

# WHY ELECTIONS MATTER

Accomplishments of the President's Administration, Congress,  
and the State Legislatures since January 2017

## EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

### Pro-Life:

The **Mexico City Policy** was reinstated in January 2017 and requires any non-government organizations which are receiving U.S. family planning assistance to certify that they do not promote or perform abortions. The subsequent expansion increased the policy in scope to impact \$8.8 billion in U.S. international funding.

### Religious Liberty:

The **Religious Liberty Executive Order (E.O.)** enforces Americans' First Amendment right to religious freedom. President Trump's E.O. also directs the IRS to avoid revoking tax exemption to churches for speaking about political issues, though the law still forbids campaign speech. The religious liberty E.O. directs agencies to respect religious freedoms of organizations, especially charities which provide up to 13.7 million people with health care and other social services. In October 2017, the DOJ established guidance that each government agency must consider protecting religious liberty in their activities.

The creation of the **Office of Conscience and Religious Freedom Division**, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), was included to ensure that Americans' First Amendment conscience rights are protected and enforced. This office has been accepting complaints of government discrimination, especially given discrimination by states like California against pro-life healthcare entities in violation of federal law.

### The Courts:

President Trump nominated **Neil Gorsuch** to the Supreme Court. Justice Gorsuch has proven his commitment to upholding the U.S. Constitution through rulings such as the Trinity Lutheran Church case which protected the exercise of freedom of religion as well as the recent Masterpiece Cakeshop case, siding with baker Jack Phillips against Colorado's discriminatory actions.

President Trump nominated **Brett Kavanaugh** to replace Justice Kennedy on the Supreme Court. Kavanaugh was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as the 114th Associate Justice on October 6, 2018.

## ACCOMPLISHMENT STATISTICS

- **84** total judges confirmed at federal level
  - **2** Supreme Court Justices confirmed
  - **29** federal appeals judges confirmed
  - **53** district judges confirmed
- **85** Executive Orders
- Over **2,000** pages of federal legislation passed
- **264** bills passed
- **366** key nominees confirmed

## REVERSAL OF BAD POLICIES

- **Don Vander Boon** received his USDA license back after being threatened for his support of natural marriage.
- **Little Sisters of the Poor** are no longer required to provide contraceptives that can destroy human embryos.
- **Dr. Andrew Snelling** was able to continue his scientific research in the Grand Canyon, ending the faith-based discrimination against him.
- **Dept. of Education** rescinded Obama's guidance allowing transgender-identifying students to use bathrooms and showers of their choice.

## STATE LEGISLATION

- **One state** enacted a ban on dismemberment abortions (Ky.)
- **Five states** passed bans on funding Planned Parenthood (Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, and Tennessee)
- **One state** passed a ban on fetal tissue research (Iowa)
- **Three states** passed a Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act to protect the religious freedom of faith-based adoption and foster care providers (Kan. and Okla., as well as S.C. by executive order)

## FEDERAL WINS FOR LIFE, FAMILIES, AND CHURCHES

### Pro-Life:

Congress overturned a regulation by Obama preventing states from **defunding Planned Parenthood under the Title X** family planning program. Under Trump's administration, new regulations were proposed to separate the Title X family planning program from abortion practices restoring a regulation first implemented by President Ronald Reagan and which was upheld by the Supreme Court. Title X was created in the 1970s to provide family planning programs, but the statute says that funds should not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning. The new proposed regulation therefore would uphold the law and require any abortion activities to be physically and financially separate from the Title X program. This would put a dent into Planned Parenthood's roughly \$60 million annual revenues received from this federal program.

### Effective Sexual Risk Avoidance Education:

Under the Trump administration, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program received updated guidelines for increased funding which shift the program from a radical teen sex program to a responsible evidence-based program. Organizations that apply for this funding must teach one of two evidence-based programs that emphasize that teen sex is a risky behavior and promote the importance of sexual delay. Congress also passed the **2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act**, which increased funding for abstinence-based programs by \$10 million to \$25 million, which is a 67 percent increase from the previous administration's programs. Congress also reauthorized the Title V state block program at \$75 million to emphasize sexual risk avoidance education strategies.

### Family Friendly Tax Policy:

The **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** reversed most of the previous tax code's marriage penalties, increased funds for 529 education savings accounts, increased the child tax credit to \$2,000 per child, greatly reduced the death tax, maintained the adoption tax credit, and doubled the standard deduction to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for married couples.

### Religious Freedom:

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** changed its regulations to ensure nonprofit churches are eligible to apply for disaster relief aid in the case of damage caused by natural disasters.

### OTHER FEDERAL VICTORIES

- House passage of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7)
- House passage of an amendment banning funding of any fetal tissue research from aborted babies
- House passage of an amendment to ban the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency from paying for abortion for detainees
- Trump used executive action to end funding for "cost sharing reduction" health insurance subsidies under "Obamacare"
- Trump issued a new regulation expanding the religious liberty protections under the HHS contraceptive mandate so that entities such as the Little Sisters of the Poor and Wheaton College could avoid purchasing health insurance providing contraceptives in violation of their conscience
- Major deregulation focusing on limiting agencies regulating power and cutting government spending by \$570 million annually

### GLOBAL IMPACT

- Iran Deal is dead
- ISIS has lost over 90 percent of its territory
- Negotiated a denuclearization concept with North Korea
- 18 hostages have been released
- The U.S. embassy is now in Jerusalem
- Arab leaders have been put on notice regarding the support of terrorism
- NATO is now being required to pay its share of the cost of running NATO
- Border security received its much-needed increase
- Nomination of Sam Brownback as International Ambassador for Religious Liberty

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