

LIFE ISSUES



# CONNECTOR

## 2016: A Call to Action

By: Bradley Mattes, MBS

To say this year's presidential election is of monumental importance would be an understatement. But to be honest, you've heard that or similar language bandied about every presidential election.

This one is different. It will almost certainly be the most important presidential election you and I will cast a vote for during our lifetime. Let me explain why.

During the 2008 election, Life Issues Institute along with other pro-life organizations predicted that Barack Obama would be the most aggressively pro-abortion president in our nation's history. And he is.

### Judicial Damage

Let's take a look at some of the carnage Mr. Obama has inflicted on our nation, starting with the more high-profile issues like appointments to the US Supreme Court. As president, Barack Obama has appointed two justices to the Court and both held extreme pro-abortion positions before serving on our nation's highest court.

Prior to joining the Supreme Court, Justice Elena Kagan served in the Clinton administration as US Solicitor General. She was significantly involved in advising President Clinton on the legal issues

surrounding the partial birth abortion ban, specifically the wording of a woman's "health" exception to the bill that would have rendered it useless.

With Judge Sonia Sotomayor on its board, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund filed six amicus briefs with the Supreme Court on abortion-related decisions. All were from an extreme pro-abortion perspective.

As Supreme Court justices, both Sotomayor and Kagan ruled against Hobby Lobby's efforts to freely express their deeply held religious beliefs that they should not be forced to facilitate abortion through abortion-causing drugs.

When the next president takes the oath of office, four justices on the US Supreme Court will be over 82 years old. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has survived pancreatic cancer and is considered in frail health. The next president has the potential opportunity to appoint four new justices to the Court. How does a pro-life majority on the Court translate to life for America's unborn babies? Let me count the ways!

Obviously, there's the potential of reversing *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which would return authority to the states to determine protection for unborn children and their mothers.

Or, though unlikely, the Court could rule that the right to life for all human beings, from the moment of fertilization, is in the Constitution and must be protected.

Minimally we could expect incremental pro-life legislation, both federal and state, to be ruled constitutional. This would include requirements that abortionists have transfer agreements with local hospitals or that abortion facilities be required to have the same patient



protections in place as other outpatient ambulatory surgical centers. Not funding Planned Parenthood would in all probability be the sole right of Congress and state legislatures. Waiting requirements, informed consent, parental rights and other common sense protections would likely be constitutionally recognized.

President Obama has also appointed 54 judges to appellate

# In The NEWS

## Welcome, Henry Flowers

Pro-life activist Henry Flowers IV has joined Life Issues Institute to head up its urban outreach initiative, Protecting Black Life. He began his new assignment Jan. 4.



Raised in Detroit, Flowers is a gifted speaker, singer and author. He is in demand at high schools,

universities and pregnancy help center events and is a member of Toastmasters International. Flowers brings a unique perspective to Protecting Black Life; he survived an attempt by his mother to abort him.

In his book *Bored to Death: 5 Steps to Gear Up and Be About THAT LIFE*, he addresses what happens to people, especially the young and disadvantaged, who have no clear direction for their lives. Flowers and his wife, Rebecca, have five children.

## Life Issues Wins Broadcasting Award

*Life Issues*, the one-minute radio commentary produced by Life Issues Institute, has been honored with the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Radio Impact Award for 2016. The award recognizes the longstanding influence of *Life Issues*, which has been on the air continuously since 1985 and is heard weekdays on more than 1,100 outlets across the US and Canada. First hosted by the late Dr. John C. Willke, the program has been hosted since 2003 by the president of Life Issues Institute, Bradley Mattes. Mattes will accept the award at the NRB annual conference in February.



## More than 600 Outlets Carry Sanctity of Life Radio Special

This year's Sanctity of Life radio special, *2016: A Call to Action*, was carried on more than 600 outlets across the US in January. The special is annually released to coincide with the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the court case that legalized abortion in all 50 states. The message of *2016: A Call to Action* could hardly be more timely, as this year's crucial elections will determine whether we maintain pro-life majorities in the House and Senate and elect a pro-life president. With Congress investigating Planned Parenthood and a plethora of pro-life laws passing in the states, the momentum clearly is on the side of life. The 2016 elections can either capitalize on that momentum or squander it.



To hear *2016: A Call to Action*, go to [lifeissues.org](http://lifeissues.org) > Programming > Special Programs, or scan the code to the right with your smartphone.

## On the Road with Bradley Mattes

Life Issues Institute president Bradley Mattes is in demand as a speaker, with these events on his schedule in recent and coming weeks:

- January: March for Life, Washington, DC, where he also met with other pro-life leaders and the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network Board of Directors, which he chairs.
- February: keynote speaker, St. Catharines Right to Life annual meeting, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.
- March: workshop leader at Heartbeat International annual convention, Atlanta.
- May: keynote speaker at Cherish Life Conference in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- June: keynote speaker at Pan Africa ProLife Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.



## Congratulations, Dick Bott

Life Issues Institute congratulates Dick Bott, founder of the Bott Radio Network, on receiving the first Dred Scott Freedom Award in the category of Religious Broadcasting from the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation. Bott is founder of Bott Radio Network, Christian talk radio that has grown from one station in 1962 to a network of more than 100 stations. The network has carried daily broadcasts by the founders of Life Issues Institute since 1985, first with John C. Willke as host and now as *Life Issues* with Brad Mattes as host.







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courts where decisions are critically important to ending abortion. Most court cases never get to the Supreme Court, thus allowing lower appellate court rulings to stand. The president has also appointed 260 district court judges. Consider the impact this has had on hundreds of pro-life state laws passed in recent years. Imagine how many more children we could save with more pro-life judges.

### The Power of the President's Pen

Key pro-life federal legislation has the potential to save tens of thousands of children each year. The only way we were able to pass a ban on the gruesome and brutal partial-birth abortion procedure—killing a baby during delivery—was to replace Bill Clinton, who twice vetoed the ban, with pro-life George W. Bush. President Bush also signed the *Unborn Victims of Violence Act* and the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act*. He also told Congress he would veto any legislation weakening existing pro-life policy.

If we currently had a pro-life president, Planned Parenthood's tax funding of over \$528 million dollars would be all but history because the reconciliation bill passed by the Senate this past December required only a majority vote, not the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster by pro-abortion senators. Consider the tremendous debt carried by Planned Parenthood affiliates after building mega abortion mills. A law preventing Planned Parenthood from being funded with your tax dollars would create a financial crisis within the abortion giant. Such an enormous

diversion of cash away from Planned Parenthood to community health centers would level the playing field between Planned Parenthood and pro-life organizations. This financial tsunami would give pro-lifers the advantage and bring us much closer to our ultimate goal of ending abortion.

### The Weight of Obamacare

Not only has Obamacare seriously damaged America's healthcare system, it embedded abortion on demand within its cavernous bureaucratic structure. Abortion coverage is available through state insurance exchanges. Almost all plans offer abortion coverage via a monthly surcharge, but you are not allowed to know if abortion is part of your coverage until after you purchase the plan—and even then it's a difficult task. Obamacare also mandates free coverage of abortion-causing drugs, makes it possible for abortion to flourish in community health centers and may allow discrimination against doctors who refuse to participate in providing abortion services.

The reconciliation legislation passed by the Senate in December included a near total reversal of Obamacare. We would never have had Obamacare with a pro-life president, and we will certainly need one to sign legislation abolishing this albatross of government-controlled healthcare.

### Facing 2016 Head-On

One of the last episodes of our pro-life TV program, *Facing Life Head-On*, to air in 2015 had the same title as this article, *2016: A Call to Action*. We reformatted this TV

episode into a half-hour radio program under the same title that aired on over six hundred radio stations throughout America late in January around the anniversary of *Roe*.

My impressive list of guests included Congresswoman Mia Love of Utah, Dr. Jerry Johnson, president of National Religious Broadcasters, Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony List, and Missy Stone with Students for Life of America. All of them made impassioned pleas for you to get involved in this year's elections. Each was optimistic about our future to end abortion—if pro-life Americans become active in the political process. If you have a smartphone, please take a moment to scan the code at right and watch what each had to say.



The primary season is upon us, and that is when you and I have the best opportunity to influence the outcome for your favorite presidential candidate. Marjorie and Congresswoman Love have excellent

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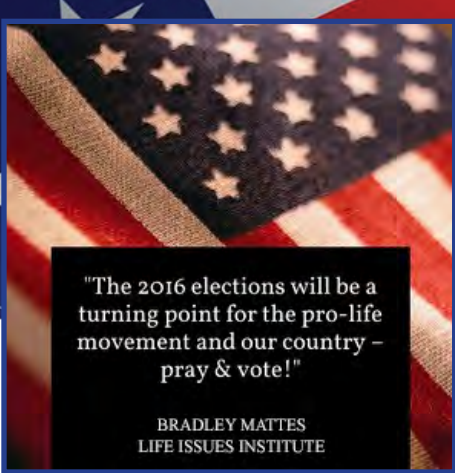


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advice for you during this critical time. You can watch a brief part of their interviews by scanning the code

at left.

Dr. Jerry Johnson says that about half of Evangelical Christians are registered to vote, and only half of those actually vote. “That’s just not right,” said Dr. Johnson, “That’s pathetic. It’s sinful. We’re abrogating our responsibility to be salt and light.”

### **Best Doesn’t Mean Perfect**

But what if you work hard to elect your favorite presidential candidate and he or she does not get the nomination? It is time for you and me to get behind the best possible candidate and vote pro-life. The people who reasoned during the last two presidential elections that John McCain wasn’t pro-life enough to earn their support or that they would not vote for Mitt Romney because he is a Mormon are in part responsible for the moral and ethical carnage inflicted upon America by the Obama administration.

Without Mr. Obama we would not have Obamacare, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan or hundreds of other pro-abortion judges. The United Nations wouldn’t have the formidable strength of the pro-abortion American delegation inflicting coercion and force upon pro-life nations to abandon their laws protecting unborn babies and their mothers. As president of the International Right to Life Federation, I have seen firsthand evidence of the UN bullying pro-life countries—most of them poor and struggling to defend their unborn citizens.

And without Mr. Obama you wouldn’t see your religious freedoms quickly eroding. There would be no bureaucratic thugs persecuting Little Sisters of the Poor and other people of faith for their refusal to provide abortifacient drugs as part of their religious ministries. And you would not have to daily worry that your job or livelihood would be in jeopardy if you spoke up for your beliefs or acted upon them.

To those who couldn’t find it in their hearts to vote for a less-than-perfect presidential candidate, please reevaluate the damage done to our nation the last seven years and ask yourself if you think American can endure another president with an extreme pro-abortion agenda.



Marjorie has good advice when faced with a candidate that is not all we hoped for. Scan the code at left and hear

what she has to say.

### **An Unprecedented Opportunity**


The pro-life movement and the people of America have an unprecedented opportunity not seen since *Roe v. Wade*. We have several presidential candidates arguing who is the most pro-life. The Planned Parenthood videos were so revealing and shocking that they brought additional voters into the pro-life camp—voters who have not previously been with us on the issue of abortion.

You also have the confidence

of knowing a majority of Americans agree with you that our nation’s abortion laws are extreme. Pro-abortion activists understand this and are worried about the future of legal abortion. It often makes them say outrageous and foolish statements to defend killing babies. Congresswoman Love recalled her amusement while on the House floor when one of her pro-abortion colleagues said that pro-life laws are a ploy by a caucus of angry white men. Her response was, “I’m not angry. I’m not white. And I’m not a male. What I am is a mother who’s disappointed. This is about a child.”

With continued pro-life majorities in both the House and Senate, a pro-life president would set the stage for unprecedented gains toward ending abortion in America. That is, if we educate and motivate pro-life citizens to register to vote and get to the polls during both the primaries and general election.

Throughout 2016 Life Issues Institute will strive to educate Americans about their honor, privilege and obligation to vote pro-life because lives literally depend upon it. We will be sharing with you ways you can and should participate in hiring the people who represent us in Washington, DC—employees who, as one pro-life leader put it, know the difference between serving the public and killing the public.

If you have not already done so, visit [lifeissues.org](http://lifeissues.org) and subscribe to my weekly update that will provide the latest developments in this ongoing battle to protect innocent human life, born and unborn. 



How desperate is Planned Parenthood as its reputation crumbles under the weight of undercover videos of its baby body parts business? Twenty million dollars desperate.

The organization that warns women will lose healthcare if it loses more than half a billion dollars in federal funding was able to find \$20 million dollars to donate to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and various Senate campaigns. The money came from Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the political arm of Planned Parenthood.

Never before in its 100-year history has Planned Parenthood endorsed a candidate in a presidential primary. It did so about the same time Congress put a bill on the president's desk to largely defund Planned Parenthood, the first time legislators have had enough votes to do so. The organization is keenly aware that only Barack Obama's veto stood between them and 89 percent of their funding and that if a pro-life president is elected, he or she will sign such a bill. Planned Parenthood is fighting for its financial life.

The backlash to the endorsement—especially from those who support Planned Parenthood—has been swift and harsh. Donations plummeted. As one Facebook user wrote, “I don't think Planned Parenthood saw this coming.”

Planned Parenthood spent \$600,000 on advocacy, twice what it spent in the first two quarters combined. The money went to public relations and marketing, all in a failed attempt to put the video genie back in the bottle.

“I don't think Planned Parenthood saw this coming.”

A Gallup Poll released in October showed Planned Parenthood's favorability rating continues its decades-long slide: its “mostly” or “very” favorable rating fell to 59 percent, down from 81 percent in 1993. Interestingly, social media took its first baby steps in the mid-1990s. Before the Internet revolution, the public could know only what traditional media deemed newsworthy. The undercover videos would have been buried then; via social media they flew around the world instantly.

The damage to the public perception of Planned Parenthood has been immense. For example, a Public Opinion Strategies poll taken in August of registered voters in Ohio—

responded as well. About 10 days after the first video surfaced, Coca-Cola, Ford and Xerox said they were wrongly listed as donors to Planned Parenthood, and they requested their names be removed from its website. Shortly afterward the entire list was deleted.

On October 13, Planned Parenthood announced it would no longer accept what it insists was reimbursement for its baby body parts business.

Since July, 11 states have launched investigations into Planned Parenthood's activities and/or alleged Medicaid fraud. While states that tried to block federal Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood have not been successful, 10 blocked some funding by pulling state-controlled grants from family planning agencies, including Planned Parenthood.

Three US House committees held hearings to determine if Planned Parenthood has violated federal law, and a Select Investigative Panel continues to dig deeper. A Judiciary Committee investigation also continues.

Other investigations reach back years. In September, Alliance Defending Freedom released a report detailing 45 “relatively superficial” public audits of Planned Parenthood since 2004 that turned up \$8.5 million in waste, overbilling and fraud. In 2013, a former employee filed suit against Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast under the False Claims Act involving claims to government programs including Medicaid. They admitted to no wrongdoing but paid a \$4.3 million settlement. The case was one of six whistleblower lawsuits filed against Planned Parenthood since 2011.

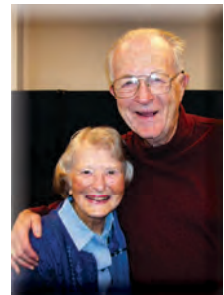


The last quarter of Planned Parenthood's fiscal year began in July, the same month it was ambushed by the first video. In that quarter alone,

which leans blue—revealed that most Ohioans believe taxpayers should not fund Planned Parenthood (68 percent).

Corporate donors have

# LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



It's been 25 years since I got that phone call from Dr. Jack Willke, then president of National Right to Life Committee. I was currently working for NRLC's political action committee in Sacramento, California. Before that I lived in Montana, was the president of Montana Right to Life and served as the state's delegate on the

movement was putting less effort and resources into pro-life education, the foundation on which we build political and legislative victories. The Institute would be solely dedicated to pro-life education. Relaying the phone conversation to my wife, my only reservation was that I had placed

accept. Ellen, who was eight months pregnant at the time, and I, with our three sons in tow, made the three-day drive to Cincinnati. Three weeks after arriving, our fourth son was born.

Life Issues Institute had a very humble beginning. The first six months Jack and I shared an office within the offices of Right to Life of Cincinnati. Starting a new organization was daunting and uncertain—very much like starting a new business.



Life Issues Institute introduced Love Them Both in the mid-1990s.



To the Life Issues Institute  
With best wishes,  
*Dan Quayle*



Vice President Dan Quayle gave the keynote speech at the dinner launching Life Issues Institute in 1991.

NRLC board of directors. Jack and I had gotten to know each other on the board and when he and Barbara spoke at our state conventions.

Jack was on the phone asking if I would join him in starting a new pro-life organization called Life Issues Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He had grown concerned that the pro-life



The Willkes' Abortion Questions & Answers was the pro-life movement's bible.

Jack on a pedestal and wondered aloud if working closely with him would knock him off. It never did.

I called Dr. Willke back to



Life Issues continued Dr. Willke's radio outreach that began in 1985.

That first year we had two priorities. One was to keep Dr. Willke's daily five-minute radio commentary going under the new name of *Life Issues*. His radio experience began in 1985, starting with reel to reel, moving on to cassettes and graduating to CDs. I assumed the mantle as host in early 2003 and we upgraded distribution to satellite and FTP website. Recording on a digital phone line, we can now





# LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE, INC.

The Leader in Pro-Life Education

PRESIDENT BRADLEY MATTES



have a program to hundreds of radio stations within a couple of hours. Because of a changing society on the run, we also changed the format from five minutes to one. The briefer format provided just as much information to listeners' busy lives. The station count went from about 330 outlets with the longer format to more than 1,100 today. It's estimated the program is aired about 1,500 times a day, reaching more than four million listeners every week.

Our second priority was research to find out how people who were persuadable on abortion viewed the pro-life movement. The news wasn't good. They viewed us among other things as radical and anti-women. During three consecutive meetings in Washington, DC, we shared these results with leaders of pro-life groups throughout the nation and brainstormed how we needed to respond. Out of these meetings came "Love Them Both" combined with a message of support for women.



Brad and Dr. Willke discuss progress of the Institute's new home.

When Jack and Barbara tested this new message with area university audiences, the impact was profound

and immediate. Posters, bumper strips and billboards were designed by our resident volunteer, Harry Reisiger, who designed packaging for Kenner Toys. "Love Them Both" circled the globe. While in South Africa on a two-week national lecture tour, I saw "Love Them Both" posters displayed on street corners near the pro-life conference.

Not only was Jack the president of Life Issues Institute, he was a founder and president of the International Right to Life Federation, and he and Barbara traveled extensively to protect innocent human life around the world. When we started out Jack was the name and face of the Institute and I happily handled things behind the scenes. This enabled Jack and Barbara to make many trips, one of them traveling around the world—literally!



Dr. Willke stands outside the new building, completed in 2001.


Their first international trip with Life Issues Institute was to Russia. The day after I took them to the airport the paper's headline read, "Attempted Coup in Soviet Union." I gasped, knowing Jack and Barbara were heading into a dangerous situation.

After a brief delay in Helsinki, they were informed of the availability of many open seats on airplanes into Moscow, but officials didn't recommend going. Jack and Barbara did. This was one of the bravest and most adventurous couples I've ever met.



The lobby and staircase of the Institute's home since 2001.

Upon arriving at their hotel near Red Square, the epicenter of chaos, they dropped their bags and headed into the square, where they witnessed history in the making as statues of former Soviet dictators were pulled down.

More remembering and looking forward will continue in the next issue. 



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## Pro-Life Strategies: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Stunning imagery captures the miracle of birth in the first episode of *Made in His Image*, a four-DVD set that concludes only a master designer—God—could have made a collection of systems as complex as the human body. The series takes as its starting point Psalm 139:14: “I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

*The Miracle of Birth* details the intricate changes that allow a baby suddenly to breathe air after thriving nine months in the watery world of the placenta. The transition is so complete that no human can again live under water once that first breath is taken. Among other wonders, *The Miracle of Birth* illustrates the complexities of the placenta, the interface between two distinct biological entities—mother and baby—and of structural changes to the baby’s lungs, heart and blood vessels at and shortly after birth.

*The Miracle of Birth* provides beautifully illustrated proof that an unborn child is not a “blob of tissue” or a “product of conception” but an ingeniously designed being.

The other three episodes are *The Marvel of Eyes*, *Uniquely Human Hands* and *Beauty in Motion*. A viewer’s guide also is available. *Made in His Image* was produced by the Institute for Creation Research ([icr.org](http://icr.org)).

