



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Boldly Bringing Biblical Principles to Public Policy

Newsletter | September 2026



illinoisfamily.org

PRO LIFE. PRO MARRIAGE. PRO FAMILY.

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

Throughout history, wherever biblical Christianity has taken root, societies have been transformed for the better. Christian influence has helped abolish slavery, end infanticide and human sacrifice, elevate the dignity of women, establish hospitals and charitable ministries, expand religious liberty, and affirm the truth that every person is created in the image of God.

Today, Christians continue to form the backbone of efforts to demand human rights for preborn children, fight human trafficking, uphold traditional marriage and family, protect religious liberty, and care for the vulnerable against sinister agendas like assisted suicide.

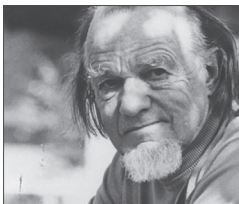
After 250 years of biblical Christian influence in the United States, we can confidently state that God has blessed and prospered our nation in ways the Founders could have never imagined. Psalm 33:12 affirms this.

Yet our culture is increasingly rejecting the very moral foundation upon which these advances were built. It is shocking to see the growing acceptance of socialism (big government) among so many young people.

As God's standards are abandoned, objective truth is replaced with personal preference, and moral absolutes give way to shifting public opinion. The result is confusion, injustice, and a growing hostility toward biblical truth.

Francis Schaeffer recognized this danger decades ago. In *How Should We Then Live?*, he wrote:

"If there is no absolute moral standard, then one cannot say in a final sense that anything is right or wrong."



Without God's revealed truth, there is no enduring standard by which to judge right from wrong. Every moral question eventually becomes a contest of power or opinion rather than a pursuit of truth.

That is precisely why Christians cannot withdraw from the public square.

If followers of Christ remain silent, who will provide moral clarity? If God's Word is excluded from public debate, upon what standard will society determine justice, protect the innocent, or restrain evil?

Will we continue to allow Hollywood, corporate media, secular universities, or Leftist political activists set the standard?

Every culture is disciplined by someone. When faithful Christians abandon the public square, others eagerly fill the vacuum with ideas that oppose God's design for humanity.

Schaeffer and Dr. C. Everett Koop warned of this gradual moral decline in *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*. They observed that what one generation considers unthinkable often becomes acceptable to the next. Sadly, their warning has proven remarkably accurate.

Over the past several decades we have watched our nation normalize abortion, redefine marriage, confuse God's design for male and female, undermine parental authority, legalize assisted suicide in a growing number of states, and treat biblical convictions as dangerous or intolerant.

None of these changes occurred overnight. Each step became the foundation for the next as Christians retreated.

We Must Engage the Culture

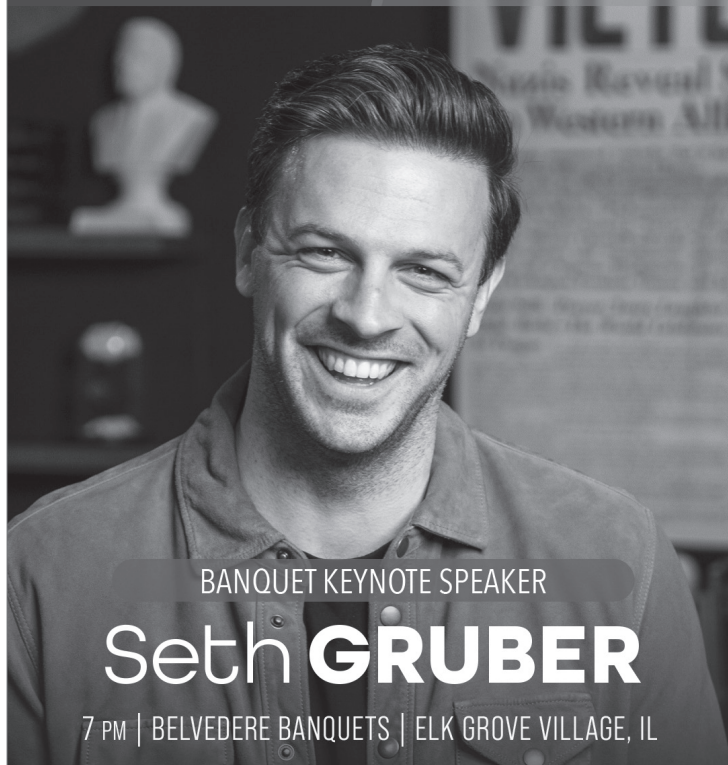
Voting is not the full measure of faithful citizenship, but it is important.

Scripture gives us several compelling reasons to influence the culture around us, which includes making sure we elect



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October 9, 2026



BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Seth GRUBER

7 PM | BELVEDERE BANQUETS | ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL

Register Today! ➔ illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events★★ **Action Items** ★★

Congress is considering legislation to protect schoolchildren from sexually explicit material and transgender ideology in the classroom. Illinois' own U.S. Rep. **Mary Miller** (R-Mahomet) has sponsored the bill and rightly says taxpayer-funded schools should educate children, not expose them to explicit content or teach them they can be "born in the wrong body."

Schools have no shortage of rich literature, history, art, and science to teach. Protecting children from sexualized content and harmful ideology should be a no-brainer for every lawmaker.

The U.S. House passed this legislation on June 29 as part of its child Internet safety package. Now it is up to the U.S. Senate. Please urge U.S. Senators **Dick Durbin** and **Tammy Duckworth** to support **S. 737**, the *Shielding Children's Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net (SCREEN) Act*. ★

America is facing a crisis of confidence. Recent polling shows support for capitalism declining, while nearly one-third of Americans now view the Democratic Socialists of America favorably. Meanwhile, young Americans express record-low trust in the federal government and believe our nation is headed in the wrong direction.

If government is the problem, why would we trust government with even more power?

Now more than ever, we must intentionally teach the next generation the timeless principles of freedom, personal responsibility, limited government, and free enterprise. ★

Illinois Family Institute

ILLINOIS
— REMAINS IN THE —
TOP 5
STATES FOR
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
★ IN THE U.S. ★



Illinois remains among the nation's top five states for religious liberty—but that's not the whole story. While our state still enjoys strong constitutional protections, we've fallen from the #1 ranking as other states have taken greater steps to safeguard religious freedom, parental rights, and rights of conscience. Religious liberty is never self-sustaining. Learn why these rankings matter and what Illinoisans can do to help preserve these God-given freedoms for future generations. ★



Scan to read more.

Watch 7-Part Video Series**"An Introduction to Islam"**

Why is antisemitism surging across America? The anti-Israel protests, open hostility toward Jewish communities, and growing sympathy for Islamic jihadist causes did not emerge overnight. These troubling trends are the product of years of cultural shifts, media influence, and ideological indoctrination.

In this eye-opening seven-part video series, Pastor **Paul Blair** examines the history, core tenets, and political objectives of Islam, equipping Christians to understand and navigate one of the defining cultural challenges of our time.

Islam is not merely another faith option in America's pluralistic landscape; it is a comprehensive political and legal system wrapped in religious language—built for dominance, not peaceful coexistence. **Watch this series with your family to get informed and stay vigilant.** ★



Scan to watch for FREE.

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

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the right people into office who will use Godly discernment in making laws and policies.

Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Genuine love seeks the good of others—not only spiritually, but also in the laws and public policies that shape the society in which we live.

Good laws restrain evil, protect the innocent, and encourage human flourishing. Bad laws often reward wickedness and place stumbling blocks (also known as snares, traps and thorns) before our neighbors. Christians should care deeply about both.

Steward God's Gift

Americans have been entrusted with the remarkable privilege of self-government. Unlike many throughout history, we possess the opportunity to help shape our government through voting, advocacy, public service, and civic engagement.

Stewardship requires that we faithfully use the opportunities God has placed before us. To neglect them is to squander a gift that many believers around the world have never enjoyed.

Jesus called His followers to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13–16). Salt preserves. Light exposes darkness.

Those commands extend beyond the walls of the church. Christians are called to speak truth with grace, defend justice, and bear faithful witness wherever God has placed them—including the public square.



Faithful Citizenship

Political engagement is not the Church's primary mission. Our highest calling remains proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples of all nations. The Gospel transforms every area of life.

As citizens of both heaven and earth, we have the privilege and responsibility to influence our culture with truth, compassion, and courage.

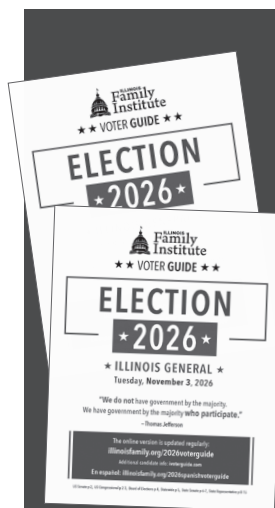
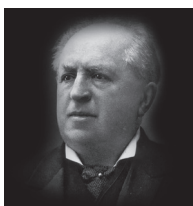
Our hope is not in political parties or elected officials. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

But because He is Lord over all, there is no area of life that lies outside His authority. Every believer is called to honor Him—not only in private devotion, but also through faithful engagement in the world He has entrusted to our care.

Christians should never separate their faith from their citizenship. The Lord who reigns over the Church also reigns over government, education, business, media, and every other sphere of human existence.

Abraham Kuyper said it best.

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" ★



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

Help others learn where the candidates 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 printed a limited number, so don't delay! ★

Protect the Vote! Get involved in the Ballot Brigade

Every lawful vote deserves to be protected. Reports of non-citizens appearing on voter rolls—even when attributed to administrative errors—remind us that election integrity requires constant vigilance. Americans should be able to trust that every legal vote is counted and that ineligible registrations are identified and removed.

That's not a partisan goal—it's a constitutional responsibility. Public confidence in our elections depends on transparency, accountability, and the faithful enforcement of our election laws. Without confidence in the process, trust in our representative form of government begins to erode.

What if your church could help more Christians cast their ballots—legally and effectively? The Illinois Conservative Union's new Ballot Brigade equips churches with a carefully researched, legally vetted program designed to increase voter participation among people of faith. Learn how this free resource can help churches encourage biblical citizenship and strengthen civic engagement across Illinois.

Please pray for wisdom, honesty, and integrity for our election officials. Encourage your elected representatives to support commonsense safeguards that strengthen confidence in our elections.

Our constitutional republic depends on it. ★



Scan to find out more.

Prayer Requests . . .

Those who trust in the Lord ...

Every election cycle seems to dub itself "the most important election of our lifetime." If we truly believe that—or even consider it a close reality—our first response should be to fall on our knees, beseeching the Lord for His mercy and praying fervently for our state and nation.

Psalms 85 serves as a fitting template. In it, the author asks God to revive the land and grant mercy, while offering a heart of repentance and a desire for righteousness.

Please commit to praying as we head toward the November election. Pray that Christians across our nation will stand firm and vote for leaders who honor biblical values—men and women committed to protecting our foundational truths and recognizing that our ultimate trust is in God, not ourselves.

Please pray:

For the November Elections

- Pray for the election of God-fearing candidates who will serve honorably in Springfield and Washington, D.C. Ask the Lord to guide these legislative bodies, as their decisions deeply impact religious liberty, families, and freedom throughout our state and nation.

For Current Leaders

- Pray for our current local, state, and national leaders—including President Trump, Governor Pritzker, state and U.S. Supreme Court justices, your local mayor, and school officials. Ask God to protect them and their families, grant them wisdom, and, above all, bring them to faith and a deeper understanding of our Savior, Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)

For Military & First Responders

- Pray for our military personnel, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency responders. Ask God to protect them, grant them wisdom and sound judgment, and give them courage as they serve in difficult and dangerous circumstances. Remember especially those serving in war zones around the world. Thank the Lord for their courage and selfless sacrifice.

For Religious Freedom & Parental Rights

- Pray for religious liberty and parental rights to be protected and strengthened throughout Illinois and our nation. Ask God to preserve our freedom to worship, live, work, and raise our children according to our deeply held religious beliefs. Ask

God to raise up leaders and advance laws, ordinances, and policies at every level of government that respect the God-given rights of parents and laws that safeguard our fundamental religious freedoms.

For Christian Unity

- Pray that believers across all denominations stand united in truth and love. Pray that our collective witness in the public square remains pure, uncompromised, and clearly reflective of Christ.

For the Protection of Life

- Pray that Christians embrace the sanctity of human life—from conception to natural death—as a core biblical conviction and personal calling. Ask God to give believers courage to advocate faithfully in the public square, speaking truth with compassion and offering practical support to expectant mothers, families, the preborn, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are vulnerable to the false promises of assisted suicide. ★

Those who trust in the Lord

Are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved
but remains forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people

From this time and forever.

PSALM 125:1-2

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