



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION

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Wisconsin Family Action

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wifamilyaction.org | Summer 2022



## GONE! AFTER 50 YEARS

On Friday, June 24, after 50 years and the loss of 60+ million unborn children, the U.S. Supreme Court finally reversed the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision. This means that each state must decide its own abortion policy. As for Wisconsin, abortion is prohibited!

Wisconsin is in a unique position to protect the unborn because the state has a pre-Roe law that is still on the books criminalizing most abortions in our state – though Governor Evers is fighting that law tooth and nail.

Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action, remarks on this court decision: "For my entire adult life, I have worked and prepared for this day. I remain hopeful that Wisconsin's pre-Roe prohibition on abortion will only be eclipsed by an authentic respect for life ethic. I pray that grace and compassion toward all women experiencing unintended pregnancies becomes the norm and that those who have experienced an abortion and its after-effects would find healing and wholeness.

"We call upon Attorney General Josh Kaul and all county district attorneys to uphold the 1849 law that is still enforceable. We ask simply that you do your job and set aside your personal political agendas.

"This decision does not mean our work is done. Wisconsin Family Action will continue its vision to build a Wisconsin where God is honored, life is respected, families thrive and religious freedom flourishes. That necessitates

policy, infrastructure, and awareness in our state which directly assists women and children – born and unborn and their families. We will continue to aggressively promote our amazing Pregnancy Care Centers—the heartbeat of Wisconsin's respect-life efforts. We will encourage compassion and grace for all who now regret their previous abortion decision. We will work to restore a respect life ethic throughout America, until abortion is unthinkable, and the self-evident truths enumerated in our Declaration are restored and respected for all."

As you may recall, the draft ruling was leaked in early May. In the early hours of the morning on Mother's Day, WFA offices were fire-bombed presumably by a domestic terrorist group calling itself Jane's Revenge. To date no arrest has been made nor a person of interest questioned.

Many of you have asked how we are doing—we're great! In fact, the attack galvanized us to work even harder. We are immensely grateful for your support, well wishes, and prayers.

Now, we are entering a new phase of the fight for life. There is still a lot of work ahead, and we hope you'll be part of it!

JUNE 24, 2022  
HISTORIC DAY



ROE OVERTURNED

Wisconsin Family Action's mission is to advance Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin by strengthening, preserving, and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom.

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# WFA IN THE CULTURE

## YES, THEY'RE COMING AFTER OUR CHILDREN

The left is waging a war on children, and their innocence is in danger. From Hollywood entertainment and woke corporations to lessons in the classroom and books in the library, children are being bombarded with propaganda that is meant to confuse and manipulate them.

For example, drag queens and drag ideology are victimizing children in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Brewers hosted a drag

queen show before one of their games. The show featured mature sexual themes promoted by gender ideology and because of protests against the show, restricted it to those 21 years of age and over. Nevertheless, the ballpark is named American FAMILY Field.

A drag queen performance was also scheduled to take place at a farmers' market in Fort Atkinson. Thankfully, parents spoke out and flooded the Fort Atkinson Farmers' Market Facebook page with complaints. As a result, the event was canceled, but then due to other pressure, was reinstated.

The city of Watertown is next in the crosshairs with a drag queen show



scheduled for July 30 in the city's flagship public park.

The good news is that there is power in numbers and parents really do have the ability to make change and protect their children by speaking out. We've seen good results in many school districts across the state when parents show up, stand up, and speak up. It's vital that they remain aware of what is going on in their community and act boldly when necessary.

If parents don't take bold steps, they are risking that their children will end up pledging allegiance to radical gender ideology and placing their faith in the secular whims of the day instead of in the God Who created them in His image and loves them.



## From the Bench...

### WFA'S LEGAL UPDATE

WFA has been involved in multiple court cases that have tremendous ramifications for our freedoms.

This spring, the Wisconsin Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Doe v. Madison Metropolitan School District* (MMSD), a critical parental rights case in which parents are rightfully challenging an absurd school policy that allows the school to majorly overstep its boundaries.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) brought the case to the Dane County Circuit Court in 2020 after MMSD implemented policies allowing students to use a different gender identity at school by changing their name and pronouns without consent from their parents. The district even instructed employees to hide the information from parents. WFA filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the parents. It is the right of parents to make healthcare decisions for their children, and gender confusion can significantly impact a child's mental health. This case has huge ramifications not just here in Wisconsin but nationwide since it's the first case in the country dealing with this issue. It could either help enshrine parental rights or severely compromise them. Recently the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the parents' identity must be disclosed to the defendants and their attorneys and pushed the case back to the Dane County Circuit Court.

Plus, there's another case that didn't actually make it to court, but it still matters. Three 8th graders at a Wisconsin school district were charged with sexual harassment for not using a peer's preferred pronouns. Strong parents who refused to accept what had happened to their sons fought back, however, and were able, with legal assistance from WILL, to get the district to back down and do the right thing.

At the national level, WFA signed critical friend-of-the-court briefs in both *Dobbs v. Women's Health Organization* and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School Board*. Both of these cases were decided favorably in late June.

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court finally reversed the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision. And in another 6-3 decision, SCOTUS affirmed Coach Kennedy's right to silently pray in public after high school football games. Coach Kennedy, a high school football coach in Washington State, was fired by the district after saying prayers at the 50-yard line after games. Some players voluntarily joined him – a scandal in the eyes of the district!

These are major victories for religious freedom and the pro-life movement. WFA is proud to have been a part of them.





# ELECTION UPDATE

April's non-partisan spring general election provided one big lesson for Wisconsin: parents are catching on to what is happening in public schools. Conservative school board candidates won all the available seats in Wausau, Manitowoc, Waukesha, Menomonee falls, Elm Brook New Berlin, Mukwonago, Kewaskum, West Bend, and Germantown, just to name a few. Conservatives made gains in many more school districts across the state by displacing incumbent liberals and flipping county boards, city councils, and school boards.

In Brown County, three of the seven candidates WFA PAC-endorsed won, and in Kenosha County, conservatives flipped the county board and also won three seats on the School Board. Cedarburg School District and Wausau also favored conservatives, as three of four conservative candidates that WFA encouraged people to vote for won in both areas.

Conservatives won the day in our spring election, but there is still more work to be done, especially since the left's tone deafness about our children's education continues.

Right now, many public school districts in Wisconsin are, as a policy, trying to put parents in the back seat of their children's education. One of the worst examples comes out of Eau Claire, where the school district held a training event that told school staff, "Facilitators, guide this discussion [about sexual and gender identity]. Remember, parents are not entitled to know their kids' identities. That knowledge must be earned."

As if this was not shocking and inappropriate enough, the same school-sponsored event went on to characterize a parent's objection to a child transitioning their gender away from God's design as "weaponizing religion."

It is important to remember that God entrusts children to their parents, not to the government. Parents are responsible for raising up a child in the way he or she should go, which includes being responsible for and making decisions about the child's schooling.

The good news is we have another election this fall, and the governor's office, as well as the Attorney General's, are up for grabs.

Gov. Tony Evers vetoed a historic 124 bills this year. He vetoed a number of bills that would have made beneficial laws in Wisconsin, including all pro-life, school choice, election reform, and religious freedom bills.

With SB 938, SB 942, and SB 939, we had the opportunity to safeguard fair elections by preventing voter fraud. Unfortunately, this was not a priority for Evers. We also had the opportunity to protect individual liberties and place limits on emergency powers in Wisconsin with Assembly Bill 912, but again, Evers blocked it.

Assembly Bill 414 is another vital piece of legislation that Evers shot down. The bill would have banned Critical Race Theory (CRT) training for any local or state employees.

## LEAD WI 2022 UPDATE

God blessed LEAD WI 2022 in amazing ways! Just over 100 teens joined us for a week of learning, hands-on experiences, trips to the Capitol, and great fun during this worldview/leadership camp. Biblical worldview expert Joseph Backholm anchored our week, joined by Charlie Kirk and four evening speakers who challenged all of us on our personal relationship with Christ, the pro-life issue, being involved in politics as a Christian, and living boldly for God no matter where He puts us. The campers wrestled with real Wisconsin bills all week, sharpening their critical thinking, debate and leadership skills.

The highlight of the week, of course, was knowing campers made personal decisions to accept Christ as their Savior or recommitted their lives to Him. That alone made the week a success.

Summer camp of any sort needs to include some fun and recreation...and we made sure campers had a good dose of that as well. We are already looking forward to and planning for LEAD WI 2023, which will be July 23-28, 2022.



## a note from JULAINE APPLING

Christians often shy away from getting involved in politics because it is often messy and difficult to navigate. What they fail to recognize, however, is that our involvement as Christians is not optional. God calls us to dive into the chaos and act as a voice for Him.

Politics matter because policies affect God's people. Government plays a significant role in shaping our communities and our culture, which means it directly impacts individuals. As Christians, our primary duty, after loving God, is to love our neighbor. In order to love others, we must work to ensure that faith, family, and freedom thrive in our communities.

God cares deeply about His creation, and consequently how its communities operate. Further, morality and public policy are deeply intertwined, and God often uses government to carry out His will.

Christians also bring something unique and vital to politics and public life generally. We have objective truth and enduring principles on our side. We provide a deep commitment to justice and compassion that's grounded in natural law. Our understanding of objective morality is what allows for human flourishing and a well-ordered society.

If we don't become involved and take leadership positions, others will. As we know from experience, unprincipled leaders will spread evil ideologies and dangerous lies. The only way to stop this is to ensure that virtuous Christians are involved in government.

We are called to spread the light of Christ and combat all forces of darkness, wherever they may be. This means we have to get our hands dirty and be present in every sphere, especially politics.

Let's not be afraid to connect with our legislators, vouch for certain policies, attend local meetings, join campaigns, or even run for office. We have an election coming up in the fall, and it's never too early to start campaigning and getting to know each of the candidates. In doing so, we are responding to God's call and loving our neighbors.

*Julaine*  
President, WFA

## Note about Choose Life Wisconsin:

Good news! Recently, Choose Life Wisconsin distributed over \$33,000 to 13 of Wisconsin's life-saving, woman-helping pregnancy care centers. Wisconsin Family Council has partnered with Pro-Life Wisconsin to oversee this program. The grants come from the sale of the Choose Life Wisconsin license plates. As of this month, nearly \$200,000 has been given to over 30 Wisconsin pregnancy care centers since May 2018. Over 2100 plates are currently on the road. Information about getting a CLW plate is available at: [chooselifewisconsin.com](http://chooselifewisconsin.com).

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, pro-lifers need to strengthen their efforts to help vulnerable women and children in need. Supporting pregnancy care centers is a really good way of doing so. Let's keep the momentum going and foster a culture of deep care for all life!



**Julaine Appling, President, Receives Awards**

This year, President of Wisconsin Family Action Julaine K. Appling received two prestigious awards: the Bold as a Lion award from the Christian Home Educators of Wisconsin and the Baptists for Life Defender of Life Award.

## What You Can Do

### ■ PRAY

- Pray for WFC's Church Ambassador Network outreach program to connect pastors with elected officials to form authentic redemptive relationships.
- Pray for the upcoming elections. That God's people will vote and will vote in ways that honor Him.

### ■ STAY INFORMED

Be sure to connect with us to stay up to date on events, bills, LEAD WI, and more by subscribing to our FREE weekly newsletter at [WIFamilyAction.org](http://WIFamilyAction.org). Your contact information is confidential and will not be shared or sold.

### ■ FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Get breaking news and timely information via social media. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or Parler below.

### ■ INVEST IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK

WFA and WFC are the only statewide organizations in Wisconsin with the unique and strategic mission to strengthen, preserve and promote God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life and religious freedom. Your prayers and financial investment make this work possible.

### ■ BECOME A CHURCH LIAISON

As a Church Liaison, you can serve your pastor and church by bringing valuable information and resources to them, all designed especially for churches and pastors. For details and to sign up, call 888-378-7395.

### ■ VOLUNTEER

There are several ways in which you can volunteer and make a difference in the culture and in this year's elections. For more information call 866-849-2536.

### ■ SHARE

Let others know about these difference-making organizations and how they can get involved.

## PARTNER WITH WFA

Together, through your prayers and financial investment, we will continue our work of strengthening, preserving and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of life, and religious freedom in Wisconsin.

Please consider investing in WFA using the enclosed envelope or securely online at [wifamilyaction.org](http://wifamilyaction.org).



**WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION**  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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