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TOP NEWS

Make America Godly Again: The MAGA America Needs Now

By Annemarie McLean

In the early morning hours of November 6, 2024, Donald J. Trump won the popular vote and surpassed the necessary 270 electoral votes to be elected the 47th President of the United States in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history. Trump joins Grover Cleveland as one of only two U.S. presidents to be elected to non-consecutive terms.

Little did Trump know during his successful initial presidential bid in 2016 that his political slogan “Make America Great Again,” or MAGA for short, would stick in the American psyche and take on a life of its own. MAGA quickly morphed from catchy campaign mantra to national political mega-movement. It gave voice to a wide swath of the American populace who shared a perception that their nation’s exceptionalism and greatness was in real-time decline and that bold change was needed to right the ship.

In four short words, MAGA also encapsulated the promised return of a nostalgic America past — a “[shining city on a hill](#)” as President Ronald Reagan called it — one whose core values of family, faith, and freedom elevated it among the nations. In less than one century between the [1898 Treaty of Paris](#) and the [end of the Cold War](#) in late 1991, the United States of America would leapfrog over all other nations and claim the number one spot as the global superpower. Capitalizing on its fortuitous opportunity to advance on the world stage after helping win back-to-back world wars and the Cold War that followed, America distinguished itself as the world’s largest economic, militaristic, academic, and cultural tour de force.

Looking back, each victory now appears as but another rung in the ladder that contributed to the U.S.A.’s ascent. But what, exactly, made America great in the first place? It is reasonable to believe

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Losing Battles Yet Still Gaining Ground in the Fight for Life: The Post-Election Pro-Life Landscape

By Emily Wood Hawley

While we celebrate winning the electoral and popular vote for the Trump-Vance ticket and a Republican trifecta in the White House and both houses of Congress during this election cycle, we also lament over the precious souls that will be lost in the states that removed virtually all protections for an entire class of people — the unborn.

It is possible for joy and sorrow to coexist. We rejoice over unprecedented victories and the defeat of three state amendments that would have legalized

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that something deeper, more profound — built into the very foundation of the nation and woven into the very fabric of its national tapestry — pre-dated its outward meteoric rise.

The Enduring Effect of a Founding Faith

As a fledgling would-be nation in the late 18th century, the world's current superpower was then anything but. She was hungry for freedom and brave enough to liberate herself from the colonizing imperialism of the British Empire to secure it. But beneath the collective resolve that drove the 13 American colonies to break free from the British Crown and forge a new government against all odds, there was humility. The leaders of the American Revolution were needy in all the right ways, acknowledging first and foremost their necessity for God, His divine intervention, and the transformational power of Christianity to influence and inform the new nation being built.

It was none other than the Father of America, George Washington, who [said](#), "The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary..." and that "to the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

Put simply, Washington believed a nation's success was contingent upon the endowment of God's favor and protection and that every patriot's "highest glory" should be to exemplify Christlikeness.

Washington's sentiment is echoed by one Founder after another. Succeeding Washington in the presidency, Founder John Adams said, "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity."

Patriot and creator of the first American dictionary [Noah Webster](#) concurred. "Every civil government is based upon some religion or philosophy of life," he said. "In America, the foundational religion was Christianity. And it was sown in the hearts of Americans through the home and private and public schools for centuries. Our liberty, growth, and prosperity was the result of a Biblical philosophy of life. Our continued freedom and success is dependent on our educating the youth of America in the principles of Christianity."

“ America, your greatness is because of His goodness. Now is the time to Make America Godly Again — one nation, under God, retethered to His will, His way.”



Was this the Founders' recipe for success? Recognizing the transformational influence of Christianity, they stamped the inherent wisdom and goodness of God's law onto America's birth certificate, conforming her for "good." The Founders recognized that God's goodness at work within a nation's boundaries would enable her to be great.

This was the observation of early 19th century British ministers Andrew Reed and James Matheson. In 1835, they published a [book](#) about their goodwill trip to sister churches in the United States. In it they wrote, "America will be great if America is good. If not, her greatness will vanish away like a morning cloud."

Time to Retether the Next Generation

It's not hard to see how far America has drifted. The nation finds itself increasingly untethered from its Judeo-Christian moorings of biblical truth, law, morality, and righteousness. Whether it's [voting](#) to protect deadly abortion "rights" in 10 state constitutions post-Roe or watching other states, like [California](#) and [Minnesota](#), strip parental rights and validate the destructive tenets of false gender ideology among youth, the "House" of America is not only divided against itself, but it is divided against the precepts of the Christian faith that has anchored it for almost 250 years.

Nowhere is this "untethering" more evident than in the next generation. According to a Barna group [study](#), only about 3 in 10 or 29% of Gen Z believes that abortion is morally wrong. Additionally, nearly a third of all Gen Z adults identify as LGBTQ, outpacing older generations by a significant margin, according to a 2023

[report](#) by PRRI, a nonprofit that conducts research on religion, values, and public policy. This rejection of God's design and His love for those He made in His image is further evidence of the "Great Untethering of America."

In a [YouTube](#) endorsement of the "God Bless the U.S.A" Bible, President-elect Donald Trump said, "Religion and Christianity are the biggest things missing from this country and we have to bring them back and bring them back fast . . . that's why this country is going haywire. We need to bring Christianity back into our lives and back into what will be again a great nation."

America must learn from the story of Israel and heed the same commands God gave to His Chosen People. In Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Moses instructs Israel and says, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children . . ."

God understands a nation is but one generation away from not knowing Him or His ways. God also knows that a nation's prosperity and greatness tempts it to forget Him. As Deuteronomy 6:11-12 says, "...and when you eat and are full, take care lest you forget the Lord."

America, your greatness is because of His goodness. Now is the time to Make America Godly Again — one nation, under God, retethered to His will, His way. It's the MAGA we all need. **LC**

Annemarie McLean is a faith and culture writer and marketing content manager for *Liberty Counsel*.

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unfettered abortion, but at the same time, we mourn over the seven states voting to codify a "right" to abortion until birth into law.

The American people resoundingly defeated the Harris-Walz ticket whose main issue was unrestricted abortion, and because of this historic defeat, countless lives will be spared. But in the 10 states where life or death was on the ballot, abortion amendments were defeated in only three states (Florida, Nebraska, and South Dakota). Tragically, voters voted to make unrestricted abortion a "right" in the other seven states — Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and New York.

Two things can be true at once, and for the 2024 election, this is the case, as we saw evil both restrained and promoted. An evil, pro-death Harris-Walz ticket was defeated, but evil, pro-death laws that enshrine a "right" to abortion throughout pregnancy were passed in seven states.

Changing Hearts, Saving Lives

[Florida](#) made history in being the first state to defeat an abortion amendment post-*Dobbs*. Over 6 million voters (57% of the vote) voted to enshrine the "right" to abortion into law with nearly 43% of voters defeating the abortion amendment. Thankfully the abortion amendment (Amendment 4) was defeated since the threshold for amendments to pass in Florida is 60%, but it is concerning and shameful that most Florida voters voted for (or were deceived into voting for) unrestricted abortion to become a permanent fixture in the state constitution.

In [Nebraska](#) and [South Dakota](#), the other two states where abortion amendments were defeated, 51% and over 58% of voters voted against the amendments, respectively.

For states like [Missouri](#), however, the abortion amendment passed with not quite 52% of the vote (less than that of Florida) due to the simple majority threshold. Missouri once had a near-total abortion ban, but now all of its pro-life laws will be stripped with the passage of the amendment that established "a right to abortion at any time of pregnancy."

Following a similar pattern, [Colorado's](#) amendment passed with 62% of the vote, [Maryland's](#) passed with almost 76% of the vote, [Montana's](#) passed with 58% of the vote, [Nevada's](#) passed with 64% of the vote (but would require a [second vote](#) in 2026 to fully pass), and [New York's](#) passed with almost 62% of the vote.

Sure, each of the amendments was deceptively worded to sway voters into siding with abortion, but what does it say about the heart of our nation that these "right to kill" amendments are, at large, making it off the ballot and into state constitutions?

Even in the three states where the abortion amendments failed, a large swath of the population still voted to legalize killing babies until birth. The deeper issue comes down to spiritual blindness and seared consciences on the life issue for the millions of Americans who voted for abortion in their state.

Planned Parenthood and its abortion allies will not relent in their attempts to enshrine baby murder into law across the country. The fight has only just begun, and we cannot stop seeking to change hearts and minds about abortion, and in turn, saving lives.

Gaining Ground for Life

Up until this election, the pro-life movement was zero for seven in abortion ballot initiatives, so the good news is that

we're gaining ground in that there were three pro-life wins.

In Florida, we were outspent roughly [ten to one](#) by the pro-abortion side in Amendment 4 efforts. But thanks to pastors who engaged their congregations, impassioned grassroots efforts, and a governor who wasn't afraid to speak out, we achieved a narrow victory for life and defeated Amendment 4. This is, but on an even greater scale, what it takes to win.

Abortion is a stain on the soul of our nation and the most atrocious human rights abuse of our time. We can't stop in our fight against this abomination until it is illegal and unthinkable.

We must educate Americans on the gruesome reality of abortion, advocate for preborn lives, support mothers and their babies, defend those who can't defend themselves, mobilize pastors and churches to speak out against abortion, and pray for hearts to be softened and minds to be changed.

The fall of *Roe v. Wade* was only the starting line for the pro-life movement now that abortion is up to the whims of the electorate. As we celebrate a win on some fronts, we must keep our eyes on the prize, knowing that there is much more work to be done in protecting innocent lives from destruction.

In the words of a favorite hymn of mine, "Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground!"

Let us always be on guard and go forward in victory, fighting for the rights and equal protection of human lives yet to be born. **LC**

Emily Wood Hawley is a communications specialist and writer for Liberty Counsel and Liberty Counsel Action.



Liberty Counsel at Work

Vice President of Governmental Affairs Jonathan Alexandre spoke at the Do No Harm rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on December 4 regarding *United States v. Skrametti*. Liberty Counsel filed an amicus brief in this pivotal case that will decide if states can protect minors from harmful, medically-mutilating gender "transition" procedures, puberty blockers, and drugs.

Drop the Case: Liberty University Comes Under Fire for Standing Firm in the Faith

By Mat Staver

The nation's premier Christian university is being sued for remaining true to its doctrinal statement and Christian mission after terminating an individual from his position for intentionally setting up the university to advance his LGBTQ agenda.

In response, we are fighting for the case to be dropped and for religious liberty to be upheld to ensure religious institutions can operate in accordance with their Christian faith and doctrine guaranteed by the Constitution and federal law.

The case, *Zinski v. Liberty University*, is a setup by Jonathan Zinski and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to push their LGBTQ agenda on Christian schools, churches, and organizations. Many legal scholars are closely watching this case because of its far-reaching legal implications.

Ulterior Motives at Play

Four months before Zinski applied to work at Liberty University, he began taking female hormones. Zinski agreed to adhere to the doctrine and Christian mission of Liberty University despite knowing that he was four months into executing his plan to act in opposition to the school's doctrinal statement and employment requirements. The doctrinal statement clearly states that human beings were directly created, not evolved, in the very image of God, as either biologically male or female from the womb, and that it is a sinful act prohibited by God to deny one's birth sex by self-identification with a different gender.

As soon as his 90-day probation period ended, Zinski announced his decision to identify as a woman and informed Liberty he had been undergoing hormone replacement therapy and intended to legally change his name to "Ellenor." All of this was done to set Liberty up and attempt to make an example out of the university for standing its ground.

As a result, Zinski was terminated for blatant disregard of the university's religious beliefs, and he retaliated with an ACLU-backed lawsuit.

This is not a matter of discrimination — it's simply upholding the constitutional freedom for religious institutions like Liberty to operate according to their stated beliefs.

The Law is on Liberty's Side

The law, which protects the ability of religious organizations to operate consistent with their mission, is on the side of Liberty University. Under the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, religious institutions have the right to uphold their doctrinal statement and require employees to do the same.



The Freedom Tower at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia

In particular, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act provides exemptions from its employment discrimination provisions for religious employers to permit such institutions to abide by their doctrinal practices. In this case, Title VII entitles Liberty University to terminate Zinski because his actions are a direct contradiction to the school's doctrinal statement and sincerely held religious beliefs.

A religious school is entitled to limit its staff to people who will be role models by living the life prescribed by the faith, and an employee who lives in open, blatant, and unrepentant violation of the Christian employer's beliefs falls plainly outside the protection of Title VII.

Simply put, Congress clearly, unequivocally, and explicitly exempted Liberty University — as a religious educational institution — from Title VII sex discrimination suits when those suits are inextricably intertwined with Liberty University's religious doctrine.

Ripple Effect in the Making

Should a Christian church be forced to keep a pastor who denounces important tenets of the faith? Of course not. The same is true for Christian universities or other religious organizations. And the courts should have no role in deciding ecclesiastical matters because they have no constitutional authority to intervene in such matters.

In the United States, a religious organization has the right to employ individuals consistent with its convictions. This applies to Christian higher education institutions like Liberty University just as it applies to churches, synagogues, and other religious institutions. This case is so much greater than just Liberty University, as it applies to the freedom of religious universities, churches, and organizations across the country.

Courts lack the authority to delve into religious doctrine and ignore the fundamental principle that Liberty University has the right to decide for itself, free from state interference, matters of governance involving Christian faith and doctrine.

Courts are not authorized to adjudicate the proper interpretation of Scripture because the law knows no heresy and is committed to the support of no dogma.

All who unite themselves to such a religious body do so with an implied consent to submit to it. Zinski ignored this principle, and Liberty University was entitled to fire him under the First Amendment. We're fighting for the rights of others to do the same. **LC**

Mat Staver is the Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel and Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action.