

update letter  
DECEMBER 2024



The following is from Family Council's Assistant Director, David Cox:

Dear Friends,

For me, Christmas is a season of reflection. I love the church services, decorations, carols, gifts, and time with family. But I also enjoy remembering Christmases that have come and gone. And one of my cherished Christmas memories comes from when I was a boy growing up in Little Rock more than 30 years ago. Christmas decorations were different in those days. Back then, you couldn't get inflatable snowmen at Walmart or red-and-green laser-light projectors from Amazon. None of us knew what an "LED" was. Most families were limited to a few strands of lights and the occasional manger scene or plastic Santa Claus. But there was one Little Rock home that I always looked forward to seeing in December: Mr. and Mrs. Osbornes'.

Nowadays, Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri, brags about having more than six million Christmas lights throughout their theme park. But I enjoy reminding folks that Mr. Osborne had three million Christmas lights—**on his house!** Jennings Osborne was a businessman and philanthropist known for his generous, larger-than-life personality, and his Christmas decorations are still something of a legend among Arkansans who came of age in Little Rock before the turn of the millennium. On a dark, December evening, if you drove to the top of Little Rock's Cantrell Hill and continued west toward Highway 10, you would see a Christmas display unlike any other: Literally a million Christmas lights strung around Mr. Osborne's house and yard. Every year, the decorations got a little bigger and a little brighter, and by 1994 there were an estimated three million lights on the property. Angels hovered in the air. Christmas greetings flashed in large letters. Light-up trees, a manger scene, and other decorations adorned the lawn. As a child, it literally inspired awe and wonder, because it was unlike anything I had ever seen—or was likely to see at any other time of year.

Mr. Osborne's neighbors, understandably, were bothered by the traffic jams his extravagant lights caused. A friend told me his mother once spent two hours driving a few blocks to buy a stick of butter because of the long lines of cars waiting bumper-to-bumper to see the Osborne Home. In 1994 the Arkansas Supreme Court ordered Mr. Osborne to turn the lights off. As a child, I was sad when I heard about the decision, but as an adult, I understand. Ever the philanthropist, Mr. Osborne donated most of the decorations to Disney World and to different public displays in Arkansas and elsewhere. That meant many more families were able to enjoy them.

Decades may have passed, but on a quiet, winter evening I can still sit in my recliner, close my eyes, and remember what it felt like to leave nose-prints on the cold car window, straining to get a better look at Mr. Osborne's home as my family drove up Cantrell Road. A couple of Decembers ago I actually found a video of Mr. Osborne's Christmas display on YouTube, and I was able to show it to my children. I once heard someone remark that Mr. Osborne's lights were a waste of money. I'm sure there were stocks or bonds he could have invested in and earned interest. But some thirty years later, Mr. Osborne's Christmas celebrations and the other generous things he did still bring me a certain measure of joy. You can't put a price tag on that.

**As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, I hope you and your family are able to make memories you can treasure for a lifetime.** Jesus is the reason for the season, but the moments we spend together during this season are priceless. From all of us at Family Council, I hope you have a truly merry Christmas!



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Executive Director Jerry Cox

## Family Council's Greatest Hits from 2024

By Jerry Cox, Executive Director

Since 1989, Family Council has worked to promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values in Arkansas. We've supported good legislation, opposed bad laws, promoted religious freedom, defended the sanctity of innocent human life, stood up for traditional marriage, blunted the radical LGBT agenda, and much more. Looking back, I can honestly say the past two years have been some of the most significant and most active in Family Council's 35-year history. Our team has grown—and so has our work. Here's a brief look at a few of Family Council's "Greatest Hits" from 2024.

**Keeping Abortion Out of Arkansas.** Pro-abortion forces worked relentlessly to write abortion into the Arkansas Constitution this year, but pro-lifers fought back. The pro-life "Decline to Sign" campaign likely cost the Arkansas Abortion Amendment 40,000 petition signatures and tens of thousands of dollars. It also likely kept abortion off the ballot in Arkansas, because the state supreme court invalidated petition signatures collected by paid canvassers but not the petition signatures that volunteers collected. If the pro-abortion volunteers had collected more signatures this past summer, their amendment might have made the November ballot. Fortunately, our team, Arkansas Right to Life, and other pro-life groups were able to spread the word about this bad amendment. Pro-lifers worked to defeat the abortion petition drive in Arkansas, and we were able to keep abortion out of the state.

**Supporting Homeschoolers in Arkansas.** Homeschooling has surged to record levels in our state. Today, more than 32,000 students homeschool in Arkansas. Our homeschool office, the Education Alliance, worked daily this year to help these students and their families with everything from getting started homeschooling to applying for college—and everything in between. We also helped homeschoolers understand how they can receive funding from the state's new LEARNS Act this year. We are glad we get to serve homeschool families in our state.

**Fighting Marijuana's Expansion in Arkansas.** Marijuana industry insiders spent nearly \$2 million working to place a marijuana amendment on the ballot. Our team was able to build a powerful statewide grassroots network of county coordinators to inform people about this fatally flawed amendment. We printed and distributed about half a million church bulletin inserts. Had the Arkansas Supreme Court not disqualified this amendment, we were ready with our statewide campaign, and I believe our side would have prevailed as we did when Arkansas voters rejected legalizing marijuana just two years ago. We all breathed a sigh of relief when the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled that the marijuana amendment was legally flawed and that votes

for it should not be counted. Our efforts against marijuana have positioned us to successfully fight to keep marijuana out of Arkansas.

**Securing \$2 Million in Funding for Pregnancy Help Organizations.** One of the best things Family Council has ever done is help pregnancy resource centers secure publicly-funded grants. In 2022 we worked with former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and with our friends in the Arkansas Legislature to pass a budget measure providing a million dollars for pro-life pregnancy help organizations in Arkansas. In 2023 and 2024 we worked with Governor Sanders and with lawmakers to secure additional appropriations for these organizations. But this year we were able to expand the program and provide \$2 million in grant funding. This grant money will provide real support to women in Arkansas with unplanned pregnancies, making it less likely they will travel to other states for abortion. That is something to celebrate.

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Above: Pro-lifers successfully circulated posters and flyers across the state urging voters not to sign the abortion amendment petition.

## Family Council's Greatest Hits from 2024 *(continued)*

**Uncovering Planned Parenthood's New Abortion Facility Near the Arkansas Border.** In May Planned Parenthood—the nation's largest abortion provider—announced plans to build a new abortion facility in southeast Kansas, within driving distance of Northwest Arkansas. Family Council worked over the summer to locate the new abortion center. In August our team found public records showing Planned Parenthood had formed a limited liability company that quietly purchased and renovated a doctor's office in Pittsburg, Kansas. We alerted our friends at national pro-life organizations and our pro-life friends in Kansas. Breaking this news before Planned Parenthood

Since 1990, we have surveyed candidates running for office in Arkansas, and we have published their responses. Our guide helps voters understand where candidates stand on issues like abortion, homeschooling, marijuana legalization, immigration policy, and so on. The guide also contains summaries of the ballot measures. This year we distributed more than 75,000 printed copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide, and our digital guide at [ArkansasVotersGuide.com](https://ArkansasVotersGuide.com) reached another 36,000 people. Many churches, homeschool groups, and other organizations share our voter's guides with their members. Altogether, our team estimates that we distributed enough voter's guides in print, online, and via email and text message to reach more than 125,000 potential voters. All of that had a tremendous impact in Arkansas.



*Above: Planned Parenthood's new abortion facility in Southeast Kansas, approximately 90 minutes from Northwest Arkansas. Family Council discovered the abortion giant secretly acquired the facility earlier this year.*

was open for business helped pro-lifers begin mobilizing in Pittsburg before abortions were performed. By the time Planned Parenthood opened the facility, pro-life sidewalk counselors and prayer warriors were there as well. In August, Family Council was able to participate in a joint press conference outside the abortion facility, where we shared the truth about abortion and called on people to oppose Planned Parenthood's agenda. This was a significant accomplishment.

**Opposing Abortion and Other Bad Policies in Federal Court.** Besides working to keep abortion out of Arkansas, Family Council also joined multiple amicus briefs in federal court this year. These amicus briefs helped defend good, pro-life laws in states like West Virginia and Idaho, and they helped oppose bad, pro-abortion policies the Biden Administration has promoted at the federal level. We are glad to be part of this important work.

**Distributing Tens of Thousands of Voter's Guides During 2024 Election Cycle.** One of our goals is to educate voters so they can vote wisely when they head to the polls. The Arkansas Voter's Guide is one way Family Council does that.

**Our team estimates that we distributed enough voter's guides in print, online, and via email and text message to reach more than 125,000 potential voters.**

**Forming the Church Ambassador Network.** One of our goals for 2024 was to form a network of church leaders who would minister to elected leaders and partner with them to address the problems many of our communities face. This year we hired Jim Lagrone, D.Min., and Cade Daniel to carry out this initiative. Since then both Jim and Cade have traveled the state, meeting with ministers and building this network. We were able to form the Church Ambassador Network of Arkansas this year, and we have big plans for it in the coming year.

**Mobilizing the Arkansas Justice Institute.** This year we mobilized the Arkansas Justice Institute to provide a clear, Christian perspective on legal issues in Arkansas and network with likeminded attorneys across the state. We hired Stephanie Nichols to lead and serve as chief legal counsel for the Justice Institute. Stephanie has helped draft legislation, researched legal issues, and offered sound wisdom to our organization. We believe the work we accomplished this year will help bear good fruit at the Arkansas Legislature in 2025.



*From Left: Cade Daniel, Deputy Director of Church Ambassador Network; Jim Lagrone, D. Min., Director of Church Ambassador Network; Stephanie Nichols, Chief Legal Counsel, Arkansas Justice Institute*



Assistant Director David Cox

## Policy Points: We All Need a Compelling Vision for the Future.

By David Cox, Assistant Director

I am well within bounds to say that there has never been a candidate for president remotely like Donald Trump. He has been smeared and vilified in the twenty-four hour media for the better part of the past decade. He has been accused of more crimes than we can count — including accusations that he started an insurrection. He is a convicted felon. He has been shot. He's been called a fascist, a nazi, and a dictator. Hollywood and D.C. insiders alike have aligned against him. And yet he won two elections. In 2016 Donald Trump stunned critics and pundits alike when he won the presidency against Hillary Clinton. In 2024 he did it again with a decisive victory against Vice President Kamala Harris. There is plenty that could be said about those elections, but one thing is clear: **We all long for a compelling vision for the future.**

History tells us elections often go to the candidate with the most compelling vision. That's not to dismiss God's sovereignty, and that's not to suggest that super PACs and dark money are irrelevant. God is in control, and there are powerful people who use money and influence every

election year. The point is that money and name-recognition alone have a hard time winning elections. **Leaders need vision.** Proverbs 29:18 even goes so far as to say, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

**In 2016, Donald Trump's vision was simple: Make America Great Again.** To the tens of millions of voters living in "fly-over country" that vision was music to their ears. Trump's plan for achieving the vision was straightforward: Build a wall along the southern border, and make Mexico pay for it. Reopen coal mines in Appalachia. Bring manufacturing back to the Rust Belt. Cut bureaucracy in Washington. Drill for oil at home. And Trump shared his vision at every opportunity. There was simply no comparison between Trump's vision and the Clinton campaign slogan, "I'm With Her." Fast-forward to 2024: Exit polling on Election Day showed voters wanted a candidate who had leadership and vision for our country. President Biden and Vice President Harris did not offer Americans much more than soundbites about price gouging, abortion access, and democracy. Donald Trump cast a clear vision, and he won a decisive—and historic—victory.

**One of the things we believe at Family Council is that it's important to cast a vision for the future.** From time to time we thoughtfully and prayerfully outline our plans and goals. You can find our vision for 2025 enclosed with this letter. We want to promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values in Arkansas. That means standing up for the sanctity of human life, supporting good bills and defeating bad bills at the capitol, and equipping voters to make a difference in their communities. I hope you will keep reading this letter to learn more about what we have planned for the future—and how you can be part of it.

### Arkansas Passes Issue 2 Keeping a Casino Out of Russellville

On November 5, proposed constitutional amendment Issue 2 keeping a casino out of Russellville passed in Arkansas. Issue 2 prevents the State of Arkansas from licensing a casino in Russellville, and it prevents any additional casinos from being opened in Arkansas without a new constitutional amendment and without local voter approval at a special election. Passing Issue 2 keeps a casino out of Pope County, and it respects the ability of local people to govern themselves.

Legalized gambling has become a scourge in our state. On average, Arkansans are gambling more than a million dollars every day on sports betting alone. Gambling tax revenue has not improved Arkansas' roads or boosted our economy. Unless Arkansas' lawmakers and its people take a stand, gambling addiction will continue wrecking lives and hurting families in our state.

### Pro-Lifers See Three Big Wins, Two Big Losses on Election Night 2024

The biggest pro-life win for Arkansas this year was keeping the abortion amendment off the ballot. The Arkansas Abortion Amendment would have legalized abortion in ways Arkansas has never seen before. Defeating it was monumental. But on November 5, pro-lifers around the U.S. saw three major victories and two significant losses regarding abortion. Abortion measures were on the ballots in ten states on Election Day. Voters defeated abortion in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Florida. Pro-lifers lost in Missouri and Arizona. Abortion measures were on the ballot in five other states where it is already legal, but the votes for those measures simply solidified abortion's legality there.

Pro-abortion groups have claimed there is strong support for these measures at the ballot box, but these elections show that isn't the case. Three states rejected abortion, and the Missouri abortion amendment failed in all but

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## Pro-Lifers See Three Big Wins, Two Big Losses on Election Night 2024 *(continued)*

nine counties. Pro-abortion groups in Missouri spent several million dollars on their campaign, and they still barely passed their abortion amendment. That speaks volumes.

**Abortion hurts women, and it ends the lives of innocent unborn children.** Arkansas is the most pro-life state in

America, and our laws protect women and unborn children from abortion except to save the life of the mother. Pro-lifers strongly opposed the Arkansas Abortion Amendment that failed to make the ballot this year, and we are ready to defeat any similar effort to weaken our pro-life laws in 2025.

### Understanding the Arkansas Supreme Court's Decision to Reject Marijuana Amendment as Early Voting Started

On October 21, the Arkansas Supreme Court issued an eleventh-hour decision preventing the votes for marijuana amendment Issue 3 from being counted in the 2024 election. By the time the decision came down, the State of Arkansas had already printed ballots with Issue 3 on them, and Arkansans were standing in line at early-voting locations. The election has come and gone, but a lot of people are still trying to figure out what happened to Issue 3. The short answer is the Arkansas Supreme Court decided to disqualify a fatally flawed measure from the ballot. That's a good thing.

Marijuana amendment Issue 3's sponsors hired canvassers who spent the spring and summer collecting petition signatures to place the amendment on the ballot. After they submitted all of their petitions, the Arkansas Secretary of State determined that Issue 3's sponsors failed to comply with state laws governing the petition process and disqualified them from the ballot. That prompted the pro-marijuana group backing Issue 3 to sue the Secretary of State. The case went before the Arkansas Supreme Court. Along the way, an anti-marijuana group—Protect Arkansas Kids—joined the lawsuit and filed a legal challenge against the measure. Protect Arkansas Kids argued that the marijuana measure's wording was legally flawed. Issue 3 made more than 30 changes to the Arkansas Constitution, and it legalized marijuana in ways that many lawyers couldn't fully explain. Not all of these changes were clear in the way the amendment was worded.

After reviewing the arguments over Issue 3, the Arkansas Supreme Court concluded that Issue 3's sponsors did comply with state laws governing the petition process, but they agreed with Protect Arkansas Kids that the amendment's wording was flawed. Under the Arkansas Constitution, the state supreme court has a responsibility to remove flawed measures from the ballot. In this case, the ballots had already been printed because it was so close to the election, so the court ordered that votes not be counted on Issue 3. Many Arkansans worked hard to defeat Issue 3, and the Arkansas Supreme Court made the right decision by disqualifying it. Family Council plans to work with lawmakers in the coming year to ensure wealthy corporations cannot use Arkansas' petition process to place flawed amendments like this one on the ballot in the future.

### Casino Pushes for Digital Gambling Expansion Even Though Arkansans Bet More Than \$1M a Day on Sports

In September KNWA shared a staggering statistic from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration: Arkansans gamble an average of \$1.32 million on sports betting every day—and that number has likely grown as football season progressed. All told, DFA expects Arkansans to wager half a billion dollars on sports this year. Despite that, at least one casino in Arkansas is pushing for a gambling expansion. Here are serious problems Arkansans need to understand about sports betting:

- **Sports betting is tied to gambling addiction.** Studies indicate people who gamble on sports may be twice as likely to suffer from gambling problems.
- **In Arkansas, more than 90% of sports bets are placed through betting apps.** When people gamble electronically on phones or tablets, they are more likely to develop a gambling problem.
- **Young men are particularly hurt by sports gambling.** Statistics show young men account for approximately 40% of calls to gambling addiction hotlines. Upwards of 20 million men are in debt or have been in debt as a result of sports betting.
- **Sports betting is ruining lives in Arkansas.** In April the Arkansas Problem Gambling Council announced it had seen a 22% increase in calls for help—an increase largely driven by sports betting.

**Despite the harm that sports betting and digital gambling cause, Saracen Casino in Pine Bluff has pushed to expand gambling on smart phones across the entire state.** The casino has been touting "iGaming" that would let Arkansans gamble via mobile devices from anywhere in Arkansas. However, iGaming would require approval from the legislature—so it seems likely that casino interests will push to expand gambling at the Arkansas Legislature in the coming year. Family Council has already begun spreading the word about this flawed iGaming proposal, and we will oppose any gambling expansion at the Arkansas Legislature in 2025.

## Homeschooling Rises to Record Levels in Arkansas

Reports from the Arkansas Department of Education show homeschooling hit record levels last year. Homeschooling has grown significantly over the past three decades, but it has surged since the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019 there were a little less than 22,000 homeschoolers in Arkansas. In 2020, homeschooling rose to 30,000 students. And in 2024, homeschooling climbed again, to 32,767 students.

One reason homeschooling increased during the past school year may be the new LEARNS Act, which lets families use public dollars to educate their children at a private school or at home. Since its passage in 2023, more than 16,000 students have applied for funding under that law. Many families feel like public education has deteriorated

over the years, and they don't like the direction it is heading. School choice legislation like the LEARNS Act could empower those families with real alternatives that will help their children succeed.

**That is part of the reason Family Council supported the 2023 LEARNS Act.** We believe families have the right to pursue the education that is best for them, and we believe they ought to be free to use their tax dollars to educate their children at a public or private school or at home. Family Council and our homeschool office, the Education Alliance, are uniquely positioned to serve families as homeschooling continues to surge in Arkansas.

## Reflecting on 2024 at the Arkansas Justice Institute

*By Stephanie Nichols, Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Family Council's Arkansas Justice Institute*

As 2024 comes to a close, I'm grateful for how God has been at work in law and policy in Arkansas during the past year. We've seen an amendment that would have legalized abortion beyond even what *Roe v. Wade* permitted kept from the ballot. We've seen an amendment that would have greatly expanded marijuana usage defeated. Both of those amendments, if passed, would have greatly changed the culture of our state and led to our children and grandchildren growing

up in a different Arkansas than the family-friendly Arkansas we have known and loved.

I've been licensed to practice law in Arkansas since 2006, and since 2012 I've been privileged to work on several of the religious freedom, pro-life, parental rights, government transparency, and other legal battles important to Christians in our state. I've seen a public school superintendent and a county official take important, inspiring stands for religious freedom and Jesus. I've seen pro-life ministers unjustly arrested and sent to jail simply for standing for life. Those men chose to stand trial rather than take a plea bargain, and they emerged victorious. I've seen individual Christians and churches rise up to help defeat a municipal ordinance that would have restricted freedom of speech, compelled churches to hire those whose lifestyles oppose the truth, and even host events that violate God's Word. I worked on helping Arkansas pass one of the few laws in the nation that protects medical workers from being forced to participate in procedures and prescriptions that

violate their conscience. I've seen parents rise up and speak in public library board and school board meetings against graphic, highly-descriptive and detailed sexually explicit pictures and words in children's books. I've seen good Arkansas legislators sponsor God-honoring legislation and do the right thing despite harassment and lies. Although at times I have been shocked that good, commonsense laws and policies are such a battle, I can honestly say I am more hopeful than I was a decade ago.

Jesus is THE way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Him. While we don't compel religious adherence or worship, it is crucial that we can all share the only truth that sets men free and gives them eternal life. It is crucial that we don't use our tax dollars to fund purposes and institutions that are opposed to Him. And it is crucial that we all work together to build communities and a fellowship of believers devoted to honoring God in both our public and private lives.

God writes the best stories. He doesn't call us to easy lives in this fallen place and time that is our lives on this earth. Instead, He calls us to a life and mission of "overcoming." The Book of Revelation continually reminds us that the life of "overcoming" in Jesus is the only true life and the eternal life.

I haven't always had the privilege of working in Christian legal ministry. In fact, I've only worked in paid, legal ministry since 2019. Prior to that, I did a lot of pro bono work. It can be a lonely place to be a Christian attorney in Arkansas, and we'd like to help change that. Right now, there is not even a chapter of the Christian Legal Society active in Arkansas. And sometimes Christians have a desire to get involved in legal ministry opportunities, but aren't sure where to start. I have often thought we needed something like the Alliance Defending Freedom, but centered in Arkansas and



*Stephanie Nichols, Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Family Council's Arkansas Justice Institute*

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## Reflecting on 2024 at the Arkansas Justice Institute *(continued)*

utilizing Arkansas attorneys and legal professionals. The needs are great, and the workers are currently few.

We'd also like to see Arkansas pass legislation that is so well-crafted and legally sound that our bills become models for the rest of the nation. We'd like to have a network of trusted attorneys to refer friends of Family Council to when they call looking for help in a particular legal field. We'd like to see the Arkansas Justice Institute have some resources to help Christian attorneys receive grants for working on particular matters of importance to families and the culture in our state. In short, in 2025 we'd like to have a network of attorneys, an army partnering together to do far more than one lawyer can do. I have seen firsthand how Christian attorneys can minister by providing wise counsel and encouraging people to do what's right and follow God's calling. We can always accomplish more together; that is God's way. That way, He gets the glory instead of one individual person, and we have the joy of fellowshiping together and encouraging each other in the Lord as we co-labor in Christ.

## We Have Big Plans for 2025

With the election behind us and a new year ahead, we need to think about what we are called to do in the coming months. Enclosed with this letter is a flier outlining our vision and goals for the coming year. Family Council has big plans for 2025, and we want all of our friends across the state to join with us in this work. Here is a snapshot of what we hope to accomplish:

### Support Good Legislation and Defeat Bad Legislation.

There are so many good laws we would like to see Arkansas enact—laws that protect parental rights, help homeschoolers, uphold religious liberty, defend the sanctity of human life, and more. You can learn more about those good laws by reading the flier with this letter. The past few years there also has been a push to expand gambling, alcohol, drugs like marijuana, and other vices in Arkansas. We are prepared to defeat these and other bad bills.

**Stand Up for Homeschooling.** Homeschooling has surged to more than 30,000 students, and our homeschool office, the Education Alliance, is here to help those students and their families every day. Family Council also will defend homeschool freedoms at the legislature this year.

## Save These Dates for the Arkansas Legislature!

Lawmakers have already begun pre-filing legislation for the 2025 session, and soon they will gather in Little Rock. Here are a few important dates for you to know:

- **Legislature Convenes:** January 13, 2025. The legislature will begin work.
- **Deadline to File Constitutional Amendments:** February 12, 2025. Lawmakers may place up to three constitutional amendments on the 2026 ballot. All proposed amendments must be filed by February 12.
- **Homeschool Day at the Capitol by the Education Alliance:** February 26, 2025. Homeschoolers are invited to gather at the capitol, hear from elected officials, attend legislative committee meetings, and visit with their representatives.
- **Pastors Day at the Capitol by Family Council:** March 6, 2025. Ministers and church leaders from across the state are invited to gather for prayer and worship at the capitol.
- **Legislature Adjourns:** April 11, 2025 (approximate). The legislative session generally lasts 90 days, so lawmakers will go home by mid-April.

We have big plans for 2025, and we want all of our friends across the state to join with us in this work.

**End Drug-Induced Abortion in Arkansas.** Abortionists in other states want to ship abortion drugs directly into Arkansas, and they want to entice women from Arkansas to travel across state lines for abortions. Abortion hurts women, and it takes the lives of unborn children. We are working on legislation that will help end abortion. We're also working on legislation to support pregnancy resource centers and other pro-life charities in Arkansas.

**Support Government Transparency.** In recent years some elected officials have shown interest in weakening transparency laws like Arkansas' Freedom of Information Act. We plan to support government transparency in the coming year.

**Stand Against Gambling.** Casinos and other powerful interests clearly want to expand gambling in Arkansas. We are committed to working with our friends to stop those efforts.

**Educate and Equip Arkansans.** We are here to keep Arkansans informed about issues and current events in the state. We want to equip voters to address these issues in their communities and when they speak with their lawmakers. Family Council reaches an average of 15,000–25,000 individuals, families, and churches every month with educational material in print and online. We look forward to continuing to educate and equip Arkansans in the coming year.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT FAMILY COUNCIL



Back Row From Left: Luke McCoy, David Cox, Dr. Jim Lagrone, and Cade Daniel.

Front Row From Left: Kailey Hogan, Leslie Byrd, Stephanie Nichols, Jerry Cox, Doris Cox, Lisa Crook, Zoe Dean, Charisse Dean, and Erin Hogan.

Merry Christmas!

**As Christmas approaches and the year draws to a close, I want to thank you for helping us be so successful in 2024.** Looking back on the past 35 years, I can honestly say that we have done more than just survive. Family Council has flourished. By the grace of God, we have been able to defend the unborn, promote traditional marriage, stand against the radical LGBT agenda, support homeschooling, and do our part making Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I cannot tell you enough how much your kind words, your friendship, your financial support, and your prayers mean to me and my team. Without you and our other friends across the state, we would have failed a long time ago. Thank you for standing with us.

**I hope you will give a generous, tax-deductible donation before the end of the year, if you are able.** You can count on us to stretch your gift as far as we can to do the most good possible in Arkansas next year. You can give using the enclosed envelope and response card. You also can give securely online at [FamilyCouncil.org](https://FamilyCouncil.org).

Thank you for your support. You've helped us accomplish so much this year, and I know there will be many more success stories to tell next year. Please let me know if there is ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. Thank you for standing with us. I hope you will read the flier enclosed with this letter to learn more about Family Council's vision and goals for the future. You've helped us accomplish so much this year—and there is so much that we want to do in 2025. From our families to yours, my staff and I want to wish you a very merry Christmas!!