

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

THE CONNECTER

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.



Good Government Takes Time

By David Kubal, IFA President/CEO

Three years ago, federal programs of faith and opportunity were refocused on ensuring government is neutral to all faiths. All kinds of faith-based organizations now have a voice when governmental decisions are being made. Two years ago, this current Administration further ordered departments to ensure fairness and equal treatment for faith-based organizations, and backed it up with enforcement.

In May, nearly three and a half years into the Administration, the Labor Department issued rules that fully implement the new vision. Because the Department of Labor enforces civil rights laws for all of the federal government, this latest guidance is having an impact in the work of at least eight other departments.

Congress makes the laws. The Executive Branch executes the laws. Every President has the opportunity, to some degree, to implement the laws through rules. Then they issue guidance and opinions on how to put those rules in place.

The Obama Administration interpreted religious freedom in a vastly different way than the Trump Administration. And it has taken the Trump Administration years to correct the legal interpretations that were, by and large, hostile to Christians.

Here is one small critical example of the impact the Faith and Opportunities Initiative is having through the Labor Department. They worked to ensure faith-based groups received equal protection, opportunity, and resources in the COVID Phase 2 legislation.

Good things are not just happening in the Department of Labor. In February, President Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos issued new guidelines for freedom of religious expression in public schools. President

Trump said, “Our Founders understood that no right is more fundamental to a peaceful, prosperous, and virtuous society than the right to follow one’s religious convictions.” The new guidelines focus on the importance of prayer protections in public schools—a major victory for people of faith.

This effort took *three* years of continuous work to complete. Each draft of the proposal required clearance with the Office of Ethics, Department of Justice, as well as other departments within the Department of Education. The bureaucracy and hold-over career employees from past administrations tend to be a significant factor in slowing down the process for the advancement of religious freedom decisions issued by the Department of Education, and in other agencies.

With the complexities of government, it takes time to unravel all the things that were in place. And it takes mighty warriors of God, backed up by the intercession of people like you, to do just that. Good government takes time. **★ IFA**





Christian Candidates Need Our Support

Karen Hardin, IFA Contributing Writer

There have never been so many “non-political” candidates running for office. All across America, doctors, business owners, housewives, teachers, people who have never considered running for office before have risen to the challenge. Why? Because they recognize the desperate need to see our nation shift back to God and biblical values.

These candidates are doing their part. But what is our part of the process? It requires both prayer and action. We can't do one without the other.

Terri Hasdorff, former congressional candidate and President of Capitol Solutions Consulting, LLC, has worked on many campaigns, including her own. A committed Christian, we asked her to speak into how intercessors can support Christians who are running for office.

“I know a lot of people like to complain about politics and politicians. But when someone comes along who is really solid and who truly is in it for the right reasons, so often Christians end up not supporting that candidate. All of us need to support the righteous, honest people who decide to run for office. *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.* (Prv 29:2)”

“Pray, but you should also give to that person's campaign. It takes money to run a campaign. Send them what you can. Read what they are about. Get involved and endorse them wholeheartedly and without reservation: *Faith without works is dead.* (Jas 2:26)”



“Running for office is like running a small business with a lot of financial decisions, while at the same time running a marketing campaign and a major fundraising operation, all while going from place to place on a constant, daily basis, often with very little sleep! The pressures can be really high. A lot of wisdom is needed, so if there is a candidate you really like, volunteer. Help them financially. Understand that this is one of the hardest, most demanding jobs out there if you are truly doing it for the right reasons, and politicians need your support.”

“In my own race, I was surprised by how few Christians actually get involved in politics financially as well as spiritually. The faith community on a local level really needs to engage more heavily with the political process. Most people don't even think about an election until right before it comes time to vote. Treat voting like a job interview! Take it seriously, and instead of voting for whoever has the most billboards or commercials, do your homework and really be sure about who you are hiring to represent you!”

We cannot leave the brave believers, running for office of all kinds, to stand alone in their fight. They need us to stand with them. ★ IFA

FIRST FRIDAY *prayer*

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

On the first Friday of every month we encourage intercessors to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

CHRISTIAN CANDIDATES

Lord, we link arms to join in prayer over every righteous candidate who has chosen to run. We ask for Your favor to surround them as a shield. Fill their mouths with Your words and give them wisdom and insight into the matters of their district. We also ask that every financial need will be met. Show us, as the Church, how to help build the political landscape of our nation by voting in godly leaders and voting out ungodly ones.

BIBLICAL VOTERS

Lord, we pray that people with biblical values would go out and vote. We pray that Your people would not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit with scoffers in their social media or news consumption, but that they would delight in Your law and meditate on Your Word day and night. We pray that voters would become educated about all the issues and the candidates and make wise choices at the ballot box.

MAIL-IN VOTING

Father God, as some jurisdictions open up mail-in voting, we pray for integrity and uprightness in distributing, receiving, and tabulating these votes. We pray for protection over our voting systems. Show us how we can help be a part of ensuring voter integrity. We pray that every honest vote will be counted. Thank You that You do above and beyond all that we can ever think, ask, or imagine, according to Your Holy Spirit's power that works within us.



2 Million Prayed for and Counting

Kris Kubal, IFA Director of Strategic Engagement and Resources

Intercessors have used VoteYourValues2020.com to pray for over 2 million potential voters! The prayer groundwork for the election process, the Christian turnout, and the results are well underway. IFA community members are not only incredible at intercession, but you are impactful doers as well! Here are four ways that you can put action to your prayers:

1. Don't miss the **Vote Your Values map!**

We felt that God directed us to pray for those Christians who hold biblical stances on issues in our nation but have not voted regularly in past elections. We hope you have visited the site and have tried it. Mail-in and absentee ballot voting has started and will only increase, so praying for these people NOW is important. Visit VoteYourValues2020.com to check out the map and pray.

2. IFA has published a brand new booklet that we would love to share with you! It's called **Praying for An Election**. It contains seven areas of prayer and reflection and a section for journaling. Those who pray for 100 people on the map will automatically receive the book as a thank you from IFA. Let that be an encouragement for you to pray for 100 people on the map! But you can also receive a copy of the booklet with a donation of any amount to IFA. Watch for this offer in our emails and in Headline Prayer. It makes a great guide for personal prayer and study, as well as for a small group.

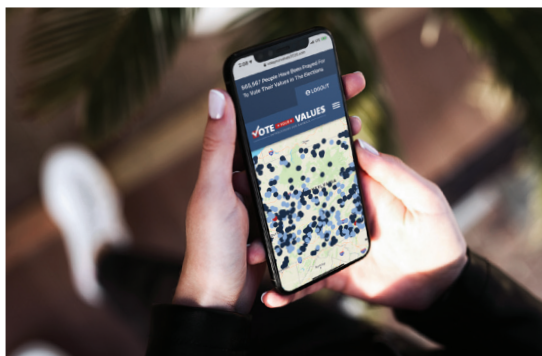
3. You can **pray with IFA and other intercessors** about election-oriented issues on

our **Vote Your Values webcasts** (on select Fridays – watch for ads in Headline Prayer). You are also invited to join **Vote Your Values TUESDAYS LIVE**, a weekly conference call where we will pray together for those on the map and about the election (Tuesdays at 12:15 pm ET from now until Election Day). Please be a part of the powerful prayers times with the wonderful IFA community.

4. New awesome **SHARING tools** that IFA has created can help people translate their faith into an appropriate vote: the online **political personality quiz** (discovermypoliticalpersonality.com), and the **online voter guide** with platform comparisons (found at www.VoteYourValues2020.com). Share on social media and forward to your email lists.

The stakes are high. Some have said that this election will determine whether America, the Republic, and our Constitution prevail—or if we will embrace socialism as our new framework and go the way of nations like Venezuela.

So, what can *you* do for the upcoming election? We have listed four concrete, critical ways you can engage—now the ball is in your court! ★ IFA



TEAR-OFF

INTERCESSORS
FOR
AMERICA

Use

VOTE YOUR VALUES 2020 to Pray for the Election

1. Visit

VoteYourValues2020.com
(Or access from the top of the screen at IFApray.org).

Log in with your IFA login and password (if you don't have one, you can create one).

2. You will see the centerpiece of the website—the map. **Above all, remember we are praying for PEOPLE.** Each dot on the map represents a person who has biblical beliefs who hasn't consistently voted in elections. We are praying FOR EACH OF THEM.

3. Click on a dot on the map—you will see a name pop up. This is so you can pray for them by name! Pray that they will vote on Election Day for candidates with biblical values.

4. How you pray is up to you! Pray for each person individually or click a couple in a row, saying their names and praying for a few at a time. Here is an example: *"Father, I pray for Bill, Sandy, Ronald, and Kerry. I pray they would each vote on Election Day and that they would vote for candidates who uphold biblical values."*

5. It's that simple! You may sense the Spirit's direction to pray a different way for each specific state you are praying over. We hope you will make praying for those on the map your own.

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You can see how your prayers are added to the prayers of others—the number at the top of the website is the number of people who have been prayed for, and it grows by the hour! Thanks for joining the intercessory team!



SCRIPTURES TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE ON THE VOTE YOUR VALUES MAP

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. (Ps 1:1-2)

"We will serve the Lord our God and obey him." (Jo 24:24)

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. (Rom 12:9)

Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor. (Prv 21:21)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. (Ps 32:8)

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num 6:24-26)

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. (Eph 4:25)

TEAR-OFF

answered PRAYER

VOTE YOUR VALUES HITS 2M!

Thousands of IFA intercessors have prayed for over 2 million potential voters on the Vote Your Values map! We invite you to visit VoteYourValues2020.com. (if you haven't already done so); every intercessor praying helps us reach the goal of praying for 3 million potential voters before the election.

BIBLICAL PLATFORM STANDS

Due to COVID-19-mandated protocols, a typical Republican Presidential Convention in 2020 will not take place. Ultimately, this means that the 2016 Platform will stand for an unprecedented eight years. Though completely unanticipated by its drafters, the 2016 Platform will continue to dictate policy until 2024. This unexpected extension of the 2016 Platform's authority is an answer to prayer and a huge blessing. The 2016 Platform is arguably the best Platform adopted by the Republican Party in its entire history. Strong language is included: preserving our Republic and its values, upholding the supremacy of the Constitution, protecting and valuing life, and standing with Israel.

IFA HELPS LAUNCH INTERCESSORS FOR UKRAINE

On the First Friday of July, the founders of Intercessors for Ukraine joined our prayer call. They shared how they are interceding for America and asked IFA to pray for them. David Kubal asked anyone who felt led to give financially to support this Ukrainian prayer ministry. Many times the amount needed was given! Thank you and thanks be to God for this outpouring of generosity.

FIRST FRIDAY prayer CONFERENCE CALL

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
12:15 PM ET**

Join with thousands across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens.

Call: (712) 775-7430
Webcast: IFApray.org/live

This First Friday Prayer Letter, provided on request, is published 10 times annually. IFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All Scripture references are NIV unless otherwise noted. Contents may be reproduced, except for items separately copyrighted; please credit IFA.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*