

Speaker Mike Johnson Participated In A “Prayer Gathering” Organized By His Longtime Friend And One of His “Biggest Heroes,” Tony Perkins — A Leading Figure In The Anti-LGBTQ Hate Movement

SUMMARY: On January 31, Speaker Mike Johnson [participated in](#) the Gathering for Prayer and Repentance, an event founded and organized by Tony Perkins, who Johnson has said is among his [“biggest heroes.”](#) The longstanding president of the Family Research Council (FRC), Perkins is one of the most prominent voices in the movement against LGBTQ equality. Since 2011, his organization, the Family Research Council, has been [designated](#) a Southern Poverty Law Center hate group.

Once a fringe organization on the right, the Family Research Council has been elevated to newfound prominence with the Speaker’s gavel in Mike Johnson’s hand.

Perkins and Johnson’s relationship dates back more than a quarter century, when Perkins was a legislator in the Louisiana State House, and Johnson was a law student at Louisiana State University. In 1996, Perkins served as the campaign manager for [rightwing juggernaut Woody Jenkins’](#) unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate. It was during this campaign that Jenkins and Perkins [conspired to purchase a donor list](#) from former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke — a transaction that Perkins [at one time admitted to](#) but now denies having done knowingly. Johnson has said that he met Perkins on the campaign trail.

Throughout the late 1990s, Johnson assisted Perkins with drafting legislation, including a [first-in-the-nation covenant marriage law](#) that limited couples’ ability to get a divorce. (Johnson and his wife, Kelly, were married under this law in 1999.) As Johnson has put it, he served as Perkins’ [“bag boy”](#) after graduating from law school. In 1997, Johnson helped Perkins found the Louisiana Family Forum, a right-wing organization dedicated to maintaining “traditional Judeo-Christian [“family values”](#) in public policy. Working pro bono, Johnson helped pen the group’s incorporation filing and later represented the organization in lawsuits targeting abortion access and same-sex marriage. When Johnson first ran for Congress in 2016, he [identified himself](#) as a Louisiana Family Forum board member.

In 2002, Tony Perkins decided to run for the U.S. Senate. One of his first contributors was Mike Johnson’s wife, Kelly, who [gave Perkins \\$1,000](#). The couple was also on hand at Perkins’ kickoff event, where Mike Johnson told a reporter that he was a “big fan” of Perkins.

In 2008, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal [reconstituted the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family](#), a panel of “experts” tasked with advising the state on family policy. Jindal [populated the commission](#) with members of the anti-LGBTQ religious right, including both Mike Johnson and Tony Perkins.

In 2010, the Baptist institution of higher learning Louisiana College [invited Mike Johnson](#) to be the inaugural dean of its Pressler School of Law. The invitation came from the school’s board of trustees, on which Tony Perkins sat. Johnson struggled to raise funding for the new law school for two years. It ultimately never opened, and Johnson resigned in the fall of 2012.

Johnson then moved on to [found Freedom Guard](#), his pro bono law firm. Perkins [was invited to join](#) the organization's board of directors. One of the group's first projects was to draft [model bylaws](#) for Christian churches and groups to include in their founding documents, including a statement of faith that described homosexuality as a "sexual immorality" akin to bestiality and incest.

In 2016, fourteen years after Perkins vied for federal office, Johnson threw his hat into the ring. Perkins [donated \\$2,700](#) to Johnson's campaign, the legal maximum for personal contributions at the time. Johnson won his election in an uncompetitive House district in northern Louisiana in November of that year.

Johnson has [received the endorsement](#) of the Family Research Council Action PAC in every election since 2016. He is also the three-time recipient of the political action committee's ["True Blue" award](#), given to members of Congress who get 100% on the group's voting scorecard.

In 2020, the Family Research Council joined several other right-wing organizations to reclassify itself as an "association of churches," a change that permits the group to hide its finances from public disclosure. The amendment to FRC's tax status drew a rebuke from [dozens of members of Congress](#), who noted that the group [has not functionally changed](#) and remains heavily involved in politics. At the time of its change in tax status, FRC operated a multi-million-dollar war chest.

Speaker Mike Johnson Is Set To Speak At An Event Organized By The Far-Right, Anti-LGBTQ Family Research Council And Its President, Tony Perkins.

Mike Johnson Will Speak At A Religious Gathering In Washington D.C. On January 31, 2024

Mike Johnson Is Set To Speak At The National Gathering For Prayer & Repentance On January 31, 2024.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

			
Tony Perkins Family Research Council, co-founder of the National Gathering for Prayer and Repentance	Jim Garlow Well Versed, co-founder of the National Gathering for Prayer and Repentance	Mike Johnson Speaker of the House	Michele Bachmann Dean of the Regent University Robertson School of Government

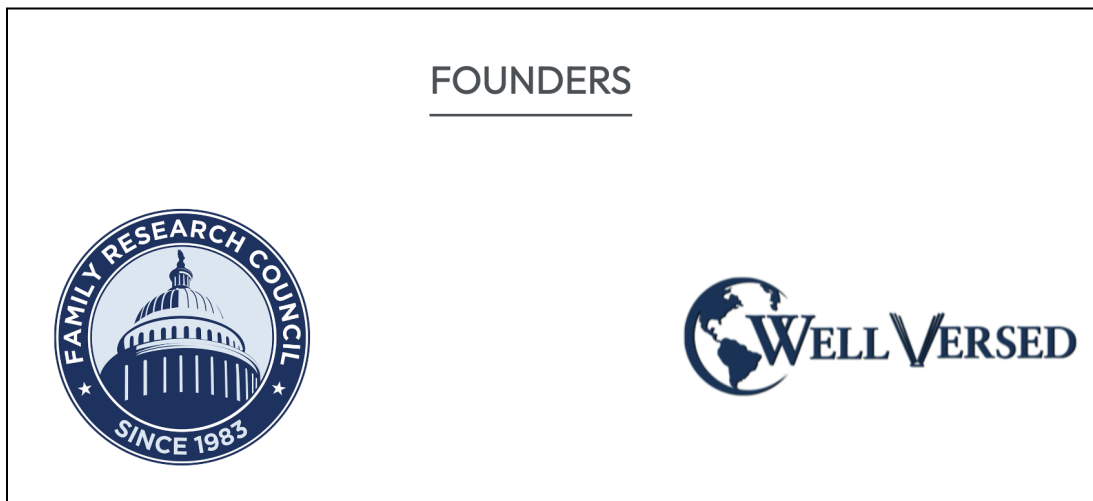
[NGPR.org, accessed [1/30/24](#)]

- **A Co-Founder Of The National Gathering For Prayer & Repentance Has Billed It As A “No-Breakfast Prayer” Where Participants Can Seek Repentance For “America’s Sins.”** “The National Gathering for Prayer and Repentance is not a prayer breakfast. This is a “no-breakfast prayer.” The prayers are about repentance. For personal sins. For sin in the church. For America’s sins. We focus on the vertical, that is, God. We don’t applaud for people. We only applaud for God...at the end.” [NGPR.org, accessed [1/30/24](#)]

The Gathering Is Being Organized By The Family Research Council, A Southern Poverty Law Center-Designated Anti-LGBTQ Hate Group

The Gathering Was Co-Founded By The Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins. “Tony Perkins, Family Research Council, co-founder of the National Gathering for Prayer and Repentance” [NGPR.org, accessed [1/30/24](#)]

- **The Family Research Council Is Identified As A Co-Founder.**

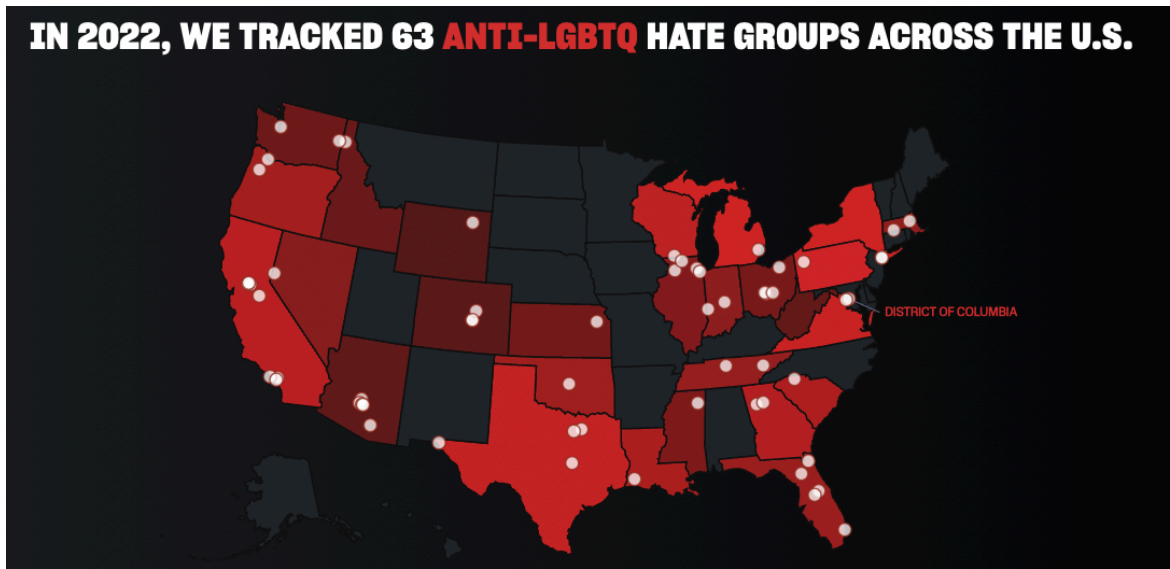


[NGPR.org, accessed [1/30/24](#)]

The Family Research Council Is A Right-Wing, Christian Think Tank. “Reps. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., and Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., raised transparency concerns in a letter to the heads of both agencies following a ProPublica story about the Family Research Council, a right-wing Christian think tank based in Washington, D.C., getting reclassified as a church.” [ProPublica, [8/2/22](#)]

The Southern Poverty Law Center Designates The Family Research Council As An Anti-LGBTQ Hate Group. “The Family Research Council (FRC) bills itself as “the leading voice for the family in our nation’s halls of power,” but the group’s real specialty is defaming LGBTQ people.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **The Family Research Council Claims That “Homosexual Conduct” Is “Harmful To Society At Large” As Suggests That Sexual Orientation Is Neither Innate Nor Immutable.** “Family Research Council does not believe that “sexual orientation” should be included as a protected category in non-discrimination laws or policies, as it is not comparable to inborn, immutable characteristics such as race or sex. Homosexual conduct is harmful to the persons who engage in it as it is associated with negative physical and psychological health effects. Thus, it is also harmful to society at large.” [Family Research Council, [11/1/23](#)]
- **In 2022, The Southern Poverty Law Center Tracked 63 Anti-LGBTQ Hate Groups Across The United States.**



[Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Tony Perkins Is The Longtime President Of The Family Research Council And Its 501(c)(4) Arm

Tony Perkins Is The President Of The Family Research Council.



[Family Research Center, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **Tony Perkins Became The President Of The Family Research Council In August 2003.** “Tony Perkins is Family Research Council's fourth and longest-serving president, joining the organization in August of 2003.”

Tony Perkins Is Also The Chairman Of Family Research Council Action, The 501(c)(4) Arm Of The Organization.



[FRC Action, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

The Family Research Council Reclassified Itself As An “Association Of Churches” In 2020 In Order To Hide Its Finances From Public Disclosure, Drawing A Rebuke From Forty Members Of Congress.

In 2020, The Family Research Council Successfully Reclassified Itself As An “Association Of Churches” Allowing The Group To Stop Filing A Public Annual Return

March 2020: The Family Research Council Requested That The Internal Revenue Service Reclassify The Organization As An “Association Of Churches.” “According to documents obtained via the Freedom of Information Act and given to ProPublica, the FRC filed an application to change its status to an “association of churches,” a designation commonly used by groups with member churches like the Southern Baptist Convention, in March 2020. The agency approved the change a few months later.” [ProPublica, [7/11/22](#)]

As An “Association Of Churches,” The Family Research Council Is Exempt From Filing An Annual Information Return (Form 990) With The Internal Revenue Service. “Every organization exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code section 501(a) must file an annual information return except...A church, an interchurch organization of local units of a church, a convention or association of churches...” [Internal Revenue Service, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

At The Time It Stopped Filing An Annual Return, The Family Research Council Operated A Multimillion-Dollar War Chest

The Family Research Council’s Final Form 990, Covering July 1, 2021, And June 30, 2022, Showed That The Organization Had Brought In More Than \$24.1 Million In Contributions.

Revenue		Prior Year	Current Year
		8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	674,124	131,906
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	8,609	42,543
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	5,118	3,330
12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	22,630,464	24,332,689

[Family Research Council, [Form 990](#), FY 2021]

Family Research Council Action, Which Still Files An Annual Form 990, Reported Bringing In More Than \$2.2 Million In Contributions Between July 1, 2021, And June 30, 2022.

Revenue		Prior Year	Current Year
		8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	114,160	93,794
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	335	124
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	1,200	65
12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	2,815,176	2,309,144

[Family Research Council Action, [Form 990](#), FY 2021]

Members Of Congress Have Called For An Investigation Into The Family Research Council’s Reclassification As An Association Of Churches As The Group And Its Leadership Have Often Blurred The Line Between Its Nonpartisan And Partisan Entities

August 2022: Forty Members Of Congress Asked The Internal Revenue Service And The Treasury To Investigate Right-Wing Advocacy Groups That Had Recently Reclassified Themselves As Churches. “Forty members of Congress on Monday asked the IRS and the Treasury to investigate what the lawmakers termed an “alarming pattern” of right-wing advocacy groups registering with the tax agency as churches, a move that allows the organizations to shield themselves from some financial reporting requirements and makes it easier to avoid audits.” [ProPublica, [8/2/22](#)]

- **In Their Letter, The Lawmakers Noted That The Family Research Council Remains Actively Involved In Political Advocacy.** “All section 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches, “must not devote a substantial part of their activities to attempting to influence legislation, political activity, or public policy.” The FRC is primarily a political advocacy organization that is “committed to advancing faith, family, and freedom in public policy and the culture from a biblical worldview.” Recently, the FRC filed amicus briefs supporting the overturning of Roe v. Wade, advocated for legislation that would ban gender-affirming surgery, and sought religious exemptions to civil rights laws.” [Letter to the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Treasury, [8/1/22](#)]
- **The Lawmakers Also Drew Attention To The Fact That The Family Research Council Does Not Exhibit The Same Organizational Characteristics As A Religious Body.** “FRC claiming to be a church strains credulity: they do not hold religious services,

do not have a congregation or affiliated congregations, and do not possess many of the other attributes of churches listed by the IRS⁵. FRC is one example of an alarming pattern in the last decade – right- wing advocacy groups self-identifying as “churches” and applying for and receiving church status.” [Letter to the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Treasury, [8/1/22](#)]

Tony Perkins Has Also Often Blurred The Line Between His Two Organizations, Including When Expressing Political Views. “Family Research Council Action is registered at the same address as the FRC and shares all five of the part-time employees it lists on its tax form, including Perkins...But FRC Action lists zero full-time employees on its most recent tax filing. When Perkins — who is president of both organizations — is speaking, he rarely makes a delineation about whether he is speaking as the head of the FRC or the head of Family Research Council Action...In December 2020, Perkins — reportedly a close confidant of Trump’s during his presidency — signed a letter containing the false claims that state officials violated election laws and that “there is no doubt President Donald J. Trump is the lawful winner of the presidential election.” The letter called on state lawmakers to appoint a new slate of electors to override the election President Joe Biden won. Perkins signed as ‘President, Family Research Council.’” [ProPublica, [7/1/22](#)]

Since Becoming House Speaker, Mike Johnson Has Appeared On Tony Perkins’ Show On Three Different Occasions.

November 9, 2023: Tony Perkins Interviewed Mike Johnson.

Speaker Mike Johnson Shares about His Faith and the Challenges Looming Before Congress

Tony Perkins
12.4K subscribers

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[YouTube, [11/9/23](#)]

January 4, 2024: Mike Johnson Appeared On Tony Perkins' Show Washington Watch.

January 4, 2024 - Washington Watch with Tony Perkins

Share

Samantha Dravis

Robert Malone

Dave Yost

Mike Johnson

January 4, 2024

On today's program:

- **Samantha Dravis**, Chief Operating Officer & Principal of AxAdvocacy, discusses the Left's tactic of seeking to remove GOP candidates from the ballot.
- **Robert Malone**, Chief Medical and Regulatory Officer for The Unity Project, reacts to reports that the highest number of kindergartners on record received vaccine waivers this year and offers analysis of what's behind the growing public skepticism of vaccines.

[Tonyparkins.com, accessed [1/30/24](#)]

January 6, 2024: Mike Johnson Appeared On Tony Perkins' Show Washington Watch.

**WASHINGTON
WATCH WITH
TONY PERKINS**

LIVE WEEKDAYS AT 5 PM ET

STANDING FOR FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM

January 6, 2024

Albert Mohler

Mike Johnson

[Tonyperkins.com, accessed [1/30/24](https://www.tonyperkins.com)]

A Timeline Of Speaker Mike Johnson’s 25-Year Relationship With Tony Perkins, A Leading Figure In The Anti-LGBTQ Hate Movement

In 1996, Tony Perkins’ Purchased A Donor List From Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke While Perkins’ Was Serving As The Campaign Manager For Louis “Woody” Jenkins Unsuccessful Run For The U.S. Senate, A Campaign That Mike Johnson Also Aided.

Louis “Woody” Jenkins Was A Longtime “Arch-Conservative” Member Of The Louisiana House Of Representatives

Louis “Woody” Jenkins Served In The Louisiana House Of Representatives From 1972 To 2000.



[LinkedIn, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Jenkins Was Known As An “Arch-Conservative” In The State Legislature. “In 1978, Mr. Johnston was opposed by an arch-conservative state legislator, Woody Jenkins, who got 40 percent of the vote in a poorly financed effort.” [The New York Times, [10/7/90](#)]

- **In The Louisiana Legislature, Woody Jenkins Authored A Law Permitting Parents To Home-School Their Children In Order To Avoid Court-Mandated Bussing.** “In East Baton Rouge Parish, where public schools began court-ordered busing this fall and private schools are booked solid, a small but growing number of parents are teaching their children at home...To the law's author, Representative Louis (Woody) Jenkins, the issue is simple. It is, he said, "sort of like tearing down the Berlin Wall." "It gives people an escape from a bad system" and puts pressure on that system to do better, he said, adding, "It's going to make the public schools compete for money." [The New York Times, [9/25/81](#)]
- **Jenkins Led Efforts To Ban Abortion In Louisiana, Even In Cases Of Rape And Incest.** “The bill's chief sponsor, State Representative Louis Jenkins, and other proponents say they hope the measure, which would impose a virtual ban on abortion, will become the basis of a challenge to the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, which established a woman's constitutional right to obtain an abortion...The bill would criminalize abortion except when attempts to save the mother's life or that of the fetus result in the unintended death of the fetus...Gov. Buddy Roemer has said repeatedly that he would veto any bill that bans abortion in cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the mother. Efforts to include such exceptions were easily defeated in the House.” [The New York Times, [6/24/90](#)]

In 1996, Woody Jenkins Ran For U.S. Senate

Woody Jenkins Ran For The U.S. Senate As A Republican From Louisiana In 1996. “At a quiet gathering of Republicans last night, the focus was not on intra-party squabbling. These hopeful conservatives were talking about Louis "Woody" Jenkins. He has served in the Louisiana state House since 1972. He once was the quintessential "Reagan Democrat," but switched to the GOP and built a secure base in Baton Rouge. Jenkins has pushed deregulation of private education, property rights, and the right-to-life.” [The Oklahoman, [8/10/96](#)]

Tony Perkins Managed Jenkins' 1996 U.S. Senate Campaign, During Which Perkins And Jenkins Falsified Records To Cover Up The Use Of David Duke's Robocalling Service

Tony Perkins Managed Woody Jenkins' 1996 U.S. Senate Campaign. "In 1996 Perkins cut his teeth as the manager of Jenkins's campaign for US Senate." [The Nation, [5/9/05](#)]

- **Woody Jenkins Groomed Tony Perkins To Be His Political Successor.** "For years, Jenkins had been grooming Perkins as his political successor. 'To Jenkins, Perkins was like a son, and the feeling was and is mutual,' wrote former Jenkins staffer Christopher Tidmore." [The Nation, [5/9/05](#)]

Jenkins Hired A Phone Auto-Calling Service, Impact Mail And Printing, On The Advice Of David Duke. "During the campaign, former Klan chieftain David Duke contacted Jenkins and suggested he hire Impact Mail & Printing and use the group's services for automated phone calls, according to a Federal Election Commission (FEC) conciliation agreement, which shows "Jenkins purchased several rounds of calls from Impact Mail." People who received the calls from the campaign complained because Duke's name appeared on caller IDs." [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [10/27/23](#)]

- **David Duke Is A Former Grand Wizard Of The Ku Klux Klan And An Anti-Semite.** "As Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s, David Duke urged Klan members to 'get out of the cow pasture and into hotel meeting rooms.'...In November 1998, he self-published My Awakening, a 700-page autobiographical magnum opus of Duke's racism, anti-Semitism, and bigotry." [Anti-Defamation League, accessed [11/2/23](#)]

Perkins Signed The Contract With Impact Mail And Printing, And The Jenkins Campaign "Knowingly And Willfully Filed False Disclosure Reports" To Avoid Associating With Duke And Impact Publicly. "Jenkins tried to cancel the transaction with Impact Mail, but could not because Perkins had already signed a contract. Jenkins allegedly instructed Perkins to stop payment on the check to the company and "directed that Impact Mail be paid through Courtney Communications, the campaign's media firm," according to the conciliation agreement, which said Jenkins "did not want his campaign to be associated with Impact Mail." The Jenkins campaign "knowingly and willfully filed false disclosure reports" showing its media firm as the vendor of \$82,500 in services actually provided by Impact Mail, according to the FEC document. The campaign settled with a \$3,000 fine." [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [10/27/23](#)]

- **Perkins Told The Advocate In 1999 That The Jenkins' Campaign Paid The David Duke-Linked Firm Through A Third Party Because "We Didn't Want Any Appearance That We Had Any Connection With Duke."** "In 1999 Perkins told The Advocate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that Jenkins' campaign complied with federal election law, but routed the money through another firm, to hide the Duke connection. Perkins used Courtney Communications, which is run by Bob Courtney, a one-time business partner, to disguise the payment. "We didn't want any appearance that we had any connection to Duke," Perkins told the newspaper. Jenkins' Senate campaign later paid a \$3,000 fine to the Federal Elections Commission for illegally concealing the purchase from Duke." [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [11/2/23](#)]

Woody Jenkins Narrowly Lost The 1996 U.S. Senate Campaign And Unsuccessfully Contested The Election Result

Woody Jenkins Lost The 1996 U.S. Senate Race By 5,788 Votes. “On November 5, 1996, Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu defeated Republican Woody Jenkins for an open Senate seat by the narrow margin of 5,788 votes out of 1.7 million cast.” [United States Senate, accessed [11/2/23](#)]

Jenkins Claimed There Was Election Fraud And Disputed His Defeat In The Campaign. “On December 5, Jenkins filed a petition of election contest with the Senate, contending that more than 5,788 fraudulent votes had been cast and that Landrieu's victory should be invalidated. He followed up on December 18 with an amended petition accompanied by extensive documentation.” [U.S. Senate, Accessed [10/31/23](#)]

- **A Senate Committee Unanimously Concluded That There Wasn't Compelling Evidence To Overturn The Election.** “A Senate committee voted unanimously today to drop its inquiry into the election of Senator Mary L. Landrieu after months of partisan wrangling, the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars and a foray into the roguish world of Louisiana politics...In its report to the full Senate, which is expected to ratify the recommendation, the committee stated that investigators uncovered a host of election irregularities and "isolated incidences of fraud," but no evidence compelling enough to overturn the election.” [The New York Times, [10/2/97](#)]

Mike Johnson Met Tony Perkins Via Woody Jenkins And Claimed He Assisted Woody Jenkins 1996 U.S. Senate Campaign's Election Fraud Dispute

Johnson Claimed He Met Tony Perkins Via Woody Jenkins. “Johnson said he met Perkins through former state representative Woody Jenkins, who now leads the conservative Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish and edits the right-leaning Central City News. Through his volunteer work with the family forum while still in law school, Johnson helped Perkins craft the covenant marriage legislation.” [Times-Picayune, LexisNexis, 5/18/15]

Johnson Claimed His Views On Election Fraud Were Influenced By The 1996 Louisiana Senate Race Where Republican Woody Jenkins Lost To May Landrieu. “He revealed that his views on election fraud were in many ways shaped by the 1996 Senate race between Democrat Mary Landrieu and Republican Woody Jenkins. “I was a young pup law student at the time, but I was kind of carrying around everyone's briefcases trying to help,” Johnson said, adding that despite evidence of fraud, Senate Democrats “buried it all.”” [Politico, [10/25/23](#)]

Johnson Claimed There Was Massive Evidence Of Fraud In Jenkin's Loss And That He Was “A Young Pup Law Student [...] Carrying Around Everyone's Briefcases Trying To Help.” “He revealed that his views on election fraud were in many ways shaped by the 1996 Senate race between Democrat Mary Landrieu and Republican Woody Jenkins. “I was a young pup law student at the time, but I was kind of carrying around everyone's briefcases trying to help,” Johnson said, adding that despite evidence of fraud, Senate Democrats “buried it all.”” [Politico, [10/25/23](#)]

As A Law Student And Young Lawyer In The 1990s, Mike Johnson Served As Tony Perkins “Bag Boy” And Helped Him Write Legislation.

Mike Johnson Attended Law School At Louisiana State University In the Mid-1990s

Mike Johnson Entered Law School At Louisiana State University In 1995 After Completing His Bachelor Degree At The Same University. “Two-time LSU alumnus Rep. Mike Johnson, a Shreveport native was elected as the next House speaker on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Rep. Johnson is the first person from Louisiana and the first Tiger grad in history to be named Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Shreveport native graduated from LSU Law Center in 1998 and he was selected as a member of the Moot Court Board and National Moot Court Team and was elected class president and president of the Christian Legal Society. Johnson earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1995 where he was selected to Leadership LSU and the Order of Omega Honor Society, Kappa Sigma Fraternity and served as president of the LSU Interfraternity Council.” [WAFB, [10/25/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Received His Juris Doctorate From Louisiana State University In 1998. “The Shreveport native graduated from LSU Law Center in 1998 and he was selected as a member of the Moot Court Board and National Moot Court Team and was elected class president and president of the Christian Legal Society.” [WAFB, [10/25/23](#)]

In The Mid-1990s, Tony Perkins Was A Republican Member Of Louisiana House Of Representatives

Mike Perkins Served In The Louisiana State Legislature From 1996 To 2004. “During an appearance on CNN’s “State of the Union” Sunday, Perkins said he hoped Romney would choose former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee or Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal as his running mate. Perkins, who was a Louisiana state representative from 1996-2004, emphasized their executive experience and ability to excite Republicans who vote on social issues.” [ABC News, [5/15/12](#)]

While In Law School, Mike Johnson Helped Tony Perkins Write Legislation, Including A Covenant Marriage Law

In October 2023, Tony Perkins Told A Christian News Site That He Has Known Mike Johnson For About 25 Years. “Perkins, 60, said his relationship with Johnson, 51, goes back about 25 years. The two first met while Johnson was still a law student at Louisiana State University. According to Perkins, a Republican who served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1996 until 2004, he and Johnson have ‘worked on a number of issues and have had a personal relationship since then.’” [The Christian Post, [10/30/23](#)]

While He Was A Law Student, Johnson Helped Perkins Write A 1997 Law Legalizing Convent Marriages. “As a law student, he helped draft Louisiana’s 1997 “covenant marriage” law that makes divorce more difficult for couples who sign a “covenant” before being wed, working with Tony Perkins, then a state legislator and now president of the socially conservative Family Research Council. Johnson entered into a covenant marriage with his wife.” [Bloomberg, [10/26/23](#)]

- **Perkins’ Law Was The First Covenant Marriage In The Country And Makes Divorce Possible Only In Specific Circumstances, Such As Physical Abuse, As Opposed To No-Fault Divorce** “Mr. Perkins is known for writing the nation’s first covenant-marriage law, which went into effect Aug. 15, 1997, and is available to engaged and married couples in Louisiana. To get a covenant-marriage license, couples must certify that they have had marriage counseling. If the couples have a breakdown in their marriage, they must also agree to seek counseling. Grounds for divorce in covenant marriage are limited to adultery, abandonment, physical or sexual abuse, substance abuse, conviction of a felony or living apart for two years. Standard Louisiana marriage licenses set no such conditions. Louisiana is known for its easy, no-fault divorces.” [Washington Examiner, [8/13/03](#)]
- **Johnson And His Wife Are In A Covenant Marriage.** “As a law student, he helped draft Louisiana’s 1997 “covenant marriage” law that makes divorce more difficult for couples who sign a “covenant” before being wed, working with Tony Perkins, then a state legislator and now president of the socially conservative Family Research Council. Johnson entered into a covenant marriage with his wife.” [Bloomberg, [10/26/23](#)]

Shortly After Getting His Law Degree, Mike Johnson Publicly Supported A Louisiana Bill Sponsored By Perkins That Would Require State Licensing For Abortion Clinics

Mike Johnson Received His Juris Doctorate From Louisiana State University In 1998. “The Shreveport native graduated from LSU Law Center in 1998 and he was selected as a member of the Moot Court Board and National Moot Court Team and was elected class president and president of the Christian Legal Society.” [WAFB, [10/25/23](#)]

In 1999, Johnson Publicly Supported A Louisiana Bill Sponsored By Perkins That Would Require State Licensing For Abortion Clinics. “Louisiana’s eight abortion clinics would need a state license to operate under a bill that easily cleared a House committee Thursday. [...] “We have allowed the health of women to be jeopardized because we have been afraid to tread on politically sensitive areas,” said state Rep. Tony Perkins, R-Baker, sponsor of the bill. [...] Attorney Mike Johnson, who represents a woman suing Delta, said the Perkins’ bill has nothing to do with a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion. “It’s what happens afterwards,” Johnson said. Johnson said lack of regulation leads to problems such as rusty medical instruments, unqualified physicians and unsanitary conditions. “It’s not a shock,” said Johnson. “It happens because of no regulation.”” [The Advocate, 4/16/99]

Mike Johnson Has Said That, As A Young Lawyer, He Was Tony Perkins' "Bag Boy"

At A Speech Given To The Council For National Policy In 2019, Johnson Claimed He Was Tony Perkins' "Bag Boy." "Tonight, as I've walked around, I mean, probably all of my biggest heroes are in this room tonight. I mean, I grew up in the movement...And Tony Perkins, I was his bag boy. I'm not kidding. I was a young lawyer, and I just wanted to learn, and so, I followed those guys around." [YouTube, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

- **The Council For National Policy (CNP) Is An Intensely Secretive Group Of The Most Powerful Conservatives In The Country.** "Three times a year for 23 years, a little-known club of a few hundred of the most powerful conservatives in the country have met behind closed doors at undisclosed locations for a confidential conference, the Council for National Policy, to strategize about how to turn the country to the right." [New York Times, [8/28/04](#)]

After Law School, Mike Johnson Assisted Tony Perkins In Launching The Louisiana Family Forum, A Right-Wing Organization On Whose Board Johnson Has Said He Has Sat Although The Group Has Never Reported This.

In 1997, Tony Perkins Founded The Louisiana Family Forum, A Christian Organization Dedicated To The Maintenance Of "Traditional Family Values"

September 1997: The Louisiana Family Forum Is Incorporated.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

LOUISIANA FAMILY FORUM

A Louisiana Nonprofit Corporation

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BE IT KNOWN, that on this 15th day of September, 1997, before me, the

[Louisiana Family Forum, Articles of Incorporation, [9/15/97](#)]

The Louisiana Family Forum Was Dedicated To The "Strengthening Of Traditional Judeo-Christian Family Values And "To Protect And Maintain Public Policies That Foster Traditional Family Values"

ARTICLE III
PURPOSE

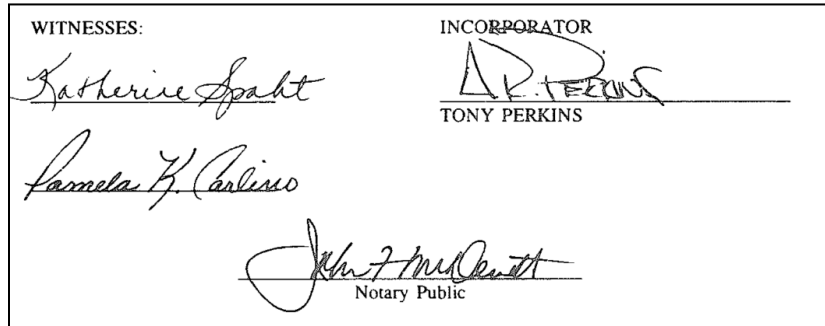
The primary purpose for which this corporation is organized and for which it shall be exclusively administered and operated is the carrying on of charitable and educational activities within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Activities of the corporation shall be for the following purposes:

1. To identify, develop and support public policies that will ensure the preservation and strengthening of traditional Judeo-Christian family values;
2. To educate, and promote cooperation among, organizations actively working to establish, protect and maintain public policies that foster traditional family values;

[Louisiana Family Forum, Articles of Incorporation, [9/15/97](#)]

Tony Perkins Was Identified As The Incorporator Of The Louisiana Family Forum In The Group's Articles Of Incorporation.



[Louisiana Family Forum, Articles of Incorporation, [9/15/97](#)]

- **Tony Perkins Said That His Vision For The Louisiana Family Forum Was “To Foster An Environment Where Men And Women...Lead From Those Biblical Values.”** “Perkins shared that the initial vision of the Forum was “to foster an environment where men and women of faith would step forward boldly and lead from those biblical values.” He shared how the Forum is doing just that. He added, ‘It’s encouraging for me ... [to] see the fruit of what [the Forum has] been able to harvest.’” [Washington Stand, [9/29/23](#)]
- **As Of 2023, Tony Perkins Said He Believes The Louisiana Family Forum Is “One Of, If Not The Leading, Policy Organizations In The State.”** “In comments to The Washington Stand, Perkins shared how, when the Forum first started, those involved were Christian men and women, but there was a lack of those who boldly “operated from a biblical worldview.” However, he stated that the situation has changed dramatically since then. Since its founding, the Forum has grown to be “one of, if not the leading, policy organizations in the state.” [Washington Stand, [9/29/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Helped Found The Louisiana Family Forum By Performing Pro Bono Legal Work For The Group Targeting Abortion And Same-Sex Marriage

Mike Johnson Assisted Pro Bono For The Louisiana Family Forum By Assisting With Its Incorporation And Working Its Cases. “After graduating from law school in 1997, Johnson got a job at a Baton Rouge law firm where he handled run-of-the-mill legal work. On the side, he assisted Mills pro bono with the legal documents to create Louisiana Family Forum and worked cases aimed at weakening abortion rights in the state.” [NOLA.com, [10/27/23](#)]

- **Mike Johnson Volunteers With Louisiana Family Forum As It Targeted Abortion Access In Louisiana.** “On the side, he assisted Mills pro bono with the legal documents to create Louisiana Family Forum and worked cases aimed at weakening abortion rights in the state.” [NOLA.com, [10/27/23](#)]
- **2001: Mike Johnson Represented The Louisiana Family Forum As Its Successfully Lobbied The A School District In Louisiana To Add Christian Bible Courses To Its Curriculum.** “The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board voted 7-4 Thursday to add Bible courses to the list of electives at Central High School. Rather than a religious course, the classes will focus on the Bible as literature and history...“It was simply to present it as a matter of historical value,” said Mike Johnson, an attorney with the Louisiana Family Forum, a Christian organization that gets involved in some school issues. The course does not preach creationism, he said...Former City Judge Darrell White, now chief executive officer of the Louisiana Family Forum, said he and other supporters of the course have passed a petition that got almost 13,000 signatures in support of such a course. It is already taught in Livingston and Ouachita parishes, he said.” [The Associated Press, LexisNexis, 5/4/01]
- **2004: Mike Johnson Represented The Louisiana Family Forum In A Case Supporting A Voter-Approved State Constitutional Amendment Codifying Marriage As Between One Man And One Woman.** “In 2004, he represented the Louisiana Family Forum in opposing a case filed by gay rights supporters who sought to block a voter-approved state constitutional amendment that prohibited “civil unions” — a legal precursor to same-sex marriage — and codified marriage as between one man and one woman.” [Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

In 2016, Mike Johnson Identified Himself As A Board Member Of The Louisiana Family Forum...

Mike Johnson Identified Himself As A Board Member Of The Louisiana Family Forum In Its 2016 Financial Disclosure Report.

BOARD MEMBER

LOUISIANA FAMILY FORUM, INC.

[Mike Johnson's financial disclosure report, [2016](#)]

...But The Organization Did Not Identify Him As A Board Member In Its Annual Disclosure To The Internal Revenue Service

The Louisiana Family Forum Did Not Identify Mike Johnson As A Board Member In Its Form 990 For Calendar Year 2016.

(1) CLAY SHARON CLEMENT BOARD CHAIRMAN/DIRECTOR	0.00	X		X						0	0	0
(2) GENE BLANCHE MILLS PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	40.00	X		X		X				109,444	0	0
(3) CHARLIE ELLEN DAVIS DIRECTOR	0.00	X		X						0	0	0
(4) TODD CINDY MILLER TREASURER/DIRECTOR	0.00	X								0	0	0
(5) DEREK HEATHER BABCOCK VICE CHAIRMAN/DIRECTOR	0.00	X		X						0	0	0
(6) KEVIN DALE HOFFPAUIR CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER	20.00			X						9,578	0	0
(7) ERIC MELISSA ARMAN SECRETARY & DIRECTOR	0.00	X		X						0	0	0
(8) JERRY MELISSA BRYAN DIRECTOR	0.00	X								0	0	0
(9) CHARLES CLELIE CARPENTER DIRECTOR	0.00	X								0	0	0

[Louisiana Family Forum, [Form 990](#), 2016]

Mike Johnson And His Wife Were “On Hand” At The Kickoff Of Tony Perkins’ Unsuccessful Bid For The U.S. Senate In 2002.

Tony Perkins Ran For U.S. Senate From Louisiana In 2002

Tony Perkins Was A Republican Candidate For The U.S. Senate In 2002. “State Rep. Tony Perkins, one of three Republican candidates for U.S. Senate, made stops in Thibodaux and Terrebonne Parish Thursday as part of a 48-hour statewide tour.” [Houma Today, [10/31/02](#)]

Mike Johnson And His Wife Attended Perkins’ Campaign Kickoff Event Where Johnson Told A Local Newspaper That He Is A “Big Fan” Of Perkins’

Mike Johnson And His Wife, Kelly, Were “On Hand” At The Kickoff Event For Perkin’s 2002 U.S. Senate Campaign. “Tony Perkins formally kicked off his U.S. Senate campaign in Northwest Louisiana tying Mary Landrieu to a “liberal Democrat” agenda to undermine the president in the war against terrorism and to enlarge “failed government programs that entrap the poor.” [...] On hand for Perkins’ announcement was attorney Mike Johnson, holding his 13-month-old daughter, Hannah Grace. Johnson and his wife, Kelly, were united in a covenant marriage three years ago.” [The Shreveport Times, LexisNexis, 6/21/2002]

Mike Johnson Told A Local Newspaper That He Was A “Big Fan” Of Perkins’. “‘I was a big fan of Tony in the state Legislature,’ Johnson said, citing Perkin's ‘family values.’” [The Shreveport Times, LexisNexis, 6/21/2002]

Mike Johnson’s Wife, Kelly, Contributed \$1,000 To Tony Perkins Campaign

Kelly Johnson Contributed \$1,000 To Tony Perkins Campaign In June 2002.

Contributor name	Recipient	State	Employer	Receipt date	Amount	
JOHNSON, KELLY	PERKINS FOR SENATE	LA	HOUSEWIFE	06/30/2002	\$500.00	▶
JOHNSON, KELLY	PERKINS FOR SENATE	LA	HOUSEWIFE	06/30/2002	\$500.00	▶

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

Tony Perkins Came In Fourth In The State’s Jungle Primary

November 2002: Tony Perkins Came In Fourth With 10 Percent Of The Vote In The State’s Jungle Primary. “The race for the Senate seat in Louisiana is headed for a runoff election next month, as Mary Landrieu, the incumbent Democrat, fell short of the 50 percent of the vote she needed to win outright the primary that pitted her against three major Republican candidates and a handful of also-rans...In fourth with 10 percent was Tony Perkins, a Republican state representative popular with social conservatives.” [The New York Times, [11/6/02](#)]

- **Louisiana Uses A Jungle Primary In Which All Candidates, Regardless Of Party, Run Against One Another With The Top Two Candidates Advancing.** “This system is sometimes referred to as a jungle primary or cajun primary, though Ballotpedia instead refers to the state's electoral system as the Louisiana majority-vote system. In this system, all candidates running for a local, state, or federal office appear on the same ballot in either October (in odd-numbered years) or November (in even-numbered years), regardless of their partisan affiliations. If a candidate wins a simple majority of all votes cast for the office (i.e., 50 percent, plus one vote), he or she wins the election outright. If no candidate meets that threshold, the top two finishers advance to a second election in December, regardless of their partisan affiliations. In that election, the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes wins.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

In The Late 2000s, Mike Johnson And Tony Perkins Both Served On The Board Of The Louisiana Commission On Marriage And Family.

The Louisiana Commission On Marriage And Family Was First Established In 2001

The Louisiana Commission On Marriage And Family Was Established By Executive Order In 2001 To Promote Marriage And The Family. “A new state commission on Thursday tossed around the idea that making potential parents better potential marriage partners might mean a brighter future for children. The Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family held its first meeting at the State Capitol to begin figuring out what state government can do to help single parents and to promote the institution of marriage, especially in low-income families.” [The Advocate, LexisNexis, 3/15/02]

- **The Commission Held Its First Meeting In 2002.** “The Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family held its first meeting at the State Capitol to begin figuring out what state government can do to help single parents and to promote the institution of marriage, especially in low-income families.” [The Advocate, LexisNexis, 3/15/02]

Tony Perkins Was An Inaugural Member Of The Commission. “State Rep. Tony Perkins, R-Baker, a member of the commission, said he likes the approach the commission seems to be taking.” [The Advocate, LexisNexis, 3/15/02]

The Commission Was Re-Established In 2008 And Populated With Opponents To LGBTQ Rights

August 2008: Governor Bobby Jindal Re-Established The Louisiana Commission On Marriage And The Family.

SECTION 1: The Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family (hereafter “Commission”) is reestablished within the executive department, Office of the Governor.

[Office of the Governor of Louisiana, [8/22/08](#)]

- **The Mandate Of The Commission Was To Analyze The Institution Of Marriage And Childrearing And Propose Policies.** “Collect and analyze data on the social and personal effects of marriage, two-parent childrearing, and single-parent child-rearing, within the state of Louisiana... Propose and analyze initiatives, programs, policies, and/or incentives that encourage and support the institution of marriage...” [Office of the Governor of Louisiana, [8/22/08](#)]

The Inaugural Commission Was Populated By Opponents Of LGBTQ Rights. “Jindal's commission is intended "to propose programs, policies, incentives and curriculum regarding marriage and family by collecting and analyzing data on the social and personal effects of marriage and child-bearing within the state of Louisiana." Which sounds like it could be okay, I guess, until you look, as Bilerico's Steve Ralls did, at who is sitting on the Commission...’Among those who have been appointed by Jindal to serve on the Commission are Tony Perkins (who hails from Baton Rouge), the president of the anti-gay advocacy group known as The Family Research Council . . . Gene Mills, executive director of the far-right Louisiana Family Forum . . . Mike Johnson, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund . . . and numerous members

of the clergy. All, Jindal has said, "have significant academic and/or professional expertise" on issues of marriage and family." [Jezebel, [1/6/09](#)]

- **Both Mike Johnson And Tony Perkins Was Appointed To The Re-Established Commission By Governor Jindal.** "Appointments to the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family...Mike Johnson, of Shreveport...Tony Perkins, of Baton Rouge..." [Bayou Buzz, Wayback Machine, [1/5/09](#)]

In 2010, The Board Of Trustees For The Never-Opened Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, Which Included Tony Perkins, Invited Mike Johnson To Be The School's "Inaugural Dean."

In 2010, Mike Johnson Was Announced As The "Inaugural Dean" Of The Pressler School Of Law

2010: Mike Johnson Was Invited To Be The "Inaugural Dean" Of The Judge Paul Pressler School Of Law. "J. Michael Johnson Esq., as he was then known professionally, was hired in 2010 to be the "inaugural dean" of the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, named for a Southern Baptist Convention luminary who was instrumental in the faith group's turn to the political right in the 1980s." [The Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

- **Pressler School Of Law Was Connected To Louisiana College, A Christian College In Pineville, Louisiana.** "PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—Louisiana College has announced the creation of the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, with classes slated to begin in the fall of 2009. "I have been asked over and over again, 'Why a law school?'" the college's president, Joe Aguillard, said at an Aug. 16 news conference at the Pineville campus. And: "Why a Christian law school?"... Judiciary action is causing the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments to be removed from many of the nation's schools "and in their place we are putting metal detectors — to keep our children from killing each other," Alexander said." [Baptist Press, [8/22/07](#)]
- **The School Was Named After Judge John Paul Pressler, A Southern Baptist Who Helped Move The Christian Denomination To The Political Right In The 1980s.** "J. Michael Johnson Esq., as he was then known professionally, was hired in 2010 to be the "inaugural dean" of the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, named for a Southern Baptist Convention luminary who was instrumental in the faith group's turn to the political right in the 1980s." [The Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

Tony Perkins Was On The School's Board Of Trustees Which Invited Johnson To Be Dean

Perkins Was On the Board Of Trustees For The Pressler Law School, Which Invited Mike Johnson To Be Its Dean. "The board of trustees who brought Johnson onboard included Tony

Perkins, a longtime mentor who is now the president of the Family Research Council in Washington, a powerhouse Christian lobbying organization that the Southern Poverty Law Center classifies as an anti-gay “hate group.” [The Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

The School Never Opened After Johnson Struggled To Secure Funding For The New Institution

Mike Johnson Initially Announced That Louisiana College Wanted To Raise \$22.7 Million For Its New Law School. “Johnson announced in July 2011 that LC wanted to raise \$22.7 million for the law school and that the school already was “almost a third of the way there.” Sources at the school said nearly all of those donations were in the form of pledges for contributions that would be made after the law school opened.” [Daily Advertiser, [5/8/14](#)]

However, Johnson Struggled To Secure Funding For The Institution. “Bringing Johnson into the school’s leadership helped further those ambitions. As dean of the proposed law school, Johnson embarked on a major fundraising campaign and described a big-dollar event in Houston with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, then-Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Pressler, according to an account Johnson wrote in a 2011 alumni magazine. But he struggled to draw an adequate amount of cash while drama percolated behind the scenes.” [The Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

- **By 2014, Louisiana College Had Only Spent \$5.5 Million On The Project.** “Louisiana College has spent about \$5.5 million on a law school that never opened its doors nor admitted a student.” [Daily Advertiser, [5/8/14](#)]

Mike Johnson Resigned From The Pressler School Of Law In 2012

Mike Johnson Resigned From The Position Of Dean In The Fall Of 2012 In Order To Start His Pro Bono Law Firm, Freedom Guard. “Johnson resigned in the fall of 2012 and went back to litigating for Christian causes. He also started a new pro-bono firm, Freedom Guard, which Perkins served as a director, business filings show.” [The Associated Press, [10/31/23](#)]

In The Mid-2010s, Before His Election To Congress, Mike Johnson Was The President Of Freedom Guard, A Louisiana-Based Christian Nonprofit Law Group, Whose Board Included Tony Perkins.

Mike Johnson Founded The Law Firm Freedom Guard In 2014

June 2014: Mike Johnson Incorporated Freedom Guard In Louisiana.

SECRETARY OF STATE



Agent Affidavit and Acknowledgement of Acceptance

Charter Number: 41556848N

Charter Name: FREEDOM GUARD, INC.

The agent / agents listed below accept the appointment of registered agent for and on behalf of the Charter Name above.

Date Responded	Agent(s)	Agent(s) Electronic Signature
06/18/2014	JAMES JOHNSON	JAMES JOHNSON

[Freedom Guard articles of incorporation, [6/18/14](#)]

- **Mike Johnson's Full Name Is James Michael Johnson.** "The Republican-controlled House voted, 220-208, to make the 51-year-old Johnson—full name James Michael Johnson—the 56th speaker in history." [Biography, [10/26/23](#)]

Freedom Guard Was A Nonprofit Legal Organization Based In Bossier, Louisiana.
"Freedom Guard is a not-for-profit legal organization..." [Wayback Machine, [freedomguardnow.org, 3/7/16](#)]

- **Freedom Guard Stated On Its Website That It Took On Cases Involving "Religious Liberty, The Sanctity Of Human Life, And Traditional American Values."** "Freedom Guard is a not-for-profit legal organization dedicated to the defense of religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and traditional American values." [Wayback Machine, [freedomguardnow.org, 3/7/16](#)]

Tony Perkins Was A Founding Director Of Freedom Guard And Served On The Board Until The Firm Was Dissolved

Tony Perkins Served Joined The Board Of Freedom Guard When The Law Firm Was Founded In 2014.

TONY PERKINS (Director)
801 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

[Freedom Guard articles of incorporation, [6/18/14](#)]

- **The Address Associated With Tony Perkins On Freedom Guard's Articles Of Incorporation Was For The Family Research Council's Headquarters In Washington D.C.**



[Family Research Council, accessed [10/31/23](#)]

Tony Perkins Was Still A Director At Freedom Guard When The Organization Was Dissolved.

Officer:	TONY PERKINS
Title:	Director
Address 1:	801 G STREET NW
City, State, Zip:	WASHINGTON, DC 20001
Officer:	JAMES JOHNSON
Title:	President
Address 1:	2250 HOSPITAL DRIVE, STE. 248
City, State, Zip:	BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111

[Louisiana Secretary of State, accessed [10/31/23](#)]

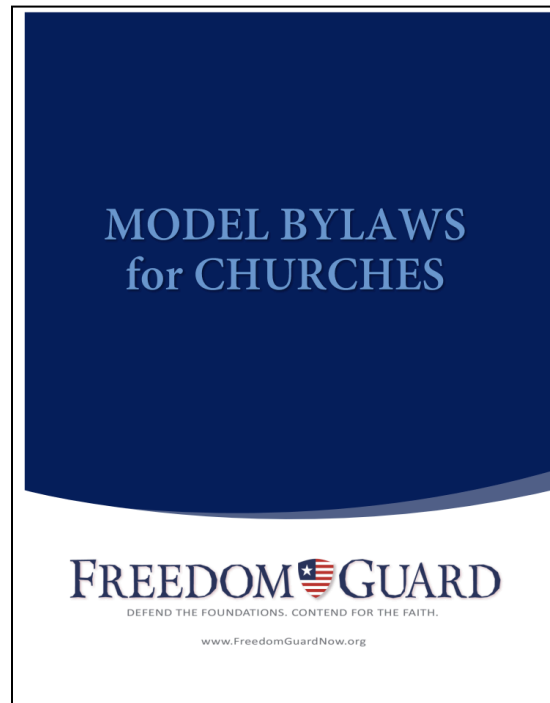
- **May 2021: Freedom Guard Was Dissolved.**

Amendments on File (2)	
Description	Date
Revoked	10/2/2020
Affidavit to Dissolve	5/6/2021

[Louisiana Secretary of State, accessed [10/31/23](#)]

Freedom Guard Developed Model By-Laws For Christian Organizations That Described Homosexuality As A “Sexual Immorality” Akin To Bestiality And Incest

August 2015: Freedom Guard Published Model Bylaws For Churches And Christian Organizations.



[Louisiana Baptists, [8/2015](#)]

The Model Bylaws Include A Sample Statement Of Faith That Compared Homosexuality To Bestiality And Incest.

Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

[Louisiana Baptists, [8/2015](#)]

Freedom Guard Represented Ark Encounter, A Creationist Theme Park In Kentucky, After The State Threatened To Rescind Tourism Tax Incentives Over The Park’s Discriminatory Hiring Practices

Ark Encounter Is A Theme Park Located In Williamstown, Kentucky, Which Features A Model Of The Biblical Noah’s Ark. “Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah’s Ark, built

according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. Ark Encounter is situated in beautiful Grant County in Williamstown, Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati and Lexington and right off I-75." [Ark Encounter, accessed [10/30/2023](#)]

- **In 2014, Ark Encounter, LLC, Was Owned By A Nonprofit Subsidiary Of Answers In Genesis, A Christian Creationist Ministry.** "The long-planned attraction is being built by a nonprofit subsidiary of Answers in Genesis, the Kentucky-based Christian ministry that operates the popular and controversial Creation Museum." [The Guardian, [12/11/14](#)]

December 2014: The State Of Kentucky Rescinded An Estimated \$18 Million In Tourism Tax Incentives That Had Initially Been Promised To Ark Encounter After The Group Reneged On A Pledge Not To Discriminate In Hiring On The Basis Of Religious Belief.

"Kentucky has withdrawn its offer of tax breaks for a religious-themed park that would feature a 500ft-long wooden ark because its organisers plan to screen park employees based on religion... The project had received preliminary approval in July for up to \$18m in tax rebates. Governor Steve Beshear, who had supported the project since it was unveiled in 2010, said in a written statement on Wednesday that the leaders of the project had gone back on a pledge not to discriminate in hiring." [The Guardian, [12/11/14](#)]

In 2015, Ark Encounter Hired Mike Johnson And His Public Interest Law Firm In Its Fight To Retain The Tourism Tax Incentives.

"Working for Freedom Guard, a non-profit proclaiming a commitment to defending religious liberty, Johnson was hired by Answers in Genesis, a creationist ministry, in 2015, after the state of Kentucky rescinded an offer of tourism tax incentives for the project in Williamstown, citing discrimination against non-Christians." [The Guardian, [10/26/23](#)]

- **Mike Johnson Founded Freedom Guard And Served As Its Chief Executive Officer And Chief Counsel.** "In Louisiana and beyond, that work is being handled very effectively these days by a public interest law firm known as Freedom Guard. This not-for-profit legal organization is dedicated to defending faith and freedom through landmark litigation, strategic counsel, education initiatives, and public advocacy. The work of the organization is led by CEO and Chief Counsel Mike Johnson, a nationally recognized constitutional law attorney who is a member of the Louisiana Legislature, and who formerly served as Senior Legal Counsel and media spokesman for the Alliance Defending Freedom, and as a trustee of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention." [The Bridge, [8/2015](#)]

Ark Encounter Eventually Won Their Case In Federal District Court After The Judge Ruled That The State Could Not Discriminate Against The Organization On The Basis Of Religion.

"A federal judge ruled Monday that Kentucky officials violated the ark builders' First Amendment protections by blocking it from the sales tax tourism incentive that could have been worth up to \$18 million... A spokeswoman for Gov. Matt Bevin said Tuesday that the state has no plans to appeal, adding that they were pleased with U.S. District Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove's ruling. The Ark Encounter, being built by Christian group Answers in Genesis, is due to open in July. Van Tatenhove ruled the state's Tourism Cabinet cannot exclude the ark attraction from the incentive based on its "religious purpose and message." The state initially celebrated the project but reversed course in late 2014." [WCPO, [1/25/16](#)]

However, Ark Encounter Eventually Lost The Tax Incentives After A Breach Of Contract In 17.

"The Ark Encounter is losing a major tax break of \$18 million for breach of contract.

Weeks after the Ark Encounter celebrated its one year anniversary, the state's tourism agency pulled the plug on millions in tax breaks. The Tourism Art and Heritage Cabinet claims Answers in Genesis, the group that built the Ark, broke an incentives agreement by transferring the property to a nonprofit affiliate." [WDRB, [7/21/23](#)]

- **The Owner Of Ark Encounter, Ken Ham, Sold The Multi-Million Dollar Property To His Own Nonprofit For \$10 In What Appeared To Be An Attempt To Avoid Paying A New Safety Tax.** "Not satisfied enough with winning a court battle worth \$18 million in tax rebates after convincing a judge that his for-profit business, which is actively using religion as a form of employment discrimination, he has now sold the land the theme park sits on, worth \$48 million, to his own non-profit entity, Crosswater Canyon, for \$10. You read that right, ten dollars...This allows Ham to claim his land is a non-profit and not subject to the new safety tax passed by city officials which would have collected 50 cents of every entry ticket sold. This move also worries local politicians and residents because it sets up the park to claim exemption from all other taxes as well that includes the funding of public schools." [Huffington Post, [7/18/17](#)]

Ken Ham Quickly Sold Ark Encounter Back To His For-Profit Entity To Retain The Tax Incentives. "Faced with losing \$18 million in tax incentives, the Ark Encounter operators sold the ark property back to their for-profit entity on Monday. This will likely mean the state will restore the tax incentives for the Noah's Ark-themed attraction in Grant County, a rural county about a 45-minute drive south from Cincinnati. Kentucky halted the Ark Encounter's tax incentives last week when tourism officials determined the attraction breached its agreement with the state after its ownership changed to nonprofit. This property maneuver has happened while the Ark Encounter and city of Williamstown feud over a 50-cent safety fee." [Cincinnati Enquirer, [7/25/17](#)]



In 2016, Tony Perkins Maxxed Out His Contributions To Mike Johnson's Congressional Campaign, Which FRC Action Endorsed (As Well As In All Subsequent Elections).

Tony Perkins Contributed \$2,700 To Mike Johnson's Campaign When He First Ran For Congress In 2016

Mike Johnson Ran For The United States House In Louisiana's 4th Congressional District In 2016. A total of eight candidates filed to run and competed in the primary election on November 8, 2016. Of those eight, Marshall Jones (D) and Mike Johnson (R) advanced to the general election which was held on December 10, 2016. Johnson subsequently defeated Jones in the general election. [Ballotpedia, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **December 2016: Mike Johnson Won A Run-Off Election With More Than Two-Thirds Of The Vote (In A Reliably Safe Republican District).** "Heading into the

election, Ballotpedia rated this race as safely Republican.”

U.S. House, Louisiana District 4 General Election, 2016				[Collapse]
PARTY	CANDIDATE		VOTE %	VOTES
 Republican	✓Mike Johnson		65.2%	87,370
 Democratic	Marshall Jones		34.8%	46,579
Total Votes				133,949

[Ballotpedia, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Tony Perkins Donated \$2,700 To Mike Johnson’s Campaign.

Contributor name	Recipient	State	Employer	Receipt date	Amount
PERKINS, ANTHONY	MIKE JOHNSON FOR LOUISIANA	LA	FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL	03/28/2016	\$2,700.00

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **The Federal Limit On Personal Contributions To Candidates Was \$2,700 During The 2015-2016 Election Cycle.** “Under the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act), certain contribution limits are indexed for inflation every two years, based on the change in the cost of living since 2001, which is the base year for adjusting these limits. The inflation-adjusted limits are: The limits on contributions made by persons to candidates (increased to \$2,700 per election, per candidate) (52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(1)(A))...”
[Federal Election Commission, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Family Research Council Action’s Associated Political Action Committee Has Endorsed Mike Johnson In Every Election Cycle Since 2016

FRC Action PAC Is “An Extension Of Family Research Council Action’s Efforts” And Is Funded By FRC Action Members. “FRC Action PAC is strategically used to support pro-family candidates and pro-family issues in elections around the country. It was established as an extension of Family Research Council Action’s efforts to bring to public office men and women who will protect, defend, and promote the sanctity of life, natural marriage, strong families, and religious freedom. It is funded by FRC Action members.”

- **2016: FRC Action PAC Endorsed Mike Johnson.**

LOUISIANA
John Kennedy – U.S. Senate - WON
Mike Johnson - U.S. House of Representatives, 4 th Congressional District – WON

[FRC Action PAC, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **2018: FRC Action PAC Endorsed Mike Johnson.**

Louisiana

69. John Raymond – Louisiana House of Representatives, 90th District

FRCA True Blue Members of Congress

70. Steve Scalise - U.S. House of Representatives, 1st Congressional District

71. Clay “Captain” Higgins - U.S. House of Representatives, 3rd Congressional District

72. Mike Johnson - U.S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District

73. Ralph Abraham - U.S. House of Representatives, 5th Congressional District

74. Garrett Graves - U.S. House of Representatives, 6th Congressional District

[FRC Action PAC, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **2020: FRC Action PAC Endorsed Mike Johnson.**

Louisiana

FRCA True Blue Members of Congress

- Bill Cassidy – U.S. Senate
- Steve Scalise – U.S. House of Representatives District 1
- Clay Higgins – U.S. House of Representatives District 3
- Mike Johnson – U.S. House of Representatives District 4
- Garret Graves – U.S. House of Representatives District 6

[FRC Action PAC, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

- **2022: FRC Action PAC Endorsed Mike Johnson.**

Louisiana

Mike Johnson – U.S. House of Representative District 4

[FRC Action PAC, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Family Research Council Action Awarded Mike Johnson Its True Blue Award For Receiving A 100% Voting Record On FRC Action Scorecards Multiple Times

Family Research Council Action Awards Its “True Blue” Award To Members Of Congress Who Get A 100% On The Group’s Voting Scorecard In At Least One Of The Past Two Years. “Family Research Council Action (FRC Action) announced today its “True Blue” award winners for the Second Session of the 116th Congress and the First Session of the 117th Congress. The annual award recognizes the members of Congress who displayed unwavering commitment and support of faith, family, and freedom. Of the 223 members of Congress who voted “True Blue” in at least one of the past two years, 55 senators and 168 representatives scored a perfect 100 percent on FRC Action’s 2020 Vote Scorecard and/or 2021 Vote Scorecard.” [FRC Action, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Received The True Blue Award In 2018.



[Wikimedia Commons, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Received The True Blue Award In 2020.

<p>Louisiana</p> <p>FRCA True Blue Members of Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill Cassidy – U.S. Senate• Steve Scalise – U.S. House of Representatives District 1• Clay Higgins – U.S. House of Representatives District 3• Mike Johnson – U.S. House of Representatives District 4• Garret Graves – U.S. House of Representatives District 6

[FRC Action PAC, accessed [11/1/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Received The True Blue Award In 2022.



[Wikimedia Commons, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Was (And Perhaps Still Is) A Member Of The Council For National Policy, A Secretive Conservative Organization Whose Founding Executive Director Was Woody Jenkins And Whose Current Board Includes Tony Perkins.

Louis “Woody” Jenkins Was The Founding Executive Director Of The Council For National Policy, A Secretive Conservative Organization Consisting Of Corporations, GOP Officials, Extremists, Including Tony Perkins

Woody Jenkins Served As The First Executive Director Of The Council For National Policy In The Early 1980s. “More than 50 well-known conservatives today convened the Council for National Policy, a new group they hope will gain influence much as they believe liberals have in such organizations as the Council on Foreign Relations. Louis (Woody) Jenkins, the group’s executive director and twice a losing Senate candidate in Louisiana, said the meeting had concentrated on individual statements of personal and national goals and on such subjects as how conservatives could best influence such matters as judicial appointments.” [The New York Times, [5/20/81](#)]

- **The Council For National Policy (CNP) Is A Intensely Secretive Group Of The Most Powerful Conservatives In The Country.** “Three times a year for 23 years, a little-known club of a few hundred of the most powerful conservatives in the country have met behind closed doors at undisclosed locations for a confidential conference, the Council for National Policy, to strategize about how to turn the country to the right.” [New York Times, [8/28/04](#)]

- **The Southern Poverty Law Center Described The CNP As A Shadowy Organization Building The Conservative Movement.** “For 35 years, a shadowy and intensely secretive group has operated behind the scenes, providing a venue three times a year for powerful American politicians and others on the right to meet privately to build the conservative movement.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, [5/17/16](#)]
- **A Leaked Member List Revealed That The CNP Includes Representatives Of Major Corporations, Trump Administration Officials, Extremists, Conspiracy Theorists, And Numerous SPLC-Listed Hate Groups, Among Others.** “The document – which reveals email addresses and phone numbers for most members – shows that the CNP includes members of SPLC-listed hate groups... Along with these representatives of extremist positions, the CNP rolls include members of ostensibly more mainstream conservative groups, and representatives of major American corporations. Still others come from the Republican party, a network of rightwing activist organizations, and the companies and foundations that back them.” [The Guardian, [9/30/21](#)]

Tony Perkins Is A Former President And Current Director Of The Council For National Policy

Tony Perkins Appeared On The Group’s Leaked Membership List, As Of January 2022.

Council for National Policy Membership Directory		
<input type="text" value="Tony Perkins"/>		
Name	Position	Organization
The Honorable Tony Perkins	President	Family Research Council

[Documented, [3/18/22](#)]

The Most Recent Form 990 For The Council For National Policy Identified Tony Perkins As A Director Of The Council For National Policy.

(22) TONY PERKINS	1.00	x							0	0	0
DIRECTOR											

[Council for National Policy, [Form 990](#), 2021]

Tony Perkins Became President Of The Council For National Policy In 2014.

(16) ANTHONY PERKINS	1.00		x						0	0	0
PRESIDENT											

[Council for National Policy, [Form 990](#), 2014]


- **Tony Perkins Term As President Of The Council For National Policy Ended In 2018.**

(18) ANTHONY PERKINS	1.00		x						0	0	0
PRESIDENT											

[Council for National Policy, [Form 990](#), 2018]

Mike Johnson Was Named In Council For National Policy Membership Lists In 2012 And 2013

Mike Johnson Was Named In The 2012 Council For National Policy Membership Directory.

<p>Mr. J. Michael Johnson, Esq. (Spouse: Mrs. Kelly Johnson) Work Founding Dean and Professor of Law Louisiana School of Law P.O. Box 52954 Shreveport, LA 71135 Contact Information [REDACTED]</p>	 <p>Mr. J. Michael Johnson, Esq. Founding Dean and Professor of Law Judge Paul Pressler School of Law</p>
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[Documented, [11/6/23](#)]

Mike Johnson Was Named In The 2013 Council For National Policy Membership Directory. “Mike Johnson is named as a member in various CNP membership lists from both 2012 and 2013.” [Documented, [11/6/23](#)]

In October 2019, Johnson Spoke At A Closed-Door Council For National Policy Event Where He Called Tony Perkins One Of His “Biggest Heroes”

October 2019: Mike Johnson Addressed The Council For National Policy.



[YouTube, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

- **At The Event, Mike Johnson Credited Tony Perkins As One Of His “Biggest Heroes.”** “Tonight, as I’ve walked around, I mean, probably all of my biggest heroes are in this room tonight. I mean, I grew up in the movement...And Tony Perkins, I was his bag boy. I’m not kidding. I was a young lawyer, and I just wanted to learn, and so, I followed those guys around.” [YouTube, accessed [11/3/23](#)]

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