom. We are not asking you to take bullets or spend a winter at Valley Forge like the beleaguered farmers who defeated the greatest army on earth. But if you can volunteer some of your valuable time, we are confident that together we will make a difference for the cause of freedom this year.

This year, the Illinois Family

Institute and our sister organization, Illinois Family Action, a state affiliate of American Family Association, is working hard to fight for liberty. We have opportunities for you and your family to help distribute *IFI Voter Guides* or IFA Action sheets in your local area. We have established a reputation as the premier defender of traditional values in the Land of Lincoln, and are working hard to ensure that those who share our values are well-informed and motivated to vote on November 6th. Will you join us in fighting for the values we hold dear?

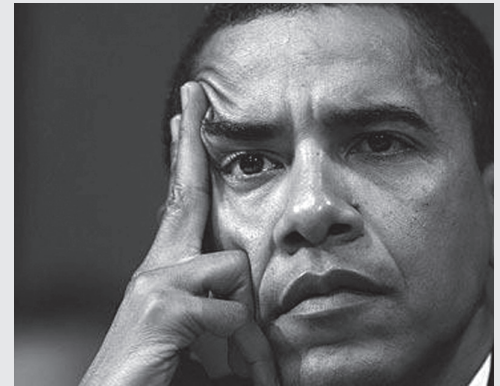
If you cannot volunteer your time, would you consider donating some resources?

The Illinois Family Institute continues to work on your behalf to advance the Judeo-Christian values upon which this country was founded only through the generosity of supporters. All donations to IFI are tax-deductible.

Illinois Family Action is able to take much bolder stands as it pertains to endorsements of candidates. IFA is the 501(C)4 political arm of IFI and donations are not tax-deductible. For more information, visit www.illinoisfamilyaction.org. ★

**Illinois Family
Action**

African-American pastors ask President to change his mind on **same-sex “marriage”**

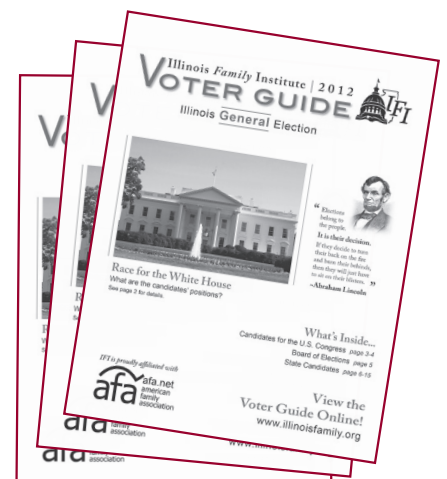


President Obama “undoubtedly doesn’t understand the difference in the ‘gay’ and lesbian community and the African Americans who fought for civil rights, who put their lives on the line,” according to **Rev. William Owens** from Memphis, the leader of the Coalition of African American Pastors (CAAP). CAAP has written President Obama to ask for a meeting over his recent endorsement of same-sex “marriage,” and is encouraging people to sign a petition at 100000signatures4marriage.com calling on the President to change his position. ★

IFI Voter Guides **NOW Available**

Call today to order them in bulk for your church or neighborhood. The *IFI Voter Guide* is a non-partisan resource that can legally be distributed in churches. It is designed to help voters learn more about the positions of the candidates running for state and federal office on November 6th.

We need your help to get our *Voter Guide* into the hands of every person who is concerned about the direction our state and nation are heading. Please ask your pastor if he would be willing to make the *IFI Voter Guide* available to the congregation. Then call us to let us know how many to send: 708-781-9328. ★



We Agree with Michelle Obama!

You read that correctly. It probably doesn't happen often, but we agree with the words spoken by First Lady Michelle Obama in July where she implored church leaders at a conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee, to drive political action:

Nearly every issue we deal with in America today is a moral issue: abortion, marriage, health care, gambling, sex education, and fiscal responsibility in government. Those who suggest that the Church should stay silent on these issues are only complicit in advancing a dangerous lie — a lie that would have us abandon the public square entirely to liberals and humanists. No, the Church is obligated to be involved in influencing the culture. As the late Chuck Colson pointed out:



“To anyone who says that church is no place to talk about these issues, you tell them there is no place better. Because ultimately, these are not just political issues, they are moral issues.”

The fact is Mrs. Obama is absolutely correct on both counts! The Church is the place to talk about the issues of the day, to ensure that people understand that their values have a place in the public square and that the church, the center of social change and political movements since before America began, has every legal right and a moral obligation to do so. Where else would Christians understand a firm biblical worldview on these issues?

“The only way we're going to bridge this gulf [between secular and Christian worldviews], which is getting wider and deeper between the two Americas, is to be able to articulate intelligently what we believe about our worldview. Show the other side their worldview is either irrational or incapable of producing a moral order... But we don't do this. We build our own comfortable cocoons; therefore, our America is shrinking and the other America is getting bigger.”

Unfortunately, too many church leaders and congregants have fallen for the “separation of church and state” myth, either from intimidation, ignorance or fear.

Should the church be the center of partisan political activity? No, though frankly it is constitutionally protected to do so. Should politics be the primary activity of the church? No again. But addressing issues of the day, teaching people about their God-given civic responsibilities, helping people to think biblically about the issues of the day, and by providing information about candidates and elected officials are absolutely legal and important for congregations.

So, as we approach the November 6th General Election, let's all take the First Lady's words to heart and make sure that our churches remain the centers of social and political change in America and in the Land of Lincoln! ★

(Contact IFI for information on what churches and pastors can and cannot do.)

Atheists Oppose Sunday Discounts

The Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission

is investigating a restaurant because of an atheist's complaint. The problem? The restaurant offered a discount on Sundays to customers who brought in a church bulletin. That, according to the atheist and the Commission, is religious discrimination. Following their logic, a Happy Meal or senior coffee at McDonald's would be age discrimination. ★



Join the Conversation...



Illinois Family Institute
1,202 likes

Illinois Family Action
309 likes



@ProFamilyIL

Constitutional Freedoms No Longer Guaranteed

As you know by now, in a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) declared the President's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAC) constitutional. We now face an egregious threat to personal liberty and religious freedom.

Contrary to their promises to Congress and the general public, proponents of the PPAC succeeded in arguing to the Supreme Court that the "individual mandate" will function as a federal tax. This sets a dangerous precedent for future government mandates.

This highly controversial and unpopular "individual mandate", which if not

repealed, will force Americans to "buy" federally approved or sponsored healthcare plans or pay a tax — a penalty — for non-compliance.

We believe this law is a threat to personal liberty, religious freedom and family choices. It gives government bureaucrats alarming power over individual citizen's healthcare decisions and will lead to future conflicts of conscience. Americans will be forced to choose either to comply and abandon their religious beliefs or resist and be fined (taxed).

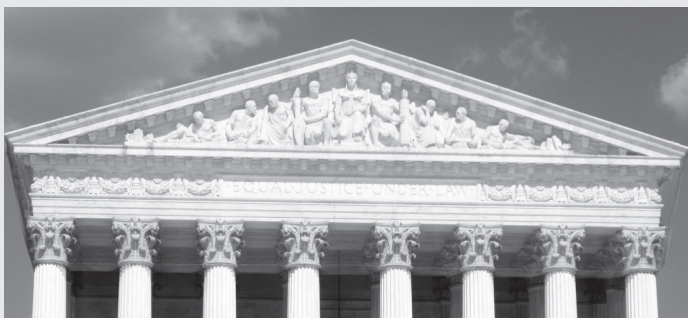
The PPAC includes provisions for abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilizations, and will force taxpayers to subsidize many types of abortions. By advancing taxpayer funding of abortion, the PPAC attacks religious freedom and individual liberty, forcing people of faith to pay for something that God abhors.



We urge our national lawmakers to repeal the PPAC, and rather than rushing through an expansive overhaul, take a reasonable approach to reforming what's wrong with healthcare. The federal reach into the lives of each and every American citizen is of grave concern. And the accompanying threats to freedom of conscience challenge the very concept of liberty.

It serves to remind believers that each time the Israelites turned away from God and trusted in man, they became enslaved and their freedoms were taken away. It should also serve to remind us to pray for true revival and the spread of the Gospel.

We also hope and pray that this monumental decision will be the catalyst to awaken and unite American voters — especially people of faith — this November. ★



Internet Porn Domains

The .XXX domain that was established by the Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) last year did nothing but create thousands of new PORNOGRAPHY sites on the web. Now the company behind the .XXX domain, ICM Registry, wants even more porn sites and is asking ICANN for permission to open three new domains, .PORN, .SEX, and .ADULT.

If you recall, ICM Registry originally proposed the .XXX domain so that all porn sites would be in one place on the web. Well, that was never a possibility and now we know just what the true motivation of ICM is — lots more porn on the Internet.

Take ACTION:

Please submit comments to ICANN for the proposed three new domains, .PORN, .SEX, .ADULT. It takes just a few minutes but is so necessary. The email address is newgtd@icann.org. Please take time to submit your comments to ICANN. Tell them that increasing the number of porn domains is NOT in the public's best interest. ★



Homosexual Agenda *by David E. Smith*

Every week another major corporation takes sides in the culture wars. It would seem counterproductive for a business to publicly promote controversial and divisive issues in order to placate a tiny segment of society, but corporations by the dozens are doing it. They do so, I believe, in part because of our fear, silence and apathy.

Home Depot, JC Penny, Starbucks, General Mills and Office Depot have all been co-opted by the homosexual activists' politically correct juggernaut. In June, Nabisco's Oreo posted a rainbow-colored Oreo on its Facebook page in honor of "Gay Pride" month. Ironically, the Oreo page claims that "...Oreo has been a part of memorable family moments for 100 years." Does Oreo's celebration of homosexuality *really* constitute a memorable family moment?

One weekend in June, I noticed that a suburban BMW dealership displayed a rainbow banner with the words "Pride Links Us Together." I called the store and explained to the manager that his display would alienate a good number of potential customers. He indignantly asked, "Who would it alienate?" I pointed out that it would offend many conservative people of faith and any others who hold traditional values. The manager angrily responded, "We don't want them as customers anyway."

Another Chicago area business that is proud to be associated with the radical homosexual political agenda is Hoekstra Heating and Air Conditioning. They mail promotional postcards that prominently display a symbol which declares their alliance with the nation's largest homosexual lobby group, the Human Rights Campaign.

Homosexual activists have infiltrated nearly every institution in America, drowning out and intimidating opposing voices while promoting their own corrupt worldview. You can see evidence of it in the media, in academia, in the corporate world, and now, thanks to open homosexuality in the military, we will soon see it in our Armed Forces as openly homosexual military leaders fill the ranks.

One just has to look at some of the mainline churches in America to see the success of the divide and conquer strategy, with the most recent fatality being the Episcopal Church. Who could have imagined that one day a church would abandon doctrine to affirm homosexuality and cross-dressing in its clergy? ★



UN Threatens Parental Rights



The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and other conservative organizations supporting parental rights have temporarily derailed U.S. Senate action on the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Michael Farris, HSLDA's Chairman, says the treaty would give the government "the ability to override every decision of a parent of disabled children if the government thinks that its views are in 'the best interest of the child.'" ★

Take ACTION:

Call our U.S. Senators and ask them to vote NO to CRPD:

- ▶ Senator Dick Durbin:
(202) 224-2152
- ▶ Senator Mark Kirk:
(202) 224-2854

Upcoming Election *by David E. Smith*

Every four years I hear the same old cliché: “This is the most important election of our lifetimes.” Each time I’ve heard it, it has rung true, but perhaps at no time has it rung truer than this time.

While the choices we have this November may not excite pro-family voters, there are a number of serious concerns we need to keep in mind regarding this race, chief among them are new appointments to the Supreme Court of the United States.

We currently have four Justices in their mid to late 70s: Justice **Stephen Breyer** is 74 years old, Justices **Anthony Kennedy** and **Antonin Scalia** are 76 years old, and **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** is 79 years old. There is an excellent chance that the next president will have the opportunity to appoint as many as four new justices to the High Court.

In addition to that, presidents make lifetime judicial appointments to other federal courts. During President Bill Clinton’s eight years in office, he appointed 377 federal judges and two Supreme Court Justices (Ginsberg and Breyer). During President George W. Bush’s eight years in office, he appointed 326 federal judges and two Supreme Court justices (Roberts and Alito). And during President Barack Obama’s four years in office, he has appointed 124 federal judges and two Supreme Court justices (Sotomayor and Kagan). If elected to another four-



year term, Obama would undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the Court. By appointing four more Supreme Court Justices, Obama will be able to create or shape policies and set precedents for decades to come.

In addition to the high profile campaign for president, there are a number of “down ballot” races that need our attention. In this election cycle, every Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) seat is up for election — every state representative and state senator — all 177 seats. This happens every ten years, after the U.S. census and re-districting.

Shockingly, 91 races for the ILGA are unopposed. That means that more than half the seats will be uncontested this November. This failure indicts both political parties. It is unconscionable that either party would allow any race to go uncontested, allowing the opposing party an open path to elected office.

This is why it is vitally important that pro-family, pro-liberty citizens roll up their sleeves and get involved. I am not talking about the few minutes it takes to cast our ballots. Rather, as we approach the November 6th deadline, I want to

challenge everyone reading this article, to get involved in a campaign: federal, state or local (including County Board races).

In addition to voting, there are a number of ways you can increase your participation in our system of government: put up yard signs; make phone calls for a candidate; distribute literature to your family, friends and neighbors; go door to door with a candidate; host a meet-the-candidate event in your home; help raise money or contribute financially; and attend rallies or march in parades.

The sense of urgency implied in the claim that this is the most important election in our lifetimes is very real. We cannot passively relinquish our liberties and our children to government leaders who are increasingly hostile to truth and freedom. We have not only a responsibility to be good stewards of God’s gift of self-government, but we also have the opportunity to bring about significant, positive changes if we decide that the preservation of freedom is a priority. After 236 years of freedom, we should desire nothing less. ★

“Public business, my son, must always be done by somebody.... if wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it, others will not.

~ John Adams



Support Chick-fil-A

He’s not chicken to say it, even when his company is being threatened with boycotts by homosexual activists and college groups are trying to get its fast food restaurants removed from campuses. **Dan Cathy**, CEO of Chick-fil-A, says they support God’s design for the family and marriage and intend to stay the course.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all God-fearing citizens in Illinois to vote with our feet and pocket books. Chick-fil-A should see a spike in business now that the radical Left is trying to intimidate and bully them into submission. So next time you are looking for a quick lunch, “think chicken” more often. ★

Illinois Family Institute Prayer Requests

Our national motto and currency proclaim “In God We Trust.” Yet our American culture is becoming decidedly less oriented to trusting in Him.

Trends that promote personal desires over the common good and choices that devastate families reveal a deterioration that can only be remedied by trusting in

God, honoring His commandments, and waiting for His response to our prayers. But more importantly, by seriously taking to heart His clear solution to the moral degeneration in our land found in 2 Chronicles 7:14.



Please join us in praying for God’s mercy on our state and nation as we head toward the November 6th General Election. Pray that Americans will stand with – and vote for – men and women who share their values and want to protect the foundational truths behind our nation – truths that show our trust is in God, not ourselves.

*“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.” ~ Psalm 125:1-2*

Please Pray...

...for the sanctity of marriage

- that Americans will continue to voice their unwavering support for marriage as God designed — a partnership uniting the unique differences of male and female in a sacred, mysterious union illustrating Christ and his Church.
- for forgiveness for the unspeakable damage done to our nation in the name of tolerance and equality for same-sex “marriage.” Pray that God would convict government officials about the biblical truth of marriage as only between a man and a woman.
- for endurance, strength and wisdom in the continuing battle to protect Illinois’ marriage law. Pray that God would use our friends at the Alliance Defense Fund and the Thomas More Society to shepherd the defense of marriage as it moves forward — ultimately to the Illinois State Supreme Court.
- that parents and churches would be faithful in instructing their children about marriage as God designed it — a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman as the best environment to raise the next generation to glorify God.

...for the protection of life

- that Christians would embrace the sanctity of life as their own personal mission and speak out in the public square against the tragedy of abortion. Pray that God would send laborers to help at crisis pregnancy centers and adoption ministries; especially since Christian adoption agencies have recently closed their doors as a result of the civil unions law.

- that biblical truth would overcome the humanist deception prevalent in our public schools. Pray for the many children who are exposed daily to misleading curricula. With homosexual activists using our tax-funded public schools to indoctrinate students, pray that teachers and schools would choose to protect the hearts and minds of children rather than promote politically charged issues.
- for a decrease in the current trend in public policy that devalues parental authority and substitutes government intervention in the lives of families. Pray that parents would act to protect those that God has entrusted to their care.

...for Illinois families

- against any legislation that would weaken the institution of the family. Pray that legislators would awaken to the deconstruction of the family by their efforts to legalize all aspects of social engineering and experimentation.
- for the outcomes of the November 6th General Elections — that candidates of character and principle will be elected. Pray that voters will choose men and women “...who fear God, trustworthy men [and women] who hate dishonest gain....” (Exodus 18:21) Pray, too, that voters will examine the issues on the ballot and speak clearly with their votes.

...for Illinois Family Institute

- for IFI’s continued efforts to serve God by transforming the laws and culture of Illinois. Please pray for the income necessary to fulfill what God desires of IFI.
- for unity among believers, churches and in citizens’ groups with which IFI is involved. Pray that the witness of Christ in the public square would be pure and untarnished. ★

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the Alliance Defense Fund, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Liberty Counsel and Thomas More Society.

IFI, P.O. Box 88848, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

phone: 708-781-9328 | fax: 708-781-9376 | web: www.illinoisfamily.org | e-mail: ContactUs@illinoisfamily.org.