

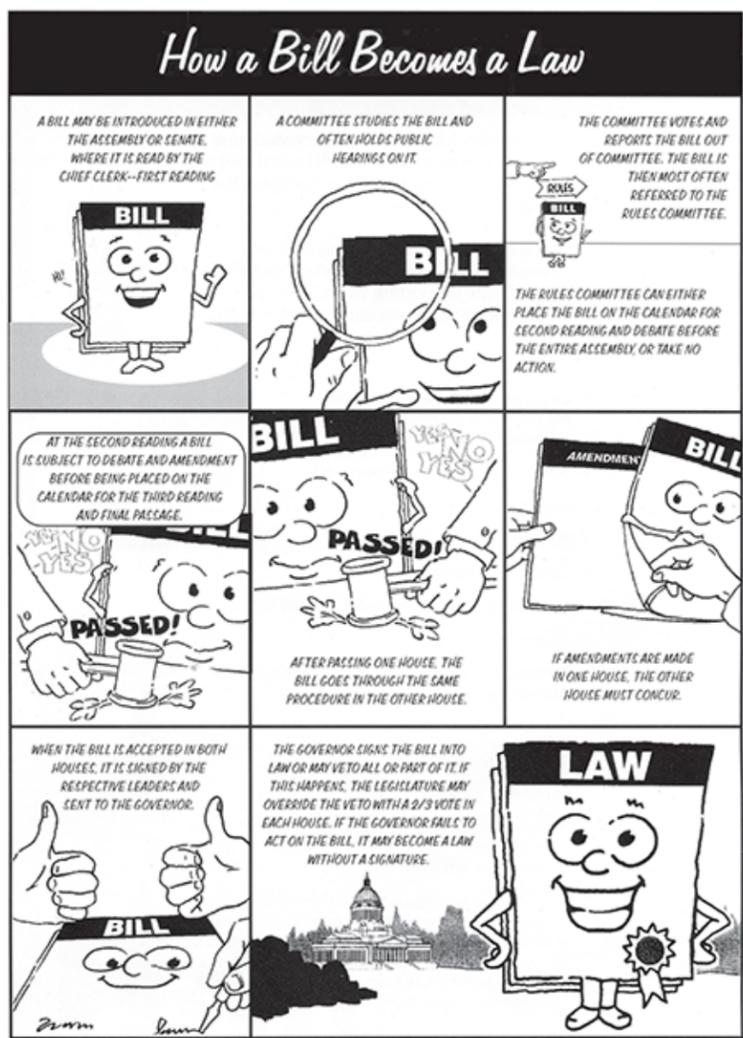


CAPITOL CONNECTION

WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Your WI Legislature: What You Need To Know

What do you remember from your government or civics class about how state government operates and about how a bill becomes a law? If you are like many today, your knowledge in these areas is likely a bit fuzzy. And that's certainly understandable. Below is a page from the 2016 edition of *How a Bill Becomes a Law*, published by the Wisconsin State Assembly (available online at legis.wisconsin.gov). We find this one-page summary pictured below helpful for many people of all ages.



Other important information about the legislative session and procedures is available in Wisconsin Family Council's just-released *2019-2020 Legislative Directory*. If you haven't already received one in the mail, a print copy is available from our office for \$2.00, including shipping. Or you can access and download the document online at wifamilycouncil.org.

Knowing how our state government works is important when it comes to our involvement in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in the policy area.

Since February, Wisconsin Family Action (WFA) president Julaine Appling has had face-to-face meetings with over 40 state representatives and senators. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen existing relationships, introduce our organization to new members, and discuss WFA's policy recommendations for this new session.

Currently the state's two-year budget (*i.e.*, how *your* money will be spent) is the big deal in the legislature. However, other bills are being introduced, including several bills dealing with abortion and life. One bill we are focused on right now would give adoptive parents in our state a \$5,000 tax credit, which would be a major help in promoting adoption. The bill is authored by Sen. Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) and Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). It is currently circulating for co-sponsors prior to receiving a number and committee assignments.

One other bill we are watching and actively opposing is Senate Bill 107 and its companion, Assembly Bill 111. This bill would ban so-called "conversion therapy" for minors struggling with same-sex attraction and gender

identity issues. Forty-two Democrats are joined by three Republicans in co-sponsoring this dangerous proposal that trounces on parents' rights and religious freedom, and prevents young people from receiving the help they really need.

Understanding the legislative process will help you make a real difference when we ask you to contact your elected officials.



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Wisconsin Family Action

Spring 2019

Sharing Good News

Sometimes it's encouraging just to share some **good news**--and this edition of WFA's "Capitol Connection" is filled with it. (In an effort to be "fair and balanced," we've also included some information that would qualify as "bad" news.)

Supreme Court to take up the case. For now, we are thankful for a reasonable and constitutional ruling from the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals—a decision that ultimately will affect ministers nationwide.

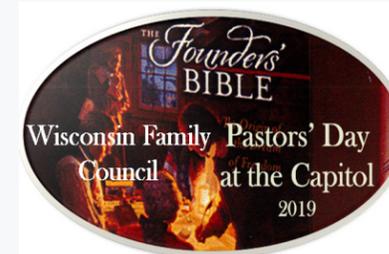
documents and correspondence by our founding fathers, along with a number of articles by David Barton and other historians showing the impact of the Bible on America's founding and history.

Our first good news comes from the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago which has jurisdiction over Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. A number of years ago, the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation filed a federal lawsuit alleging the long-time Congressionally approved ministerial housing tax exemption violates the First Amendment's "Establishment Clause." Thousands of ministers across the country from all religious persuasions have used this helpful exemption for years.



And definitely in the "good news" category is that on March 21, over 50 pastors and ministry leaders from all across Wisconsin joined us in Madison for Wisconsin Family Council's first-ever Pastors' Day at the Capitol. The main project was to distribute a beautiful heirloom copy of *The Founders' Bible* (David Barton is the Signature Historian) to the people of each legislative district in our state senate and state assembly through their elected representatives. This Bible is unique in that it includes many founding

history." Sharing the Good News of the Word of God is just about the best good news we can think of. We pray God uses this effort in amazing ways.



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WisconsinFamilyAction



YOU Are Making a Difference!

As a friend and partner with Wisconsin Family Action (WFA), you are making a difference. Just take a look at some of what your partnership with WFA and Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is responsible for in the last couple of months. Believe us when we say we can't do any of this without you!

- Produced and distributed each month 21,000 copies of WFC's "Church Connection" to over 340 churches.
- Sent a Spanish version of the monthly "Church Connection" to 8 different ministries. (Thank you, East Delavan Baptist Church for the translation work!)
- Produced a 5-minute weekly commentary, "Wisconsin Family Connection," airing on over 20 Christian radio stations. (Available as a podcast now!)
- Produced a daily "Wisconsin Family Minute" that airs statewide multiple times Monday through Friday on 25 Christian radio stations.
- Been a regular guest on or hosted radio programs on 2 Christian radio stations: monthly guest on Q90's Stand Up for the Truth program & weekly host on VCY America's Home Front program (Wednesday afternoons at 3:15).
- Been a monthly guest on VCY America's TV30 "In Focus" program (Mondays at 7 p.m.; streamed on vcyamerica.tv).



- Produced and distributed the 2019-2020 edition of WFC's *Legislative Directory*.
- Hosted 5 "Making Wisconsin Great One Family at a Time" events since January. (See page 3.)
- Hosted first-ever Pastors' Day at the Capitol. (See page 1.)
- Endorsed 4 candidates for local offices in this recent Spring Nonpartisan Election. **Two of the four were elected:** Daniel Degner, Fond du Lac City Council; and James Bouché, Wausau School Board.
- Impacted the Wisconsin Supreme Court race. (See p. 3 for specifics on this effort.)

- Since the beginning of the year, WFA and WFC personnel have spoken in numerous churches as well as to Mornings for Moms groups, denominational conferences, rallies, and Christian schools.
- Maintained an effective and very active social media presence with our blog (on wifamilyaction.org), Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Met with over 40 legislators to discuss this session and our legislative priorities. (See p. 4 for more information.)

We know it's easy to get discouraged today, but we hope seeing some of what you are doing and the difference you are making through your vital partnership with WFA and WFC encourages you. We are certainly encouraged and blessed by your difference-making partnership!

Building & Leaving a Legacy

In addition to making an occasional investment in Wisconsin Family Action or Wisconsin Family Action as you are able or becoming a monthly "faithful friend," we have other significant longer-term opportunities for giving and investing.

Planned Giving is a very personalized way of investing for the long term. Significant planned or deferred gifts can provide creative and flexible strategies for your estate and charitable planning. Some planned gifts provide income, and many of them can reduce your taxes.

Additionally, to ensure that future generations will benefit from your generosity and legacy, you may consider making a bequest or incorporating a life insurance policy or other retirement assets in your planning.

We are proud to partner with National Christian Foundation of Wisconsin (ncfgiving.com) to help you make your charitable giving/investment as effective and strategic as possible to carry on your legacy.



Please call our office at 866-849-2536 for more information.

Coming to Your Community



One of the highlights of our year is traveling the state meeting with our friends—mission partners and pastors—at our community events. This spring Wisconsin Family Council is hosting the events with a special presentation we've entitled "Making Wisconsin Great One Family at a Time." We'll be coming to five more cities in the next couple of months.

Join us for the evening to learn how *YOU* can make a difference in a culture that is hostile to the sanctity of life, married mom-and-dad families, and the preservation of religious liberty.

If you live in any of these areas, please save the date and plan to join us from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the following communities:

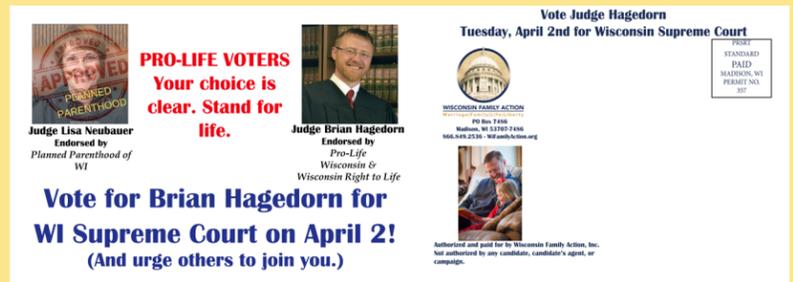
- **Thursday, April 25 - Sun Prairie, Pizza Ranch**
- **Thursday, May 9 - Beloit, Domenico's**
- **Thursday, May 16 - Plover, Pizza Ranch**
- **Thursday, May 23 - Appleton, Pizza Ranch**
- **Thursday, June 6 - Rhinelander, Tula's Café**

Dinner will be served; and while there is no charge for the event, a free will offering will be taken. Seating is limited and reservations can be made in advance by visiting wifamilycouncil.org (use the events tab on the top menu bar) or by calling our office toll-free at 888.378.7395 or emailing us at info@WIFamilyCouncil.org. We hope you can join us at one of these events!

What You Made Possible in WI's Spring 2019 Election

Thanks to many friends across the state, we made the generic \$22,500 "election work" match that was set up for us by a few generous friends, including one of our awesome national partners, Family Policy Alliance. Using resources God has blessed us with through people like you, here's what we together did in this recent spring election:

- Distributed to 500 churches over 25,000 Voter Information Publications for the Supreme Court race.
- Deployed 3 "Vote Hagedorn for Supreme Court" text messages to 10,000 targeted conservative voters.
- Made over 100,000 phone contacts to targeted conservative voters
- Produced and mailed two "Vote for Brian Hagedorn" postcards to 43,000 targeted conservative voters.
- Purchased and placed "Vote Brian Hagedorn" Facebook & Google ads.
- Made extensive use of social media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, with boosted Facebook posts and Facebook Live videos.
- Sent multiple emails supporting Brian Hagedorn and some messages simply reminding people to vote.
- Utilized frequently WFC radio programming on statewide



Christian radio (over 25 stations) to encourage Christians to vote knowledgeably and responsibly.

- Appeared on Christian TV (VCY America's TV 30) 3 times discussing the importance of the election and Christians voting.
- Recruited people to do doors and phones in support of Brian Hagedorn.
- Provided and recommended election resources to over 800 churches/pastors.

Our collective effort made a significant difference. We easily reached well over 200,000 adult voters for this election--

and many of those were contacted multiple times using different media. Multiple contacts are important. Communication experts tell us people need 10 to 12 "touches" before they understand and act on a given message. We definitely needed people to act on the "go vote"

messages we were sending—and the results of the election tell us many of them did just that.

The take-away from this effort? Thanks to your partnership, we have tremendous ability to impact even a statewide election. Since elections have very real consequences, the ramifications are huge as we look forward to 2020's critical elections.