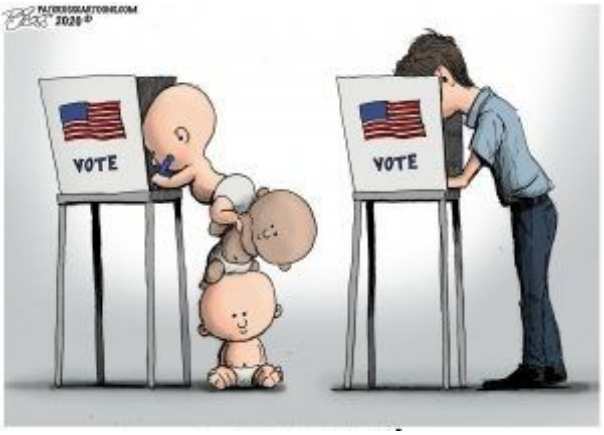
Dear Pro-Life Partners, July 15, 2026

All Those In Favor



“The reality is that laws are societal teachers,” writes Patricia Smith, in her book Of God, Governments, and Politics. How true! Citizens without a firm standard of morality tend to equate laws with license, i.e., if the law allows it, it must be okay. Over time, an entire society can shift toward the acceptance of an immoral practice if the law deems it permissible. It would be naive, therefore, to separate ourselves from politics with the notion that we will remain immovable islands of righteousness. Laws can desensitize even the most devout among us, albeit incrementally. If left unchecked, anything resembling true morality will gradually be abandoned under the guise of a greater good or societal welfare (such as the passing of the heinous Amendment 3 in 2024). If we silence our own voice, our passivity gives power to an entity that would reject God and deify itself. Smith writes, “Government rebellion against God is just as repugnant as every individual doing what is right in his own eyes.”

Laws reflect a nation’s moral compass. Righteous, reasonable, and representative legislation is a must in any civilized society. Without it, there would be anarchy or tyranny. We need order to stanch the flow of evil, greed, and violence that would run rampant if we were left to our own devices. Laws construct societal guardrails and reveal humanity’s penchant for wrongdoing. Although legislation has never eliminated a crime entirely, it can serve as a deterrent, and we have the privilege in our country of being heard in free elections. Our vote matters! Smith states, “Refraining from voting is not a virtuous or voiceless matter. Rather, it falls into the category of the sin of silence because something can be done or spoken (but is not) to stave off evil or promote good. Thus, voting is not a worldly endeavor; it is a righteous duty.” Now more than ever, our votes can literally save lives.

The new Amendment 3 certainly has its flaws, but this is where we find ourselves in Missouri. We don't always have the luxury of the perfect option. Sometimes we just need to choose the better one. Firefighters don't enter a burning building only if they can save everyone inside. They enter to save as many as they can. Amendment 3 will protect women and children, and save so many of the lives that the present Amendment 3 would destroy.

Although laws give us standards and show us how we meet them or fall short, what they cannot do is empower and equip us to reach that standard. That must come from our mind, our heart, and our faith. William Penn wrote, “Force makes hypocrites, ‘tis persuasion only that makes converts.” In other words, laws may keep us in line, but they can’t make us happy about it. So even though it is vitally important, for instance, for us to vote pro-life at every opportunity, there will always be a gap between what the law says and what love requires. So we should never rely on legislation to do all the work for us because laws do not transform hearts. One’s worldview does not shift significantly

because a certain piece of legislation passed. We need to vote for the best option available, then engage in compassionate, compelling, and factual dialogue to motivate real change.

Smith also writes about being “salt” and “light” in our culture, one avenue being the political landscape. Since many moral issues have become politicized, refusal to “get involved” removes us from the very arena we need to influence. We can be salt and light for life by defending its sanctity through prayer, conversation, and action. In the last 20 years, we have witnessed our culture’s senses become dulled and its eyes darkened. Modern medicine continues to devise more comprehensive and accessible methods to kill unborn children, yet it is the peaceful pro-life protesters who get arrested. Smith concludes, “Therefore, it is crucial that Christians salt and light the culture (love that they are used as verbs). Otherwise, these wrongs become rights, and rights become laws.”

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved. And to be steady on all the battlefields besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.
-Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Partnering with You for Life,
Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR