

Apostasy Watch

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/abortion-rights-advocates-win-major-victories-in-ohio-kentucky/ar-AA1jz93k>

Abortion rights advocates won major victories Tuesday as voters in conservative-leaning Ohio decisively passed a constitutional amendment guaranteeing access to abortion, while those in ruby-red Kentucky reelected a Democratic governor who aggressively attacked his opponent for supporting the state's near-total ban on the procedure.

In Virginia, a battleground state where Republicans pushed a proposal to outlaw most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, Democrats were projected to take control of the state legislature after campaigning heavily on preserving access.

The results sent a stark signal about enduring demands across the political spectrum to protect access to abortion more than a year after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the Supreme Court, heralding potentially far-reaching implications for the 2024 election. They offered more evidence that the end of *Roe* and the patchwork of abortion bans that followed have given Democrats a powerful argument to turn out their base and sway moderates and some Republicans. And they reaffirmed that GOP candidates who support restrictions are still struggling to find an effective message, even as some have tried to soften their pitch.

"If I were an antiabortion politician, I'd be scared," said Tresa Udem, a public opinion researcher who studies abortion and supports abortion rights.

The most direct test of abortion politics came in Ohio, where abortion rights supporters entered Tuesday optimistic that a ballot measure called Issue 1 would pass. Ohioans had already weighed in on a referendum viewed as a proxy for the abortion fight, voting in August against a proposal that would have boosted abortion opponents' chances on Issue 1 by making it harder to amend the state constitution.

Ohioans vote to legalize recreational marijuana

In another rebuke to the Republican leadership, Ohio voters have made the state the 24th in the nation to legalize marijuana for recreational use. The legislation's approval comes after Republican officials, including Governor Mike DeWine, publicly denounced the legalization over fears it would negatively affect workplace and road safety.

<https://www.newsweek.com/christians-turn-republicans-over-abortion-ohio-1842013>

Christians Turn on Republicans Over Abortion

Some Christians in Ohio have appeared to turn on Republicans following a vote relating to abortion access in the state.

On Tuesday, voters in Ohio submitted their ballots for a vote on the Issue 1 proposed amendment, which established an "individual right to one's own reproductive medical treatment including but not limited to abortion" in the state.

A majority of voters had approved the amendment by Tuesday night, with the Associated Press calling the race with 56 percent in favor and 44 percent in opposition. In Ohio, United Methodist Church and Community Development for All People Deaconess Katelin Hansen told Newsweek on Wednesday that she was "thrilled with the results of yesterday's Issue 1 ballot initiative."

An exit poll conducted by The Washington Post found that 24 percent of "White evangelical or born-again Christians" voted in favor of the Issue 1 amendment. The poll notes that this group only represents 30 percent of voters in the state, and 76 percent voted against the measure.

"Here's an ABSOLUTE DISGUSTING Exit Poll Statistic from last night: 24% of so-called "White Born-Again or Evangelical Christians" voted FOR Ohio's pro-abortion constitutional amendment. It's not JUST the left. JUST HORRIBLE," Christian Broadcasting Network commentator David Brody wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

<https://disntr.com/2023/11/08/25-percent-of-white-evangelicals-in-ohio-voted-in-favor-of-pro-abortion-constitutional-amendment/>

25 Percent of White Evangelicals in Ohio Voted in Favor of Pro-Abortion Constitutional Amendment

Earlier today, we reported on the sad reality that Ohio had voted to enshrine the right to murder babies into its Constitution, a seismic shift that was partially carried forward by an unlikely contingent—25 percent of white evangelicals according to exit polls

conducted by the Washington Post. This alarmingly high minority within the evangelical community, by their ballot, have signaled a disturbing shift in the moral landscape of the Church.

In the face of such a vote, one must question the influence of evangelical leadership. Figureheads like Brent Leatherwood and organizations like the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), alongside the National Right to Life (NRLC), have been instrumental in steering the pro-life narrative towards a path of compromise and concession. Their stance has not been one of uncompromising resistance to the culture of death but rather a nuanced, and ultimately failing, attempt to regulate rather than to abolish abortion outright.

The approach taken by evangelical leaders and organizations, characterized by pragmatism over principled stances, has profoundly impacted the evangelical laity's perspective on abortion. Influential entities—like the NRLC and the ERLC, under the guidance of Brent Leatherwood—have not only refrained from supporting measures that would criminalize abortion or hold mothers accountable but have vehemently opposed them, arguing for “compassion” rather than prosecution. This position was evident in their opposition to stringent anti-abortion bills, such as the one in Missouri that aimed to recognize abortion as murder, which these Evangelicals deemed too extreme and legally untenable.

At the 2021 annual meeting, Josh Wester, an ERLC employee at the time who later went on to work for former Southern Baptist Convention president, Ed Litton, argued passionately against a resolution that sought to eliminate any exceptions to abortion and criminalize it to the fullest extent possible.

It's this leadership that has paved the way for the grim milestone marked in Ohio. With their endless compromises, they have made abortion seem to some as a negotiable matter, a decision that 25 percent of white evangelicals took to heart as they cast their votes for Issue 1. This group, poorly guided by the very shepherds entrusted with their spiritual guidance, likely tipped the scales in yesterday's vote in favor of what is an undeniable affront to the sanctity of life as ordained by God.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/4297737-nashville-investigation-leak-school-shooters-writing/>

Nashville mayor orders investigation after leak of school shooter's writing

he mayor of Nashville, Tenn., on Monday ordered police to investigate the leak of three pages of the manifesto of the school shooter who killed 6 people at the Covenant School in March.

Conservative media host Steven Crowder posted the images online Monday, purporting them to be part of the shooter's manifesto.

"I am greatly disturbed by today's unauthorized release of three pages of writings from the Covenant shooter," Nashville Police Chief John Drake said Monday in a statement. "This police department is extremely serious about the investigation to identify the person responsible."

"This action showed a total disregard for Covenant families, as well as the court system, which has control of the shooter's journals at the present time due to litigation filed earlier this year," he added.

The shooter's manifesto, which has not been disclosed publicly, is under court order to be kept private amidst a lawsuit from the parents of victims of the shooting filed earlier this year. The parents argue that keeping the shooter's writings private prevents further trauma.

<https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/milton-quintanilla/erlcs-brent-leatherwood-denounces-leaker-of-covenant-school-shooter-manifesto.html>

ERLC's Brent Leatherwood Denounces Leaker of Covenant School Shooter Manifesto

Brent Leatherwood, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), blasted the individual who leaked the Covenant School shooter's alleged manifesto to the public.

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/pope-francis-talks-synod-on-synodality-and-homosexuality-in-new-interview>

Pope Francis Talks Synod on Synodality and Homosexuality in New Interview

The latest papal interview also included Pope Francis' confirmation that he will travel to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, Dec. 1–3, during the start of the COP28 climate change conference.

Pope Francis answered two questions about the Synod on Synodality, including on the topic of homosexuality, in an interview with Italian state television RAI on Wednesday.

Asked about the synod assembly's discussion of homosexuality, Pope Francis said: "When I say 'everyone, everyone, everyone,' [I'm speaking about] people. The Church receives people. Everyone. And it does not ask how you are. Then, inside, everyone grows, but from a Christian belonging."

"It's true that today it's a bit 'fashionable' to talk about [homosexuality]," he continued. "The Church receives everyone. Another thing is when there are organizations that want to enter. The principle is this: The Church receives all those who can be baptized. Organizations cannot be baptized. People can."

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/253842/german-synodal-way-approves-same-sex-blessings-lay-preaching-and-reexamination-of-priestly-celibacy>

German Synodal Way approves same-sex blessings, lay preaching, and reexamination of priestly celibacy

The German Synodal Way has voted to adopt "implementation texts" related to same-sex blessings, lay preaching during Mass, and a request for Pope Francis to reexamine the discipline of priestly celibacy in the Latin-rite Catholic Church.

The votes took place during the first two days of the fifth synodal assembly in Frankfurt, Germany. The assembly, which has one day remaining, will conclude a three-year process March 11 that many observers have said is advancing heterodox ideas and may prompt a schism between most German dioceses and the universal Church.

<https://disntr.com/2022/06/13/worship-artist-who-recorded-with-chris-tomlin-and-matt-maher-comes-out-as-a-non-binary-lesbian/>

Worship Artist Who Recorded With Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher Comes Out as a "Non-Binary Lesbian"

The Dissenter has chronicled the apostasy of many, many so-called Christian worship artists over the years. Ranging from one of Hillsong's flagship ship singers, Marty Sampson to one of the founders of the highly popular band, D.C. Talk renouncing their

faith altogether and even some bands, like Switchfoot, coming out in full support of homosexuality, there is no doubt that the worship music complex is a snare that attracts the unregenerate to it and creates an atmosphere ripe for apostasy.

Take Lauren Daigle, for another example. Daigle topped the Christian music charts for years which even landed her an appearance on the popular secular show, Ellen. Drawing widespread criticism from the Christian community, Daigle went on to explain in a later interview that she wasn't sure if homosexuality was a sin.

The simple truth is that the contemporary worship music scene is attractive so long as it serves its purpose of launching one's music career into stardom. Once that is achieved, God is no longer needed, their souls are sold to the devil, and they can live out the lust of their flesh openly.

That's exactly what happened to Nicole Serrano, a worship artist who has recorded multiple songs with highly popular artists like Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher, who just came out as a "non-binary lesbian," whatever that is.

<https://www.newsweek.com/drag-queen-christian-music-awards-sparks-backlash-1835922>

Drag Queen at Christian Music Awards Sparks Backlash

Some social media users expressed anger over drag performer and Christian musician Flamy Grant's attendance at a Christian music awards show.

Grant attended Tuesday's Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards, and photos posted on social media sparked backlash.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/former-dove-award-winner-derek-webb-attends-2023-show-in-a-dress.html>

Caedmon's Call singer Derek Webb wears dress, flanks drag queen Flamy Grant at Dove Awards

Derek Webb apparently really enjoys wearing dresses.

So much so, in fact, the on-again off-again Caedmon's Call singer decided he would wear one to the Dove Awards, the biggest night in Christian contemporary music (CCM) — and invite a drag performer to join him.

While Webb is no stranger to the Dove Awards, with 10 nominations and three wins, he said this year would be the first time he attended in person.

Webb shared an image of himself wearing a woman's dress, pearls and black stockings with the caption, "despite having won a few over the past 20+ years, tonight will be my first ever trip to the dove awards, in the company of some very good friends (@FlamyGrant and @gracealdrige, among others). i hardly ever dress up, but this feels like a very special occasion."

Shame on Dove and Shame on TBN for hosting this garbage!

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2023/10/22/church-england-joins-catholic-orthodox-churches-calls-ceasefire-israel-palestine/4051697987865/

Church of England joins Catholic, Orthodox churches in calls for ceasefire

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the primate of the Church of England, has joined Catholic and Orthodox leaders worldwide in calls for a ceasefire after Israel destroyed a Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza.

The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius, believed to be the third oldest church in the world, was damaged in an Israeli airstrike on Thursday that killed two relatives of former U.S. Rep. Justin Amash and more than a dozen other people sheltering inside.

The church leaders also condemned Israel for its "ceaseless military demands to evacuate our charitable institutions and houses of worship" and called on both warring parties to obey the international rules of warfare in remarks apparently pointed at Hamas, the Gaza militia Israel considers a terrorist group.

<https://www.kcra.com/article/california-disinformation-ai-threats-elections/45770902>

Ahead of 2024 election, California to take aim at AI threats, disinformation

new California-based effort announced on Tuesday will try to tackle the dangers of artificial intelligence and the spread of election disinformation ahead of the 2024 Election.

Democracy advocacy organization California Common Cause announced the launch of CITED, the California Institute for Technology and Democracy.

Supporters said with a lack of action on the national level, the California-based effort will turn to the state Legislature to get aggressive on the issue. CITED will guide state lawmakers as they craft proposed laws that address the dangers of AI, deepfakes, disinformation and other emerging technologies that could threaten upcoming elections.

"AI and disinformation are an existential threat to our democracy and elections. As we all painfully know, Congress has not shown itself capable of advancing meaningful reforms to meet the challenges our democracy now faces," said Jonathan Mehta Stein, executive director of California Common Cause. "It falls to states like California to fill this dangerous leadership void. Fortunately, we are uniquely positioned to meet this moment ... CITED is the first entity of its kind, intentionally designed to protect our democracy in the modern age."

CITED includes an advisory group made up of experts in tech, law, policy and academics. Officials said this is an unbiased, non-partisan push with advisors from both parties included in the effort.

Organizers of Tuesday's announcement could not say what exactly California's proposed laws might look like. State lawmakers return to Sacramento for another year of policymaking in January.

"These disinformation narratives aren't just undermining our voter's faith in our election system, they're making the lives more dangerous for elections officials," said Democratic Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, who leads the Assembly's election committee after spending decades as the chief elections official in Santa Cruz County. "In 11 western states, more than 160 chief local elections officials have left their positions since November of 2020. This represents roughly 40% and these officials took with them more than 1,800 years worth of combined experience. A.I. will only accelerate disinformation further."

<https://endtimeheadlines.org/2023/11/biden-admin-rolls-out-breathtaking-new-pronoun-mandate-that-could-lead-to-firings-for-misgendering/>

Biden admin rolls out 'breathtaking' new pronoun mandate that could lead to firings for "misgendering"

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has rolled out a new gender pronoun policy that one Heritage Foundation expert and former HHS official says violates employee rights and will result in firings for "misgendering."

"HHS and the federal government is requiring its employees to speak falsehoods," Roger Severino, the Heritage Foundation's vice president for domestic policy and the former head of civil rights at HHS during the Trump administration, told Fox News Digital.

Severino first broke the story on X, formerly Twitter, last week. He wrote that HHS "imposed a transgender pronoun mandate on its employees who will now be forced to deny biological realities with their own words or face firing" and he included a screenshot of an email sent to employees at the department.

Severino told Fox News Digital that the First Amendment protects federal employees from being required to speak falsehoods, being compelled to adopt a state-approved ideology, and requiring people to deny their own faith.

"These policies would require all of those things," said Severino, a Harvard Law School graduate. "All employees should be addressed [by] the names and pronouns they use to describe themselves," the email to HHS employees stated as part of its push for "Gender Identity and Non-Discrimination Guidance" that it says protects "employee rights and protections related to gender identity."

Severino says the push began with two White House executive orders, one in January 2021 and one in June 2022, that were framed as ways to combat "gender discrimination" on the base of "gender identity."

"All applicants and employees should be addressed by the names and pronouns they use to describe themselves. Using correct names and pronouns helps foster workplaces

free of discrimination and harassment,” the U.S. Office of Personnel Management guidance states.

“This practice also creates an inclusive work environment where all applicants and employees are treated with dignity. The isolated and inadvertent use of an incorrect name or pronoun will generally not constitute unlawful harassment, but, as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has explained, continued intentional use of an incorrect name or pronoun (or both) could, in certain circumstances, contribute to an unlawful hostile work environment.”

<https://www.lifenews.com/2023/11/09/army-veteran-charged-with-thought-crime-for-praying-outside-abortion-biz/>

Army Veteran Charged With “Thought Crime” for Praying Outside Abortion Biz

An Army veteran facing criminal charges in the UK for praying outside an abortion business.

Adam Smith-Connor, a post-abortive father, is one of three pro-life advocates who has been fined or criminally charged recently for the “thought crime” of silent prayer near an abortion facility. A similar case involving Isabel Vaughan-Spruce prompted international outrage in December.

In January, Smith-Connor was praying near an abortion facility in Bournemouth when community safety officers questioned him about his activities.

This Remembrance Day weekend, Smith-Connor – army veteran and father – is preparing to face court on criminal charges related to praying silently. Smith-Connor pleaded “not guilty” to breaking a local “buffer zone” ordinance last Winter at his first hearing in August. The regulation forbids “expression of approval or disapproval” of abortion, including through prayer. Smith-Connor’s legal team, backed by ADF UK, contends that he cannot have expressed any opinion on the subject simply by thinking thoughts inside his mind, and that this prosecution is a violation of his fundamental right to freedom of thought.

Smith-Connor’s next court hearing will take place on November 16 at Poole Magistrates’ Court.

Jeremiah Igunnubole, legal counsel for ADF UK, the organisation supporting Adam Smith-Connor's legal defense, told LifeNews, "Adam is one of several individuals who have faced a penalty for their "thoughtcrimes" on the streets of the UK this year. This simply shouldn't be happening in a democratic society – all should be free to hold their own beliefs in the privacy of their own minds, including reflections about their own experiences of abortion."