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& growing!



Wisconsin Family Action

P O Box 7486, Madison, WI 53707
866-849-2536

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OVERCOME YOUR FEAR; CHANNEL YOUR ANGER

Our 2020 elections left many fearful and angry—fearful about future fraud if we don't get serious election reform and angry at people who seem to have either committed fraud or have acted as if it didn't happen. These reactions are understandable for sure.

But here's the reality. The surest way for liberal progressives to completely take over in our state is for conservatives not to vote. When that happens, we've just waved the white flag and given the liberals exactly what they want. They want us so fearful and angry that we just do nothing. Not voting is playing right into their hands. Simply put, we can't afford to do that—if for no other reason than our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. So we urge you to overcome your fear and channel your anger by influencing elections and their inevitable consequences.

It's true. 2022 is a big election year for the state of Wisconsin, starting with our spring nonpartisan elections. The spring primary is over; the general election is on April 5th. Voters will see races for mayors, city council members, town/village boards, school boards, county boards, municipal judges, circuit court judges, and appellate judges.

Because every election has consequences, we need to do what we can to influence those consequences. The first step in doing that is to **know when they are happening and who will be on the ballot**. The state's voter website,

myvote.wi.gov, has sample ballots available for most municipalities. Take the initiative; get started now.

Once you know who is running for the various offices you will be voting for, **find out what the candidates believe**. Check out their websites or Facebook pages. Call local candidates and ask questions. Attend panels, forums, and debates.

When you have all the information you need, **share it**. Talk to friends and family members, people in your church, people in your sphere of influence. Let them know about the election and about the issues and candidates.

The next level of impacting the election consequences is to **help candidates who share your values**. Volunteer to make phone calls, organize get-out-the-vote efforts, knock on doors, distribute literature, hold meet-and-greets, or donate money. We have to be actively involved in helping favorable candidates if we want them to represent us.

We must also do the same for our elections in the fall. Our governor, lieutenant governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, one U.S. Senate seat, all 8 Congressional seats, all 99 of our State Assembly seats, and half of our state Senate seats (odd-numbered districts) are on the ballot. It's about overcoming our fear and channeling our anger into positive, productive activity.

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 AT THE CAPITOL

Voicing Your Values

The Wisconsin Family Action legislative team has been tracking bills, working to pass or defeat several pieces of legislation, working with legislators on proposals, attending hearings and providing testimony to ensure that this legislative session promotes faith, family, and freedom.

This has been one of the busiest legislative sessions we've ever experienced. Both houses have introduced nearly 1000 bills each, not including resolutions that have been proposed. We've lobbied on and testified on more bills than ever before. We anticipate more bills and hearings before the legislators leave Madison in mid-March to get ready for this fall's elections.

Following are some of the most important bills we've been working on recently.

SENATE BILL 16 – Born-Alive Infant Protection. *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

SENATE BILL 503/Assembly Bill 493 – Would prohibit abortion providers from receiving funds under the Medical Assistance program (public monies). *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

SENATE BILL 591 – Requires that women who receive a chemical abortion via a drug regimen be told that the process may be reversed after the first dose and also adds some reporting requirements for abortionists and abortion facilities. *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

SENATE BILL 593 – Prohibits abortions performed solely on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, or fetal anomaly. *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

SENATE BILL 915 – “Help Not Harm.” Prohibits health-care providers from performing surgeries on or prescribing cross-sex hormones or puberty blockers for minors dealing with gender confusion. *WFA supports.*



SENATE BILL 923 – Bans abortions if baby's heartbeat is detected. *WFA testified in favor.*

ASSEMBLY BILL 411/SENATE BILL 411 – Prohibits the teaching of CRT in WI public schools and bans the training of teachers in CRT. *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

SENATE BILL 463 – Requires school boards to make readily available to the public information about learning materials and educational activities used for pupil instruction. *WFA testified in support; governor vetoed.*

ASSEMBLY BILL 562 – Requires school districts to give parents notification if any program or instructional materials are going to be used that deal with sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expression. *WFA testified in support.*

ASSEMBLY BILL 963 – Parents' Bill of Rights. Delineates 15 specific rights, creates a cause of action. *WFA testified in support.*



From the Bench...

WISCONSIN COURT CASES

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is set to hear a case involving parental rights and challenging the gender identity policy in Madison schools. Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) filed a lawsuit challenging the Madison Metropolitan School District's (MMSD) published policy that says parents aren't to know what their child is doing at school when it comes to gender identity/expression.

The state's high court will review the partial injunction the Circuit Court put on the implementation of the policy and will determine the degree to which the parents can remain anonymous. As one can imagine, anonymity is critical in a case of this nature. Wisconsin Family Action is the lead organization on a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the parents.

Meanwhile, WILL and ADF also have sued the Kettle Moraine School District (KMSD) for its gender identity policy which allows children to “change” their gender identity at school without parental consent.

In another important case, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of absentee ballot drop boxes after the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) encouraged the use of absentee ballot drop boxes and told voters that anyone could return their ballot for them. Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael Bohren recently determined that absentee ballot drop boxes and ballot harvesting are illegal in Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, a state appeals court overruled Judge Bohren and ordered that absentee voter ballot boxes be available for this spring's primary election. WILL petitioned the state supreme court to take the case, which it did. However, the court upheld the lower court's decision to allow the ballot boxes to remain for the spring primary, but did recently rule they would not be permitted for the spring general election on April 5. Oral arguments will be later. The ultimate ruling on drop boxes and absentee ballots would help clarify election integrity issues as we head into a year filled with critical elections.



We're Growing!

A CONVERSATION WITH CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK DIRECTOR DANIEL DEGNER



I started working for Wisconsin Family Council in August of 2020. Since starting my role at WFC, this past July I was blessed to marry my best friend Victoria. We just purchased our first home in Rosendale and have established ourselves in a new church. In another life (as recently as last April), I served on the Fond du Lac City Council. Currently, I serve on the boards of a Christian school and of a pregnancy care center. Victoria is a learning specialist in an elementary school.

Our church's mission statement is "to glorify God by introducing people to Jesus Christ and helping them become His fully devoted followers." I'm grateful to have a career that also promotes that mission. As Director of WFC's Church Ambassador Network, I work to connect the shepherds of the church (pastors) with the shepherds of government

(governing officials). Our goal is to work with officials in all three branches of government and all three levels of government throughout Wisconsin.

The Church Ambassador Network provides a unique function in the State Capitol that no other group in Wisconsin does. When most organizations meet with a governing authority it usually results in an ask whether it be a bill for introduction, a vote, or some other action to benefit their self-interests. However, we bring a relational covenant where we seek to pour into governing authorities by introducing them to Jesus (evangelism) and helping them become His fully devoted followers (discipleship). Where the world looks for the state to serve them, we exist to serve the governing authorities.

We fulfill our mission in three ways—by connecting, encouraging, and partnering with governing authorities. First, we create redemptive relationships by connecting pastors to their governing authorities. Second, we build redemptive relationships when pastors share the Word of God with governing authorities. Last, we multiply these redemptive relationships by partnering gospel ministries with governing authorities. Examples of issues we work on in our partnerships are foster care, addiction, homelessness, and human trafficking. If your church or ministry is interested in building a redemptive relationship with your governing authorities, please let me know (just call the office). We are excited and eager to serve you through the ministry of WFC's Church Ambassador Network.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CAN



**CHURCH
AMBASSADOR
NETWORK**

Visit www.wifamilycouncil.org and click on "Church Ambassador Network" to find information about this unique program that focuses on creating authentic, redemptive relationships between pastors and elected officials. Already this year, over 20 visits with state legislators and pastors have happened. If you are a pastor, we urge you to read our vision paper and then connect with Dan Degner or Dave Lingle, WFC's Church Ambassador, to see how you can be involved.

Even though this legislative session is winding down, we have plenty of opportunities for you to meet with your officials and encourage them with prayer and the Word of God.



a note from JULAINE APPLING

Ok. So I'm one of those weird people who genuinely love years with elections—because I see them as possibilities to make changes that are truly in the best interest of people. Yes, these years can be challenging in unique ways—in finances, time, outcomes, disappointing candidates, questionable election practices, and more. But none of that changes the reality that in this incredible form of government God has given us in His mercy and grace, "we the people" can have a very real say in who governs us.

That truth drives our 2022 Community Events. We've entitled these unique events "Your Backyard: *Own It!*" The one place where we have the most opportunity to make a real, a positive, and a lasting difference is right where we live. And I'll guarantee you; if we don't own our own backyards, someone else will happily do so—usually in ways that don't reflect our beliefs and values.

In these 20+ sessions we will be holding around the state, I and others from our team will be presenting very practical ways we can own our own backyards. And all this can start with the spring elections as we get ourselves informed and involved and inspire others to join us and then do the same for the fall partisan elections.

Our first "Your Backyard: *Own It!*" event was Thursday, February 10, at the Elkhorn Community Center. Check our website to see when we will be in your community with these free events that include dinner. Find one that works for your schedule. Then round up several friends and family members and register. We'd love to see you one of these evenings!

We truly can make Wisconsin a place where God is honored, marriages and families thrive, life is cherished, and religious freedom flourishes—and we will do it one backyard at a time!

President, WFA

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO CHANGE THEIR WORLD



LEARN • EMPOWER • ACT • DISCOVER

LEAD WI, our new youth leadership training program in the form of a summer camp, is back for its second year!

After an incredible inaugural year last summer when we had 80 campers, we are expanding our program to add two additional tracks: Senate and Media.

LEAD WI's mission is to equip teens to become effective godly leaders who engage the culture from a biblical perspective.

In a fun, interactive environment built on a platform of civics and government, teens learn about the legislative process and how to defend their faith in today's hostile culture, all while strengthening their Biblical worldview.

Again this year, we'll have dynamic speakers addressing worldview and current



issues, along with challenging chapel messages, and a ton of fun!

Early-bird registration is open, and **financial aid is available**. Camp will again be on the campus of Marana-



tha Baptist University in Watertown from July 10-15, 2022.

Details available at LEADWI.org. Or call LEAD WI director SharaLee Nichols at 888-378-7395. Visit us on Instagram: @lead.wi, or Facebook: LEAD Wisconsin.

Looking for a great investment? Investing in LEAD WI or in the financial aid is all about investing in the next generation of Christian leaders whom we are helping to empower to change their world. Hope you will join us!

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 LEAD WI summer camp, for God to be honored, for the young people who will attend, for our special speakers and guests, for the needed resources, and for the WFC staff.

■ 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**. 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**.



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

PO Box 7486, Madison, WI 53707 • 866-849-2536 • wifamilyaction.org

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