

Ministry to State 2021 Prayer Guide

Our Father

We come to you as children in prayer, not only for ourselves but also for those serving in government, and especially those who come to serve with newly elected members of Congress and the new administration. In a politically divided government, we ask that you knit your Church together, *as one, as you and your Son are one, so that the world will know that you love them and sent your Son for them* (John 17:21-23).

Hallowed Be Your Name

Father, we pray that Christians serving in government would seek to make your name great instead of theirs (Genesis 11:4) and that they would see all their work as an offering of worship. We also pray that you would work through everyone serving in government to make yourself and your purposes known (1 Peter 2:9). Forgive those who wrongly use your name to justify illegal actions.

Your Kingdom Come

Father, we pray that Christians serving in government would intentionally use their influence to develop laws and policies that are foretastes of the kingdom to all people. We ask that through their efforts, outsiders might be open to proclamations of the gospel. We pray that you would use those serving in government to restrain evil and to protect all people (Romans 13:1-4). We also ask that Christians would not conflate your kingdom with this nation, and that *no one would use their freedom as a cover for evil* by resorting to violence against those serving in government (1 Peter 2:16).

Your Will Be Done

Father, we pray that those serving in government would seek to promote and establish laws that are in accord with your revealed will; for justice towards the oppressed and unborn; for fair economic treatment of the worker and the flourishing of the business owner; for the sojourner; for the prisoner (Leviticus 19); for widows and orphans (James 1:27); for the poor; for people of color, and people of every tongue and tribe, and nation (Revelation 7:9). We ask you to guide those serving in government to resolve long-standing issues of racial and economic injustice in our country.

Give Us Our Daily Bread

Father, we pray that you would use those serving in government to promote our nation's economic flourishing and develop economic policies that are also a blessing for other countries (Jeremiah 29:7). Encourage and guide them in developing policies that protect property and also lift people out of poverty. Guide them as they work to end the COVID pandemic and deal with its many implications on the marketplace, which is the primary means through which daily needs are met. Use those serving in government to protect jobs, feed the hungry, and provide housing for those in need.

Forgive Us Our Debts

Father, we pray that you would bring Christians serving in government to repentance for the sins they have committed and those things they have left undone. We pray that those serving in government would be quick to see the log in their eye before seeking to remove the splinter from their neighbor's eye (Matthew 7:3-5). We pray they would seek reconciliation to their brothers and sisters quickly (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-22). We ask that you keep them from the sins of the flesh, such as, *enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, and envy* (Galatians 5:14-15). We pray that you would forgive us for the tone of our political conversations (2 Timothy 2:22-25) and believing that the government is our true hope when you have offered your Son as our living hope (1 Peter 1:3).

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Father, we pray that you would protect those serving in government from being drawn away from you by the lure of power and prestige (James 1:14), from falling into the trap of building factions (1 Corinthians 1:10-17) and using their positions to sin against others (Matthew 20:25-28). We ask that you use Ministry to State, the local church, and other ministries to strengthen your people to *"walk not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but to delight in in the law of the LORD, and on his law to meditate day and night"* (Psalm 1:1-2).

Yours Is The Kingdom And The Power And The Glory

Father, despite the chaos we see in our country, we pray that you would encourage our hearts and minds in knowing you are ruling and reigning over all things (Colossians 1:15-20). Give us joy that is inexpressible (1 Peter 1:8) in knowing that you are working to bring all things in submission to your Son (Ephesians 1:17-23) who is making all things new (Revelation 21:5).