

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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January/February 2012

Gambling is again the Governor's 1st priority

The gambling interests are relentless even with the fiery backdrop of significant changes in legislative districts.

While most Kentuckians were celebrating Christmas, expanded gambling advocates were preparing the release of a poll purporting to show that Kentuckians support changing the Kentucky Constitution to allow casino-style gambling. It was the latest salvo in an almost two decade campaign by gambling interests to open up the state to casinos.

In fact, one of the arguments being used to convince Kentuckians to pass expanded gambling legislation is that "we need to settle this issue once and for all."

"We've settled his issue 'once and for all' about twelve times," said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation, referring to repeated defeats of the casino forces. "The problem is that these people won't take 'No' for an answer and they have plenty of money to keep this issue before the public."

According to Cothran, though the survey got a lot of press attention, the questions asked were clearly biased. "The context of the survey implied that tax money from gambling receipts would fund education, health care, and public safety. But it will be hard to put these things into the constitution. What we are likely to see is that expanded gambling advocates will write the legislation to include special favors for the horse tracks, but these other things will be left as verbal promises. And we have seen how good those are."

Cothran said the last time Kentuckians were promised additional education funding was the Lottery bill. "The politicians broke that promise, and for years the most common question lawmakers were asked by their constituents was, 'Whatever happened to the Lottery money?'"

With Beshear claiming a mandate from his November re-election and with Republican Sen. Damon Thayer now

saying he will sponsor a bill to amend the Kentucky Constitution, expanded gambling advocates have their best shot in years.

But the session started out inauspiciously when the Legislative Ethics Commission brought in Jack Abramoff, the casino lobbyist who went to prison in a widely publicized gambling scandal and now speaks about lobbying ethics. "Gambling is entirely political," Abramoff told lawmakers on Jan. 4, "Understand the power of the money in

that industry."

And it was not just Abramoff's warning that reminded

"Gambling is entirely political. Understand the power of the money in that industry."

*— Jack Abramoff
Imprisoned gambling lobbyist*

state legislators about the ethical temptations offered by the rich casino industry. In a prayer before the Governor's Jan. 17 budget address, Baptist minister and former Kentucky Baptist Convention president Hershael York prayed for legislators "to foster salaries, not slot machines, to build cars, enable jobs, not license casinos." That was just before the Governor argued for fostering slot machines and licensing casinos.

House Speaker Greg Stumbo has said that the House



(continued on bottom of page 3)

Please Call!

Call after 7am EST weekdays & until 11pm EST Mon thru Thurs.

#1 Call the toll free message line [800-372-7181] and leave a message with the receptionist for your state senator and state representative. (She will know who they are.) Leave this kind but firm message . . .

"Vote AGAINST ANY expansion of gambling."

#2 Then ask the receptionist to "copy" your message to key Senators Damon Thayer & Carroll Gibson as well as House Leaders Greg Stumbo & Jeff Hoover. (Husbands and wives should **BOTH** call.)

Use bulletin inserts to rally your church so that we can ALL stand together.

Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus formed on Jan. 10

Over 350 attend, 60 legislators sign their commitment in the Capitol Rotunda.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 was a historic day for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as over 60 legislators and nearly 350 citizens crowded the Capitol Rotunda, for a “Call to Prayer Day.” Not in recent history has there been such a gathering in the State Capitol.

“I sometimes get very discouraged because it seems like all I hear is bad news,” said Eunice Montfort, an event volunteer and praying citizen. “It was encouraging to see so many pastors and leaders there. I heard from several people that they felt a move of the Spirit beginning in America. I have been praying for years for God to send revival. I have been praying that I would live to see the day that we truly are ‘One Nation, Under God’.”

Many other attendees said they left full of hope that God has heard their prayers for Kentucky and the nation. It was



Participants filled the Rotunda and overflowed into the second floor balcony.

evident that those in attendance believe that God can and will change America, if His people will pray.

The event was hosted by the members of the Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus and was emceed by the Prayer Caucus Chairman and House Minority Leader, Rep. Jeff Hoover (R-Jamestown). Throughout the program, the Rotunda was filled with spontaneous clapping as citizens showed their support. Attendees also cheered the announcement of the “In God We Trust” Campaign, a campaign created in response to the Congressional vote to re-affirm our national motto.

To seal the commitment to pray for their nation, Kentuckians lined up to sign the Call to Prayer Proclamation for Kentucky along with their elected leaders. During the reading of the Proclamation by Rep. Tim Moore (R-Elizabethtown), a resounding voice of unity became apparent as the crowd joined in the reading of 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people, who are called by My

name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and heal their land.”

“I heard from several people that they felt a move of the Spirit beginning in America.”

– Eunice Montfort

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, a national group, intends to provide support for the newly formed Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus as well as state prayer caucuses being

formed across the nation.



KENTUCKY LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS A CALL TO PRAYER FOR KENTUCKY

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE, AND GUIDANCE BY PRAYER AND HUMBLE PETITION BEFORE A LOVING AND MERCIFUL CREATOR—IMPLORING HIM TO WATCH OVER THIS NATION, ITS LEADERS, AND HER PEOPLE.

THE FAITH-BASED PRINCIPLES THAT ESTABLISHED AMERICA, INCLUDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND ITS EXPRESSION. THE MORAL AND SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE, DRAWS MANY SERVANTS WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER—TO SEEK HUMILITY IN GOVERNANCE, WISDOM IN DECISION-MAKING, COURAGE IN TIMES OF TESTING, AND PROVIDENCE FOR GOD’S FAVOR AND BLESSING.

ON MAY 24, 1774, WHEN FACING ENORMOUS CHALLENGES, CAUCUS MEMBERS FROM THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES PASSED A RESOLUTION SETTING APART A DAY OF “FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.” IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN MEETING IN ROOM 219 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION. THE GRAVITY OF THIS MEETING WAS DERIVED FROM THE HUMBLE AND SINCERE BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL AND RESTORE AMERICA. SOON THEREAFTER, THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH OVER AND PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PRAY.

WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CROSSROAD: EITHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE THE VIBRANT CHARACTER OF OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OR TO PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO THE POSTMODERN VOID—A VALUE-NEUTRAL AND AMORAL VACUUM THAT ENDEAVORS TO DECONSTRUCT MUCH OF WHAT WE HOLD SACRED.

CENTURIES AGO, THE BIBLE RECORDS IN 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 THAT GOD TOLD KING SOLOMON:

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

WITH CLEAR VISION AND THE RECENT RE-AFFIRMATION OF “IN GOD WE TRUST” AS OUR NATIONAL MOTTO, IT BECOMES MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO KENTUCKIANS. THE PREAMBLE OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION HUMBLY ASSERTS, “WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, GRATEFUL TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE CIVIL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES WE ENJOY, AND INVOKING THE CONTINUANCE OF THESE BLESSINGS, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.”

THE PATRIOTISM OF THE COMMONWEALTH’S FIRST GOVERNOR, ISAAC SHELBY, HELPED INSPIRE THE STATE MOTTO, “UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.” FURTHERMORE, THE OFFICIAL LATIN COMMONWEALTH MOTTO, ADOPTED IN 2002, AFFIRMS, “DEO GRATIAM HABEAMUS” (LET US BE GRATEFUL TO GOD).

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED BELIEVE IN PRAYER AND THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES THAT REMIND US THAT OUR RIGHTS COME FROM ALMIGHTY GOD, UNITE IN THIS PROCLAMATION. ACCORDINGLY, THIS DAY WE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY ISSUE A “CALL TO PRAYER” FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AND INVITE KENTUCKIANS EVERYWHERE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS COUNTRY, OUR NOBLE STATE AND THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH THEY STAND.

WITNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY AS OF THE 10TH DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2012.

The gambling industry's sloppy, self-interested study

On Jan. 16, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce released a study of the prospective benefits of casino gambling. The study was paid for by a consortium of horse track interests, including Churchill Downs and Keeneland, and conducted by the Spectrum Gaming Group of New Jersey, a pro-casino research business.

SUMMARY: *The numbers produced by the gambling industry study concerning state revenue and jobs are severely overstated, and the report does not even attempt to include other information that policymakers need in order to make informed decisions about expanded gambling in Kentucky, such as the costs associated with expanded gambling.*

- **There is no cost-benefit analysis in the study.** Costs, in fact, are never even considered. The analysis does not address the question of the migration of jobs from other businesses to the casinos, and there is no mention of the costs to society of the migration of money from the consumer economy to casinos.
- **The report makes assumptions about the level of gambling by Kentuckians that are not only unsupported, but unsupportable.** The study predicates that revenues will be \$1.14 billion. It also assumes that a new track will be built in London or Corbin to tap out Knoxville, TN. Since the "hold" for casinos is usually about 10 percent, that means that Kentuckians will have to gamble approximately \$10 billion to generate \$1.14 billion in revenue. Even with re-spending of money won (called thrashing), that figure is simply unrealistic.
- **The report uses statistical tricks to overstate tax revenue.** The study assumes a tax rate of 40.65 percent which would, it asserts, generate \$465 million for the state. But the tracks will receive back \$164.6 million for purses and the breeders' fund. This places the effective tax rate at 26.35 percent, not 40.65 percent, and lowers the amount kept by the state to just a little over \$300 million (a figure that still assumes the unreasonable assumption of the level of gambling mentioned above). This trick also reduces the costs for the tracks and increases their profits dramatically.
- **The report's grossly exaggerated revenue figure would result in the ludicrous conclusion that Kentucky would make more money than most states now engaged in casino gambling.** The study's claim of \$1.14 billion in revenues would exceed the revenues of all the large casino states except those that have



This is all about government making its own citizens losers so it (and its friends) can win

more than nine casinos (the number being discussed in Kentucky), have larger populations, and many of which are much wealthier. This projection is totally unrealistic.

- **The report exaggerates the number of new jobs that would result.** The nine casinos will supposedly employ 11,000 people. But this would exceed the same figure in all but Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The number and wages paid are both inflated. The multiplier effect that is supposed to produce a positive economic impact of \$1.7 billion is based on unverifiable assumptions. But since every other figure in the report is inflated, it would be hard to place a great deal of confidence in that either. Finally, the report's analysis is completely static: it does not address where all this money comes from. The negative economic effects of casinos are completely ignored.

Gambling is No. 1 *continued from page 1*

will not take up the gambling issue unless the Senate passes it first, and so pressure is on many senators to vote for an amendment. Cothran criticized the lack of a bill

four weeks into the session. "By the time the Governor and his friends in the gambling industry finish divvying up all the millions of dollars they think they're going to pocket through this legislation and come out of their smoke-filled room over in the Capitol building, this whole thing will be over," Cothran said.

The expanded gambling effort had momentum in early January, but Cothran pointed out that the horse tracks were misleading people about the process of amending the Constitution. "Expanded gambling proponents are trying to convince people that we have a ballot referendum in this state," said Cothran. "But we don't."

"Our amendment process counts on lawmakers exercising their judgment on what is good policy, and then

Rev. York's pre-budget address prayer:

**Lord, help legislators
"... to foster salaries,
not slot machines,
to build cars,
enable jobs,
not license casinos."**



having voters agree or disagree," Cothran added. "This idea that lawmakers should just punt and 'let the people decide' is just one more way the gambling industry is corrupting our political process."

[Editor's Note: At press time, the Governor's gambling bill had not been introduced.]

Visit our new websites:

www.kentuckyfamily.org

For issues affecting the family

www.kentuckymarriage.org

For the Kentucky Marriage Movement

All three branches of state government are being corrupted by the gambling efforts

It began in the Executive Branch, moved into the Legislative Branch and has even reached the Judicial Branch with the effort to rule that “Instant Racing” is a live, pari-mutuel horse race. Sometimes the branches work together, but now, always with gambling’s guiding hand.



The Executive Branch

Editor’s Note: Because the three branches of government often work closely together, it is sometimes difficult to separate the initiatives emanating from any particular one.

February 2007 – Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Beshear announces his advocacy for casinos and then a series of interesting events regarding money and his leading opponent took place. In April, State Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Miller ends his primary campaign, endorses pro-casino candidate Beshear, and days later flies to Las Vegas for what he terms “personal business meetings.” Beshear appoints Miller to be Democratic Party Chairman. Beshear goes on to raise \$7 million for his campaign, including huge sums from casino advocates. In addition, casino interests contribute \$489,500 to the Democratic Party’s Kentucky Victory Fund, and the Bluegrass Freedom Fund raises \$3.15 million to finance advertisements attacking Beshear’s opponent and calling for “ethics reform.” Over \$2.2 million of this “ethics reform” fund came from casino supporters, including \$1 million from one person – Bill Yung, a casino CEO who lost his New Jersey casino license and had been sued by investors there for reckless management, but who wanted to open a casino in Kentucky.

June 15, 2009 – A Special Session opens with this manipulative background: With the Governor’s Constitutional Amendment to authorize gambling failing to pass the House in 2008, he abandoned his promised Amendment approach and pushed a simple statute in 2009. Why? Because a statute only requires 51 percent of the vote in each Chamber rather than the super-majority of 60 percent for an Amendment. However, because gambling is “revenue enhancing” legislation and 2009 was a “Short Session” of the General Assembly, by rule 60 percent is still required. So, on Feb. 12, 2009, when the gambling statute passes its committee unanimously, it is simply parked until the Session is over. Several other key bills are deliberately delayed in order to give cover for the Governor to call a Special Session later that year. (Special Sessions do not require a 60 percent super-majority for revenue bills.) No reports of this manipulation appear in the news so the June 15 Special Session begins with several issues to consider, including the gambling expansion statute. What others are not aware of is that another component of the Executive Branch, the Attorney General’s office, is also working to make gambling legal. Attorney General Jack Conway, having been asked on May 18 for an opinion as to whether slots at the tracks can be implemented without a constitutional amendment (without the people voting for final ratification), releases his opinion on the first day of the Special Session – June 15. This is just four weeks after the request for an opinion. Conway, whose office had maintained that he had six months (until October) to respond, “surprisingly” announces his opinion in which he agrees with the only other Attorney General’s opinion that says it’s “Okay” to pass slots as a simple statute – Greg Stumbo’s 2005 opinion. All other Attorneys General had concluded a constitutional amendment was needed. When the Conway opinion comes out, it set the stage for what looked like a gambling expansion slam dunk. It is also important to note that Stumbo was the highest-

ranking Democrat endorsing Conway in his 2010 bid for the U.S. Senate seat of retiring Jim Bunning.

July 10, 2009 – After the Governor’s Special Session does not produce gambling for Kentucky, rumors in Frankfort say the Governor will use the power of his office to offer a lucrative state job to Sen. Charlie Borders (R-Grayson). Observers believe it is because of his anti-gambling vote and the Governor’s plan to change the Senate so he can have control. Sen. Borders resigns on July 15, the Governor uses the power and the Governor arranges a quick election cycle so, according to observers, his Party can control the outcome. The election date is set for August 25 – leaving less than six weeks lead time. On Aug. 25, the Republican is replaced by Democrat Robin Webb. Governor Beshear used the same strategy in December of 2009 but this time the strategy backfires and an anti-gambling expansion Republican captures the seat of Sen. Dan Kelly (R-Springfield), who had been offered and who received a judgeship from the Governor.

January 2010 – After losing all his legislative manipulations to expand gambling, the Governor places gambling revenue into his 2010 budget, only to have both the Speaker of the House and the Senate President refuse to force gambling into the state.



The Judicial Branch

On July 14, 2010 the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission approved an application allowing “Instant Racing” machines to be placed at Kentucky Downs even though the legality of the gambling scheme still rests with the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Other race tracks were less bold, but nothing would stop the Racing Commission.

A quick glance at the history of the “Instant Racing” case reveals striking irregularities that are bewildering for the person who simply trusts in “the process” to find justice. Here is a *partial* list:

The court case began as a one-sided case when the Racing Commission, the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet and the eight Kentucky horse racing tracks literally sued themselves. Though this rare procedure can be done in *civil cases* for clarity regarding a critically pending point of law, they were asking the court if they would be *criminally* liable if they brought such video gambling machines into the state. *A civil case?*

To bring this special court case, they pleaded to the court that the need for the machines was “immediate,” yet for seven months they deferred repeatedly a simple hearing by a legislative committee that could have decided their question regarding their new regulations with a simple vote. *Immediate?*

Then they finally allowed that committee to vote on the issue on May 10, but only when two anti-gambling legislators were unable to attend the hearing. The vote was four *against* the new gambling regulations and one *for* the new regulations. Because the rules of the committee required five “no” votes to kill such proposals, they were “passed.” *How did they know two anti-gambling*



The Legislative Branch

December 18, 2007 – Shortly after Gov. Beshear is inaugurated, anti-gambling and freshman State Representative Brandon Spencer (D-Prestonsburg) suddenly and unexpectedly resigns just weeks before the beginning of the 2008 General Assembly. This resignation leads to Gov. Beshear calling a Special Election on Feb. 5 for House District 95. One of the state’s most aggressive supporters of casino gambling is elected, former House Majority Leader and former Kentucky Attorney General Greg Stumbo.

representatives were not going to attend the hearing?

When The Family Foundation petitioned to enter the case so the other side of the issue was at least presented, they were allowed to become a party but were told by the judge they could not do “discovery.” Entering a court case and not being allowed to ask questions is like a father telling his children that they can go swimming but “just don’t get wet.” *What is a court case other than a mutual “asking of questions” to get to the bottom of the issues at hand?*

When the judge ruled in favor of the Racing Commission and tracks on Dec. 29, he did not even mention the statute in question when the suit was initiated. In other words, they sued to be sure they would not violate a particular statute yet the judge never referenced the statute – in essence he just said, “Okay.” *Was the real question truly examined?*

When The Family Foundation asked for records of communication between the race tracks and the government agencies, the agencies denied the request claiming that they were protecting records because they had “common interest” with the tracks. *Since when does a government agency “have a common interest with the gambling industry”?*

When The Family Foundation asked for assistance from the Attorney General regarding their request for information, the request was denied because the Attorney General had a “conflict of interest.” (The conflict is most likely the fact that the Attorney General’s father serves on the Horse Racing Commission.) *Why does he now have a conflict of interest when he did not have one last year when he wrote a favorable (but questionable) opinion for the race tracks?*

The five video games approved as “Instant Racing” by the Racing Commission on July 14 include “Crusin’ for Cash”, “Sir Willie’s Treasure Quest”, Cash Carnival”, “Wild West Willie’s Lucky Draw” and “Yukon Willie’s Gold Rush.” *These are horse races?*

Though the court case is on appeal and therefore not completed, one would think the race tracks would wait for the final decision before they introduced the machines in question to the state. However, there are 200 of them currently at Kentucky Downs and another 250 going to Ellis Park. *Didn’t THEY say THEY wanted to know if the machines were legal?*

January 2008 – Gov. Beshear handpicks a pro-casino candidate to replace his running mate, newly elected Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo, in the State Senate. Roger Noe, the locally favored candidate and former legislator who was rejected by Beshear, goes public in a letter to the editor of his local newspaper before the special election, writing, “*I still believe in Democratic principles, but I am disappointed to have to say that I have no faith in our current Kentucky Democratic leadership. They have insulted the intelligence of the Democrats in our counties, and are strong arming public officials for support in furthering their dishonest agenda. We Democrats were deceived by Beshear/Mongiardo, and the rest of the state should be prepared for the same treatment.*” A Special Election for Senate District 30 is held on Feb. 5, and the Republican nominee, Brandon Smith, upsets the Governor’s choice. Not surprising, the primary public issue of the campaign was expanded gambling.

February 26, 2008 – The House Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee meets to consider and presumably pass the “Casino Amendment,” but there are several votes on the three different versions of the bill and all fail. The committee members are in disarray and an abrupt vote is taken to adjourn. Later that day, Rep. Dottie Sims (D-Horse Cave) is removed from the committee by the Speaker of the House because she voted contrary to his preferred version of the amendment. She is replaced by two pro-casino members. The amendment passes favorably out of committee the next day only to die later in the Session for lack of 60 votes in the House.

January 9, 2009 – Speaker Greg Stumbo announces plans to run a non-constitutional amendment that will authorize slots at the race tracks under the Kentucky Lottery. This is a simple statute requiring only 51 percent of the votes to pass and it would not allow Kentucky citizens to ratify or reject the proposal. At that time, he is the only (former) Attorney General that had ever opined that a constitutional amendment is not needed to expand gambling in Kentucky.

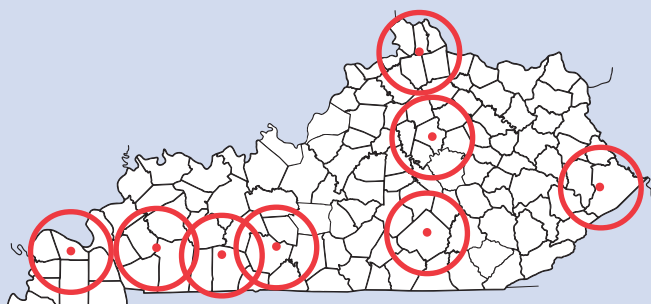
February 3, 2009 – To pass his slots initiative – House Bill 158, the media reports that Stumbo consults with former Rep. Jerry Bronger (D-Louisville), who went to prison for taking gambling-related bribes in the 1990s’ Operation BOPTRROT scandal. Bronger pleaded guilty in 1992 to taking \$2000 in bribes from lobbyist Bill McBee regarding a racetrack gambling bill.

February 12, 2009 – House Bill 158, Stumbo’s bill, passes its House Committee unanimously *BUT IT NEVER MOVES!* Since an odd-year Short Session of the General Assembly requires 3/5 majority to pass a revenue enhancing bill and there were not 60 votes in the House to pass HB 158, a summer Special Session was planned and manipulated from the beginning of 2009. (See “Executive Branch” on page 4 for an account.)

April thru June 2009 – The 2009 Session closes without a gambling bill passed. The horse lobby initiates major media as well as news campaign arguing that much of the horse industry will leave the state if it does not get relief. In addition, the Governor’s office initiates a major campaign saying the state will experience an almost \$1 billion shortfall if it does not get relief. On June 3, Gov. Beshear announces plans for a Special Session beginning June 15, and then adds gambling expansion to the call on June 4. House Bill 2, sponsored by Speaker Stumbo, is introduced on the first day of the Special Session. But HB 2 does not receive the support it needs from legislators in the House so a \$1.3 billion school spending program is announced to secure more votes. Rep. Johnny Bell (D-Glasgow) says, “But I found out today we change the rules in midstream, and if a person is not able to vote for the gambling issue, then their school won’t be built.” (Note the irony – the Session is called because of an almost \$1 billion budget shortfall and yet the gambling bill is promoted by the spending of another \$1.3 billion.)



Love & Respect



*This national ministry is coming to Kentucky
via video presentation again this Spring
(listed below are the dates and places)*

Pikeville, March 9-10

Pikeville United Methodist Church
107 Main Street, Pikeville, KY 41501□

Hopkinsville, March 23-24

Restoration House Family Worship Center
1009 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240□

Russellville, March 30-31

Southern Heights Baptist Church
1400 Nashville Street, Russellville, KY 42276

Somerset, April 13-14

Somerset Christian Academy
815 Grand Central Boulevard, Somerset, KY 42503

Bowling Green, April 20-21

Rich Pond Baptist Church
200 Brad Avenue, Bowling Green, KY 42104

Central Kentucky, April 27-28

Woodford Community Church
320 Hope Lane, Versailles, KY 40383

Paducah in May

Date and Place to be announced

Northern Kentucky in May

Date and Place to be announced

For more or to register, call (859)255-5400 or go to www.kentuckymarriage.org

Love & Respect: Your marriage, and the marriages of others, will be strengthened with just a little effort. Join us!

You will be glad you came . . . I guarantee it!

Awesome! That's the word that comes to my mind over and over after our Fall 2011 *Love and Respect* Conferences. It's the same word that I repeat over and over as we receive all the comments about the positive impact of these conferences on lives, marriages, families, churches and communities!

Why awesome? Because the vision the Lord laid on our hearts — the Kentucky Marriage Movement — was to serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky to strengthen the institution of marriage. As you can see from our purpose statements below, our heart and passion is to help every couple grow in their marriage whether intentionally maintaining a strong relationship or helping those in crisis. And that's just what the Lord is doing!

Our Vision: To encourage the healthy model of marriage and to see marriages strengthened in every home and church across Kentucky. To revitalize marriage in Kentucky to the end that more couples choose to marry and stay married and that every child is

afforded the opportunity of growing up in a home with both their mother and their father.

Our Mission: To partner with homes and churches across Kentucky who desire to enrich marriages and encourage healthy relationships or marriage through ministry and mentoring, as we stand firm in holding up the Biblical model of marriage. To serve couples, church and community leaders with the resources to strengthen marriage and reduce divorce and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Our Strategy: To collaborate with like-minded individuals, churches, and organizations to facilitate the implementation of community-level marriage initiatives and to promote and encourage the many marriage-strengthening efforts taking place within Kentucky.

According to those who attended one of our Fall conferences, the impact is rippling out across churches and communities. Please join us for one of our Spring 2012 video conferences (dates and locations on previous page).

According to those who attended one of our Fall conferences, the impact is rippling out across churches and communities.

You will be encouraged and/or challenged to make your marriage even better as you hear from a gifted teacher and speaker who unlocks the truth about *Love and Respect* (and maybe you will choose to help others in their marriages). Join us and invite your friends, small group or church to come along!



Greg Williams is Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation



To find out more or to register, go to
www.kentuckymarriage.org

GUEST ANALYSIS: Those who go too far as radical libertarians . . . well, just go too far.

The Italian “ship of fools” *by Gary Bauer of Campaign for Working Families*

What happened on the doomed Italian cruise liner on Jan. 14 is a commentary on the division between values-oriented conservatives and pure libertarians. I'm hearing more and more libertarians arguing that we should support limited government and that anything involving morality is off limits. But I agree with the Founders who argued that only a virtuous people could remain free and that the purpose of the law is to uphold the values that promote virtuous lifestyles.

What does this have to do with a capsized cruise ship? The captain and some crewmen evidently lived by the motto “Every man for himself.” They saved their own skins before lifting a finger to help the women and children on board. Some commentators today are contrasting their behavior to what happened on the *Titanic*.

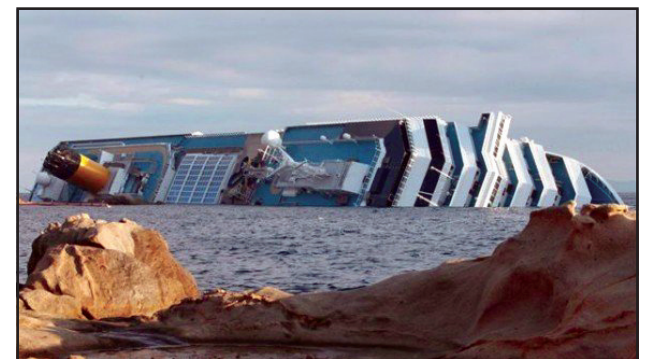
One hundred years ago, the men on that ship were committed to the moral idea of saving women and

children before they saved themselves. So much so in fact that proportionally more women in third class survived the *Titanic*'s sinking than did men in first class. And they survived because the men with first class tickets stood on the decks helping women and children of all social ranks into the lifeboats.

Benjamin Guggenheim, one of the wealthiest men on the *Titanic*, didn't try to buy his way off the sinking ship. He helped load women and children into the lifeboats and then changed into a tuxedo when the last boat was gone so that he would “die like a gentleman.” It was reported that he gave this message to a survivor, “Tell my wife . . . I played the game out straight to the end. No woman shall be left aboard this ship because Ben Guggenheim was a coward.”

Let me make this observation: Before long there will be demands for new regulations of the cruise industry. Perhaps there will be regulations demanding that the

. . . I agree with the Founders who argued that only a virtuous people could remain free and that the purpose of the law is to uphold the values that promote virtuous lifestyles.



Italian cruise ship disaster

captain and crew must remain on the ship. In other words, when morality fails, big government grows to fill the gap. The breakdown of the mother/father family, for example, has spurred the growth of the welfare state. And vice versa.

Whether true libertarians realize it or not, they have an inconsistent view of government. Their neutrality on issues of morality will guarantee the growth of big government, the very thing they despise most.

Opinion: An elite few have contributed handsomely and they are . . .

Buying the Constitution

Is it possible to buy your way into the Constitution?

It is a question Kentuckians should ask themselves as they consider a proposal to amend the Kentucky Constitution to allow casino-style gambling in the state.

The Kentucky Constitution of 1891 prohibited all but pari-mutuel betting on horse races, in large part because of the corruption that gambling had brought to so many states at the time. The problem was that the big money the gambling industry took from everyday citizens allowed them inordinate influence on the political process.

After Steve Beshear's November re-

election late last year, though the issue of gambling was hardly mentioned, he suddenly declared he had a mandate to push casino-style gambling in the state.

With Beshear's push in his first term, we have already seen legislators who oppose gambling disappear from committees before key votes, or threatened with the loss of project funding. Lawmakers have also been lured away from their seats by the Governor with lucrative state



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

appointments so he could replace them with pro-gambling legislators.

Just imagine what it will be like when

. . . most observers think the Governor will simply introduce a bill that will write special favors for wealthy horse racing tracks and casino interests into the Constitution.

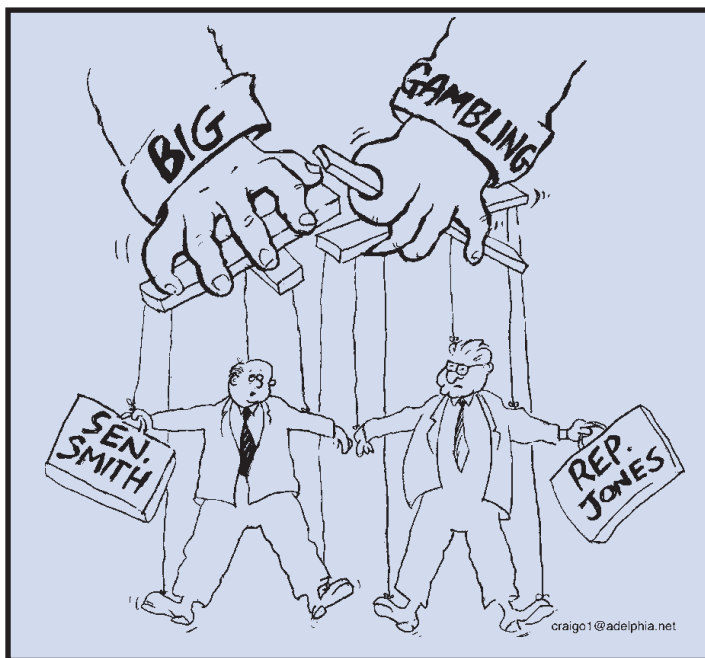
these gambling advocates have grown fat on the hard-earned money of Kentucky citizens who have lost even

more at the casinos. They will be able to throw even more weight around.

After promising Kentuckians he would include funding for education, health care, public safety, and local government, most observers think the Governor will simply introduce a bill that will write special favors for wealthy horse racing tracks and casino interests into the Constitution. Although there had been no bill filed as of the end of January, the bill is expected to designate

that there be a limited number of casinos run by horse tracks, with a couple more run by other entities.

Beshear has benefited from millions of dollars in political support from gambling interests, including campaign donations from horse tracks, and after winning his second term as governor, he seems intent on paying these interests back by actually writing them into the Constitution.



"What do they want this Session?"

The Kentucky *CITIZEN*

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This is a clear abuse of the state's central governing document.

Such a bill would amount to an attempt by wealthy horse track corporations to buy their way into the Constitution like those buying box seats at a ball game.

The chief beneficiary of this legislation could be Churchill Downs. Despite all the rhetoric about how the horse industry is hurting economically, Churchill Downs is a hugely profitable gambling corporation. In 2011, the company announced record net revenues of \$585.3 million.

The company has hired a small army of high-priced lobbyists to ensure they benefit from the legislation, and, in fact, the company may well be sitting at the table in the back room of the Governor's office in the secret meetings where this legislation is being crafted.

I would say that it was all done in a smoke-filled room, but there is a smoking ban in the Capitol Building.

It is interesting to consider that, according to Reuters News Service, the CEO of Churchill Downs receives basic annual compensation of \$7,368,050. The owner of another Kentucky horse track that claims it is in desperate financial straits not only flies his own private jet, he owns his

own private jet company.

There's nothing wrong with people getting rich and enjoying their wealth, but it becomes a problem when that wealth is used to buy political influence. When wealthy casino corporations come calling at the Governor's office flush with campaign cash, they should not be handed an official pen to write their names into our laws so they can pad their already prodigious portfolios.

There are no orchestra seats in the state's most important governing document. We shouldn't allow the one percent to occupy the Kentucky Constitution.

Some conservatives have argued that it is not the government's business to restrict what people can do. (Never mind that that is about half of what government does.) But since when do conservatives support using our constitution to favor one industry or interest over another? How does that contribute to competition in the marketplace?

State lawmakers need to tell the Governor and the horse tracks that have bankrolled him that the State Constitution is not for sale.