

SO HOW DID I GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS?

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Written by Marnie Freeman (Guest Writer)

So, How Did I Get Involved in The Political Arena?

The simple answer is . . . I married into it. That's it! End of story. Sort of. I mean I could not have told you who the vice president was when I got married!

NO, SADLY I AM NOT JOKING! You know those videos with Watters and "this is his world," where he is making fun of the undereducated in the political, historical, and news arenas? He would have had a field day interviewing me! And my video, with billions of "views," would most assuredly have gone so viral I would have ended up on the Ellen Show! Which makes me wonder about my husband's mental clarity for asking my hand in marriage and asking me to join him in all his political adventures.

Kevin's been politically involved since birth! I came from the "we-don't-really-talk-about-the-issues-or-who-we-voted-for-because-it-is-a-private-matter-time-period." Fortunately, he pulled me along to almost EVERY meeting for oh, say the last 18 years! And I have grown to love it (Most days!) You get to be part of the incredible, the good, the bad and the really ugly! You too can be involved! Join me!

After only a few weeks of wedded bliss, I went to my first political meeting with top conservatives and unbeknownst to me at the time, very famous from the political, religious, and business arenas. They gathered (still do) several times a year to discuss policy, government, culture, national security, family, education, religious liberty and more. I did not know about these issues, much less who these people were! I was a lowly political neophyte whose job was graphic design and marketing. Kevin could not understand why I did not get overly excited about meeting the likes of Phyllis Schlafly, Steve Forbes, Beverly and Tim LaHaye, Foster Friess, James Dobson. Okay I had heard of him because my parents, seeking a solution, attended a seminar of his about the strong-willed child. Hmmmmm, what does that say about me?

These conservatives all seemed very nice and way smarter than me, but I figured they put their pants on the same way I do so I chose not to fear their political prowess. At my first dinner, we were seated with Mike Farris. I was unaware that

he is a guru, with demigod-like status in the homeschooling community, and founder of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association. Literally, first thing he says to me is, "You are newlyweds, soooooo how many children do you plan on having?" I'm thinking that information was none of his business! Sadly, I was not even sure I wanted kids. I was a young, naïve, and a hurt lady, being healed over time by my Heavenly Father. So I answered, "I am not sure I want to have children" to Michael Farris, father of ten! He responded with another question: "So how many of God's blessings are you willing to turn down?"

What????!!! Who does this guy think he is?? I was tiffed! In a couple of years we had our first child and introduced our new little one to Mike. He grabbed her and went around the same very large political group, showing her off, saying, "Look! I am responsible for this!" Yep, that can start rumors! We had such a laugh! My husband had to "correct" Mike. He rephrased and began to tell people the influence he had on our family. He did and so did Phyllis Schlafly and many others.

Over time, I came to realize through connecting, listening, and learning from these amazing people and their groups, the importance of ALL the issues before us. I realized what conservative leaders were talking about and why they were fighting so hard!

My second education came when I started homeschooling my kids. Wow, where was I during history, government, civics, economics, math, speech, grammar, okay all the subjects? I didn't remember any of this stuff! I have relearned what I missed (mainly truth), plus going to school in your pajamas is fabulous, having a crush on the Principal really works for me as well, and to see the light bulb go on in my kid's eyes and how they learn to critically think – is beyond thrilling! I got involved politically right there by educating the next generation! I even started bringing my kids to all the meetings and getting behind candidates, making phone calls, hosting events, and designing campaign materials as well.

I even did a Christmas painting every year and designed a Christmas card around it for anyone or any organization who wants to send a true Jesus-is-the-only-reason Christmas card to their friends, family, and clients.

So, how did I get involved in the political arena? Ahhhh, now I remember... I had prayed a prayer, before I was ever married, a prayer so deep, heart wrenching, as I was seeking God in the middle of chaos (feminism really) and more than a few bad choices. I was begging, with hot tears streaming, that if God delivered me, I would serve him. I begged him to let me do something big for His glory through art, which I had left behind several years earlier in college in favor of graphic design. I wanted to make an impact in culture, ministry, really anywhere.

I also wanted to earn a living and learned that graphic design was the way to do that, and as much as I love my parents, I did not want to live with them the rest of my life!

I was ready and this amazing Jesus delivered me from my own craziness and sin! Trust me. He's still got plenty of work to do, but He's real and He's relational, people! However, I DID NOT see the political arena as being a place for my creative talents!

But, interestingly that is where He has put me! I was an artist – how can I possibly do anything in this arena as an artist? Well, it turns out quite a bit! Seek Him and he will direct your paths!

Let me give you only a few examples, of many, how God has used the talents he gave me to get involved:

I had a client, a gentleman running for State Senate of Oklahoma. He was relatively unknown, but my friend, who helped run his campaign, assured me that he would be a great person to help lead Oklahoma. She knew the political landscape, so I dove in and designed his first logo and campaign materials. Over the years he has gone on to do great things and risen to the top. His name is Scott Pruitt. He served as a state senator, Attorney General of Oklahoma, and recently chosen to head the Environmental Protection Agency. I got to play a small part in that!

Another time, my husband and I were asked to join with a few others to host a coffee, at a national meeting, for an up and coming conservative star, a state senator that was running for Congress. We agreed and I was delighted to help by designing the invitation. Michele Bachmann has since become a friend, held a seat in Congress and then retired, accomplishing a lot while there.

Or a painting I had done, "And Justice for All," went to support a group, Consource. Their website was used to help defend the Second Amendment in Washington DC. I was privileged to meet Justice Scalia and present him this painting that he chose to hang in his chambers. It now remains in the Supreme Court's permanent art collection.

With David Barton and Bill Federer's help, I painted a scene with Thomas Jefferson on horseback, riding to the U.S. Capitol, to attend church services titled "Church in the Capitol." We are hoping that will hang in the U.S. Capitol someday to help dispel the misinterpretation behind "a wall of separation between Church and State." This painting was presented to the current church that meets in the Capitol, The Jefferson Gathering.



I have since become known as the “Artist of Liberty.”™ We have liberty as God sacrificed all for us. We have the same in our country because men and women sacrificed for us to be free. I am gripped by love for our Creator, His people, and our country and currently spend my time capturing moments in history, inspirational and biblical stories

through art, that is then used to support groups, issues, or people in various ways.

Another key turning point for me wanting to get more involved was Terri Schiavo, a brain damaged woman that came to the national spotlight in Florida. Her husband starved her to death “legally,” even though her parents begged for her life and would have happily taken care of her, including all financial responsibility. I sat in front of the television bawling my eyes out, while painting a painting titled “One Nation Under God.” The juxtaposition of the painting and this dying woman and the state our country was in became too overwhelming! How could we as humans let this happen? The level of anger and deep sadness was palpable. I felt that the Lord was telling me, “Marnie, you can make a difference and have a voice if you stay in obedience to My calling by doing your art.” That has held true ever since.



What am I working on now? Well, I am glad you asked! For the first time, I am doing a painting that will be “commissioned by the people” titled “March of the Deplorables.” It will depict a large group of supporters praying for and marching alongside President Trump and Vice President Pence, including other key figures, on their journey to the White House. By opening this up to the public (crowdfunding) more people can participate in

this historic painting. The idea from Lt. Colonel E. Ray Moore, a retired Air Force Chaplain, wanted to honor the men and women who made the victory happen. I am hoping to present it to President Trump and Vice President Pence this summer and that it will become part of the White House permanent art collection

and capture a moment in history. If you desire to be a part of this campaign you can visit www.MarnieFreeman.com and look for the link to “March of the Deplorables.”

My husband had more mental clarity and foresight than I understood. He pulled me to hundreds of meetings through the years, I have been the recipient of an amazing life, family, and a desire to affect the world for the better, in part, because of it.

Maybe art is not your specialty, but you have talents, desires, giftings, abilities, and interests where you CAN make a difference. You can jump in headfirst or just step in occasionally to make phone calls to legislators, letting them know you appreciate them or that you do not support a particular bill! Or jump into a campaign full on, or work with a particular group that deals with life, abortion, or human trafficking, the electric grid, economics, pastors, It's endless. As someone who knew NOTHING about the political arena, you can do this! You can rise up and bring Godly truth, influence, and wisdom to the public arena. Fight the good fight!

You can be salt and light to a hurting world and working with amazing people like Trayce Bradford and Texas Eagle Forum!

So how did I get involved in the political arena? I married into it, I prayed myself unknowingly into it, somehow stumbled into it. Eventually, prayerfully, and purposefully, I chose it! You can choose it too. Join me!

Marnie is a full on believer in Jesus Christ and her highest calling and honor are as a wife, mother, daughter, and friend. Earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Oklahoma State University, she sits on the Texas Eagle Forum Advisory board and the Tarrant County Eagle Forum Board. She hopes to impact the world for better through painting, illustration, a timely word, a slogan, an idea, a dream, a laugh, a phone call, a text, an email, or a connection. Her husband Kevin is a best-selling author, an expert on economic terrorism, and the host of a new television show, Economic War Room airing on TheBlaze primetime Fridays, starting this summer.