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*“The moral principles and precepts found in the Scriptures
ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws.”*
Noah Webster

States Consider Life and Marriage on the Ballots in Upcoming Elections

In the midterm elections next week, voters in Missouri, Idaho, Nevada, and Virginia will consider ballot measures related to life, and Virginia will also consider a constitutional amendment concerning marriage. In [Missouri](#), Amendment 3 would repeal the state constitutional amendment that passed in 2024 to create a right to abortion. It would also prohibit abortion and sex-rejecting medical procedures for minors, including surgeries and cross-sex hormones. In [Idaho](#), Proposition 1 would allow abortions up until “fetal viability,” after which the government could regulate abortion. The measure defines fetal liability as the point when a physician determines that “the fetus has a significant likelihood of sustained survival outside of the uterus without extraordinary medical measures.” Pro-life supporters argue that, in addition to the tragedy of allowing abortion, Proposition 1 threatens parental rights, as there are no age limitations or required parental consent requirements for minors seeking an abortion. In [Nevada](#), voters will consider a state constitutional amendment that would create a right to abortion up until “fetal viability” or to protect the life of the “pregnant patient.” The measure was previously approved by 64% of voters in 2024. Under Nevada law, constitutional amendments must be approved in two even-numbered election years before becoming part of the state constitution.

In [Virginia](#), voters will consider three constitutional amendments addressing abortion, marriage, and voting rights. The first amendment claims to protect reproductive freedom and limit abortion in the third trimester, according to the ballot summary. However, the [language of the amendment](#) will “enshrine virtually unlimited and unregulated abortion – at any time during pregnancy – in the state constitution,” as [explained](#) by the pro-life advocacy group Protect Virginia. State Sen. Mark Peake has also [raised concerns](#) that there is “no age mentioned in the constitutional amendment that just says any individual has a right to an abortion [and] doesn’t distinguish between adults and minors.” The [second amendment](#) would repeal Virginia’s current constitutional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, and replace it with language that allows any “two adults” the right to marry, regardless of “sex, gender, or race.” The amendment presents serious concerns for [religious liberty](#) and girls’ safety in sports, and both Amendments 1 and 2 present serious concerns to [parental rights](#). The [third](#) proposed amendment would grant convicted felons the right to vote upon their release from prison.

Four States to Vote on Protecting Girls’ Sports in Upcoming Elections

Four states have ballot initiatives that would protect female sports. First is Washington’s [Initiative 638](#), Protecting Girls’ Sports. The initiative would protect girls in K-12 schools by prohibiting boys from competing with and against female athletes. Health care providers would have to indicate a student’s sex on the annual physical exam required to compete. If passed, the initiative would apply to all public schools in the state and any private school that participates in a voluntary nonprofit entity that regulates interstate sports. Let’s Go Washington, the group behind the initiative, [released](#) a poll finding that 56% of respondents would vote for the

measure. Colorado [Proposition 134](#), the Protect Girls' Sports Act, protects females in both K-12 and higher education sports. The proposition would require all K-12 schools, any athletic associations, and any accredited institution of higher education to designate sports teams as male, female, or mixed. Students could only compete in sex-specific or coeducational teams, with a caveat that females could compete on a male team if no equivalent female team exists. Nebraska's [Initiative 442](#) would also require teams to be male, female, or mixed for any public school or private school that competes against a public school. Arizona's [Proposition 318](#), Protect Girls' Sports in Arizona Act, would expand a current law that requires public and some private schools to designate sports as male, female, and mixed. The proposition defines sex and requires intimate spaces such as restrooms and locker rooms to be sex specific. If passed, each measure would protect student athletes by promoting human flourishing.

Court Upholds Tennessee's School Choice Program

A three-judge panel has dismissed a challenge to Tennessee's newly established school choice program, upholding the constitutionality of the program and allowing it to continue. The [Tennessee Education Freedom Scholarship](#) (ESF) was created in February 2025 as an education savings account program with universal eligibility for students in the state. A lawsuit was filed against the program, claiming it violated the state's constitution by allowing public funding to support private schools and also by taking money away from public education. The court has [dismissed the claims](#), explaining that the constitutional requirement to provide an "orderly arrangement of the teaching of children" was not limited to public education. The judges further ruled that the public education system displayed areas of weakness before the enactment of the school choice program; therefore, the claims that the program harmed public education were invalid. "As Plaintiffs allege here, the public-school system's inadequacy predates the ESF Act. And the inadequacy predates the ESF Act because the laws that actually 'provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools' do so, according to the Plaintiffs, inadequately," the [ruling explains](#). Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti [hailed](#) the ruling as an "important victory for educational freedom"

Oklahoma Charter School Board Rejects Religious Charter School

The Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board has rejected an application for a religious charter school for the second time. The National Ben Gamla Jewish Charter School Foundation, which is located in Florida, had submitted an application to establish a charter school in Oklahoma, in the hopes of paving the way for more religious charter schools. The board initially rejected their application in March, pointing to a 2023 court ruling by the Oklahoma State Supreme Court that religious charter schools were unconstitutional. That case, involving St. Isidore of Seville Virtual Catholic School, made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, where a decision was deadlocked at 4-4, leaving the state supreme court's ruling in place. This prompted Ben Gamla to apply for a charter school. After the board initially rejected their application in March 2026, Ben Gamla filed a lawsuit, and a federal district court issued an [injunction](#) in September that the application process could proceed while the case was in process. On September 24, the board voted a second time 4-3, just one vote shy of the needed 5 votes for approval. Board members did not offer any comments on the reasons for their vote. "The board's decision openly defies a federal court ruling that religious schools cannot be excluded from public programs," [stated](#) Daniel Chen, a counsel at Becket Fund who is representing Ben Gamla. He continued, "Ben Gamla is asking only for equal treatment and – if necessary – will seek a court order to enforce it."

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Christians Must Be Informed on Ballot Issues and Civic Responsibility: Pastor](#)