



Boldly Bringing Biblical Principles to Public Policy

Newsletter | January 2026

GO VOTE Mar 17th

illinoisfamily.org



From the Executive Director — David E. Smith

For years, one of the most troubling realities in American public life has been the quiet retreat of Christians from civic engagement.

Millions of believers—people who pray, attend church, and affirm biblical truth—regularly fail to vote. Some feel politics is too ugly. Others think their vote will not matter. Still others have been convinced that faith should stay out of the public square altogether.

But that retreat has come at a tremendous cost.

Our system of self-government does not operate by the will of the majority, but by the will of those who show up. When Christians stay home during the Primary or General Elections, a vacuum is created for secularists, humanists, and atheists to fill. The result is not neutrality, but laws and policies increasingly hostile to biblical truth, the family, and human dignity.

God did not design us to be spectators in the affairs of our nation. Scripture teaches that He established institutions such as the family, the church, and civil government for the good of human society. In a constitutional republic, citizens are not passive subjects; they are stewards. Voting is one of the most direct ways we exercise that stewardship.

This is not merely a political matter. It is a moral and spiritual one.

The familiar saying, “Politics doesn’t matter,” is a lie that our adversary wants us to buy. **Politics shapes policy. Policy shapes culture. Culture impacts lives.** And lives—especially the lives of children and the least among us—are exactly what Christians are commanded to love and protect.

Whether we are talking about abortion, the sexualization of children, the redefinition of marriage, euthanasia, drug legalization, or the growth of government power, these issues are not abstract. They touch real people. When laws change, lives change.

Jesus summarized the law as loving God and loving our neighbor in Matthew 22:34-40. Those commands do not stop at the church door. Loving our neighbor means caring about the kind of society they

must live in, the schools their children attend, and the values their government promotes.

Some believers insist they are “above” politics, but Scripture leaves no room for moral disengagement. James 4:17 tells us that if we know the good we ought to do and fail to do it, we sin. Neutrality in the face of injustice is not righteousness—it is neglect.

The Bible also teaches that we are engaged in a spiritual struggle that extends into every sphere of life. The Apostle Paul teaches us in 2 Corinthians 10 & 11 that while we do not fight with worldly weapons, we are nonetheless in a real battle against strongholds and deceptions that shape how people think and live. That battle includes ideas, laws, and cultural norms.

“Rusty Swords”

In a well-known Christian song, Michael Card describes a spiritual battlefield where no swords are rusty—because everyone is in the fight – on one side or the other. That image captures a deep biblical truth: Christians are already engaged, whether they acknowledge it or not. The question is not whether we are part of the battle, but whether we are prepared, active, and faithful.

continued on page 2 ...





from the Executive Director, David E. Smith

(continued from page 1)

Scripture warns us about being lukewarm. Jesus Himself said that those who are not with Him are against Him. There is no spiritual middle ground. Our choices—or our silence—always point in one direction or another.

That includes our choices as voters.

Casting a ballot is not about finding a perfect candidate. It is about choosing between competing visions for society. Will our laws and policies honor the sanctity of human life or devalue it? Will they recognize biological reality or deny it? Will they protect families or undermine them?

These questions demand answers, and elections are one of the primary ways those answers are given.

Christians are called to be salt and light—to preserve what is good and shine truth into darkness. In a representative government, voting is one of the most basic ways we fulfill that calling. When we show up informed, prayerful, and engaged, we push back against decay and help guide our communities toward what is true, good, and life-giving.

God has entrusted us with a voice. Using it is not a distraction from our faith—it is an expression of it. Let us refuse apathy. Let us reject fear. And let us engage, with conviction and courage, for the sake of our neighbors, our children, and the future of our state and nation. ★

JOIN US!

March 14, 2026

FAITH AND FIRE

Biblical Citizenship Conference



Order the **VOTER GUIDE** for Your Church!

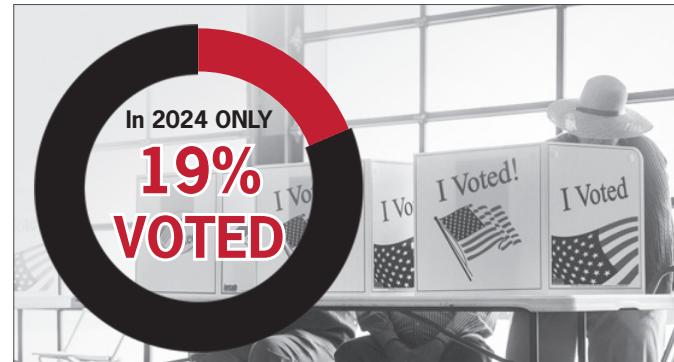
Help others learn where the candidates seeking election stand on a number of important issues.

Order multiple copies today by emailing v.kathy@illinoisfamily.org or calling the IFI office at 708-781-9328.

We have a limited number, so don't delay! ★

→ **Don't miss** what's happening in Springfield and beyond.

✓ **Sign up for IFI E-Alerts** to receive timely legislative updates, cultural insights, and event announcements by email. See reply insert to sign up.



Make a Difference in 2026!

In Illinois' primary in March 2024, only 19% of voters cast a ballot. We can do better in 2026!

- The Illinois General Primary Election is **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**.
- The first day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot was **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**.
- The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is **Thursday, March 12, 2026**.
- Early voting begins on **Thursday, February 5, 2026**, and continues through **Monday, March 16, 2026**.

**You and Your Church Can Bring
"Faith and Fire"
to the *2026 Election!***

Quentin Road Baptist Church

24126 N Quentin Rd, Lake Zurich, IL

More Info: NetworkingtheNetworks.com/events



Babies Deserve Better Than The Abortion Pill

Written by David E. Smith

The use of chemical abortions has exploded since the FDA approved mifepristone in 2000. Today, nearly two-thirds of all abortions in America are carried out chemically rather than surgically. These abortions are done using a two-drug regimen—mifepristone followed by misoprostol—commonly referred to as “the abortion pill.”

Many women are told that chemical abortion is a simple, safe, and “non-invasive” option. In reality, it is anything but. Even more troubling, in many states these powerful drugs can now be prescribed through telehealth and shipped through the mail, meaning a woman may never see a doctor, undergo an exam, or receive meaningful medical oversight before taking a drug designed to end the life of her preborn child.

Chemical abortion, a term carefully chosen to sound safe and routine, masks a much darker reality. Women are frequently unprepared for the intense pain, heavy bleeding, and emotional trauma that often follow. Some are even shocked to see the remains of their aborted baby at home, alone and without medical care or support.

For years, the abortion industry has claimed that the abortion pill is extremely safe. But new evidence tells a very different story.

A major study published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center examined real-world insurance claims from more than 800,000 women who were prescribed mifepristone between 2017 and 2023. What it found should alarm every lawmaker, doctor, and family in America.

According to this analysis, **more than 11 percent of women experienced sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious adverse event within 45 days** of taking the abortion pill. That is not a rounding error. It is more than **twenty times higher** than what appears on the FDA drug label, which claims that serious complications occur in fewer than 0.5 percent of cases.

Illinois Event Opportunities ▼



March 19 | Springfield, IL

More information is on the **IFI Events** page at:
illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events

Chicago Home Educators' Summit

Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook Chicago

CHES 2026 kicks off with a Banquet Night on Friday, March 27, from 6–8 PM—an evening of inspiration, fellowship, and vision.

March 27 | Oak Brook, IL

In other words, women have been systematically misled.

Even as we grieve the harm done to women, we must

never lose sight of the most devastating truth: **every successful chemical abortion ends the life of a preborn child**. While eleven percent of women suffer severe medical harm, **one hundred percent of abortion pill procedures destroy a living human being made in the image of God**.



Every baby deserves the most basic human right—the right to live. Every baby deserves love, protection, and the chance to be born. No child should be chemically starved, poisoned, and expelled from the womb as medical “treatment.”

Babies deserve better than the abortion pill.

And women deserve better, too. They deserve honesty, real medical care, and compassionate alternatives that affirm both their dignity and the dignity of their preborn children. At Illinois Family Institute, we will continue to speak the truth, uphold the sanctity of human life, and work to build a culture that protects mothers and their babies—without compromise. *

DON'T MISS IT!

MARCH 7, 2026

► Register today at: illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events

WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

Biblical Training for Today's Culture



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

CEASAR LAFORE GEORGE BARNABE DR. MARK ZUMHAGEN

at Belmont Bible Church in Downers Grove, Illinois

**Christ the Cornerstone:
Rebuilding a Biblical Worldview
in a Babylonian Culture**



Prayer Requests . . .

A well-known bluegrass gospel song by Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, "He's in Control," opens with a powerful reminder we all need to hear:

There are days that darkness seems to gather in from every side,
But my Lord is in control.
 He's the Light of this old world, and darkness never blocks His way.
With His voice, He guides how to go...

The song reminds us of a vital truth we too easily forget amid the pressures, uncertainties, and spiritual battles of everyday life: God is on His throne.

If we truly believe He is in control, then prayer cannot be an afterthought. We should be seeking His help, His mercy, and His intervention every day — not only for our personal challenges and for our families, but also for the cultural storm raging around us.

Please Pray With Us:

- That God will open the eyes of policy-makers and candidates to the sanctity of human life. Pray that they will understand that life begins at conception. Pray that they would be convicted to become defenders of life and not enablers of sexual immorality and death.
- That federal and state investigators will root out all corruption at the Capitol and among our legislators and that honest and wise public servants will replace self-serving lawmakers.
- That in the 2026 election season, pro-life candidates will have the time, energy, and funding needed to saturate their districts with their campaign messages and materials.
- That God will give wisdom and discernment to the honest public servants in Springfield who must work in the swamp of corruption. Pray also that they will have the courage to serve the Lord with fear and trembling and not shrink back from calling out every form of wickedness. (Psalm 2:10-11)
- That many godly counselors and advisers will surround our elected officials and that local pastors and Christian leaders will intentionally seek opportunities to visit and minister to these men and women. (Proverbs 11:14)
- That God will work in the hearts of key federal officials, including President **Donald Trump**, U.S. Senate Majority Leader **John Thune**, and U.S. House Speaker **Mike Johnson**. Add to that Governor **JB**



We are in the middle of critically important primary elections, with **Election Day on March 17 and early voting beginning February 5**. These elections will shape the direction of our state for years to come.

To say we have much to pray about is an understatement. But we take heart in this: Christ our Lord — our precious Lord — is in control.



Pritzker, Illinois Senate President **Don Harmon**, and Illinois Speaker of the House **Chris Welch**.
 (Proverbs 21:1-8)

- For federal, state, and local law-enforcement officers as they serve on the front lines to protect our communities and uphold justice.
- That efforts to indoctrinate children in government schools fail—especially the new law that mandates mental health screening. This will certainly be used to identify students who do not agree with the status quo on homosexuality and the “trans” ideology, CRT, religion, evolution, and other leftwing projects.
- That God will use the upcoming **IFI Worldview Conference on March 7th** to better equip and challenge parents, grandparents, and pastors. May it be a blessing!
- That both parents and grandparents would understand the threats to their children and grandchildren in this godless culture. Pray that they would prioritize Ephesians 6:4b, which exhorts us to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”★

**My help comes from the Lord,
 Who made heaven and earth. PSALM 121:2**

Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the American Family Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, Public School Exit and the Thomas More Society.

Illinois Family Institute | P.O. Box 876 | Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

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