



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Election Preview – Part 2

Guest(s): Gary Bauer

Air Date: October 6, 2026

- Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson, and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.
- Roger Marsh: Well, welcome once again to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh. Family Talk, of course, is the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. And today on the program, part two of my conversation with Gary Bauer, our senior vice president of public policy here at the Dr. James Dobson Policy and Culture Center. He's the host of the Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom podcast, which you can subscribe to at jdfi.org or also at Apple, Spotify, OnePlace, wherever you get your podcasts. We're talking about Christians and voting and why the 2026 midterm election could shape up to be one of the most, if not the defining moment in American history. And I know, Gary, not to sound like a broken record, and for those of you who may not be familiar, records are those vinyl recordings that you put on the turntable and they spin around. And sometimes when they break, it would just sit there and stop at the same place over and over again. But this, I mean, this really is where we're not, this is not a false alarm that we're sounding here.
- Gary Bauer: No, it really isn't, Roger. And, you know, there's caucuses inside the Congress. So there's a black caucus and there's a really conservative caucus that's even more conservative than the typical Republican. I think there's a Hispanic caucus and so forth. I believe we will have a socialist caucus in the House of Representatives this November.
- Roger Marsh: There will be that many socialists in the House.
- Gary Bauer: Yes.
- Roger Marsh: Wow.
- Gary Bauer: And of course, I want to remind people again, because there's a lot of confusion about what a socialist is. Marx himself said socialism is the first step to Marxism. And Marxism is always godless. And most of the socialists that are running are radical secularists. They not only don't believe in God or they're agnostics, but they mock those of us that do believe in God. And they call those of us that love God and love America Christian nationalists, which is sort of a scary sounding term. I grew up, everybody I knew were people that loved America. That was

the World War II generation, my father's generation. They loved America and they loved God. So this is a really incredible moment in America. And I don't know if all of our listeners are paying enough attention to know some of the things these candidates are promoting. They're talking about adding five or more additional justices to the Supreme Court.

Now, just think about that for a second, because that means those appointees are not going to be believers. They're going to be secularists. They're going to be pro-abortion. They're going to be in favor of the LGBTQ agenda. And people might say, "Well, Donald Trump's still president. He'll be able to stop that." Well, Donald Trump will be stopped from putting the kind of justices he wants on the Supreme Court if these people get control of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives.

They have proposed making the District of Columbia, which voted 90, literally 98% for Kamala Harris, they're proposing that it be made a state. And that can be done by just a simple majority vote in the United States Congress. It doesn't need a supermajority or any of that. So they are intending to do things that will make it literally impossible for people like us ever to win another election again.

Roger Marsh:

You know, whoever coined the phrase democratic socialist probably got a big raise from the DNC or whoever was behind this because they have done just a spectacular job. And I mean this from a marketing standpoint of how they couch and phrase the way that they are literally seeking to destroy and ruin our nation. Remember a couple of years ago, we had Allie Beth Stuckey here on the program. And she was talking about a book that she'd written called *Toxic Empathy*, which is such a great way to describe what they do, where they take Christian values and turn them against Christians for not supporting democratic socialist policies like transgenderism and abortion even after the labor and delivery takes place. And a lot of Christians fall victim to it. "Well, I don't want to be seen as a mean person. I don't want to be seen as a person who hates America or doesn't love my neighbor. So therefore, I have to go along with this, right?"

And Gary, I appreciate the fact that you're telling us and encouraging us, no, we don't. If anything, don't let the Democrat and Democratic Socialists lull you into a false sense of security that this is just another extension of the Democrat Party. This is an overtaking of the Democrat Party. I mean, it really is. It's what would have happened a lot sooner on a more national level if the Harris ticket had actually been successful in 2024. I think we'd be looking at that now. So this is a chance for us to kind of keep a stick in the door and keep that door open from getting it slammed shut on what's happening and that will happen at the polls and here we are in the first week in October, it's already happening because of early voting.

Gary Bauer:

Yes, it is happening, and the early voting is so important, Roger. I mean, in many places, you can go in person and early vote, or you can mail in your vote. Now, most of us have had real misgivings about mail-in voting. There was a

commission set up, I believe, under Jimmy Carter that looked at mail-in voting, and they concluded it was the form of voting that was most likely to be undermined by fraud and cheating for obvious reasons because the vote is sometimes out of your possession and it goes into the post office of what happens there and so forth. But nonetheless, we haven't been able to change that. And if the left votes early, we got to be sure that we get our vote out early, too. I remember just a couple of years ago, there was an election in Pennsylvania. And our people, most of them, waited until Election Day. And what happened? There was a hailstorm on Election Day in that part of Pennsylvania. And our side had to spend millions of dollars literally driving four-wheel vehicles to people's homes to try to get them in to vote in time. So we don't want to wait to the last minute. You could get sick. There could be an emergency in your home.

You just got to vote and do it the most convenient way you can. If you don't like to mail in, then go to the polling places early. Most states now have a couple week period where there's polls where you can go, go into the booth. Do your voting and then you can rest and just watch the election returns at election night and hopefully celebrate with the rest of us when the votes are counted.

Roger Marsh:

You know, another thing that has been happening more and more is there are certain states that have been banning a process called ballot harvesting, where people can collect ballots from other people and take them in. I mean, it's a type of thing where, you know, quite frankly, if you have an elderly parent, for example, and they can't physically get out. Like my mom's 93 and she hasn't been in a car in years. She's not going to drive anywhere to go and do this. My sister helps her vote and she votes by mail and she fills out the form and puts a stamp on, puts it in the post office box, or she'll drop it off at the polling place. And that's legal in a state like California. In some places, it's not.

But Gary, you can imagine, we've heard the stories. There was a story just recently about a guy who was in Skid Row in Los Angeles who was going around to homeless people and getting them to sign certain things so they look like they were registered voters and then stuffing ballot boxes. And it's just, it's the idea that the elections need to be fair and need to be, you know, level and balanced. It's never been more critical than now. And I think, quite frankly, when you see who is accusing whom of actually doing the cheating, as it were, the reality is 60 percent of Americans in the 2024 election voted either early in person or they voted by mail. And that when that happens, the idea is that gives everybody enough time to get the ballot, to count it, to look at it, this, that, and the other thing. But some states will sit on them toward the end.

And don't you find it a little odd? I think Pennsylvania was another one of those commonwealths as well, that during the 2020 election had a groundswell of ballots that showed up after the election, three days after the election, four days after the election, there's a big battle right now going on in the courts as to when you can actually mail in your ballot, when it actually "counts." And I think it's just interesting to see how many people are finally, kind of taking the

blinders off and saying, like you said, if I wait till the first Tuesday in November and there might be a hailstorm or an earthquake or a flood or something like that that keeps us from actually voting, we have to be as Christians more proactive to get our vote in and make sure it actually counts.

Gary Bauer: Absolutely. You know, I noticed all the way back in the Reagan years this unusual phenomena. There would be elections, and sometimes they were close, and you would think that our side had won. And then the news would break that one of the people that worked at the polls was at home, and he opened his trunk a couple days later. Oh, my goodness.

Roger Marsh: Look what I found.

Gary Bauer: There was a box of ballots there that he forgot to drop off.

Roger Marsh: How'd that get there? Yeah.

Gary Bauer: Yes. Yeah, and the really interesting thing about it, Roger, which made me, you know, I'm just a country boy, but made me a little suspicious. Every time they would find one of those boxes of ballots in somebody's trunks, all the ballots in there were people that voted Democrat. Wouldn't you think?

Roger Marsh: No, You're kidding.

Gary Bauer: That over time, there would be as many Republican-lost boxes of ballots as Democrats. So, folks, we know there's cheating, but you can't let the cheating discourage you and lead you to stay home or to turn off from the system. You still have to vote. And we're making here in Washington a much better effort. The President's doing this. Our friends in Congress are doing this to make sure that every vote, every legal vote is counted and no other votes are counted. So a lot of money will be spent for poll watchers, lawyers, and so forth. If you don't vote because of the cheating, the cheaters have won twice.

Roger Marsh: Right.

Gary Bauer: They've cast an illegal vote and they've stopped you from casting your legal vote.

Roger Marsh: Speaking of legal voting, as Christians, we believe, you know, we look at the words of Jesus. We were talking in our last get together, Gary, about James Talarico, who is running for the Senate as a Democrat in the state of Texas. He is a seminarian at Austin Seminary, which is a part of the Presbyterian Church USA, which is about as far left as you can get in terms of, "Christian seminaries."

Gary Bauer: Yes.

Roger Marsh: And yet when you think about, you know, the things that he was part of an interview he gave recently to Jimmy Kimmel, he said, "You know, if Jesus were

to go to the Senate floor, I believe he would say,” and he pulls out Matthew 25, and, you know, “I was sick and you cut off my Obamacare.” He was going on and on and on about things that he believes Jesus would say. Well, we know that when it came to government, Jesus said, give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and give to God the things that are God's. To which I've always thought, okay, that means, well, be a good citizen, pay your taxes, obey the law. And if you have the opportunity to vote, vote. You really should.

And we have an e-book in our Dr. James Dobson Family Resource Center at drjamesdobson.org. We have an e-book called *Voting and the Church, Why Christians Engage the Public Square*. I encourage you to click on drjamesdobson.org and search for that title because that e-book was very, very popular during the last election cycle. And I know it's going to help a lot of people too who might be sitting on the fence and saying, gosh, I don't know. You know, I mean, it just seems like I haven't voted recently or I don't always vote. And does my vote really count? And a lot of Christians, I'm just going to hold my nose and not vote for anybody because I don't think God wants me participating in this. Gary, give us a little bit of exhortation, if you will, here as to why it's so important for Christians to vote.

Gary Bauer: Yeah, Dr. Dobson and I did a couple tours around the country in a number of different election years. And we'd get these big crowds. And the whole purpose of these events we were doing was to tell those people they had to show up, just like they showed up for the event to listen to Dr. Dobson and myself and some others. That's the way they needed to show up on Election Day and in the pre-voting and so forth. In a constitutional republic like ours, Lincoln said the people are everything. So we have this incredible and still in many ways rare right to vote. And when we don't vote, we leave the public square to people who have a vision about what America should be and what our children ought to be taught about life and death, love and sex, freedom and slavery, quite different than the vision that we have. So if we don't show up, we set ourselves up for being governed by people who will be completely hostile to everything that we believe in.

Roger Marsh: Right.

Gary Bauer: Now, we've already lost, Roger, some important areas of public life. The teacher unions are virtually Marxist unions. I mean, I'm not exaggerating. The resolutions they pass at their conventions are resolutions that would shock the average parent. But it explains what we know is going on in a lot of classrooms. The same way with the faculties of our major universities. Why do so many people come, kids come out of our schools believing that socialism is a good thing and believing that free markets are a bad thing? Or think that socialism is better than a country like America that's a constitutional republic? So we've lost some of those areas. We can't afford to lose the governing part of America. And why is so much of what's going on aimed at confusing Christians? Why does Mr. Talarico suggest that Jesus would like his platform, would like Talarico's platform?

Roger Marsh: Yeah.

Gary Bauer: Look, if Jesus walked into the United States Senate, He wouldn't be yelling at those senators about why they had this amount of money or that amount of money in the food stamp program or in Obamacare. He would be going into the Senate saying, why did you vote to let My creation, those little innocent babies, be killed in the womb? He would be saying, why are you telling the little children that bear My image that they can choose what gender they want to be. The idea that Talarico would try to get Jesus to be a socialist endorsing his platform. And isn't it interesting, Roger, when a conservative Christian runs for office and quotes the Bible accurately? The same people like Talarico accuse us of violating the separation of church and state. So they want it both ways, but it shows you how important Christian voters are. They want to confuse us. They want to demoralize us. They want us to believe it doesn't matter because they know if we show up in proportion to our numbers, we will be able to save America again, just like has happened time after time after time.

Roger Marsh: You know, Gary, it was interesting this past weekend, Lisa and I were in church listening to our pastor talk about Joshua. And he was describing the different areas that Joshua and the Israelites literally were able to take. You know, once you get into the promised land, and then here are the different areas for the 12 tribes. And every single time, something I hadn't really put together, every single time God said, I am giving you this land, now go fight for it. And I thought, well, you know, here's the land. We just go in and we set up shop. But they met passionate, vicious hostility everywhere they went. But God said, but that's your land. So when you engage in the battle, I will fight with you and you will be victorious.

I wonder how many Christians are looking at Election Day 2026 in the same way, saying, look, God has given us this land based on the fact that we have acknowledged him. He's given us this country, this nation, and we've squandered it. I mean, in many different areas, as you mentioned. My parents were both public school teachers. They wouldn't recognize the California Teachers Association or the National Education Association based on what, I mean, my mom brought Dr. Dobson's film series to her public school.

Gary Bauer: Wow.

Roger Marsh: A third of the teachers used to meet in Bible study every Wednesday. I used to join them on occasion. That was in the early 1980s. Can you imagine something like that happening now? I mean, there's no way. And yet when it comes to the election, we don't necessarily need to take up arms per se. We have one of the strongest weapons. Well, we have two, the power of prayer and the ballot box. Talk about why this is where our new battlefield really is. And it is a battlefield. And if we don't engage, we run the risk of being run over.

Gary Bauer: Yes. I mean, look, we've had to fight wars in our past. The American Revolution was a war.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Gary Bauer: And we defied all the odds in order to be successful against the world's greatest power at the time. And if your kids weren't taught the real history of America, hopefully you were as a parent. I remember what that history taught, which was our founders knew the only way they could succeed was reliance on God.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Gary Bauer: And they built the whole republic on it. And then again, we had just a horrendous civil war over a basic question. Can one man own another man? Of course he can't. It took us longer than it probably should have to come to grips with that, but we did. We're the only nation that fought a civil war to end slavery. 600,000 people died. Abraham Lincoln wrote an inaugural address, his second inaugural address, that refers directly to the Bible or indirectly a dozen times, saying that it was God that both judged us for the sin of slavery, but also rescued us. Then World War II, we beat the Nazis and the Japanese warlords. The Cold War, we defeated Soviet communism. So we have had to fight wars, actual wars, that preserved us as one nation under God. Now, we just got to vote. We just got to be Christian citizens and fulfill that responsibility. And I actually think, Roger, it's a sin to not do that.

Roger Marsh: Agreed.

Gary Bauer: If Christ came back the day before Election Day, of course the election would be canceled and every knee would bend.

Roger Marsh: We wouldn't have this problem, yeah.

Gary Bauer: Right, every head would bow, but I wouldn't want to stand before the throne and try to explain why when elections were deciding whether this would be one nation under God or not, I decided to be a pacifist and sit it out. So it's really, really important. I don't want history to record that it was this generation of Christians that did not rise to the occasion, did not do what had to be done. And you mentioned what school used to be like with your parents, Christians, and teachers. Do you know, Roger, I was thinking about this the other day. If Martin Luther King were alive today, he was the Reverend Martin Luther King. He based his entire appeal for civil rights based on the idea that skin color was beside the point. We were made in the image of God, and the color of our skin is the least important thing about him. If he tried to give that message based on his Bible, biblical beliefs, he wouldn't be allowed in a public school today. It wouldn't be some white segregationist standing in the schoolhouse door. It would be the leftist controlling our school system that would say, hey, pastor, you can't come in here and start quoting the Bible. So think about how much we've already lost

and why we must draw the line now and come out by the millions in just a couple of weeks.

Roger Marsh:

Well, you know, Gary, it's interesting when you think about Dr. King and the way that he handled business, of course, biblically, the way that he organized people to rally against injustice, but their presence just showing up, you know. Turning the other cheek, I remember having a conversation on our program with Dr. Alveda King, Dr. King's niece, and describing the night that their home was almost firebombed. I think they firebombed the back of it and how she was so angry. She said, I hated every white person in our neighborhood. And she said, my dad went out very calmly and he said, I want everyone to go home. Just go home, all the neighbors that were around there. And he realized that half the people who were in the neighborhood didn't live in the neighborhood. They were part of this group that was there to kind of raise terror. She said, I learned so much about presence and about patience and about trusting God, but I also learned about what it means to show up.

And I think that this is the message that you're sending here and encouraging us to do, and our listeners here for Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk is to show up on Election Day. And you can do so ahead of time, too. As we mentioned before, nearly 60% of those who voted in the last general election in 2024 either did so early, they did it early in person, or they did it through the mail. If you have the opportunity to vote early, we encourage you to do so. It cuts down on voter fraud. If you are part of an organization like Pastor Jack Hibbs in Southern California, Jack's Church, Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, actually serves as a drop-off center where you can actually, they will harvest ballots there. You can drop it off and you don't have to worry about getting it turned in because they turn him in by the thousands. Be that place that says this election matters and take the words of Gary Bauer to heart saying that this, I mean, it really is a part of our sin nature to not want to get involved. And this is a place where we can stand up and get involved.

Gary, we've got 60 seconds left in our program time. Take the final moments of our time together here to really give us that final oomph, that get us across the finish line for election 2026.

Gary Bauer:

Well, Roger, as you know, I've been in this game a long time, and I'm going to make a little bit of a prediction here. I believe the night after the election, the day after the election, there may be as many as seven Senate seats and maybe several dozen House seats that are so close that there's going to be recounts or the counting will go on for a few days. And that means that if we show up, that we could be the difference in whether the House and Senate remain in conservative hands or not. It literally could get down to one extra vote in each precinct in a congressional district or each precinct in a state that will determine the election.

So you out there that go to church on Sunday and you go to work on Monday. You've got to be in the voting booth on Tuesday if you haven't already voted

because that can make the difference in whether or not your children and your grandchildren will grow up in a shining city on a hill.

Roger Marsh: I love that. And don't forget to visit us at drjamesdobson.org or call a member of our constituent care team at 877-732-6825. Ask about our e-book from the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute called *Voting and the Church, Why Christians Engage the Public Square*. Again, for more information on that, you'll find it by calling a member of our constituent care team at 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825. Or by going online to drjamesdobson.org, and just search for that title, Christians and the Right to Vote. And you can also get there even easier by just typing in jdfi.org as well.

Gary Bauer, always a pleasure. Thank you for this pep talk that we in the body of Christ desperately needed before the midterm election, 2026, and encourage our listeners to check out *Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom* with Gary Bauer, the podcast that comes out every other week through drjamesdobson.org as well. Gary, thanks for being with us today here on the program.

Gary Bauer: Thank you, Roger. I'm proud to be on the same team with you.

Roger Marsh: For all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for listening today. Be sure to join us again next time right here for the next edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.

This is Roger Marsh. Since 2010, the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute has been guiding families through life's challenges with God's wisdom, and it's made possible by your faithful generosity. Thank you for standing with us in our mission to defend faith, family, and freedom.