

## **Two Battle Fields for Life: Politics and the Public Square**

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February 11, 2020

Thank you for coming to breakfast this morning to hear political candidates for the U. S. Congress on matters of life and death.

We are seated less than 2 miles from the abortion facility of one of the eight Texas cities where death sentences for pre-born babies are carried out. We are called to defend the defenseless in the political arena and more broadly in the “public square.” The battle lines are not drawn fairly. Pro-abortion voices dominate our courts, our universities, K-12 education, the vocal business community, the entertainment industries, and the mainstream “news” media. There is little value for us in complaining about the advantages of our opposition. To defeat the pro-abortion Goliath, we must be much more wise, strong and prayerful to overcome our handicaps.

For over two decades, Pro-Life Waco has delivered public square outreach to our Central Texas neighbors. Public square outreach is engaging our neighbors who agree with us and those who don't in locations where they do not expect to receive the pro-life message. Pro-Life Waco does this with signs we hold on and over the streets of Waco, with print publications, on the airwaves, and in our yards where we proclaim that our families stand against the abortion atrocity.

Politics and public square outreach interact to either elevate or diminish support for life. Texas and national politics can deliver life-saving legislation to the extent the electorate is mobilized in opposition to the shedding of innocent blood. Public square outreach must create a pro-life parade. And then we hope and pray that political leaders will lead that parade in the political arena.

The impact of public square outreach can directly influence our neighbors as well as indirectly bring change through legislation. Yes, it is possible that the yard sign at your home or the sign you hold at pedestrian overpass outreach will help turn a heart and mind to a decision for life, love, and Christ.

This morning we will ask questions of our fellow citizens who have stepped into the political arena as candidates for public office. We want to be assured that we will have their vote in Washington. More importantly, we want to be assured that candidates will speak and otherwise communicate to help change hearts and minds to support for innocent life. And when political leaders make defense of innocent life their priority, we want them to know we will have their back in the public square.