

Pastors for Trump

Public-Interest Risk Analysis

Micro, Mezzo, Macro, and Presidential-Access Considerations

Purpose and Evidence Standard

This brief assesses foreseeable governance, safeguarding, public-trust, and influence risks when pastoral authority, political mobilization, fundraising, media reach, campaign activity, and claimed governmental access overlap. It does not accuse Pastors for Trump, Sheridan Church, Jackson Lahmeyer, President Donald Trump, or any listed person or organization of a crime or security violation. It distinguishes verified public reporting, organizational claims, and risk-analysis inferences.

Prepared by Oklahoma Child Wellbeing
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Assessment date: June 25, 2026

For public education, governance review, and policy discussion.

Executive Summary

Pastors for Trump is a faith-and-politics mobilization network founded by Tulsa pastor Jackson Lahmeyer to support Donald Trump. Its public identity and influence sit at the intersection of pastoral authority, national political branding, campaign activity, media reach, and church-based organizing. The central question is not whether pastors may participate in public life. They may. The public-interest question is whether institutions and individuals using spiritual authority to mobilize political support have safeguards proportionate to their reach, access, and ability to affect members, donors, employees, voters, and government decision-makers. [S1] [S2] [S4]

This report identifies elevated risk where the same ecosystem combines: (1) personal spiritual authority; (2) access to congregations and sensitive pastoral information; (3) campaign and political fundraising; (4) influence through national branding, media, and events; (5) informal or unclear organizational governance; and (6) claims of proximity to the President, the White House, or national faith-advisory structures. Risk does not establish wrongdoing. It identifies conditions that warrant transparent controls, independent review, and accurate public disclosure.

Bottom-Line Finding

The highest-risk condition is unaccountable concentrated influence: the ability to use spiritual authority, institutional resources, donor trust, political branding, national access, and public attention without independent governance, clear financial separation, credible complaint pathways, or meaningful external review.

Risk at a Glance

Risk domain	Indicative level	Why it merits review
Spiritual coercion / undue influence	High	Political loyalty can be experienced as religious or relational obligation.
Conflicts of interest	High	Church, political, campaign, media, donor, and personal-brand roles can overlap.
Governance / independent oversight	High	Founder-centered structures require stronger independent boards and complaint procedures.
Presidential-access and branding exposure	High	Private actors can gain status, fundraising capacity, or perceived authority through presidential proximity.
Church-campaign resource separation	Moderate-High	The legal and ethical boundary is fact-specific; records and reimbursement matter.
Whistleblower / retaliation risk	Moderate-High	Tight-knit faith-political networks can make dissent socially and economically costly.
Privacy and data use	Moderate	Church and campaign systems may hold highly sensitive personal and donor information.
Child and vulnerable-adult safeguards	Moderate-High	Large events, travel, volunteers, and informal access can weaken standard

Risk domain	Indicative level	Why it merits review
		protections.
Foreign-contact / influence transparency	Moderate	International ministry and political networks require clear disclosures where relevant.
Public trust / democratic legitimacy	High	Religious identity can be fused with partisan loyalty and reduce accountable disagreement.

How to Read This Brief

- “Documented” refers to official material, the organization’s own public statements, or reputable news reporting cited in the source list.
- “Claimed reach” means a figure or scope asserted by an organization or individual and not independently verified by Oklahoma Child Wellbeing.
- “Risk analysis” is a forward-looking assessment of foreseeable vulnerabilities, not a factual finding that a harm occurred.
- “Affiliation” can include a formal role, publicly announced relationship, endorsement, event association, prior employment, advisory connection, or public claim. It does not automatically mean partnership, control, or shared legal responsibility.

1. Scope, Method, and Limitations

1.1 Scope

This is a public-interest risk analysis focused on Pastors for Trump, its founder's publicly described leadership roles, Sheridan Church, political and media affiliations, and the risks associated with the use of a President's name or perceived access to presidential institutions. It does not provide a criminal investigation, an intelligence assessment, a definitive legal opinion, or a finding about any person's character.

1.2 Method

- Reviewed the user-provided working draft and public materials identified in the Sources and Record Index.
- Separated factual claims from organizational claims and analytical inferences.
- Used a micro / mezzo / macro framework: effects on individuals; institutions and networks; and public systems and democratic trust.
- Applied a preventive-risk lens: What controls should exist before harm occurs, rather than waiting for a scandal, complaint, or enforcement action?
- Focused recommendations on transparency, independent governance, safeguarding, financial separation, complaint access, and accurate representation.

1.3 Important Limitations

Public reporting and public websites can be incomplete, self-serving, or later corrected. This brief does not independently authenticate private communications, investigate private conduct, review nonpublic financial records, or determine whether any person received a security clearance or White House visitor approval. No statement in this brief should be interpreted as claiming that a named individual was "unvetted" for a specific visit, advisory role, or access event. The appropriate question is whether the relevant institution applies transparent, fit-for-purpose due diligence for the type of access being granted.

Use Safely

This brief should not be used to harass, threaten, dox, contact family members, or make unverified allegations. Concerns should be directed through lawful reporting, journalistic, regulatory, or organizational accountability channels.

2. Public Record Snapshot

Pastors for Trump was publicly announced in December 2022 as an effort to galvanize evangelical support for Donald Trump's 2024 return to the White House. The launch release stated that it aimed for a chapter in every state and had backing from dozens of pastors with more than 200,000 congregants. These are organizational claims, not independently audited reach totals. [S1]

The Frontier reported on June 8, 2026 that Pastors for Trump helped Lahmeyer deepen his relationship with the President and mobilize evangelical voters. Its reporting also stated that the group was never formally incorporated and that an announced board was never formally created. That reporting should be

treated as journalism subject to normal verification standards; it is relevant here because unclear legal structure and board status are governance risks, not proof of misconduct. [S2]

Sheridan Church’s public website identifies Jackson and Kendra Lahmeyer as lead pastors since 2017 and says Jackson preaches in person and online to a global audience. The site also describes prior leadership roles in major Christian organizations. [S5]

In June 2026, AP reported that Lahmeyer withdrew from the Oklahoma 1st District Republican runoff after reports of romantic text messages with a campaign fundraiser. AP reported that he said he did not want to be a distraction to his family, church, and constituents. This event is relevant only as a governance-and-boundaries case example; it does not establish a broader organization-wide finding. [S3]

The White House established the White House Faith Office by Executive Order 14205 in February 2025. The order assigns it responsibility for empowering faith-based entities and advising the administration through the Domestic Policy structure. That institutional context makes it important to distinguish ceremonial access, political affiliation, advocacy participation, and trusted policy-advisory influence. [S4]

3. Affiliation and Reach Inventory

The following map identifies relationships that may expand influence or create overlapping roles. It does not classify every listed person or organization as a formal partner, affiliate, controlled entity, or co-conspirator. Each connection should be described according to the evidence category listed below.

Entity / network	Publicly described connection	Reach or function	Evidence status	Risk relevance
Pastors for Trump	Founded by Jackson Lahmeyer; launched as a pro-Trump evangelical mobilization effort.	Claimed state-by-state aspiration; claimed backing from pastors representing 200,000+ congregants at launch; later reported claims of a larger national pastor network.	Public launch statement / reporting. Claimed reach.	Creates a national channel for pastor-to-pastor mobilization, brand building, donor recruitment, and political messaging.
Sheridan Church	Jackson and Kendra Lahmeyer are identified by the church as lead pastors since 2017.	Tulsa-area church platform; online preaching and digital reach claimed as global by the church.	Official church statement.	Local institutional base: staff, facilities, volunteers, giving, pastoral authority, events, and media.
Trump political network	Pastors for Trump was founded to support Trump; Lahmeyer received and later lost a presidential campaign endorsement in the 2026 congressional race.	National campaign, donor, media, and evangelical-voter ecosystem.	Public reporting.	Converts local religious visibility into national political access and reputational exposure.
White House Faith Office	Federal office established in 2025; the report does not assert Lahmeyer held an official role.	Policy and convening channel for faith-based entities and government agencies.	Official executive order.	Requires clear boundaries between event participation, advocacy, access, and formal advisory influence.
Craig Hagin / Rhema-related networks	Publicly announced in the 2022 launch release as a board member; later reporting questioned whether the announced board was formally created.	Rhema church, ministry, school, alumni, publishing, conference, and charismatic-network pathways.	Launch release plus later reporting.	Potential bridge to a wider faith and leadership ecosystem; board status needs accurate labeling.
Mark Burns / NOW Television Network	Publicly announced as a board member in 2022; later described in reporting as more advisory.	Christian media and national religious-political visibility; launch release described NOW as reaching about 11 million homes.	Launch release / reporting; reach is a claimed figure.	Media can multiply political-religious messaging beyond formal membership and governance structures.
Roger Stone / Drake	Reported campaign	Political strategy,	The Frontier reporting / FEC-	Raises questions for

Entity / network	Publicly described connection	Reach or function	Evidence status	Risk relevance
Ventures	consulting relationship associated with Lahmeyer's earlier Senate campaign.	communications, donor, media, and access ecosystem.	reviewable finance data.	ordinary due diligence on vendors, disbursement purpose, and influence pathways.
Club for Growth	Public campaign endorsement relationship in 2026.	National conservative donor, advertising, independent-expenditure, and candidate-support infrastructure.	Public endorsement records / organization statements.	Links church-adjacent political influence to broader campaign-finance infrastructure.
Tulsa County and Oklahoma Republican networks	Campaign announcement and state-level political relationships.	Local voter outreach, candidate events, party organization, donor and volunteer pathways.	Public campaign reporting.	Local bridge between church-based influence and formal electoral activity.
Oral Roberts University	Educational affiliation listed in public biographical material.	Alumni and evangelical higher-education contacts.	Public biographical claim.	Informal influence path through alumni, speakers, referrals, and ministry placements.
Christ for All Nations / Billy Graham Evangelistic Association	Prior leadership roles are claimed on Sheridan's website and the 2022 launch release.	Interstate and international evangelism contacts, church relationships, conferences, and ministry credibility.	Organizational / biographical statements.	Cross-border and cross-network reach may increase the importance of financial, data, travel, and access transparency.
Digital and religious media	Church channels, prayer activity, event promotion, social media, podcasts, press releases, and national coverage.	Persistent, scalable, and potentially viral influence.	Publicly observable infrastructure.	Amplifies messaging, creates rapid-mobilization capacity, and can obscure whether speech is pastoral, political, or fundraising-related.

Source notes for Section 3: [S1], [S2], [S3], [S5], [S6], [S7], [S8], [S9].

4. Micro-Level Risk Analysis

Micro-level risk concerns individuals: members, employees, volunteers, donors, families, staff, fundraisers, interns, minors, older adults, and people seeking pastoral help. The issue is not that these harms occur in every religious-political context. The issue is that overlapping authority can make them more likely to be missed, minimized, or difficult to report.

4.1 Spiritual Authority and Political Pressure

Pastoral influence can reach deeply personal areas: faith, belonging, family identity, moral obligation, salvation, forgiveness, obedience, and community membership. When a candidate or political movement is presented as uniquely aligned with God, members may experience political disagreement as spiritual disloyalty. That can transform ordinary civic persuasion into perceived coercion.

- Members may feel expected to vote, donate, attend rallies, share political content, or recruit others.
- Staff or volunteers may fear that declining political work will affect employment, ministry opportunity, relationships, or reputation.
- Survivors or critics may fear being characterized as divisive, rebellious, anti-Christian, or hostile to the mission.
- Family relationships can become strained where partisan identity is treated as a test of faithfulness.

4.2 Boundary, Relationship, and Power-Differential Risk

Risk increases when a senior leader is simultaneously a pastor, employer, political organizer, fundraiser, candidate, media figure, and gatekeeper to influential people. The AP-reported 2026 campaign withdrawal is a concrete reminder that personal-boundary concerns can rapidly become institutional governance and public-trust concerns. A mature system does not depend on a leader's personal assurances alone; it provides written conduct rules and an independent path for reporting. [S3]

4.3 Donor, Economic, and Labor-Expectation Risk

Religious giving often occurs in contexts of trust, sacrifice, hope, and perceived spiritual obligation. When church, political, campaign, nonprofit, and media messaging overlap, donors may not understand what their money supports or whether resources are moving across entities. People in financial distress, older adults, recent converts, and employees dependent on a ministry can be especially vulnerable to subtle pressure.

4.4 Privacy and Sensitive-Data Risk

Church systems can hold sensitive information about prayer requests, counseling, family stress, immigration, health, finances, children, relationship conflict, contact lists, and giving. A sound control is a hard separation between pastoral-care and political data: no political use of prayer, counseling, donor, or membership data without informed, documented opt-in consent.

4.5 Child and Vulnerable-Adult Safety

The analysis does not allege that any listed organization has failed in child protection. It identifies foreseeable conditions that need controls: large or fast-moving events, travel, informal volunteer systems, private meetings, youth participation, donor access, and "trusted insider" exceptions. These environments require consistent supervision, written reporting rules, training, and outside review when senior leadership is implicated.

5. Mezzo-Level Risk Analysis

Mezzo-level risks concern organizations, boards, campaigns, partner churches, media operations, event systems, political committees, and informal networks.

5.1 Founder-Centered Governance

Founder-centered organizations can be effective and still require safeguards. Risk rises when a founder or senior pastor exercises spiritual authority, controls employment and spending, selects board members, makes public political statements, manages access to donors or public officials, and shapes the organization's public narrative. In that setting, internal dissent can be treated as disloyalty rather than information the organization needs to hear.

5.2 Entity Clarity and Financial Separation

A key due-diligence question is what legal entity is operating each function: church, 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), PAC, campaign committee, LLC, media company, consulting firm, or informal association. The FEC provides public campaign-finance data on candidate and committee receipts, disbursements, and filings. Transparent entity separation allows the public to identify who raises funds, who spends them, what work was purchased, and whether resources moved across organizational boundaries. [S7]

5.3 Church-Campaign Separation

The IRS states that section 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches, are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in political campaigns for or against candidates. Some voter education and nonpartisan election-related activities may be allowed, depending on facts and circumstances. This brief does not determine the tax status or compliance of any named entity. It identifies the records that reduce risk: separate accounts, staff timekeeping, fair-market facilities agreements, separate mailing lists, separate vendor contracts, and legal review. [S6]

5.4 Network Contagion and Partner-Vetting Risk

Networks can spread benefits and failures. A scandal, ethics issue, financial controversy, misleading claim, or safeguarding complaint involving one visible leader can affect churches, candidates, donors, conference hosts, media platforms, and community partners who endorsed or amplified that person. "Someone else vetted them" is not a reliable control. Each organization needs a repeatable partner-vetting process.

5.5 Event, Travel, and Rapid-Mobilization Risk

Political-religious events combine crowds, security concerns, travel, lodging, volunteers, celebrities, donors, media, minors, and rapidly changing logistics. The operational risk is not unique to faith groups. What matters is whether the organization documents custody and supervision, transportation, rooming, guest access, safety reporting, expenses, and decision authority.

6. Macro-Level Risk Analysis

Macro-level risks affect democratic institutions, community trust, public policy, religious freedom, and the ability of people to disagree without fear of exclusion or retaliation.

6.1 Fusion of Religious Identity and Political Loyalty

The central macro risk is the fusion of religious belonging with loyalty to a candidate, movement, or political faction. When a political choice is framed as the only faithful choice, people can lose the ability to distinguish theological conviction from campaign messaging. That framing can amplify misinformation, weaken accountability, and turn ordinary political dissent into moral condemnation.

6.2 Erosion of Independent Moral Witness

Faith communities can provide a needed moral check on every party. Their independence weakens when access, media attention, fundraising, endorsements, or perceived policy influence become dependent on one political coalition. A system that is highly critical of political opponents but unable to examine allies risks institutional hypocrisy and survivor silencing.

6.3 Civic Polarization and Community Harm

Religious-political messaging can intensify distrust toward schools, courts, journalists, social workers, election administrators, public health systems, and child-protection agencies. The concern is not criticism of institutions. It is the collapse of a shared ability to distinguish documented failure from generalized delegitimization. That collapse makes problem solving harder, especially for families already navigating crisis systems.

6.4 Religious Freedom and Public Confidence

When churches are perceived as campaign arms, the resulting distrust can spill onto religious organizations that provide nonpartisan charity, pastoral care, disaster relief, recovery support, education, and family services. Protecting genuine religious liberty requires clear distinctions between ministry, public service, political advocacy, and campaign activity.

6.5 Influence Without Transparency

Influence can move through informal channels - prayer calls, conferences, pastor networks, donor gatherings, media appearances, private dinners, political endorsements, and consulting relationships. None is inherently improper. The governance question is whether the public can identify who funds, directs, benefits from, and is accountable for the influence operation.

7. Risks to the President, the White House, and Public Trust

Key Clarification

This section does not claim Jackson Lahmeyer, Pastors for Trump, or any faith leader lacked a specific security clearance or was improperly admitted to the White House. It analyzes governance risks that arise when any private individual or network receives, claims, markets, or is perceived to possess presidential proximity.

7.1 Access Is Not the Same as Suitability for Advisory Influence

A person may be politically useful, popular with a voting bloc, connected to donors, or influential with clergy without being suitable for recurring advisory access. The White House Faith Office is designed to identify experts and leaders, make recommendations through the Domestic Policy structure, convene across agencies, and advise on faith-community issues. This makes due diligence especially important:

visitor access, ceremonial attendance, campaign support, organizational advocacy, and trusted policy influence should not be treated as interchangeable. [S4]

7.2 Vetting-Gap Risk

Physical security screening addresses immediate facility and protective-security concerns. It does not, by itself, settle questions about conflicts of interest, safeguarding systems, financial transparency, donor influence, public claims of access, organizational governance, or whether a person accurately represents a constituency. The U.S. Secret Service’s protective role and visitor-screening functions are essential but distinct from ethical and influence-risk due diligence. [S10]

Review type	Addresses	May not answer
Visitor / site screening	Immediate physical-security concerns and venue safety.	Conflicts, ethical fitness, fundraising representations, donor influence, governance quality.
Political vetting	Coalition value, message discipline, electoral usefulness.	Safeguarding, staff protections, independent complaints, financial transparency.
Faith-community endorsement	Religious credibility within a constituency.	Whether the leader speaks for the full diversity of believers or affected communities.
Public background review	Publicly available reputation and history.	Nonpublic financial relationships, private complaints, undisclosed conflicts, informal access brokering.
Formal advisory due diligence	Role-specific disclosures and suitability.	Cannot eliminate risk; it must be repeated as affiliations and conduct change.

7.3 Branding and Implied-Endorsement Risk

A private group using the President’s name in its organizational brand can create a public impression of official authorization, privileged information, special access, policy influence, or the ability to deliver invitations, favors, pardons, or campaign support. Such impressions can be exploited even when the underlying relationship is limited or informal. A clear boundary protects the President, supporters, donors, and the public.

7.4 Influence-Brokering and Access-for-Sale Perception

The risk is not limited to illegal activity. Influence can be monetized or leveraged lawfully through appearances, consulting, introductions, donor events, memberships, media, fundraising, travel, or prestige. The question for government and private networks is whether a person is using presidential proximity to build a private influence economy and whether the public has enough disclosure to understand who benefits.

7.5 Reputational Contagion

Presidential praise, endorsement, event participation, or repeated association can turn a local faith leader into a national figure. When a person later becomes the subject of scandal or public controversy, the association can damage the President’s credibility even absent personal involvement. AP’s reporting on the June 2026 campaign withdrawal illustrates how quickly personal-boundary allegations can become national political news. [S3]

7.6 Foreign Contacts and International Ministry Networks

International missions, conferences, online media, religious television, foreign travel, donors, and ministry partnerships can create cross-border contact points. International ministry is not inherently a risk. The risk arises if politically connected persons do not disclose foreign funding, sponsors, travel, business interests, or relevant contacts when they seek recurring access or represent themselves as channels to government.

7.7 National-Security, Foreign-Policy, and Crowd-Management Pressure

Faith leaders can mobilize views on conflict, immigration, religious liberty, military action, and geopolitical issues. When complex policy decisions are framed as absolute spiritual mandates, officials may face pressure that crowds out intelligence, diplomacy, law, humanitarian concerns, and the diversity of religious and nonreligious views. Large, rapidly mobilized religious-political events also require careful crowd management, information integrity, and coordination with security personnel.

7.8 False Representation of “The Church”

No single pastor network represents all Christians. A politically branded clergy network may be influential while still failing to represent Black churches, Catholic social teaching, mainline Protestants, evangelical dissenters, immigrant congregations, disability advocates, faith-based service providers, survivors of institutional abuse, or non-Christian and nonreligious communities. Government policy is stronger when consultation is diverse and transparent.

7.9 Whistleblower Suppression

Perceived proximity to the President can make an influential leader harder to challenge. Employees, volunteers, fundraisers, church members, and partners may fear retaliation, social loss, spiritual shaming, litigation threats, donor pressure, or political labeling. A mature access system assumes this risk and provides protected, independent channels for concerns.

8. Risk Register and Control Framework

Risk	Primary level	Likelihood	Impact	Priority controls	Evidence to request
Spiritual coercion or political pressure	Micro	Medium	High	Written noncoercion policy; staff/volunteer opt-out; independent complaint route.	Member-facing policy; training logs; anonymized complaint statistics.
Leader-staff / fundraiser boundary concerns	Micro + Mezzo	Medium	High	Relationship and communications policies; outside investigator; retaliation prohibition.	Policy, hotline contract, conflict disclosures, investigation protocol.
Church-campaign resource mixing	Mezzo	Medium	High	Separate accounts, timekeeping, facilities agreements, list controls, legal review.	Ledgers, invoices, time records, use agreements, list-access logs.
Founder-centered governance	Mezzo	High	High	Independent board; recusal rules; executive review; external audit.	Board roster, bylaws, minutes, conflict forms, audit reports.
Misleading presidential branding / implied authority	Mezzo + Macro	Medium	High	Written use policy, disclaimers, approval requirements, complaint channel.	Branding rules, approvals, fundraising pages, event contracts.
Influence brokering / pay-to-play perception	Macro + Presidential	Medium	High	Disclosure of paid roles, donors, vendors, introductions, and lobbying activity.	Entity map, donor policy, consulting agreements, travel and event logs.

Risk	Primary level	Likelihood	Impact	Priority controls	Evidence to request
Data misuse between ministry and politics	Micro + Mezzo	Medium	Medium	Data segregation, opt-in consent, audit logs, privacy notice.	Data maps, access controls, consent records, vendor agreements.
Event / travel safeguarding gaps	Micro + Mezzo	Medium	High	Two-adult rule, safeguarding training, travel/lodging records, designated safety officer.	Event plans, training records, incident protocol, supervision rosters.
False representation of religious constituency	Macro	High	Medium	Diverse consultation, accurate titles, transparent membership and governance claims.	Methodology for reach claims, public advisory roster, consultation logs.
Retaliation against concerns	All levels	Medium	High	Third-party hotline, anti-retaliation enforcement, independent ombuds function.	Policy, annual reports, retaliation investigation outcomes.

9. Priority Due-Diligence Questions

1. What legal entity or entities operate Pastors for Trump, related fundraising, events, media activity, membership, and data systems?
2. Who governs each entity, and which board members are truly independent of the founder, family, paid staff, major donors, campaign committees, and primary vendors?
3. What public financial disclosures, audits, compensation information, vendor lists, and related-party transaction policies are available?
4. What evidence shows that church resources, campaign resources, and political-advocacy resources are separated and appropriately accounted for?
5. What procedures protect staff, volunteers, fundraisers, and congregants from sexual harassment, retaliation, coercion, and relationship-based pressure?
6. Can someone report a concern without reporting to a pastor, supervisor, campaign manager, or founder-controlled board?
7. What safeguards govern private meetings, travel, lodging, gifts, digital communications, and events involving minors or vulnerable adults?
8. How are presidential photographs, names, White House imagery, endorsements, and access claims approved, disclosed, and monitored?
9. What foreign travel, foreign funding, international ministry contacts, sponsors, or business interests are disclosed when a leader seeks recurring policy or advisory access?
10. What basis supports claims about how many pastors, churches, members, voters, or households a network represents?
11. How are dissenting faith voices, survivor voices, service providers, and nonreligious community perspectives included in government consultation?
12. What happens when a senior leader is the subject of a credible complaint or public controversy: who investigates, who decides, and what is disclosed?

10. Recommended Safeguards

10.1 Immediate Actions

- Publish a plain-language governance map identifying each legal entity, board, senior leader, and relevant conflict-of-interest relationship.

- Adopt and publish a non-retaliation policy with a third-party reporting channel that bypasses the founder and internal management.
- Separate church, campaign, political-advocacy, donor, and pastoral-care data systems; require affirmative consent for political contact.
- Publish a written rule distinguishing church teaching, issue advocacy, campaign activity, political fundraising, and personal political speech.
- Require clear disclaimers for organizations that use a President's name, image, endorsement, or claimed access in fundraising or recruitment.
- Create a mandatory response protocol for allegations involving senior leadership, campaign staff, fundraisers, donors, or a person with public-office access.

10.2 Within Six Months

- Commission an independent governance, finance, safeguarding, and data-use review.
- Adopt board independence standards and mandatory recusal rules for founder, family, employment, vendor, donor, and campaign conflicts.
- Conduct a related-party transaction and vendor audit, including travel, consulting, reimbursements, facilities use, and shared personnel.
- Build an event and travel safeguarding system with trained safety leads, documentation, supervision standards, and incident response.
- Create a public annual transparency report covering governance, conflicts, complaints, training, safeguards, and broad financial categories.
- For government-facing faith consultation, publish categories of participation and use diverse, cross-partisan, cross-faith, and nonfaith representation.

10.3 Long-Term Policy Direction

- Develop a cross-partisan ethics standard for faith leaders who hold or seek political influence.
- Create independent faith-community accountability capacity, including trained investigators, survivor advocacy, compliance support, and safe reporting routes.
- Improve public literacy around the difference between a church, charity, PAC, campaign committee, 501(c)(4), LLC, media platform, and informal coalition.
- Encourage government institutions to distinguish ceremonial attendance from recurring advisory access and to refresh due diligence as risks and affiliations evolve.
- Build mechanisms that protect religious freedom while preventing a private political network from presenting itself as the sole voice of faith communities.

11. Conclusion

The public-interest concern is not clergy participation in civic life. It is concentrated influence without proportionate accountability. Any leader or network - religious, political, business, nonprofit, or media - should be evaluated by the same core standards: transparent governance, clear entity boundaries, financial accountability, safeguarding, independent complaint review, accurate representation, and protection for those who speak up.

For presidential institutions, the governing principle should be equally clear: political usefulness, religious visibility, donor access, and crowd-mobilization capacity are not substitutes for ethical fitness,

transparency, or independent accountability. Access should be structured so that it cannot easily be misunderstood, marketed, monetized, or converted into unreviewed private power.

Public-Interest Standard

The appropriate response to a risk assessment is not rumor or retaliation. It is documentation, transparency, lawful oversight, independent review, and safeguards that protect people before harm becomes a headline.

Sources and Record Index

Accessed June 25, 2026. Online sources are listed to identify the factual anchors for this brief. Sources were used for background and verification; the risk analysis and recommendations are Oklahoma Child Wellbeing's public-interest analysis.

[S1] **Pastors for Trump launch release (Dec. 7, 2022).** PR Newswire. "Pastors For Trump Launches, Backed by Faith Leaders With 200K Congregants." <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pastors-for-trump-launches-backed-by-faith-leaders-with-200k-congregants-301696644.html>

[S2] **Investigative reporting (June 8, 2026).** The Frontier. "Jackson Lahmeyer rises from fringe challenger to Trump-backed frontrunner." <https://www.readfrontier.org/stories/how-lahmeyer-rises-from-fringe-challenger-to-trump-backed-frontrunner/>

[S3] **Election / campaign reporting (June 17, 2026).** Associated Press. "Oklahoma pastor who was backed by Trump exits GOP House runoff after reports of inappropriate texts." <https://apnews.com/article/403f9b1e7a05b51c9b6fcd5e2afe2940>

[S4] **Official federal record (Feb. 7, 2025).** The White House. Executive Order 14205, "Establishment of the White House Faith Office." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/establishment-of-the-white-house-faith-office/>

[S5] **Organization self-description.** Sheridan Church. "Meet Our Lead Pastors / Who We Are." <https://sheridan.church/who-we-are/>

[S6] **Official tax guidance.** Internal Revenue Service. "Restriction of Political Campaign Intervention by Section 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organizations." <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/restriction-of-political-campaign-intervention-by-section-501c3-tax-exempt-organizations>

[S7] **Official campaign-finance resource.** Federal Election Commission. "Campaign Finance Data." <https://www.fec.gov/data/>

[S8] **Local launch coverage (Dec. 9, 2022).** The Journal Record. "Lahmeyer launches Pastors for Trump." <https://journalrecord.com/2022/12/09/lahmeyer-launches-pastors-for-trump/>

[S9] **Political organization statement.** Club for Growth PAC. "Club for Growth PAC Endorses Jackson Lahmeyer in OK-01 Race." <https://www.clubforgrowth.org/club-for-growth-pac-endorses-jackson-lahmeyer-in-ok-01-race/>

[S10] **Official protective-function reference.** U.S. Secret Service. "Celebrating 100 Years of the Uniformed Division." <https://www.secretservice.gov/UD100>

[S11] **Legal / compliance background.** Internal Revenue Service. "Frequently Asked Questions About the Ban on Political Campaign Intervention by 501(c)(3) Organizations." <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ban-on-political-campaign-intervention-by-501c3-organizations>

[S12] **Additional official White House fact sheet.** The White House. "Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Establishes White House Faith Office." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-establishes-white-house-faith-office/>

Record Labels Used in This Brief

- Official record: Government source, formal executive order, federal guidance, or agency resource.
- Organization statement: A public claim by a named organization; it may be informative but is not treated as independent verification.

- Public reporting: Reputable news reporting, included with attribution and not treated as a legal finding.
- Risk-analysis inference: A preventive assessment based on governance, safeguarding, and public-accountability principles.

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