

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, May 2, 2025



## Trump's Latest Executive Order Would Shield Police From Accountability

This past Monday, the White House dropped yet another executive order, and this one includes a directive to the Department of Justice to defend and support local police who face liabilities on the job. That “support” includes financially backing law enforcement agencies and officers accused of misconduct.

If you're feeling particularly strong-stomached today, go ahead and read the whole executive order, which is earnestly titled “Strengthening and Unleashing America’s Law Enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens.”

While there's a lot to be worried about in the executive order regarding the administration's ardent and growing pursuit to arrest and deport “alien criminals,” the section I chose to zoom in on is how the federal backing of local police could further endanger the lives of protesters. As powerful waves of anti-Trump organizing continue all over the country – including protests planned for tomorrow – the nuance here is frighteningly timely. And the most vulnerable are organizers of color, particularly Black Americans.

See more: [apple.news](https://apple.news)

## Top News

- **Trump's Latest Executive Order Would Shield Police From Accountability**
- **Harvard antisemitism and Islamophobia task forces find widespread fear, bigotry**
- **Can charter schools be religious? If so, what does that mean for public education?**
- **The White House threatens sanctuary cities in another EO, but courts are skeptical**
- **White evangelicals remain Trump's staunchest supporters, Pew study finds**



Then-Republican presidential nominee President Donald Trump is prayed over with the Rev. Paula White during the National Faith Summit at Worship With Wonders Church -Anderson, Associated Press

# Harvard antisemitism and Islamophobia task forces find widespread fear, bigotry

Jewish and Muslim students at Harvard University faced bigotry and abuse as the Massachusetts campus was roiled by protests last year, according to two reports released on Tuesday that found many felt shunned by peers and professors for expressing political beliefs.

Harvard and other universities face extraordinary pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump's administration over allegations of antisemitism and leftist bias. The reports, jointly amounting to more than 500 pages, were the result of two task forces Harvard set up a year before Trump took office, one on combating antisemitism and anti-Israel bias, the other on combating anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-Palestinian bias.

Harvard President Alan Garber wrote in a letter accompanying the reports that they included "searing personal accounts" drawn from about 50 listening sessions with about 500 students and employees.

See more: [geo.tv](https://www.geo.tv)



Students walk on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US, April 15, 2025 - By Reuters

## Can charter schools be religious? If so, what does that mean for public education?

The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments Wednesday in a case that could transform public education in the United States. For the first time, the justices are being asked to decide whether overtly religious schools may be publicly funded charter schools.

Like 45 other states, Oklahoma has enacted a charter school system to allow some schools more flexibility, autonomy and specialization.

Under both the state and federal laws, charter schools are defined as public schools. They are established by the state, funded by the state, closely supervised by the state and can be unilaterally closed by the state. And most importantly for Wednesday's case, charter schools by law must be non-sectarian.

Enter St. Isidore of Seville Catholic School and two Catholic dioceses that tried to establish a virtual charter school for Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The school had the backing of the state school superintendent, but the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that allowing religious schools to become charter schools would violate both the state and federal constitutions.

See more: [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)



The U.S. Supreme Court



# The White House threatens sanctuary cities in another EO, but courts are skeptical



Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt (right) speaks as border czar Tom Homan looks on during a White House briefing on Monday. Andrew Thomas/AFP via Getty Images

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday aimed at identifying and potentially cutting off federal funds to sanctuary cities, part of a broader effort to target jurisdictions that limit their cooperation with immigration authorities.

The executive order directs the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to identify jurisdictions where local enforcement has declined to cooperate with the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

"It's quite simple," said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt during a press briefing on Monday morning. "Obey the law, respect the law, and don't obstruct federal immigration officials and law enforcement officials when they are simply trying to remove public safety threats from our nation's communities."

See more: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

## White evangelicals remain Trump's staunchest supporters, Pew study finds

President Donald Trump's first 100 days in office were filled with change and controversy — with the new president signing a record number of executive orders that included banning diversity efforts, feuding with some of the nation's largest universities, launching high-profile deportations and imposing tariffs that sent the stock market yo-yoing. For many Americans, it appears to be too much.

More than half (59%) said they disapprove of how Trump has done his job, with a similar (59%) number disapproving of his tariffs, according to a new report from the Pew Research Center, based on a survey of 3,589 U.S. adults in early April. More than half also disapprove of cuts to federal agencies (55%) and diversity, equity and inclusion programs (53%).

One group, however, seems to see his administration's efforts more positively. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of evangelicals indicated they approve of Trump's job performance as well as his actions on DEI programs (75%) and cuts to federal agencies (75%). About two-thirds (67%) approve of his tariff policies, according to the report released Monday (April 28).

See more: [religionnews.com](https://www.religionnews.com)



Faith leaders pray over President Donald Trump after he signed an executive order establishing the White House Faith Office, Feb. 7, 2025, in the Oval Office of the White House. (White House photo)

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DON'T  
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OUT!

SAVE THE DATE



WWW.CJCOUNCIL.ORG

25-28 SEPT.

# CJC2025

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

### OVERCOMING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

**EMBASSY SUITES**  
800 Monroe Street, SW  
Huntsville, AL 35801



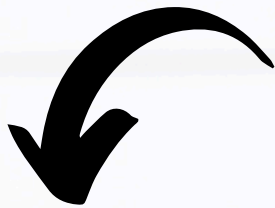
<https://register.adventsourceevents.org/2025CJCConvention>

REGISTER HERE



[cjcouncil.org](http://cjcouncil.org)

**NEXT FRIDAY!!!**



**100 DAYS LATER:**  
**ANALYZING CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE**

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GRADUATE FACULTY OF RELIGION  
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY

**PRESTON FOSTER**  
PROFESSOR  
HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
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THEOLOGY, ETHICS, AND CULTURE  
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**COURTNEY RAY**  
CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST  
ARRAY PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSESSMENTS

**HOSTS**

**PASTOR CRYSTON JOSIAH**  
PARL DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE  
CJC SECRETARY

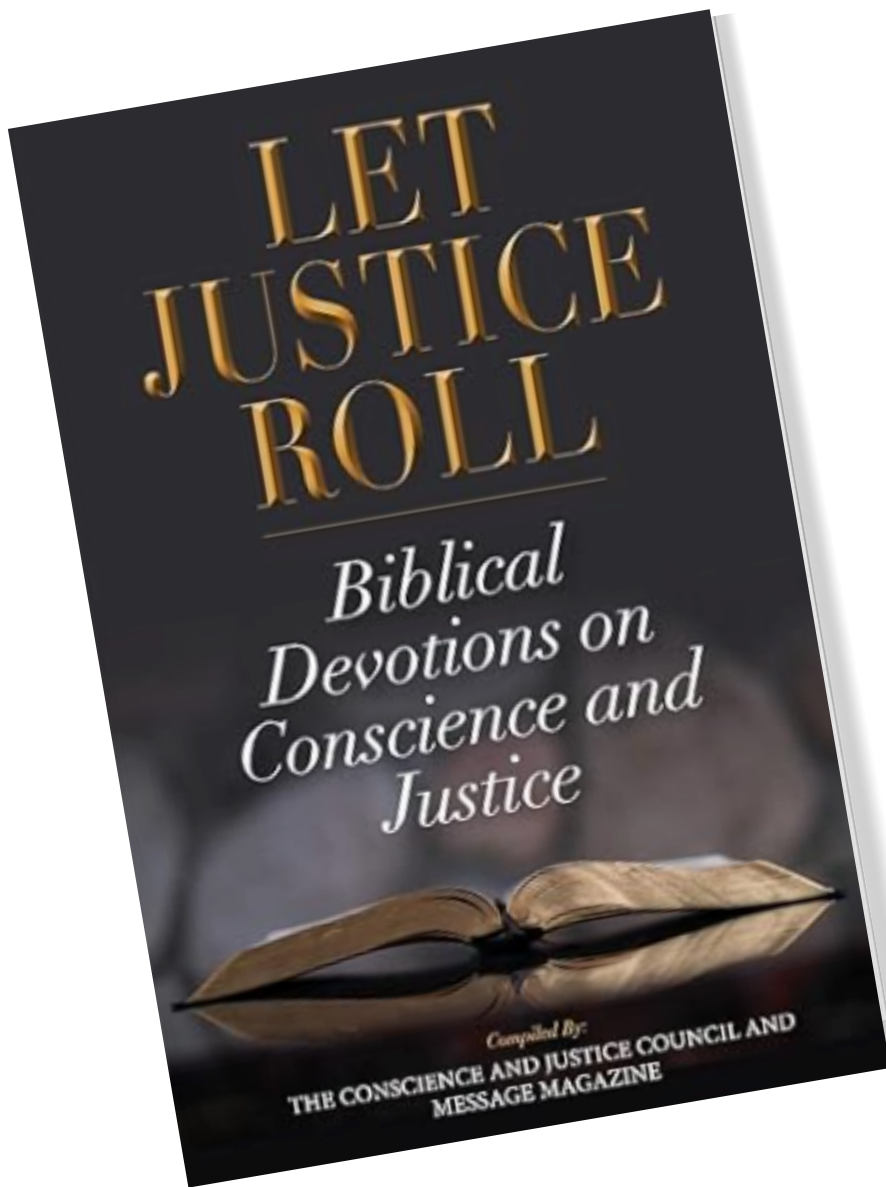
**EDWARD WOODS III**  
PARL DIRECTOR  
LAKE REGION CONFERENCE  
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**FRIDAY MAY. 16** | **8:00 PM EDT**  
**7:00 PM CDT**

**LIVE STREAM**  
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**TUNE IN TO  
PANEL  
DISCUSSION!**





## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

Order your copy [HERE](#)



## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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