

KNOW YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

 An Action Guide for
Christian Parents and Grandparents



Today's public school is not your school of yesteryear.



The COVID Pandemic gave parents a peek into the politically charged classroom that is leveraging identity politics and culturally controversial topics to drive radical shifts toward new ways of thinking from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

This resource will help Christian parents and grandparents like you understand the changing landscape of public education and provide you with practical steps you can take to identify what is happening in your child's school and position you to influence the governance of your local public school(s) and protect your children.

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

This document covers:

- The Landscape of Public Education
- The Influences in Your in Local School
- Ideologies and Policies of Concern
- Getting to Know Your District and Local School
- Action Steps When You Uncover Concerns
- Tips for Speaking with School and District Officials
- Unite with Others in Your State

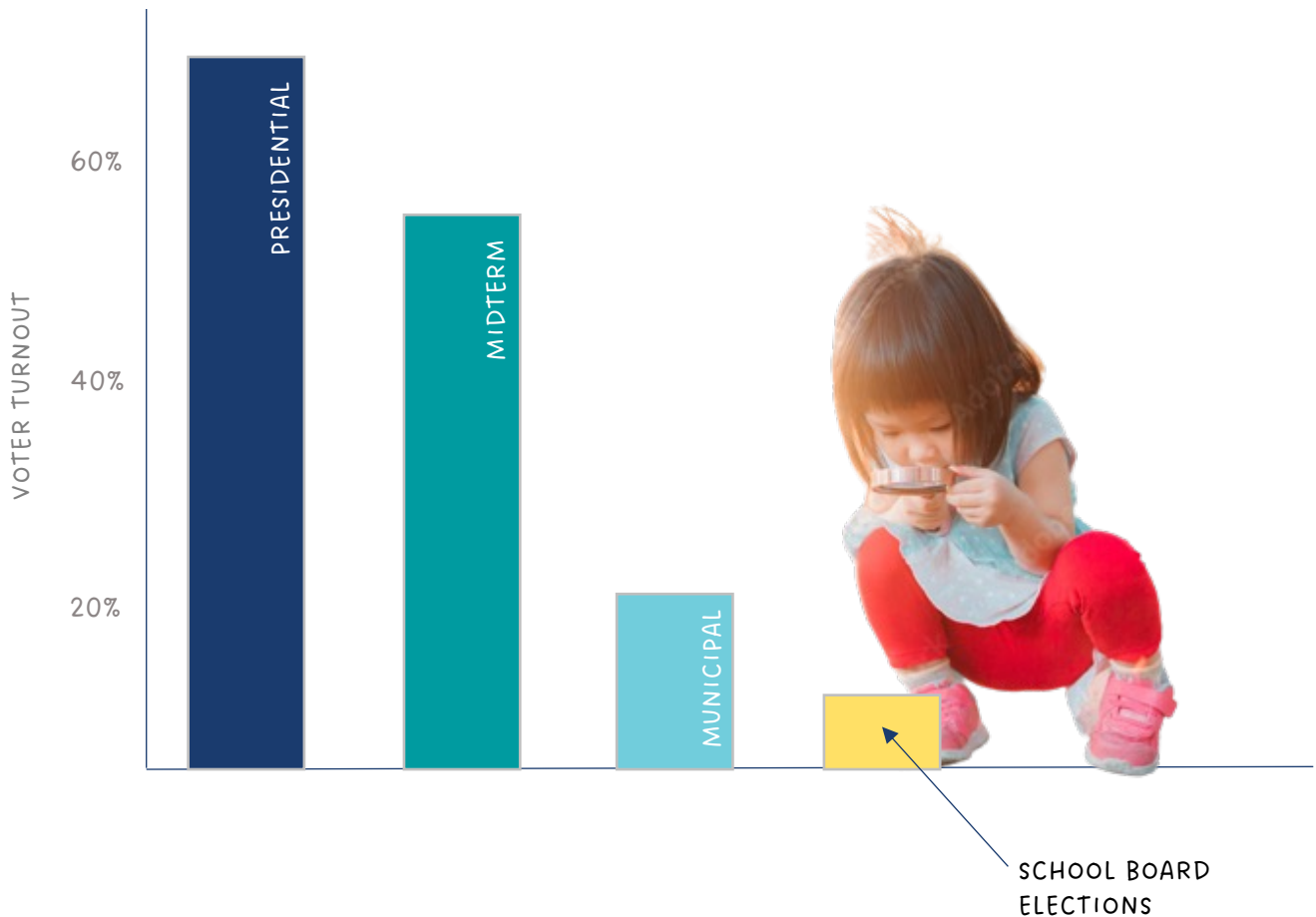
THE LANDSCAPE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

State constitutions across America guarantee the right to a free K-12 public education, with federal, state, and local government officials tasked as the authorities to set the rules, laws, standards, and principles for the public learning environment.

On average, a child will spend 15,000 hours in the classroom by the time they reach the age of eighteen. The only activity they likely spend more time doing during these years is sleeping. Student outcomes are largely driven by teachers, curriculum, and lesson plans, and it is the locally elected school board members that are responsible for overseeing and managing educational resources and directing student success.

Elected school board members compose the largest group of elected officials in the country, with 14,000 school boards overseeing 97,568 public schools and roughly forty-eight million students.

Electing competent and efficient school board members is of critical importance to educational outcomes and flourishing communities, yet **voter turnout in school board elections is often just 5 or 10 percent.**



THE INFLUENCES IN YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL

Special interest groups are taking advantage of impressionable young minds by aggressively pushing educational policies that insert social change ideologies into the learning environment and drive affirmation of antinormativity.

Special interest groups **know that a classroom void of biblical truth is ripe for the war of ideas**. In this environment, students more readily accept the dangerous belief that *tolerance* means the *absence of moral judgment*.

The Goal?

Social change advocates hold *tolerance* as the highest value in society.

To achieve tolerance, they must challenge traditional norms and systematically work to dismantle traditional societal values, namely Judeo-Christian values. How? By reducing the role of the parent, removing the moral anchor of Christian influence, silencing foundational truths (Genesis chapters 1-11), and declaring identity as a humanly defined structure.

What is at stake in this ideological war?

- Your child's definition and origin of truth.
- Your child's faith in God and respect for His authority.
- Your child's belief in God's design for sexual integrity and relationships.
- Your child's respect for your authority and love.

Activists prey on vulnerable students to reshape their personal beliefs, sexualize their classrooms, devalue biblical truth, and recruit students to espouse moral relativism.

Most parents...

regardless of political leanings, want to have greater oversight and control over what their children are experiencing at school.

"We who are engaged in the sacred cause of education are entitled to look upon all parents as having given ***hostages to our cause.***"

Horace Mann, designer of America's current education system



Students as young as preschool are being taught to:

- ...**frame the world** in terms of oppressors and the oppressed through '*social identity*' programs.
- ...**set aside personal beliefs** and values to conform to litmus tests, quotas, and compelled speech through '*fostering belonging*' programs.
- ...**stand down on personal convictions** and moral absolutes to embrace social norms and morality-free ideology through '*self-awareness*' and '*self-management*' programs.
- ...**deny the reality** of biological sex and explore expanded gender and sexuality practices through '*human sexuality*' programs.

Special interest groups know that a classroom void of biblical truth is ripe for the war of ideas. In this environment, students more readily accept the dangerous belief that *tolerance* means the *absence of moral judgment*.

We are called to stand in the gap.

"that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

Joshua 2:13



Their Tactics are Stealthy & Destructive



Destigmatize and normalize sinful behaviors. Under the guise of diversity and inclusion, schools are exposing young minds to confusing images and ideas about human relationships. Preschool and early education books feature same-sex relationships and gender-questioning themes. At a time when children are grappling with learning about their world and their place in it, an agenda to normalize sin is already in their school curriculum.

Classify the exploration of gender and sexual orientation as commonplace. What was once simply imparting science-based information and skills to save sex until marriage, "Sex-Ed" is now creating young radical sexual ideologues with the desire to exercise their "sexual rights." Today's sex-ed prepares children to have sex with multiple partners over the course of a lifetime and teaches them how to consent to sex at a young age.

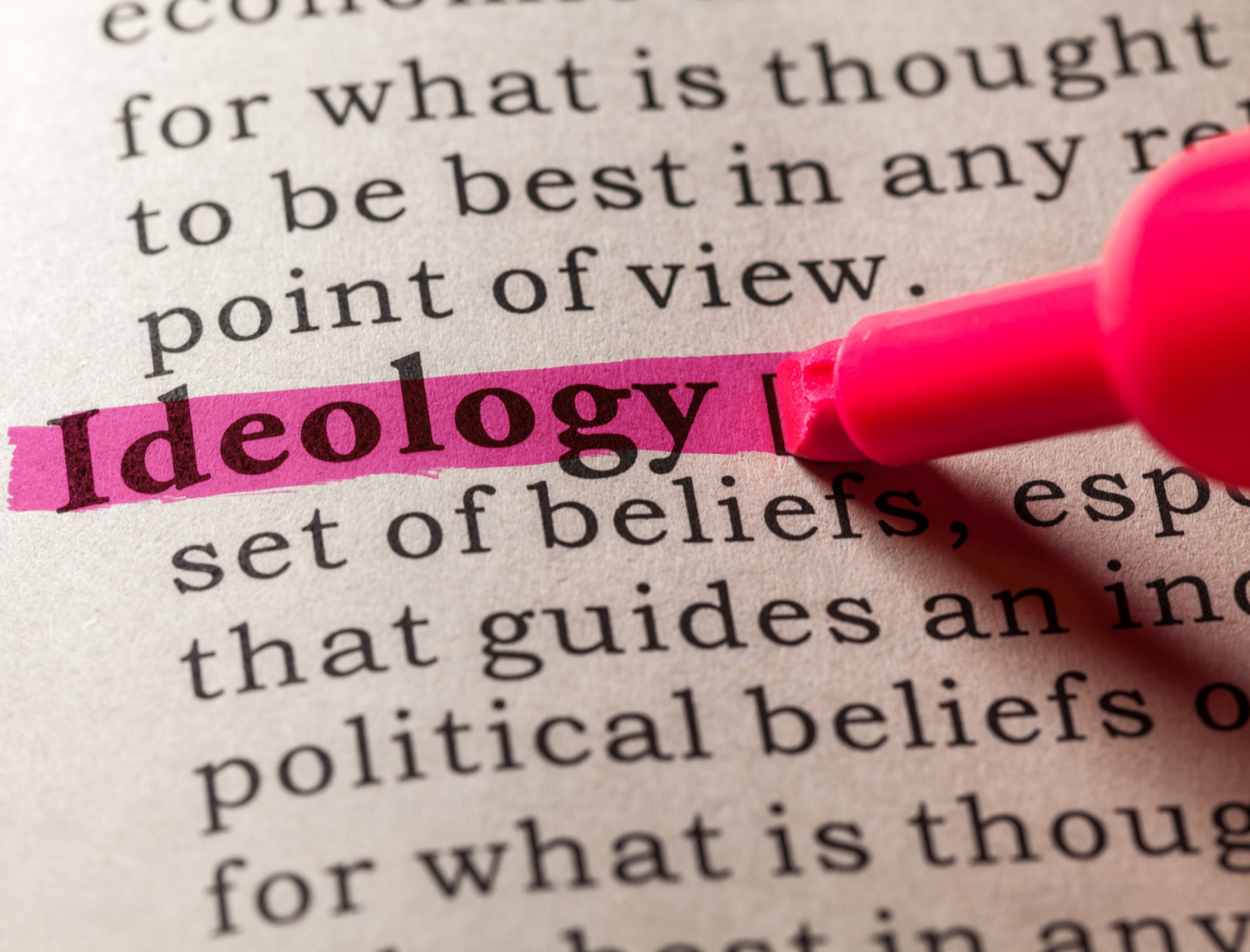
Shame, and taunt biblical traditions. Redefining creation, reassigning gender roles, devaluing marriage, and making parents irrelevant has become the go-to strategy to re-order society. These strategies are worked into lesson plans, reading materials, and structured activities.

Convince students that Christian values have no standing in public situations. Promising to prevent bullying and create an all-inclusive learning environment, schools are becoming devoid of moral absolutes and filled with insinuation that expressing Christian beliefs is hurtful and discriminatory to other students.

Convince parents that the concept of sin is to blame for suicidality. Parents who believe in the concepts of right and wrong, good and bad, and moral and immoral are being blamed for suicidality when in reality it is the wide-open spectrum of moral relativism and social media that is driving confusing and destructive messages to the hearts and minds of children.

There are many good, righteous, and loving teachers, administrators, counselors, and school board members in our public school system. Thank goodness!

The reality remains that every public school exposes our children to ideologies that do not align with the values of our faith. Parents need to know how to recognize and confront these influences that threaten the mental, spiritual, and even physical well-being of their children in public schools.



IDEOLOGIES AND POLICIES OF CONCERN

Educational policies are increasingly encroaching on Christian values and relegating parents as unfit to make decisions about their child's education, upbringing, and general welfare. Special interest groups are positioning secular humanist ideology to supplant America's foundational Judeo-Christian beliefs.

This section covers the areas of greatest concern in the modern school system:

CRT DEI SEL SEX-ED

CRITICAL RACE THEORY (CRT)

CRT is a subversive approach to looking at society. It asserts the belief that racism is embedded in all U.S. laws, systems, and institutions. CRT utilizes the educational system as an ideological battlefield to drive suspicion, accusation, and division while claiming that all people are either oppressors or the oppressed. CRT's anti-parent rhetoric devalues the role of the family and disqualifies parental influence and the value systems taught in the home.

Ways to identify CRT in your local school:

CRT operates upon the false idea that skin color, sexual orientation, or intersectionality (interconnected social categories such as race, gender, or class) should guarantee success.

CRT enters through activities and teachings that assert racism is not the result of individual prejudice or bias, but is a systemic structure embedded in America's legal system, institutions, and free enterprise system.

CRT claims "whiteness" and "cis-gender behavior" are discriminatory and rigged toward reward. Look for CRT-related terminology on your school's website, in student textbooks, and in supplemental resources, materials, and online student portals.

CRT is based on an unbiblical view of human identity, regarding features like race, gender, immigration status, income level, and other human-derived factors that differ from person to person as measures that qualify or disqualify a person for respect, honor, and authority.

The Bible grounds all human identity in the fact that we are image bearers of God; created equally in His likeness and equally bearing value. Parents are a covering to their children, positioned to receive honor as children listen to and heed their instruction. (Genesis 1:26; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8-9)

CRT teaches that oppressors are guilty of sin and the oppressed deserve social liberation through a reckoning of sorts with those considered oppressed.

The Bible identifies sin as rebellion against God and anything that violates God's design for humanity. (Joshua 1:18; 1 John 3:4) All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God - with forgiveness of sin and the gift of salvation equally available to all through repentance of sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

DEI is a social change ideology used to require allegiance to replace merit, fairness, and equality with litmus tests, racial quotas, and equal outcomes - regardless of effort. DEI creates a hostile environment that breaks down emotions, compels speech, and discriminates against religious beliefs.

Ways to identify DEI in your local school:

Often, the school's mission statement, philosophy, and core values will mention the principles of DEI on the school website.

Look for wording that magnifies fostering belonging through unequivocal support for all the ways diversity manifests, helping students learn about various aspects of their identities, adjusting discipline outcomes for various racial groups, and topics such as implicit bias, anti-racism, and white privilege.

DEI institutes unearned entitlement with litmus tests and quotas to create equal outcomes regardless of the level of input and effort.

The Bible says, "The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him." (Proverbs 11:1)

DEI claims that "hard work being key to success" and "cause and effect relationships" are aspects of whiteness that are discriminatory and oppressive.

The Bible says that the Lord detests differing weights and dishonest scales. (Proverbs 20:23)

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

SEL is a social conformity program schools are adopting to shift school culture to educate the “whole” child: mind, body, and soul. SEL hides behind words like kindness, care, and compassion as it directs moral, ethical, and emotional development. SEL utilizes student surveys, role-playing, literature, and social justice discussions to shift baseline values and teach students how to think and feel about life - often using controversial or banned topics while avoiding parental notification or opt-out options.

Ways to identify SEL in your local school:

Curriculum writers and teachers often weave SEL into academic subjects (math, science, language arts, and civics) rather than form stand-alone lessons.

Look for students participating in structured, reflective activities, writing exercises, problem-solving, and conversations that include peer-to-peer exploration of other belief systems.

Teachers may guide students to challenge personal beliefs rooted in moral absolutes. Activities often steer students toward conformance to new social “norms” accepted in the current school “climate” to enhance classroom harmony and feelings of acceptance.

SEL creates a morally neutral environment where students embrace self-awareness and self-management through a morality-free ideology that looks to man for the definition of value.

The Bible says that all scripture is good for life and godliness, and that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are fruits of the Holy Spirit that come from God. The Holy Spirit is working in us to conform us to be more like Jesus, not the world. (2Peter 1:3; Galatians 5:22-23)

SEL uses deceptively loaded language to intercept and redirect the attitudes, values, and beliefs of students to ensure full acceptance of gender expansive ideology, social justice, and cultural norms.

The Bible says to not be deceived, that lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, and that we are not to gratify the desires of the flesh, but to live in the Spirit of the Lord. (Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 12:22; Galatians 5:16-26)

COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED (CSE)

CSE is sexuality training that goes beyond biology and healthy growth to encourage the exploration of sexual acts and relationship roles contrary to traditional values, beliefs, and practices.

Ways to identify CSE in your local school:

CSE hides behind terms like medically accurate, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and reproductive health while incorporating the use of graphic materials and sexually explicit visuals.

Parents and taxpayers have the right to request a full review of any curriculum including additional sexuality or gender-associated materials and resources teachers may choose to use in the classroom.

Look for terminology that references the sexual “rights” of children, safer sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, and values exploration.

Check with your local school district to learn what, if any, sex education requirements are in place in your state.

CSE teaches how to consent to sex outside of marriage and introduces exploratory gender roles and sexual techniques that deviate from biblical standards.

The Bible reveals that sex is a good gift from God for one man and one woman (husband and wife) to enjoy within the confines of covenant marriage. (Genesis 2:18; 23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:32-34)

CSE teaches that abortion is a form of birth control, gender is fluid, and that children have sexual rights.

The Bible is clear that all people are human at the point of conception, that humans are either male or female, and that sexual relations are reserved only for marriage. (Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 1:27; Hebrews 13:4)

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT AND LOCAL SCHOOL

Most parents are ready and want to get to know their schools. Let's get started with some specific steps you can take to be more informed and aware.

1

Peruse your school district website and review policies, procedures, and established practices to see if they are in alignment or run contrary to your personal beliefs and moral convictions.

2

Begin with your district's Bullying Prevention policy and take note of buzzwords like gender expression, sexual identity, and systemic injustice that give teachers and school officials license to focus on and elevate lifestyle choices, political ideologies and expressions, and the characteristics of the victim rather than addressing the inappropriate conduct of the person engaged in harassment, intimidation, or bullying.*

3

Review your district's standards and benchmarks for implementing the practices and instructions for Social, Emotional Learning that are integrated throughout school culture and discipline policies. Watch for activities that encourage students to separately identify gender, gender expression, anatomical sex, sexual attraction, and romantic attraction.

4

Ask about money spent on consulting or training of teachers and administrators and time allocated for conferences, workshops, and seminars related to culturally responsive learning, DEI, SEL, and sexuality training.

*While Bullying Prevention and Social Emotional Learning policies can be beneficial to the well-being of students, Christian students are oftentimes encouraged to set aside their personal values and beliefs to "conform to the good of the school climate."



5

Get acquainted with your local school. It is important to be an active parent and meet with teachers, administrators, and school counselors at the beginning of the school year. Learn their names and their role. Have conversations that go beyond your child's performance and behavior and ask important questions about the learning environment.

→ **Make an appointment** to tour the school. Take note of items on display in hallways, classrooms, and counseling offices (e.g., rainbow flags, ally stickers, signs of political bias and activism).

Review your child's curriculum. Take note of curriculum publishers, lesson plans, supplemental resources, and planned guest speakers and assemblies.

Peruse the content of the online information systems your local school provides for student use. Review the research sources, curriculum delivery, and literacy skills development tools across subject areas. Search any "Points of View Reference Center" to drill down and see what references, e-books, and magazines are available to your student.

Consider volunteering to assist with class/school events, health screenings, or in the library to gain a bird's eye view of the school culture and the materials that are available and accessible to students.

Ask questions about how diversity, mental health, sexual health, parental rights, and child rights are respected. Ask about bathroom, locker room, and sports accessibility policies.



ACTION STEPS WHEN YOU UNCOVER CONCERNS

So, what do you do when you uncover areas of concern at your school?

Start by pulling together the information you need to clearly explain your concern to your school board, principal, or teacher and why the issue is important to you. Identify contributing patterns, trends, or accepted norms that contribute to your concern and provide context to what authoritative roles give the problem permission or credibility to exist.

Take the time to prepare a simple, easy-to-understand message with the goal of conveying your concern and garnering the interest of school officials.



Simple steps to get started:

Define your concern by citing specific instances and details.

Relay your understanding of root causes.

Name the contributing structures and programs that need to be changed.

Explain the benefits your desired change will produce.

Convey the steps needed to arrive at your proposed solution.

Request an action plan.

TIP: It's always easier to take action with others. Find a trusted friend to share your concern and invite to join you as you approach the school.

Share Your Success Story

Did you uncover something at your child's school? Were you able to affect positive change? Tell us your story. Email us at tellyourstory@myfaithvotes.org

TIPS FOR SPEAKING WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Citizen participation in the classroom and at school board meetings can bring to light credible, researched information that advances public awareness and brings about positive change for students.

When preparing to speak, leave your moral outrage at home. Gather facts, data, and information that best supports your key points of concern then provide your solid reasoning of why decision makers should address the problem. Be prepared to articulate a solution that provides benefits that will help students flourish.

When your concern is related to your local school. schedule a phone call, write a letter, or make an in-person appointment to relay your concern. Be efficient, clear, and concise so you can be sure your message gets across to school personnel.

Use the school communication chain correctly. If you have a concern from your student's class, you may first need to go to the teacher and then move up the chain from there. Skipping straight to the principal or the school board can often derail how quickly or effectively your concern is addressed.

When contacting school administration with questions or concerns, try to take emotion, accusations, assumptions out of the language. Express interest in better understanding the processes used at your school. Ask for an in-person meeting and let the administration hear the heart behind your concerns and give them an opportunity to calm those fears or listen to your suggestions. Offer to be part of finding solutions.

Attending school board meetings. The elected school board has the authority to modify existing policies, apportion funding to programs, and address curriculum issues. School board members are often unaware of parental rights laws and the role of parental authority in education matters, so they rely heavily on district administrators and "education intellectuals" (often special interest groups) to provide them with public policy information. Your delivery of valuable information could be the nudge they need to improve outcomes in your local school.

Remember...how you represent yourself will position you to be respected and heard by those you are addressing.

Be respectful, convey who you are and why you care, describe the situation, propose solutions, be collaborative, and thank your listeners for their time.



UNITE WITH OTHERS IN YOUR STATE

We are living in a time when confusion, doubt, and negative cycles of feelings and actions are accelerating among youth, so Christian engagement is paramount. The school system is not the solution to the moral upheaval students are experiencing, and we cannot expect the Christian perspective to be included in the learning environment if we don't make an effort to bring it there.

There is power in unified, well-organized action. Taking a stand alongside those who share your values and concerns makes it easier to bring about change.

My Faith Votes is helping unite people of faith in every state to stand together through our Action Partner community.

Action Partners are individuals who want to put their feet to their faith and join with like-minded people in their state to influence the public square - including public schools! Action Partners are the grassroots arm of My Faith Votes committed to volunteering to take public action and make a difference in their local communities.

Join the movement. Visit www.myfaithvotes.org/actionpartners today.





United. We Stand.

WHO WE ARE

My Faith Votes is a non-partisan movement of Christians in America who understand that our faith has something essential to contribute to the public square. We exist to motivate, equip and activate followers of Christ to vote in every election, transforming our communities and influencing our nation with biblical truth.

OUR VISION

We desire to see an America where God is honored in the public square and biblical truth is advanced in our culture.

WHY WE EXIST

A battle is raging for the heart of this nation. It's a battle over truth—and how you and I will live out our faith in the public square.

As in the days of Isaiah, we are living in a culture that calls evil good and good evil. But our struggle is not against man. We struggle against the lies and division of the spiritual forces of this world.

For years, Christians have bought into the lie that faith is a private matter. As a result, more than 25 million Christians who are registered to vote do not vote in Presidential Elections, and as many as 65 million Christians do not vote in local elections.

So while secular progressives have actively sought to implement a counterfeit worldview at every level of government, Christians have remained quietly inside the walls of the church. As a result of apathy at the voting booth and in public life, we've suffered devastating moral decay, declining religious freedom, immoral national debt, and the erosion of traditional family values.

Imagine 90-million Christians in America being activated to **PRAY, THINK, and ACT** on their faith. And when informed Christians vote, they bring the influence of their convictions and beliefs to the public square.

WHAT WE DO

My Faith Votes calls Christians to "Pray, Think and Vote" in order to protect four core pillars of faith which are **religious freedom**, the **sanctity of life**, **strong families and marriages**, and **compassion and support for those in need**. We reach Christians to stand boldly for these values in every election and in every community and city across our nation.

www.myfaithvotes.org

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