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## Idaho Values Alliance is in financial straits

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The Idaho Values Alliance, founded by prominent social conservative Bryan Fischer, is in danger of folding because of a lack of funding, Fischer says.

The Boise group sent out an urgent plea for money this week, saying members will re-evaluate the group's finances in early December and that if donations fall short, the organization will be forced to shut down.

The Idaho Values Alliance is a 2-year-old nonprofit that has championed causes like the Ten Commandments and opposes abortion and gay rights. Fischer, its only paid staffer, is well known for working unsuccessfully to keep a Ten Commandments monument in Julia Davis Park. He lobbied Idaho legislators this fall to repeal no-fault divorce. He also campaigned for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"Our mission is very simple: to make Idaho the friendliest place in the world to raise a family," Fischer said.

The alliance sends out a free daily e-mail newsletter that Fischer said has between 1,200 and 1,300 subscribers. But donations have not kept up with subscriptions.

"The people we are serving, many of them are people of modest income," Fischer said.

Gale Pooley, a member of the alliance's compensation board, said subscribers might assume others are funding the group. He also said political campaigns could be drawing money from people who would otherwise donate to the alliance.

"A lot of people are getting requests from candidates," Pooley said.

Fischer is in McCall, away from his home, this week and said he could not immediately provide the Idaho Statesman with documentation of the alliance's finances. He said the alliance had a budget of roughly \$80,000 last year and that his salary is roughly \$47,000.

Neither Fischer nor Poole would say how much the organization needs to raise. The Idaho Values Alliance is the Idaho chapter of a national group, The American Family Association, though it does not get funding from that group, Fischer said.

Running the alliance is Fischer's full-time job. The former pastor said he's not sure what he'll do if the organization shuts down. He did say he's interested in staying involved in public policy.

**Caption:** Bryan Fischer namey / [xx@idahostatesman.com](mailto:xx@idahostatesman.com) Cutliney

**Page:** 2

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