



# Family Council's **VISION & GOALS** January 2025–December 2025

Here is a snapshot of our vision and goals for 2025, mindful that,  
*"A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)*

## LOBBY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE

**Making Arkansas a Better Place Through Laws that Uphold a Biblical Standard.** The Arkansas Legislature will convene on January 13, and Family Council will be there. We are helping members of the Arkansas Legislature vote and conduct themselves in a manner that honors God. We plan to review every piece of legislation filed at the capitol, and we will alert our friends about any important measures. We are preparing to defend good laws and defeat bad laws. Here are a few good things that lawmakers could do in 2025:

- Pass a tax credit and a budget appropriation for pregnancy help organizations.
- Stop abortionists in other states from delivering abortion drugs to women in Arkansas.
- Ensure homeschoolers are able to access and use public funding for education under Arkansas' LEARNS Act.
- Protect parental rights in Arkansas.
- Protect religious liberty and rights of conscience.
- Reform the state's petition process to prevent wealthy, out-of-state interests from placing misleading measures on the state ballot.
- Promote restrictions on predatory gambling like sports betting.
- Prevent assisted suicide and other policies that result in a disregard for the lives of the elderly and disabled.
- Oppose efforts by Republican lawmakers to weaken Arkansas' abortion law.
- Oppose efforts by the marijuana industry to expand sales.
- Oppose legislation that would expand public drinking in entertainment districts in Arkansas.
- Stop any "tort reform" measures that would put a price tag on human life or make it harder to hold nursing homes accountable when their negligence injures or kills another person.
- Defeat "hate crimes" legislation in Arkansas.
- Stop any effort to weaken Arkansas' good transparency laws.

## EDUCATION ALLIANCE

**Stand Up for 32,000 Arkansas Homeschoolers.** We are empowering parents to exercise their right to teach their children at home. Since 1998 our Education Alliance homeschool division has served as the statewide hub for homeschooling. We have defended homeschooling at the state capitol, and we are continuing to work with Governor Sanders to ensure homeschoolers are eligible to apply for state funding under the LEARNS Act beginning in the fall of 2025. Homeschooling has surged to new levels in Arkansas over the past five years, and we are working diligently to serve every homeschool family.

## SECURE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

**Help Stop Abortion and Save Lives By Supporting Women and Unborn Children.** Since 2022, we have worked with the governor and with lawmakers each year to secure funding for state grants to pregnancy help organizations such as the 44 Arkansas pregnancy resource centers. Last year, Arkansas increased this funding from \$1 million to \$2 million. We have helped pregnancy help organizations navigate the grant application process for that funding. By the end of April 2025, we hope to see all \$2 million awarded to organizations around the state, and we are planning to work with lawmakers to secure a similar appropriation for the 2024–2025 budget cycle. We also want to work with lawmakers to pass legislation that will create a tax credit for donations to pregnancy resource centers and similar pro-life charities.

## REFORM THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

**Stop Out-of-State Interests From Using Arkansas' Petition Process for Their Own Gain.** Arkansas' initiative and referendum process was intended to give everyday citizens a way to circulate petitions and vote on measures independently of the Arkansas Legislature. But for the past several election cycles, out-of-state groups, wealthy corporations, and others have used the petition process to place flawed or misleading measures on the ballot. Some of these groups have tried to write themselves into the constitution. Others have tried to use the petition process to make abortion or other evils part of the constitution. We plan to support meaningful reforms that will stop wealthy interests from abusing Arkansas' petition process for their own purposes. We also intend to support legislation that will require ballot measures to be understandable to the average voter instead of deliberately confusing.

## DEFEND PARENTAL RIGHTS

**Make Sure Our Laws Protect Parental Rights at Home, at School, in Libraries, and Everywhere Else in Arkansas.** Parents should be able to take their children to school without worrying about a teacher pressuring them to change genders or support pro-LGBT ideology. Parents should be able to take their families to the library without worrying about graphic, sexual images in children's picture-books. Parents should be able to teach their values and their religious beliefs to their children without fear of the government. Arkansas needs to pass good laws that protect children and respect parental rights.

## PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

**Make Sure Our Laws Let Citizens Hold Their Government Accountable.** When it comes to educating and equipping citizens, Family Council relies heavily on transparency laws like Arkansas' Freedom of Information Act. The Freedom of Information Act is a tool that has allowed us to expose what groups like Planned Parenthood and the ACLU were doing and blunt their agenda in Arkansas. Arkansas has some of the best transparency laws in the country, and we want to keep it that way. That is why we will oppose legislation that would undermine that transparency.

## PROTECT CHILDREN

**Keep Obscene or Inappropriate Material Away From Children.** Parents and policymakers are deeply concerned about obscene and inappropriate sexual material making its way into children's books, but many states have struggled to do anything about it. Arkansas passed laws in 2023 that were a good first step protecting children from inappropriate sexual content. We want to push for better protections for children in 2025.

## STOP THE EXPANSION OF PUBLIC DRINKING

**Oppose Any Effort to Expand Public Drinking in Entertainment Districts.** Ever since the Arkansas Legislature first legalized public drinking in entertainment districts in 2019, lawmakers have faced relentless pressure to pass laws expanding public drinking across Arkansas. Family Council opposes public drinking, and we plan to work with our friends in the legislature and across the state to prevent the expansion of public drinking in Arkansas.

## STAND AGAINST GAMBLING

**Oppose Casino Expansion and Internet Gambling.** Sports betting and internet gambling are a multi-billion dollar industry, and there are many people looking to profit from it. Casino interests in Arkansas want to expand internet gambling to smartphones everywhere in the state. The Arkansas Problem Gambling Council reported a 22% increase in calls for help with problem gambling in 2024—largely driven by the growth of sports betting. We plan to oppose any effort to expand gambling in Arkansas.

## MOBILIZE OUR STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

**Continue Informing, Educating, Equipping, and Activating People Across Arkansas.** We are building a strong statewide grassroots network of people who are informed and involved. A key part of this is our Rapid Response Network, a group of about 1,000 people statewide who will contact their lawmakers when alerted by Family Council. Our update letters, email alerts, videos, website articles, and media interviews all serve to keep Arkansans informed.

## EMPOWER CITIZENS

**Provide Free Tools to Equip Citizens.** Arkansans need to know what is happening in their state and what they can do about it. We are here to help citizens know how to address local issues like objectionable library material. We're empowering people to make their communities better through a greater emphasis on faith at school or by passing a pro-life resolution for their city or county. Almost daily, our staff advises citizens on issues ranging from how to get started homeschooling to what to do about illegal gambling machines at the local convenience store. Family Council plans to continue empowering citizens to make a difference in Arkansas.

## KEEP ARKANSAS THE MOST PRO-LIFE STATE IN AMERICA

**Defend the Sanctity of Innocent Human Life from the Womb to the Tomb.** Americans United for Life has ranked Arkansas the most pro-life state in the nation for the past few years. We want to maintain that ranking. One way we do that is by making sure our laws and policies respect the sanctity of innocent human life at every stage of development—"from the womb to the tomb."

## PRO-LIFE CITIES AND COUNTIES

**Establish Pro-Life Cities and Counties all Over Arkansas.** Through the passage of pro-life resolutions, we are building a culture of life one city or county at a time. Already 22 of Arkansas' 75 counties and 15 cities have passed resolutions affirming that they are pro-life, and we hope to double that number over the next year.

## ARFUTURE FOUNDATION

**Save the Lives of Unborn Children.** We are reducing the demand for abortion by funding pro-life pregnancy centers that offer better alternatives. By working with our partner organization, the ARFuture Foundation, the Arkansas Legislature, and private donors, we secured over \$2 million in state funds and over \$200,000 in private funds for grants to help pregnancy centers guide women to better choices than abortion.

## ARKANSAS CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

**Inspire Church Leaders to Work with Government Leaders to Advance God's Kingdom.** We are helping church leaders and government leaders find ways to work together to solve social and moral problems. By bringing together the God-ordained institutions of church and government, we hope to see real progress toward reducing single-parent households, drug addiction, violence, and other problems.

## ARKANSAS JUSTICE INSTITUTE

**Promote, Protect, and Strengthen Traditional Family Values in the Legal Arena.** We are mobilizing Christian attorneys to advance a biblical worldview through laws and in court. Our staff attorney is organizing a team of volunteer Christian attorneys who will stand ready to help Christians who are being discriminated against, assist lawmakers with drafting legislation, and advocate for the preservation of our God-given rights.

## KEEP MARIJUANA OUT OF ARKANSAS

**Stop the Next Attempt to Legalize Marijuana in Arkansas.** Arkansans defeated marijuana amendments in 2022 and 2024, but we expect future efforts to legalize marijuana in 2025 and 2026. The groups backing marijuana have millions of dollars available to spend on their pro-marijuana campaigns. We need to be ready to defeat marijuana legislation in Arkansas in 2025.

## END ABORTION IN ARKANSAS

**Prepare to Fight the Next Abortion Amendment.** Arkansans were able to stop abortion amendments in 2023 and 2024. We are working with others to defeat future efforts to enshrine abortion into the Arkansas Constitution. We plan to continue defending the sanctity of innocent human life at the capitol and across the state in the coming year. We also plan to continue working to eliminate the demand for abortion in Arkansas. Our long term goal is to make abortion illegal, unthinkable, and irrelevant.

## READY TO TAKE A STAND

**Speak the Truth and Stand Firm by Keeping Our Unwavering Commitment to Do What's Right.** We are proclaiming the truth about Arkansas issues through media interviews, and we are ready to take a stand against any new threats. When unforeseen threats to biblical values arise, we're here to stand in the gap. Family Council has been able to stand for what is right, no matter the cost, for 35 years. By the grace of God, we plan to be here and be ready for the next 35 as well.