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COUNCIL**

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**OCTOBER 2023
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Ralph Waldo Emerson is credited with saying, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

There's just something about the smells and sounds of fall that bring back memories. The falling leaves, chimney smoke, frosty mornings, geese headed south, and acorns. This time of year there are lots of acorns on the ground all over Arkansas. When I was a boy I was fascinated by acorns. They were all so different! There were big ones and tiny ones—green and brown—oval and almost round. There's just something about the sound of a falling acorn hitting a tin roof. I must admit I've thrown my share of them while darting from behind a tree, across the front porch, and over to the well curb in epic battles.

When I get a chance, I like to walk across the field at our place down in Sevier County. There's the old, vacant house where we lived when I was a boy. It's still barely standing, but the huge white oak tree that I used to play under is bigger than ever. Standing nearly a hundred feet tall, it still makes lots of acorns.

In the fall of 1985 I took a short walk under that huge tree. On the ground were what seemed like thousands of chocolate brown colored acorns. So I picked up a handful and put them in my pocket. When I got back to Little Rock, I planted them. By the next spring I had oak trees.

Fast-forward from 1985 to 2023. Today, there is a thirty-foot oak tree in our backyard that I grew from one of those acorns. I planted the acorn the same year our first child, David, was born. Our boys have always referred to it as the "David Tree." For a long time, that tree was pretty small and didn't grow much. With time it grew larger and stronger so that today it looms over two stories tall. As you can imagine, it makes lots of acorns too. In 1985 our son David was a baby, and I could scoop him up and carry him in my arms. I could carry that acorn that became an oak tree in my pocket. Today, David serves as assistant director of Family Council. In fact, he could run the entire organization if necessary. He has four boys of his own now. And that oak tree makes shade and lots of leaves that I have to rake up every fall. It seems that everything starts small.

In 1989, I "planted" Family Council. It was very small, but I had a dream rooted in a faith that God was calling me to something important. I started with a mailing list, a desk, a phone, and a 50-megabyte computer in the corner of our bedroom. Pretty soon someone donated a small office on the back side of a building with a great view of a concrete mixing plant. Then a lady walked in one day and volunteered to be the office secretary. Over the next year or two, people donated an old photocopier, a used computer, and a brand new FAX machine. Worthen Bank donated some old desks, file cabinets, and chairs—some of which we still use.

I remember thinking how great it would be to have enough funding to hire one other person—or maybe even two! Thankfully, our friends across the state caught the vision, and their gifts enabled us to grow. Now there are eight of us on staff at Family Council. We didn't grow just to get bigger. We grew because there was so much work to be done—so much good we could do. With your support and God's grace, we've done it. We've grown, and we've done a considerable amount of good over the past 34 years. As our world becomes darker and darker, it is apparent that there is much more work for Family Council to do. To get this job done, we need to grow larger and stronger. Let me tell you more about how we plan to grow—and how you can help us do that.



Executive Director Jerry Cox

My Thoughts: Family Council's 2023 Leadership Summit Highlights What Happens When Worldviews Collide

By Jerry Cox, Executive Director

In August Family Council hosted our 2023 Foundations of Truth Summit at the City Center in Little Rock. Speakers like Joseph Backholm, Dr. Owen Strachan, Dr. David McDonald, and attorney Joseph Kohm addressed various topics from a biblical perspective. You may recall Joseph Backholm went viral on YouTube a few years ago when he filmed himself asking liberal college students what they would say if he told them he identified as a six-foot-five Chinese woman. That's why I had a lot of fun asking Joseph and our other panelists what they would say to some of our culture's favorite soundbites—like "you can't legislate morality" and "politics is killing the church."

We also heard from Mark and Stephanie Nichols from Jonesboro. Mark is an engineer and a member of the Craighead County Library Board, and Stephanie is a nationally recognized attorney. The two of them shared about the controversies surrounding the Jonesboro library's decision to place inappropriate and obscene books in its children's section. Mark and Stephanie offered thoughts on ways communities can address objectionable material in public libraries.

I had the opportunity to share what happens when worldviews collide—which really is at the heart of the conversations we're having right now. Right now it's controversial to pass a law prohibiting doctors from trying to surgically turn girls into boys or stopping a librarian from giving pornographic picture books to kids. The reason it's controversial is that there are two different worldviews colliding with each other. On one side is the Judeo-Christian worldview that says people are made in the image of God and are distinctly male and female. On the other side is a secular worldview that says people can choose to identify any way they want. Our 2023 Leadership Summit explained how to speak the truth when these worldviews collide. We look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

This year's summit featured exciting presentations that equipped people to make a difference in their communities.



Governor Calls Special Session of the Arkansas Legislature

In September Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders called a special session of the Arkansas Legislature to address several issues. The Arkansas General Assembly convened on September 11, and spent the following three days meeting at the capitol. Here is a quick look at the bills that passed:

1. PASSED: S.B. 8 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Les Eaves reducing income tax rates for individuals, trusts, estates, and corporations.
2. PASSED: S.B. 1 and H.B. 1004 by Sen. Jimmy Hickey and Rep. Lane Jean setting aside \$710,612,508 in surplus revenue. This money may be used from time to time for general revenue operating funds or fund accounts, the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, or the State Central Services Fund.
3. PASSED: H.B. 1002 and S.B. 3 by Sen. Joshua Bryant and Rep. Howard Beaty generally prohibiting the govern-
- ment from mandating vaccinations for COVID-19 and its subvariants.
4. PASSED: S.B. 10 by Sen. Bart Hester and Rep. David Ray exempting communications concerning the governor's security detail and records that reflect the planning or provision of security for elected officials from disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967.
5. PASSED: S.B. 4 and H.B. 1005 by Sen. Jane English and Rep. Brian Evans clarifying that public schools are not required to keep all their doors and exits unlocked during school hours.
6. PASSED: S.B. 5 by Sen. Breanne Davis and Rep. Sonia Barker addressing how students with disabilities receive educational services and funding under the state's Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids Pro-

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Governor Calls Special Session of the Arkansas Legislature *(continued)*

gram, the Succeed Scholarship, and the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program.

7. PASSED: H.B. 1006 and S.B. 6 by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway and Sen. Ben Gilmore clarifying that criminals convicted of certain felonies involving a firearm are not eligible for early release or parole.

Here's a little color commentary on the special session:

Out of all the bills that came up, the most controversial were the ones changing the Freedom of Information Act. Several bills were filed on this topic. The primary purpose of the measures was to exempt documents about the governor's security detail from disclosure under the state's transparency laws. Recently, liberal pundits have used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain communication about the governor's travel arrangements and security for her and her family. That has raised concerns about the First Family's safety.

The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act was passed in 1967 under Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. It was supported by the Republican governor and the Democratically controlled legislature. This law gives any Arkansan the right to request records or other information from any state or local government official. Those officials have up to three business days to respond. The law also requires that school boards, state agencies, city councils, and other public entities meet in public. Certain information like medical records, certain law enforcement documents, student records, and personnel records have always been exempt from disclosure.

The Freedom of Information Act lets citizens ask their government what it is doing, and it requires the government to tell them. Over the years, citizens have used the Arkansas Freedom of Information law to expose wrongdoing by government officials and government waste. It has been used to reveal public funding of organizations like Planned Parenthood.

Freedom of information legislation filed during the recently completed special session went beyond exempting the Governor's security plans. Instead, it morphed into what local media referred to as an "overhaul" of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. Changes to the law included exempting documents and communications used to formulate government policies as well as documents prepared by state attorneys as part of possible litigation. That drew very heavy criticism from both the Republicans on the right and Democrats on the left. County Republican committee members, the Press Association, the Broadcasters Association, attorneys, and everyday citizens flooded the capitol to oppose changing the Freedom of Information Act.

Some opponents feared the bills would make it more difficult to find out how or why state officials came up with certain rules or policies. Others said the bills could make it harder to expose government corruption. There also were concerns that the measures could make it more difficult to enforce the Freedom of Information Act, because they changed the way courts assessed fees for violations. Many people believe those fees help encourage public servants to follow the transparency laws.

After several hours of deliberation and testimony, Sen. Bart Hester and Rep. David Ray filed a new bill—S.B. 10—that only applied to the governor's security and the security of other elected officials. That measure quickly passed and went to Governor Sanders to be signed into law. People made their voices heard, lawmakers listened, and the legislative process worked the way it's supposed to. That's always good to see.

To be clear, Family Council did not take a position on any of the legislation filed during the special session.

My team and I went to the capitol to visit lawmakers and observe the special session. We didn't testify, and we didn't lobby any of the legislators. That said, a few folks have asked us where we stand on the state's transparency laws and the Freedom of Information Act legislation. We believe there is wisdom in protecting the governor's family by not releasing security details. There also is wisdom in being mindful about the unintended consequences that could come from changing the state's Freedom of Information Act. S.B. 10 that passed during the special session balanced those concerns.

Over the past 34 years, Family Council has used the state's public disclosure laws on a regular basis.

That's how we and others have found out about critical race theory and pro-abortion groups in Arkansas' public schools. That's how we learned about Planned Parenthood trying to apply for government contracts over the years. That's how we found out pro-LGBT organizations were trying to take advantage of publicly-funded grants through the Arkansas Department of Health. That's how we've tracked investigations and inspections at abortion facilities that may have been out of compliance with the state's pro-life laws. The Freedom of Information Act is a tool that has allowed us to expose what these groups were doing and blunt their agenda in Arkansas. A lot of the information we share in emails and in update letters like this one comes to us via the Freedom of Information Act. We aren't the only people that have put the state's transparency laws to good use. Fortunately, S.B. 10 that passed during the special session did not raise our concerns, and lawmakers were open to listening to and working with people who had serious concerns about the issue. We hope that continues to be the case with any future legislation changing the state's transparency laws.

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin Goes Toe-to-Toe with Social Media Giants

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's Office is currently going toe-to-toe against social media giants in four different lawsuits. The A.G.'s team is suing Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok for violating Arkansas' Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The A.G.'s lawsuits allege that social platforms are fueling the current youth mental health crisis and deliberately promoting obscene and objectionable material to children. The lawsuits also allege that TikTok routinely exposes user data to the Chinese Government and Communist Party. These lawsuits were filed last spring, but appeared to be in

limbo for a time before proceeding this past summer.

In a separate, federal lawsuit, a trade association of social media companies has sued Attorney General Tim Griffin in order to block the state from enforcing parental consent requirements for social media. A federal judge ruled in favor of the social media companies, but the attorney general's office is pushing back in court.

Keep reading this letter to see a quick overview of each of these important lawsuits.

A.G. Griffin Sues TikTok Over Pornographic, Obscene Content

In March Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's office filed a lawsuit against Chinese-based company ByteDance—the corporation that owns TikTok—in Cleburne County Circuit Court. With a billion users worldwide and 135 million in the U.S., TikTok is considered by some to be the most popular social media platform in the world.

The Cleburne County lawsuit alleges TikTok violated Arkansas' Deceptive Trade Practices Act by falsely claiming that graphic and mature content on its platform is appropriate for teens. The lawsuit calls the TikTok app "a Chinese 'Trojan Horse' unleashed on unsuspecting American consumers." The lawsuit notes that "tens of millions of minors use TikTok in the United States." Once on the TikTok app, TikTok "force-feeds" many children a non-stop diet of objectionable content. Some of the content TikTok promotes to children depicts nudity, sexual activity, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and violence.

The A.G.'s team found material on TikTok so inappropriate that it had to be redacted in copies of the lawsuit released to the general public. **The A.G.'s lawsuit notes that TikTok actually promotes this content regardless of the user's age—meaning that TikTok may deliberately suggest these videos to children on a regular basis.** If a child watches one TikTok video depicting nudity or drug use, TikTok's algorithm is more likely to suggest similar videos

in the future. The lawsuit alleges much of this content is available to teenagers using the app's Restricted Mode intended to filter objectionable material.

The lawsuit alleges TikTok has deceptively downplayed the prevalence of this content on its platform. TikTok markets itself as being appropriate for ages 13 and up when TikTok actually should be rated 17+. The A.G.'s complaint against TikTok concludes by asking the court to stop TikTok's actions and award the state up to \$10,000 per violation of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act in accordance with state law.



A.G. Griffin Sues TikTok for Sharing User Data With Chinese Government

In March Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's office filed a lawsuit against Chinese-based company ByteDance—the corporation that owns TikTok—in Union County Circuit Court. The Union County lawsuit alleges TikTok violated Arkansas' Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Among other things, the lawsuit argues that TikTok failed to fully disclose that it is subject to Chinese law—including "laws that mandate secret cooperation with intelligence activities of the People's Republic of China." The lawsuit also

alleges that TikTok "routinely exposes Arkansas consumers' data, without their knowledge, to access and exploitation by the Chinese Government and Communist Party" and that "TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, has admitted to using data gathered through TikTok to surveil Americans." The A.G.'s complaint against TikTok concludes by asking the court to stop TikTok's actions and award the state up to \$10,000 per violation of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act in accordance with state law.

A.G. Griffin Sues Facebook and Instagram for Fueling Youth Mental Health Crisis

In March Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's office filed a lawsuit against Meta—the corporation that owns Facebook and Instagram—in Polk County Circuit Court. The lawsuit alleges Meta's social media platforms violated Arkansas' Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

The lawsuit argues Meta's social media platforms are deceptively built around algorithms intentionally designed "to exploit human psychology and foster addiction to maximize users' screen time." The A.G.'s legal complaint says this exploitation and addiction is especially true of young users with developing brains. The lawsuit says point-blank that "youth mental health problems have advanced in lockstep with the growth of social media platforms that have been

deliberately designed to attract and addict youth by amplifying harmful material, dosing users with dopamine hits, and thereby driving youth engagement and advertising revenue." The lawsuit goes on to allege that Meta violated Arkansas' Deceptive Trade Practices Act by designing and marketing "dangerous social media platforms that have injured the health, comfort, and repose of the State's community" and fueled the current youth mental health crisis. The A.G.'s complaint against Meta concludes by asking the court to stop Meta's actions and award the state up to \$10,000 per violation of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act in accordance with state law.

Federal Judge Blocks State of Arkansas' Parental Consent Requirements for Social Media in *NetChoice v. Griffin*

On August 31, a federal judge in Fayetteville blocked the State of Arkansas' parental consent requirements for social media. Arkansas' Social Media Safety Act—a good law by Sen. Tyler Dees (R – Siloam Springs) and Rep. Jon Eubanks (R – Paris)—requires major social media companies to ensure minors don't access social media without parental consent. However, tech giants—including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok—sued to strike the law down. As a result, U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks blocked the state from enforcing this good law.

There is now plenty of evidence showing that, by design, social media platforms may be unhealthy for children, and they may deliberately push objectionable content to kids. That's why we believe higher courts will uphold the Social Media Safety Act as constitutional. It's good to

see the Arkansas Attorney General's Office proactively working to stop tech companies from harming children.

It's good to see the Arkansas Attorney General's Office proactively working to stop tech companies from harming children.

Take Action: If a child you know has encountered obscene or illegal content on social media, report it to the proper authorities, and consider filing a consumer complaint with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office.

CA Authorities Seized Nearly \$162M Worth of Black Market Marijuana in Just Six Months Despite Legalization

Despite legalization in California, the state's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce seized nearly \$162 million worth of illegal marijuana during the first half of 2023, according to a recent statement from California's Department of Cannabis Control. Across the board, drug cartels and other criminal elements have been emboldened in states that have legalized marijuana. In New Mexico, a loophole in state law has let criminals operate marijuana businesses without proper background checks. In Oregon, authorities seized nearly 11,500 illegal marijuana plants in four different locations from July to August alone! All of this underscores that Arkansans were right to reject a proposed marijuana

amendment last November. More and more it's clear marijuana may be many things, but "harmless" simply is not one of them.



Right: A law enforcement officer in Oregon surveys an illegal marijuana farm (Photo Credit: Jackson County Sheriff's Office).

The Unseen Battle Against Abortion

By Donna Ezell, Executive Director, Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center

As the Executive Director of a Pregnancy Help Organization, I am writing to you with a heavy yet determined heart. In the recent July/August Update Letter by Family Council, the section 'Arkansas' Abortion Rate Plummeted 77% in 30 Years!' it was reported that "... pro-lifers have successfully worked together to virtually end abortion in Arkansas." While this statement may bring hope to some, I stand before you today to shed light on a different reality.

At the front lines of our Pregnancy Help Organization, we frequently witness women seeking abortion, and a significant majority of our clients fall into the category of being "abortion vulnerable." This means they face social determinants that put them at high risk for abortion and even if they initially choose to continue their pregnancy, they are still at risk of having an abortion should their circumstances change.

I am deeply concerned that the perception that the battle against abortion is over could lead to complacency and the cessation of vital support efforts. It is true that we believe the number of abortions in Arkansas has decreased, and for this, we are extremely grateful. However, we must also acknowledge that we lack accurate statistics on how many women are crossing state lines to obtain abortions in neighboring states like Kansas and Illinois. Moreover, the proliferation of the abortion pill, often purchased online and delivered to women's homes, further obscures the true extent of abortion's reach.

The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) Practice Guideline #8 on Medication Abortion reminds us that we do not accurately know the number of abortions that occur in the United States. The estimated figures are voluntarily reported to the CDC by state health departments, and the reporting requirements vary greatly among states. In fact, only 28 states require abortion providers to report complications, and even then, enforcement penalties are rarely applied. Furthermore, only

12 states mandate other physicians, coroners, or emergency rooms to report abortion-related complications or deaths for investigation.

In the book 'The Story of Abortion in America' it is stated that since the approval of the abortion pill in 2000, an estimated 4.9 million women have used it. Recent years have seen American women buying the abortion pills online from European websites, where FDA regulations do not apply. These websites even suggest to women that if they need to go to the emergency room for complications after taking the abortion pills they should just tell them they are having a spontaneous miscarriage which is further clouding the true picture of abortion's impact.

In 2021, the Lozier Institute's study revealed that complications after abortion were miscoded as miscarriages at least half the time in Medicaid claims for ER visits from 1999 to 2015. In 2016, the FDA stopped requiring abortion facilities to report complications related to the abortion pill unless they resulted in death. Four years later, the FDA removed all in-person visit requirements, opening the door to the mail-order abortion business.

This information is sobering, and as defenders of the vulnerable, we must remain aware and committed. We must not be discouraged but inspired to continue the fight. Pregnancy Help Organizations like ours are still waging this battle on behalf of the unborn and their mothers. Our work is not merely against human institutions but against the very forces that seek to extinguish the light of life. We must remain informed, concerned, and involved in the fight for life. Together, we can be a beacon of hope amid uncertainty, a refuge for those in crisis.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12.

Donna Ezell is Executive Director of Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center in Little Rock.



State of Arkansas Moving Forward with Monument to the Unborn

Plans are moving forward to place a monument to the unborn on the Arkansas Capitol Grounds. In March Gov. Sanders signed Act 310 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) authorizing a memorial to the 236,243 unborn children electively aborted in Arkansas between 1973 and 2022. In September the state announced it was seeking proposals for monument designs. After selecting an artist and design, the state presumably will begin construction and placement of the monument on the capitol grounds.

State Expects to Begin Pregnancy Center Grant Applications This Month

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration expects to open applications for the Pregnancy Help Organizations Grant Program this month. In April, Gov. Sanders signed Act 622 authorizing \$1 million in state-funding for pregnancy centers, maternity homes, adoption agencies, and social services agencies to support women with unplanned pregnancies. This grant money will fund pro-life alternatives to abortion, and it will help build a culture of life in Arkansas. That's something to celebrate.

Columbia County Passes Pro-Life Resolution

On August 14 the Columbia County Quorum Court passed a resolution declaring itself a Pro-Life County. Act 699 of 2023 by Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs) lets cities, counties, and

More than ever, citizens and their elected officials need to establish exactly where they stand on the issue of abortion.

other political subdivisions pass resolutions affirming they are Pro-Life. To date, nearly half of all Arkansans live in a Pro-Life City or Pro-Life County. More than ever, citizens and their elected officials need to establish exactly where they stand on the issue of abortion. **Family Council has a free toolkit designed to help Arkansans pass a pro-life resolution like the one in Columbia County. You can find it at FamilyCouncil.org, or call our office at (501) 375-7000.**

IT'S TIME FOR
Family Council
to expand in
ARKANSAS

Family Council has one of the best teams in the nation, but we've pretty much reached the limit of what a staff our size is capable of doing. We need to grow—not just to get bigger, but because there is so much good we can do. Here are positions we need to add, and a brief explanation of the good that each one will provide.

Pastor and Church Liaison: We have all said that pastors and churches need to speak up and get more involved. This new team member will help pastors and their church members be a stronger voice for truth and be more active in their communities.

Staff Attorney: Our work passing good laws and defeating bad ones involves attorneys. The volume of our work has grown to the point that we need our own staff attorney. We need help reading over 2,000 bills each legislative session. We need help writing good legislation, formulating positions, and providing expert testimony in committee hearings at the capitol. Having our own attorney will enable us to go head-to-head with lawyers from the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and others.

Information/ Technology and Social Media Expert: A stronger social media presence is essential to reaching younger generations. We need to implement a comprehensive social media strategy that involves disseminating the truth about issues through our webpage, videos, email alerts, blog posts, and on platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. With help keeping our computer technology current, our staff can get more work done.

Assistant Bookkeeper: With our growing volume of work, we need an assistant bookkeeper. In addition to paying bills, recording donations, and making bank deposits, we need help with filing taxes, monitoring cash flow, and handling filings with the Ethics Commission and Secretary of State. We need help with a growing list of general office duties as well.



WILL YOU STAND WITH US AND HELP US GROW?

I've been asked where Arkansas would be without Family Council. I don't know. But one thing is for certain: I don't want anyone to ever ask, "What ever happened to Family Council?" We're here for the long-haul—to advance the Kingdom of God until His return, and to do all that we have been called to do.

Many people consider the Apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 6:13 to be among some of the most powerful in scripture: "and having done all, to stand." After you've taken up the armor of God and done everything you're supposed to do, just stand! In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says, "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Some commentators have pointed out that gates are a defensive tool. Gates don't attack. They defend. Jesus seems to be saying that His church—and the rock on which it's built—are so powerful that the gates of hell won't stand a chance against it. To put it another way, sometimes—like in Ephesians 6—believers are called to go on the defensive. Other times—like in Matthew 16—we're called to go on the offensive.

Last fall, I had the opportunity to help campaign against the 2022 marijuana amendment in Arkansas. Wealthy cannabis corporations with millions upon millions of dollars at their disposal were prepared to spend whatever it took to pass their amendment. There was no way our side could match them dollar-for-dollar in advertising. The odds looked hopelessly against us. At the time, one of the gentlemen I was working with on the campaign confided to me, "Jerry, I feel like we're storming the gates of hell with water pistols!" I laughed and told him I felt the same way. The fact is, when you're following the Lord's leading, even a water pistol can quench the gates of hell. That's exactly what happened when the marijuana amendment failed on Election Day.

Your generous financial support to Family Council helps us be effective both defensively and offensively. When what is good and true comes under attack, we're able to defend it. When there is an opportunity to push back against the darkness in our culture, we're able to do that. In the legislative arena, we block bad bills, and we support good bills. In the public arena, we speak the truth and equip citizens with the tools they need.

If you send a generous, tax-deductible donation to Family Council today, I want you to know that we will stretch your gift as far as we can do as much good with it as possible. We never take your support for granted. That's why I tell my staff that part of our mission is to be good stewards of the money we're entrusted. After all, at the end of the day it's all God's money anyway. He's just letting us borrow it for a little while. I want to be able to tell Him we used it wisely.

Thank you for standing with us. It means so much to have good friends like you who believe in what we do. Please let us know if there is ever anything we can do for you.

Sincerely,



Thank you!!

Jerry Cox, President

P.S. We've wrapped up a very busy summer, and we have big plans for the rest of the year. It won't be long before we survey candidates for the 2024 Arkansas Voter's Guide. Our guide will help you and your friends understand where candidates stand on the issues that matter to you. I hope you enjoy reading about the special legislative session and other news in this letter. We're excited about what the future holds. **Thank you for standing with us!**



About Us: Family Council is a conservative, Christian non-profit organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas. Jerry Cox founded Family Council in 1989 in association with Dr. James Dobson and Focus on the Family. Our mission is to promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values. We educate and equip families and churches to make Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and we lobby lawmakers and elected officials on important issues that matter to families. Our work is funded by generous supporters all over Arkansas.
