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*“The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?”*  
**Benjamin Franklin**

**Election Update**

While the election battle for the White House remains unsettled, results for the down ballots show significant gains for Republicans in the House of Representatives and on the state level. Remarkably, the GOP did not lose a single seat in the House of Representatives and actually gained several seats. Of special interest to conservatives is the historic number of pro-life women who have been elected to the new Congress. As of this writing, a total of [16 pro-life women](#) will join the House of Representatives in January, and there may be more as ballots are still being counted in some states. The Republican gains in the House of Representatives significantly narrow the majority margin for Democrats, causing some to [question](#) whether or not Rep. Nancy Pelosi will be able to retain her position as Speaker of the House. The working majority for the U.S. Senate will be decided on January 5 by a runoff in Georgia for both Senate seats. On the state level, Republicans flipped the [governor’s office](#) in Montana and [both chambers](#) of the New Hampshire legislature; the rest of the state legislatures maintained their current party majorities. This is [significant](#) as state legislatures and governors head into 2021 and the task of redistricting for Congressional offices. In 22 states, the legislature and governor’s office are controlled by Republicans, while the Democrats control both in 15 states. The remaining states have split control with Republican legislators and Democrat governors in 8 states, and the reverse in 3 states.

The election for the President remains undecided as several states are still counting or recounting the votes and several legal challenges have been made regarding irregularities and voter fraud. The [U.S. Constitution](#) gives power to the state legislatures to determine the process of verifying elections in their states and appointing electors to vote in the electoral college. The electoral college is [scheduled to cast their votes](#) on December 14 to officially certify the election results. Currently, President Trump’s team has filed multiple [lawsuits](#) in Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, and [Pennsylvania](#). The charges of fraud and procedural violations address whether state election laws and accountability measures were followed in the reviewing and counting of ballots, whether certain mail-in ballots met the legal requirements to be certified, whether people voted illegally in a state other than their residence, and also charges of votes from deceased voters. Additionally, some states have reported glitches with the computer system used in some areas of voting. U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr issued a [memo](#) on Monday of this week authorizing DOJ prosecutors to investigate charges of election fraud “if there are clear and apparently credible allegations of irregularities that, if true, could potentially impact the outcome of a federal election in an individual State.” AG Barr also emphasized that this was not about a particular candidate but rather so that “all of the American people, regardless of their preferred candidate or party, can have full confidence in the results of our elections.” While the Democrats and mainstream media are eager to declare Joe Biden as the winner, Republican Senators believe President Trump is within his rights to make his challenges and are urging patience as the process of ensuring election integrity will take time.

## **Pro-Life Update in State Legislatures**

Several states [passed new pro-life laws](#) during this year's legislative session, according to a recent report released by [Americans United for Life](#). The [2020 State Legislative Sessions Report](#) highlighted a total of 17 pro-life laws that were enacted, with 13 of these passed by state legislatures and four Arkansas laws upheld by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Two states, Utah and Idaho, passed similar laws that will ban abortion in the event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned and the issue is sent back to the states. Tennessee passed a law which prohibits abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, usually 6–8 weeks, and also included a measure in case the law is struck down which would ensure abortion is banned at 20 weeks when studies show preborn babies can feel pain. West Virginia passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, ensuring that babies who survive an abortion receive the proper medical care; sadly, Governors of two states (KY, WY) vetoed born-alive protection bills in their states. Several states enacted pro-life measures that prohibit dilation and evacuation dismemberment abortions (AR, NE), prohibit abortions on the basis of gender (AR, MS, TN), race, or genetic diagnosis (TN, MS), and require humane treatment for aborted babies through either a burial or cremation (UT, IN, AR). In addition to the pro-life laws, two states passed life-affirming resolutions: Louisiana recognized May as “Louisiana Abortion Recovery Awareness Month,” and South Dakota recognized that “abortion ends the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being.” Unfortunately, Virginia passed a health law which overturned four pro-life laws in the state, and Washington, D.C., passed a health law which declared “the right to have an abortion as a human right.”

## **President Trump Establishes 1776 Commission to Combat Critical Race Theory**

President Trump has issued an executive order to establish the [1776 Commission](#), a project designed to combat the growing influence of critical race theory in America's schools. The 1776 Commission's goal is “to better enable a rising generation to understand the history and principles of the founding of the United States in 1776,” refuting claims by the *New York Times*' [1619 Project](#) that America's “founding ideals were false when they were written.” Despite its dubious factual claims, the 1619 Project has successfully been transformed into a [curriculum](#) that is used in some of the largest school districts in the country. The executive order repudiates “this radicalized view of American history,” instead offering a “path to a renewed and confident national unity . . . through a rediscovery of a shared identity rooted in our founding principles.” With that goal in mind, the 1776 Commission will encourage parents and school boards to regain control over their children's education. Although the 1776 Commission has been criticized for potentially dictating education standards to the states, the [executive order clearly](#) “rejects the Common Core curriculum and all efforts to have the Federal Government impose a national curriculum or national standards in education.” The work of the commission will consist of compiling a report describing “the core principles of the American founding and how these principles may be understood to further enjoyment of ‘the blessings of liberty’ and to promote our striving ‘to form a more perfect union.’” The report will be disseminated to the public in the effort to pass on “the great legacy of the American national experience” to the next generation of children, inspiring them to love and protect the ideals of their country.

## **In Case You Missed It:**

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

[9 Constructive Things to Do and Pray While Waiting for Election Results](#)

[White House Report: Expanding Educational Opportunity Through Choice and Competition](#)

[Here's the Latest on Litigation over Election Results](#)