



**The Washington Flyer**  
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*“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is . . . executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”*

*Samuel Adams*

**Issues at Stake in Upcoming Election**

Most campaigns for the upcoming midterm elections are focused on the issues of the failing economy, crime, and national security issues, but the results of the elections will also have impactful ramifications for the issues of religious liberty, family values, and life. In the U.S. Congress, the Senate will be considering two major controversial issues after the election—the Respect for Marriage Act and the inclusion of women in the draft as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. Senate leadership delayed votes on these issues until after the midterm elections so that senators who are up for re-election would not face repercussions from their vote in their election. However, a Senate vote on these issues during the lame duck session should still be a consideration by voters who are headed to the polls next week as the results of both issues—legalizing same-sex marriage and requiring women in the draft—would have far-reaching effects on our freedoms and culture. The AACCS has prepared an [issue brief](#) outlining the problems that the Respect for Marriage Act will create for not only religious liberty, but also for parental rights, child safety, Christian education, and even school choice. The AACCS has also [joined other groups](#) in urging the Senate to not include females in Selective Service for possible future drafts when it reauthorizes the National Defense Authorization Act, an issue that has been rigorously debated over the last year. We encourage those who are concerned about these issues to not only contact your senators but also vote in a way that reflects the values of morality and freedom. In addition to the briefs prepared by AACCS, several conservative organizations have prepared voter guides ([Pray, Vote, Stand](#), the [Million Voices](#), and [Christian Voter Guide](#)) that can be helpful in discerning a candidate’s position on freedom, religious liberty, life, and family values.

**Pew Research Study: Satisfaction Higher for Private School Parents**

The Pew Research Center released the results of a [survey](#) that examined parents’ views and satisfaction with their children’s education. The questions covered topics that reflect the current cultural issues in education, such as the inclusion of social and emotional learning, the teaching of race and gender identity, the level of input by parents in education, and whether school leadership shared the same values as parents. Some results offered a comparison of private and public education, revealing that the parents of children in private schools have a higher level of satisfaction with their children’s education than parents whose children attend public schools. When asked about the quality of education, 79% of private school parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with their child’s school compared to 55% of public-school parents. Regarding the opportunity for input on what their child learns, 61% of private school parents are extremely or very satisfied, and only 38% of public-school parents held the same level of satisfaction. The study also included a question about whether the school’s values reflected the parents’ values, and 78% of private school parents indicated the values of the teachers and administrators were somewhat similar, and 46% indicated the values were very similar; by comparison, 50% of public school parents answered the values were somewhat similar, and only 11% answered that they were very similar. The survey results were also examined according to political affiliation, the race of parents, as well as the type of education children were receiving. The results of the study can be found [here](#).

## **Religious Liberty Victory in California**

A judge in Kern County, California ruled last week to [uphold](#) the religious liberty of baker Cathy Miller who declined to bake wedding cakes for same-sex marriages. Cathy was [sued](#) by California's Department of Fair Housing and Employment (DFHE), which argued that Cathy broke the state's anti-discrimination law. Represented by the Thomas More Society, Cathy argued that her First Amendment freedoms of speech and religious liberty protected her ability to run her business in accordance with her Christian faith. Judge Eric Bradshaw [ruled](#) that DFHE could not violate Cathy's First Amendment rights, and he found that Cathy "offered full and equal service" by referring gay couples to other bakeries. The lawsuit is another instance of Christian wedding vendors who are targeted for their faithful stance to only celebrate and participate in weddings according to God's design for human sexuality. In December, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *303 Creative v. Elenis*, a case concerning a Christian website designer who wants to create custom websites for engaged couples but who cannot support or celebrate marriages for same-sex couples. The case also recalls the continued battle of Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, who was vindicated by the Supreme Court after being sued by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for declining to design a wedding cake for a gay couple. Jack continues to be targeted by lawsuits for his beliefs, most recently by a transgender man who sued Jack after he refused to design a cake celebrating the man's "transition" from male to female. California is expected to appeal the ruling.

## **Biden's Student Loan Forgiveness Hits a Legal Snag**

Last week, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals [temporarily halted](#) President Biden's student loan forgiveness program. In September, President Biden announced a much-anticipated plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for nearly forty million borrowers. The announcement was met with immediate pushback from critics who argue that the executive branch cannot unilaterally forgive the debt of millions of student borrowers without authority from Congress. Six attorneys general filed a lawsuit in September against the plan, a case that was struck down by a federal judge in Missouri. The attorneys general appealed the decision and were granted an administrative stay as they await the court's ruling on the matter. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre released a [statement](#) encouraging borrowers to continue the loan forgiveness application process, claiming that the ruling "does not reverse the trial court's dismissal of the case, or suggest that the case has merit. It merely prevents debt from being discharged until the court makes a decision." The Biden administration has pledged to fight the lawsuit and deliver loan forgiveness for over twenty million borrowers who have applied for the program. The administration is facing [additional lawsuits](#), including an emergency application for writ of injunction filed at the Supreme Court by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. As the lawsuits pend, the Department of Education has also pursued other strategies to [expand](#) student loan forgiveness such as restructuring the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to allow borrowers in certain public service fields (such as nursing, teaching, military, and government employees) to have their debt forgiven after ten years.

## **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](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[Cal Thomas: Cheating the Children](#)