

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA

EST. 1979

CWA

The Influencer

Monthly

Being faithful at the Ballot Box



Penny Nance  
CEO and President

Our faith does not excuse us from our responsibility; it gives us the foundation to fulfill it.

As Christians, we enter this election season remembering first who we are. Our identity is not found in a political party, a candidate, or the outcome of an election. Our identity is secured in Christ. We have been called out of sin and shame and made new through the work of the cross. As 1 John 3:1 declares, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” No election can give us that identity, and no election can take it away.

But knowing who we are in Christ reminds us of with what we have been entrusted. God sovereignly placed us in families, churches, and a nation, and His Word calls us to faithfully steward these gifts responsibly.

Micah 6:8 tells us to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” We are not called to hide from the world when it needs the light of Christ the most. We are called to be faithful witnesses within injustice, brokenness, and disorder.

And our responsibility requires **moral conviction**. Convictional Christians are expected to integrate God’s moral law into every firmly held belief. Biblical conviction follows you outside of the church doors. The dignity of life in the womb, the protection

OCTOBER 2026

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.

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BE READY TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

ChristianVotes.org is a simple, trustworthy resource to help Christians vote their values.

CHRISTIANVOTES.ORG

A Quick Look

SUMMIT 2026

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*faithful cont.*

of the vulnerable, the importance of family, truth, biological design, and the flourishing of our neighbors are matters worthy of serious Christian engagement. When we enter the voting booth, we should prayerfully consider candidates and policies through the convictions formed by God's Word—not by fear or anger.



Jesus told His followers to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). So let us approach this election with wisdom, courage, humility, and truth. Your charge is to vote your values.

**Vote. Participate. Pray.** And do so as people whose ultimate allegiance belongs not to a nation or political party, but to Jesus Christ.

For more voting resources visit [CHRISTIANVOTES.ORG](https://CHRISTIANVOTES.ORG).

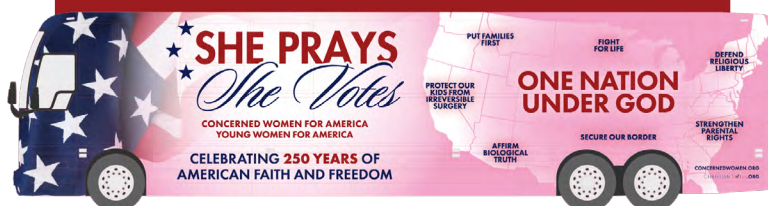
*Seek the Peace of the City. –Jeremiah 29:7*

**WE'RE GOING**  
*on tour!*

**2026 SHE PRAYS SHE VOTES  
BUS TOUR CITIES**

- 📍 Columbus, Ohio
- 📍 Holland, Michigan
- 📍 Des Moines, Iowa
- 📍 Dallas, Texas
- 📍 Ft. Worth, Texas
- 📍 Houston, Texas
- 📍 Covington, Louisiana
- 📍 Birmingham, Alabama
- 📍 Woodstock, Georgia
- 📍 Charlotte, North Carolina
- 📍 Lynchburg, Virginia

*All stops are subject to change.*



CHECK [THE LINK](#) FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE STOP NEAR YOU.

## On the Hill

Where are the Democrats?

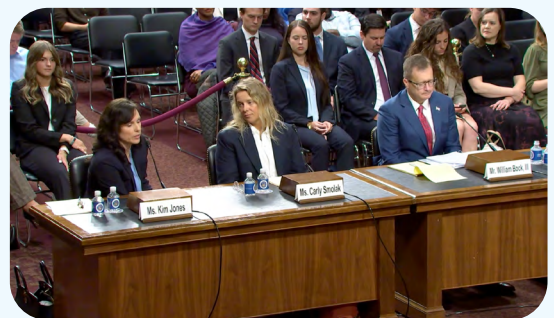
*The Democrats were scarce at the recent Women's Sports Hearing on Capitol Hill*



Maggie McKneely

Director of Government Relations

In September, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a critical hearing on the issue of men competing in women's sports. The witnesses included Kim Jones, the co-founder of the Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS); Carly Smolak, a former professional soccer and Australian rules football player; and Bill Bock, a former NCAA attorney who resigned over their transgender policy. When asked to define what a woman is, all three were able to respond that a “woman is an adult human female.”



While the majority of Republican senators on the committee, including all four female members, attended the hearing, almost none of the Democrats did. Ranking Member Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) appeared long enough to give his opening statement, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) sat in the room briefly, but both left while the witnesses gave their opening statements.

This was a striking contrast to when, in 2023, the then-Democratic majority held a hearing on “transgender issues.” Senators from both parties attended to make their points – the Democrats that “transgender” people are being discriminated against, and the Republicans that trans ideology is false and harmful. But at this hearing, the Democrats failed to show up.

It's a testament to how much progress we've made on the issue. The vast majority of Americans know

## October Chapter Tip

- Review the [Encourage-A-Legislator Program](#) and sign up. If you are in a state with a State Director, let her know how many ladies want to participate.
- Plan a “She Prays She Votes” prayer gathering for the mid-term elections and encourage friends and family to vote on November 3. Here is a [link for resources](#).
- Attend a **BIG Pink Bus Rally** near you. [Find a stop here](#).



CWA of Florida hosted “Coffee and Conversations” for women interested to find out more about CWA!

that allowing men to compete on women’s sports teams and invade their private spaces is, frankly, insane. And that includes most Democrat Senators. They know their position is indefensible, so instead of attending a hearing on the subject and making a case for male athletes to compete as women, they chose not to participate.

As Kim Jones laid out in her testimony, this is an issue that is happening all the time, thanks to organizations like the NCAA and USA Volleyball that refuse to implement sex-verification testing. Carly Smolak testified that her own Australian rules football women’s team brought on a male former Marine, an ex-con who is a registered sex offender. The Senate Democrats can pretend this is not happening by ignoring hearings on the subject, but that will not protect women from men stealing their rewards or undressing in their locker rooms. Passing legislation and forcing sports governing bodies to change their policies will.

### PRAYER

Pray that Senators will have the courage to stand for biological reality and women’s safety and dignity.

### ACTION

Stay watchful and informed about the ongoing participation of men in women’s sports, and be ready to speak out. [Watch the hearing here](#) and listen to the expert testimonies supporting the protection of women’s sports and private spaces.

## MAKING AN IMPACT *in Kentucky*



(Top Left) **Cordelia Schaber, State Director of CWA of Kentucky** (left) and her chapter hosted a voter drive at Northern Kentucky University’s Baptist Student Ministry. (Top Right) the **Northern Kentucky Prayer/Action Chapter** raised the money for the Safe Haven Baby Box installed at the Cold Spring Fire Department. (Bottom) **Cordelia** (left) and **Chapter Coordinator, Debbie McCool** (right) were on hand for the launch of the brand new **South Central Kentucky Prayer/Action Chapter**!



Woke Wednesday—in case you missed it.



Patriot Mobile is our choice for wireless service and [this is why](#).

**SEPTEMBER 1** State Legislative Strategist Macy Petty wrote, “Why The NCAA Can’t Be Trusted To Protect Women’s Sports And What The Senate Can Do About It” for [The Daily Wire](#).

**SEPTEMBER 1** [The Washington Times](#) published Director of Government Relations Maggie McKneely’s column, “Islam incompatible with the Girl Scouts.”

**SEPTEMBER 3** [The Daily Caller](#) quoted CWA on why the Meta settlement should not replace legislation to protect kids online.

**SEPTEMBER 5** Maggie’s column, “Big Brother is going to college: The federal plan to track students for life,” was published by the [Washington Examiner](#).

**SEPTEMBER 6** Legislative Strategist Hannah Lape’s op-ed, “Is ChatGPT making us lonelier than ever?” was published by [The Christian Post](#).

**SEPTEMBER 9** Penny’s column about Gloria Steinem’s legacy was published at [The Daily Wire](#).

**SEPTEMBER 9** [The Daily Wire](#) published Senior Advisor on Media and Culture Melissa Henson’s column, “How A New HHS Initiative Can Help Reclaim Real-Life Childhood.”

**SEPTEMBER 10** [Fox News](#) reported that CWA joined other pro-life groups in signing onto a letter calling on the Trump Administration to cut off Planned Parenthood funding.

**SEPTEMBER 18** [World Magazine](#) featured a story about CWA’s Summit, “GOP leaders try to reassure pro-life voters at Christian conference.”

**SEPTEMBER 21** [The Washington Stand](#) featured a story about CWA Summit Speaker Masih Alinejad’s speech about sharia law’s abuse of women.

**SEPTEMBER 23** [The New York Post](#) reported about CWA’s new research finding that trans athletes have ‘stolen’ nearly 2,300 gold medals from women and girls.

**SEPTEMBER 23** [CBN News](#) spoke with Melissa about “AI and Kids - The Growing Risks Associated with AI Exposure to Children.”

**SEPTEMBER 24** YWA Leader Dalaney Book’s op-ed, “Minnesota Is One State Among Many Pushing Gender Ideology on Its Students,” was published by [Townhall](#).

**SEPTEMBER 24** [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) reported on CWA’s new research about trans-identifying men’s medals they’ve won in women’s sports.



*Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.*

*—Hebrews 3:1*

2,678,274  
**BABIES SAVED**  
*because of the  
Hyde Amendment!*



### *Celebrating 50 Years of the Hyde Amendment!*

Hannah Lape  
Legislative Strategist

Just three years after the nationwide legalization of abortion in 1973 with the *Roe v. Wade* decision, freshman Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois observed a problem:

American taxpayers were being forced to pay for abortions through federally funded healthcare plans like Medicaid. More than that, he knew that whatever the government pays for, it encourages.

To put an end to taxpayer funding of abortions, Hyde crafted and introduced what is now known as the Hyde Amendment, an annual amendment attached to government funding bills barring any Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education programs from paying for abortions. On September 30, 1976, the Hyde Amendment became law for the first time. Every year since, despite attempts from the Left to remove it, it has remained a staple addition in federal funding bills.

Half a century later, the Hyde Amendment's impact is undeniable. **The [Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates](#) that the amendment itself has saved 2,678,274 babies from the violence of abortion between 1976 and 2026.** Additionally, the Hyde Amendment is popular with Americans. [Sixty percent of all Americans](#)—not just Republicans—oppose forced taxpayer funding of abortions.

Because of the Hyde Amendment, 2.6 million people are alive today. That is a cause for celebration—but not complacency. As the pro-abortion left grows increasingly radical, the Hyde Amendment faces attacks. The [Government Accountability Office reported](#) in September 2026 that a quarter of Obamacare qualified health plans cover abortions with taxpayer dollars, with 4.4 million Americans enrolled in those plans that cover abortions.

### PRAYER

As we celebrate fifty years of the Hyde Amendment and the 2,678,274 lives it has saved from the violence of abortion, please join CWALAC in praying that Members of Congress would hold the line on the Hyde Amendment, defend the conscience rights of hard-working American taxpayers, and maintain a deeply held commitment to the sanctity of unborn life for fifty years to come.

### ACTION

Continue the good work of supporting local pregnancy centers, fundraising to install more [Safe Haven Baby Boxes](#), and supporting local, state, and national policies that protect the unborn and support moms facing a crisis pregnancy.

## PRO-LIFE *Pennsylvania*



### State Director Dilonna

Coran (wearing the pink blazer) and CWA of Pennsylvania joined pro-life advocates from around the state for the March for Life in Harrisburg on September 21.



# Shoulder to Shoulder

## *from generation to generation*



Ashley Spadey, Young Women for America Western Regional Coordinator

This past month in Washington, D.C., hundreds of Young Women for America (YWA) and Concerned Women for America (CWA) leaders from all over the country experienced the joy of fellowship at our 2026 Summit. One of the most beautiful aspects of CWA is how it brings together like-minded sisters in Christ across generations and communities.

Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us, “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not

neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (ESV)

As we celebrated this year’s theme, *One Nation Under God*, we were reminded of this imperative found in Scripture – to unify in such a way that spurs encouragement and stirs hearts to love others and continue in the good works to which the Lord has called us.

That spirit was evident throughout the entire event. We saw women championing one another, encouraging bold conviction, praying together, and dreaming about what engagement could look like as they return to their communities. From high school leaders taking their first steps toward civic engagement to seasoned elders who have carried the torch for decades, it was a powerful picture of the legacy of this organization. There is great beauty in women learning from those who have gone before them, and older generations investing in those who will carry the work forward.

What a gift it is to be part of a movement where generations of women can stand shoulder to shoulder, each contributing



their gifts and experiences for the sake of something greater than themselves. As we approach midterm elections, we are expectant for God to use the women present at our Summit, and all those representing CWA and YWA across the country, to shape the years ahead in a way that honors Christ.

We are praising God for the time we shared at Summit and praying that what began or was strengthened there will continue to bear fruit. To Him be the glory!



### PRAYER

Pray for our Summit attendees, that the Lord would continue to stir their hearts and give them clarity about their next steps. Pray also that the relationships formed at Summit would grow into meaningful friendships, mentorship, and opportunities for women to encourage one another.

### ACTION

Don’t let the momentum stop at Summit! Whether you attended or not, take the next step of obedience in faith right where God has you. You were positioned for influence at such a time as this!



▲ **CWA OF NEBRASKA**  
The Omaha Prayer/Action Chapter is growing!

▶ **CWA OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
The Allegheny Chapter met for prayer, fellowship, encouragement, and EAL preparation.



◀ **CWA OF UTAH**

Utah's Steering Committee took time out for conservative Political Leadership Training.

▼ **CWA OF COLORADO**

**Legislative Liaison Joanna Stewart** and friend manned a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) table at Faith Church in Arvada!



Ordinary women doing  
**EXTRAordinary things**



## ED TECH VERSUS TECH ED

The high cost of technology in schools and what we are learning about a generation raised with smartphones and Chromebooks.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

### MELISSA HENSEN

Senior Advisor  
for Media and Culture

### MICHAEL MARINACCIO,

Founder of The Center  
for Responsible Technology

OCTOBER WEBINAR  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19  
3:30 PM EDT



**REGISTER HERE.**

# RESOLUTE ONE NATION UNDER GOD *1776-2026*

*Blessed is the nation whose  
God is the Lord –Psalm 33:12a*

Over two hundred fifty Concerned Women for America (CWA) leaders and guests and over two hundred Young Women for America (YWA) leaders and guests gathered in Washington, D.C., for the 250th Celebration of America, Summit 2026.

On Lobby Day, attendees heard from nine powerhouse legislators during the Legislative Briefing and lobbied 106 legislative offices in support of establishing [MOMS.GOV](https://moms.gov), which provides critical pro-life support for moms, into law.

The Friday conference event hosted 15 high-profile speakers on the main stage and topped off the night with the Red, White, and True Gala featuring **Singer Danny Gokey** and **Activist Masih Alinejad**.



◀ Director of Field Operations Michelle Minor presented **State Director of Colorado, Karen Pennington**, with the **State Director of the Year Award**.

▶ **Lisa Genaro**, from South Dakota, received the **Legislative Liaison of the Year Award**.



On Saturday, Field Training included a panel discussion with founder, Beverly LaHaye's daughter and **Chairman of the CWA Board of Directors, Linda Murphy**; **State Director of Virginia, Teresa Pregnall**; and **State Director of Colorado, Karen Pennington**.



Michelle presented Field Achievement awards to **Debra Martinez of CWA of New Mexico** for Outstanding Records Correspondent, **Irene Harris of CWA of Pennsylvania** for Outstanding Encourage-A-Legislator Program Coordinator, **Gloria Savalli of CWA of Florida** for Outstanding Prayer/Action Chapter Leader, and **Susie Hawk of CWA of California** for Outstanding Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator.



**Actress and Activist, Leigh-Allen Baker** took to the main stage, followed by **CWA CEO and President Penny Nance**, who closed out the weekend with an inspirational send-off.

*"Your mission doesn't end when the conference does; it is only the beginning. Over the next six weeks, we need every one of you to activate your community, register people to vote, bring your neighbors to the polls, fire up your friends and families, and together we can save America- but only if we fight even harder than we ever have before.*

*Revival doesn't begin in Washington, D.C. Revival begins in faithful hearts, faithful homes, faithful churches, and in faithful women. Revival begins with US.*

*It's time to reclaim the fierce beauty of Biblical femininity.*

*When future generations ask what happened in those days when evil arose, when lies spread, when truth was scorned? They will say the women of God stood in the gap, the women of God refused to bend, the women of God reclaimed the nation for Christ!"*

You can watch [Penny's entire speech here](#).