



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

- Special Session Addresses Floods
- IRS Johnson Amendment Carveout

TEXAS

SPECIAL SESSION ADDRESSES FLOODS

On July 21, Texas lawmakers returned to the Capitol after Governor Greg Abbott called a special legislative session to tackle a packed 18-item agenda, including a response to deadly flooding in the Hill Country, THC regulation, and redistricting. The special session will run for 30 days, giving legislators a limited window to address key issues still lingering after the regular session ended. Among the top priorities is the state's response to recent devastating floods. Representative Christian Manuel, who represents District 22, emphasized the importance of early warning systems in rural areas to prevent further tragedies. "I think having sirens in rural Texas, an advanced weather program... would have basically given at the very least 2 hours of notice," Manuel said. In direct response to the catastrophic Hill Country floods over the Fourth of July weekend, several legislative items focus on helping communities better prepare for and recover from natural disasters. These include flood warning systems; emergency communications; Hill Country flood relief funding; and natural disaster regulation reforms to streamline policies to accelerate recovery timelines.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23:1-6; Romans 8:18.

PRAY: Healing and comfort for families impacted.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Governor Greg Abbott, urging continued action to identify and protect flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

Gov. Greg Abbott: PO Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428.

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/state/texas-news/texas-lawmakers-begin-special-session/502-ba94c588-63c2-4c50-b08f-b463793c06a6>; <https://tinyurl.com/4r5b6dw2>

National

CARVING INTO IRS JOHNSON AMENDMENT

President Donald Trump's 2017 pledge to repeal the Johnson Amendment, a law prohibiting churches and nonprofits from endorsing political candidates, is coming to fruition. That year, at a National Prayer Breakfast, Trump had asserted, "I will get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution." This July, the IRS proclaimed in a joint court filing, "Communications from a house of worship to its congregation in connection with religious services through its usual channels of communication on matters of faith do not run afoul of the Johnson Amendment as properly interpreted." The move calls for a religious carveout from the rarely used IRS rule called the Johnson Amendment, put in place in 1954 and named after then-Senator Lyndon Johnson. The IRS decision came in response to a 2024 lawsuit brought by

plaintiffs including the National Religious Broadcasters in Texas and Intercessors for America (IFA) to stop government enforcement of the amendment.

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:34-36; Acts 5:29.

PRAY: God protects free speech in the pulpit.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to IFA President and CEO David Kubal, thanking IFA for paving the way for repeal of the Johnson Amendment.

President & CEO David Kubal, Intercessors for America: PO Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134.

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/irs-pastors-tax-exempt/2025/07/08/id/1217966/>

<https://religionunplugged.com/news/2025/7/11/irs-allows-churches-to-endorse-candidates-but-will-much-actually-change>

FEDERAL GOV'T DEFUNDS ABORTION

In early July, the House of Representatives narrowly passed the tax and spending bill dubbed the "Big Beautiful Bill." The Bill includes a one-year partial defunding of abortion providers that receive federal Medicaid funding, such as Planned Parenthood. On July 4, President Donald Trump signed the bill, stating "We made promises, and it's really promises made, promises kept, and we've kept them...this is a triumph." The bill prohibits businesses committing elective induced abortions from receiving federal Medicaid reimbursements for one year. Planned Parenthood may lose up to \$800 Million in federal funding. "For years, Americans have been forced to subsidize the killing of innocent children and the exploitation of vulnerable women. Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion chain, ending over 400,000 lives annually while masking their business as healthcare. This defunding victory is a crucial step toward ending that injustice," said Lila Rose, founder and president of the anti-abortion organization Live Action. Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit seeking intervention. Within hours, a Boston federal court issued a 14-day temporary restraining order.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 21:15.

PRAY: Federal government defunds abortion for good.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Lila Rose, thanking Live Action for its steady perseverance in protecting the preborn in America. Lila Rose, Live Action: 2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 102, PMB 111, Arlington, VA 22201.

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/last-step-defunding-abortion-planned-parenthood-trump/>

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/obama-judge-temporarily-blocks-defunding-planned-parenthood/>

AMB. HUCKABEE RESOLVES VISA DISPUTE

In mid-July, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee publicized his letter to Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Arbel expressing "great distress" over a halt to the "routine granting of visas for Christian organizations and workers, as has been practiced for decades." Huckabee had threatened that unless changes were made, "I will have no choice than to instruct our Consular Section to review options for reciprocal treatment of Israeli citizens seeking visas to the United States." The diplomatic issue, reportedly triggered by "a low-level clerk in Israel's Interior Ministry over visa applications for Christian organizations," was resolved through "fruitful cooperation," attorney Calev Myers told Fox News Digital. Huckabee posted on X: "I am delighted to report that the issue has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction and the strong support that Israel

enjoys from American evangelicals will continue." Examples of organizations being denied included the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem along with the Baptist Convention of Israel and Assemblies of God.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46:1; Psalm 122:6.

PRAY: Visas for Christ-centered organizations proceed.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to President Donald Trump thanking him for his appointment of Mike Huckabee as the U.S. ambassador to Israel. President Donald Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500. <https://tinyurl.com/3er5dsnr/>
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-israel-resolve-issue-of-visas-for-visiting-christians-after-row-goes-public/>; <https://tinyurl.com/3er5dsnr/>

DISPLAYING THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Eight newly installed Dead Sea Scrolls are currently on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. The scrolls are part of a traveling exhibit, "Dead Sea Scrolls: The Exhibition," a national tour hosted by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute (RRPFI), marking a third and final California rotation before the exhibit closes in California on Sep. 2. The scrolls include the Community Rule Scroll 4Q260, also known as the Manual of Discipline, which details the governing structure, daily practices, and core values of the first century BC Qumran community. "President Reagan believed in the enduring importance of faith, history and cultural understanding, and we're proud to share these sacred treasures with the public," said Melissa Giller, RRPFI Chief Marketing Officer. The collection contains the oldest known copies of almost all the books of the Hebrew Bible. Museum of the Bible will host the exhibit on the East Coast from Nov. 22, 2025 to Sep. 7, 2026.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-23.

PRAY: The exhibit renews the faith of Americans in God.

ACTION: Hold a Prayer and Action meeting to review the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum website (<https://tinyurl.com/bdft44vw>) to read about the Dead Sea Scrolls Special Exhibit and discuss the biblical significance of the exhibit items.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/8-dead-sea-scrolls-on-display-at-reagan-library.html>

<https://www.museumofthebible.org/exhibits/dead-sea-scrolls-the-exhibition>

GENDER-AFFIRMING HARM EXPOSED

Panelists were reduced to tears during the Federal Trade Commission's workshop featuring multiple panels of experts and those who previously identified as transgender. This, as the agency assesses whether consumers have been subjected to misleading claims about "gender-affirming care." During the July 9 workshop, the U.S. Justice Department's Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle announced the agency issued more than 20 subpoenas to clinics performing transgender medical procedures on children. Dr. Eithan Haim, who exposed Texas Children's Hospital in 2023 for continuing to perform transgender procedures on minors despite claiming otherwise, shared that many doctors have become complicit in perpetuating the industry by staying quiet out of fear. "There is a code of silence that exists among physicians and professionals today," said Haim, who claimed the capture of medical institutions has been a "decades-long process." He added,

"As that creep has taken a hold in these institutions, people who spoke up were increasingly vilified."

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 2:10.

PRAY: Medical professionals boldly speak truth.

ACTION: In your own words, write a postcard to Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle, thanking him for examining the harms gender-affirming care has on people struggling with identity. Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle, U.S. Department of Justice: 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/ftc-hosts-day-long-workshop-on-harms-of-gender-affirming-care.html>

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/regulatory/ftc-probe-deceptive-practices-gender-affirming-care-minors>

SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY MOMENT:

NOTE: Ministry Moment is for educational purposes only. The information offered by organizations is from their websites and should not be used as a substitute for your own research.

PATRIOT ACADEMY, Rick Green —Founder

Concerned by lack of understanding of biblical principles in government, Texas House Rep. Rick Green realized the solution was to train up a generation of conservative leaders. Green's vision came to fruition through the Patriot Academy in 2003. Patriot Academy seeks to equip and educate a generation of citizen leaders to champion the cause of freedom by restoring the Constitutional Republic and Biblical principles that cause a nation to thrive. The Academy uses a simple five-part strategy to train citizens to understand and influence government policy with a Biblical worldview, demonstrate the principles of ethical servant leadership, teach the political process and essential leadership skills through hands-on training, inspire citizens to be salt and light in every area of society and culture, and equip citizens with the tools to be force-multipliers and train other citizens.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 33:12; Proverbs 22:6.

PRAY: America returns to a biblical government framework.

ACTION: Host an American Campfire Revival Course in your church to increase knowledge about the government framework our Founding Fathers established and the role the Bible played. <https://www.patriotacademy.com>
(<https://www.patriotacademy.com/store/product/192>)

AMERICA'S FOUNDING FUN FACTS

"It cannot be emphasized too much or repeated too strongly that America was not founded by religionists, but by Christians. Not upon religions, but upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

- Patrick Henry, Founding Father, Signor of United States Constitution, and Governor of Virginia.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Citizens Defending Freedom Monthly Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Where: City Church

4425 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi, Texas

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Contact Congress and TAKE ACTION!

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/>

Newsletter approved for church-wide distribution by legal firm: Liberty Counsel.

Liberty Counsel Website: www.LC.org Phone: (800) 671-1776

The Salt & Light Council, Website: www.saltandlightcouncil.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saltandlightcouncil