

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XXII No. 6

November/December 2013

The 2014 General Assembly will be lively!

There are a number of contributing factors to make the 2014 Assembly one of the more interesting Sessions in years.

The Kentucky General Assembly, which begins its 2014 Session on Jan. 7, will be dealing with a lame duck governor and a sexual harassment investigation in the House, either or both of which could affect the issues that will come before it.

One of these is tax reform, an issue that has been discussed for years and which is now once again being called “important.” The problem in the past is that there is little political incentive for politicians to address it and there seems to be even less impetus this Session. The obvious problem is that when the tax system is changed there are winners and losers—and politicians do not like to vote on things where there are losers who might decide to elect someone else to their office.

“Another problem with getting anything done on tax reform is that other issues that have backing of some political interest group always seem to steal the limelight,” says Martin

“It (expanded gambling) never passes and all it does is to bury other, more important issues in its wake.”

– Martin Cothran, policy analyst

Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation. “This session, as in previous sessions, that issue could be expanded gambling.”

“Expanded gambling legislation seems to come back every Session,” says Cothran. “It never passes and all it does is to bury other, more important issues in its wake.”

Proponents of such legislation see the solution to the problem to be simply the passage of the legislation so the General Assembly no longer has to deal with it. “They say, ‘We need to resolve this issue.’ But the issue has been resolved about twenty times now,” says Cothran. “The casino industry needs to take ‘No’ for an answer and let the state get on with its business.”

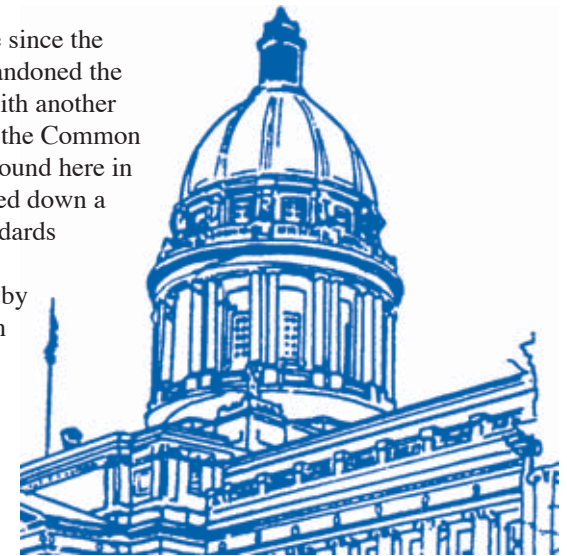
Another perennial issue the legislature could engage is abortion regulations. “The House has not had a single pro-life piece of legislation on its Floor for nine consecutive regular Sessions – that’s nine years,” says Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “It’s long past time to engage this issue head-on. I would expect a significant battle this Session over some kind of regulatory abortion bill.”

On the education front, the General Assembly has

not acted on any major education issue since the passage of SB 1 in 2009, a bill that abandoned the CATS testing system and replaced it with another test. But the national controversy over the Common Core Standards has already touched ground here in Kentucky when a legislative panel voted down a bill that would implement science standards based on the national standards.

Gov. Steve Beshear, though stung by that legislative defeat, simply issued an executive order bypassing the legislature. But lawmakers, who are not normally happy when a governor ignores them, may well come back to enforce their will on the issue. Other issues involving Common Core

continued on bottom of page 3



Cut and place on your refrigerator.

“Let your voice be heard” is a spiritual admonition, not a political one. In other words, “Let the prophetic voice be heard” (in order to guide and encourage civic leaders).

Below is the Legislative Message Line number to which any citizen can call without cost and leave a brief (and kind) message for his state senator or representative or both. Your message can be as simple as “Pass the bill that creates Charter Schools.”

The message line will be open during the 2014 Session from 7:00 AM until 11:00 PM EST Monday through Friday. It will close at 6:00 PM on Fridays. The Session begins Jan. 7.

**Legislative
Message
Line**

800-372-7181

What about the healthcare *AFTER* enrollment?

Add large deductibles and copays to the high premiums and people are likely not even to go to the doctor.

[Recently, The Family Foundation invited Mike Clark, a therapist in the Louisville area for the past 25 years, to share his concerns about the Affordable Healthcare Act. The focus of his practice has been working with individuals, marriage counseling, and families. Clark has specialized in conflict resolution, finding solutions to anger problems, anxiety, depression, sexual addiction, etc.]



Mike Clark

Just over five years ago in the 2008 presidential campaign, promises of “affordable healthcare” were made by then Sen. Obama and then later voted on and signed in 2009. Recently, we heard the Presidential *1-800 Infomercial* about this *affordable* healthcare. There were many promises made: “You can keep your present insurance plan . . . you will save \$2,500 annually . . . and you can keep your doctor.” Now, we know that these promises — and many others — are not, and have not been true.

We are now beginning to find out about some hidden aspects related to the real cost. For example, one hidden aspect that has not been addressed is how this works out practically. At the doctor’s office, if you have one of these high deductible plans, you will have to pay the full fee for the doctor’s office visit. The same is true for the cost of imaging services, treatment for cancer, surgeries, etc., until the deductible has been met.

Yes, this is all in addition to higher monthly premiums, plus an annual deductible as high as \$12,000 before the insurance kicks in, plus the co-pay after the deductible has been met. Is that what we were promised? Actually, it was not even discussed because they knew what the reaction would be.

Today, in the shadows of the website failure, is the most critical aspect of this whole issue of health insurance: Will you go, or can you afford to go to the doctor and get your regular check-ups? Will those who need to go to the psychiatrist for a medical/behavioral evaluation for medication and follow-up visits for anxiety, depression, etc. have to pay the doctor’s fee up front? This is in addition to the *higher monthly premiums* and *annual*

deductibles.

The possible answer is that a large number of people may choose not to go to their doctor because they will not be able to afford it. In a recent meeting that I had with state insurance officials, it was brought up that this would possibly cause families to file for bankruptcy. One staff member stated that “bankruptcy may be an option.” Are you kidding? “*Bankruptcy may be an option*” is now a part of our new healthcare system!

So where is our *actual healthcare*?

As a counselor in mental health, many of the clients that I see have an insurance plan with behavioral health coverage. A number of them have a large deductible to meet each year before the insurance starts. This means, for example, if they have a \$5,000 deductible, they have to pay full fee every time they see their psychiatrist — \$250+ for the initial session and full fee for their therapist.

With insurance premiums increasing, from 40 percent to 100 percent (or more), and a major increase in deductibles, the question that we need to ask ourselves is, “Will they be able to afford to go to their doctor for physical health care and preventive health care, including mental health?”

With the additional cost of the Affordable Care Act, our hospital emergency rooms could potentially be filled with people who are in crisis because they did not see their doctor for preventative care, tests, and treatment. Are our politicians really looking out for our best interest? Is this the *actual healthcare* system that is being created for Kentuckians and all Americans, and will it be far worse than we could anticipate?

How we have looked at “healthcare,” including Research and Development, in the past will not be the same as government healthcare in our future! The bottom line is that we were promised that we would have the same insurance plan, doctor, benefits. “Period!”

“The possible answer is that a large number of people may choose not to go to their doctor because they will not be able to afford it.”

– *Mike Clark*
counselor in mental health



New Poll: 59 percent oppose Obamacare Mandate

Opposition to Obamacare is building as the personal, business and economic consequences are becoming clear.

On Dec. 6, the Family Research Council (FRC) and Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) released the results of a commissioned national survey showing that 59 percent of likely voters “oppose the mandate requiring the coverage of preventive care services for women which includes all FDA approved contraceptives, including drugs that can destroy a human embryo, and sterilization services without a direct cost to the patient.”

Nearly three out of five (59%) likely voters oppose the mandate requiring the coverage of preventive care services for women which includes all FDA approved contraceptives, including drugs that can destroy a human embryo, and sterilization services without a direct cost to the patient.

- **Strongly Support: 28%**
- **Somewhat Support: 7%**
- **Hard Undecided or Refused To Answer: 6%**

59% {
• **Somewhat Oppose: 8%**
• **Strongly Oppose: 51%**

The poll, conducted by WPA Opinion Research from November 18-20, sought to determine how likely voters feel about Obamacare overall, and their opinion regarding the HHS mandate. WPA noted that “Obamacare has seen its public support drop as the unadvertised consequences of the law have become clear. The mandated coverage of drugs that can destroy a human embryo, are just another instance of this.”

- Strong majorities of both Evangelical Protestants (77%) and Catholics (61%) oppose the mandate.
- Independents are nearly twice as likely to oppose the mandate (61%) as they are to support it (32%).
- Strong majorities of those who believe abortion should be outlawed except in the cases of rape or incest (77%), should be outlawed except in the case of the mother’s health (87%), and should never be allowed (89%) oppose the mandate.
- Fifty-nine percent of married likely voters oppose the mandate.
- A majority of women ages 18 to 54 (54%) oppose the mandate.

Fetal pain bill proposed in U.S. Senate

Observers believe it would pass the U.S. House of Representatives if it were able to successfully clear the Senate.

This past November, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) called on Senate leaders to allow a vote before the midterm elections on a proposal that would ban abortions after 20 weeks. "I'm asking for Sen. McConnell and Sen. Reid to allow us to vote on this in 2014," he said during a recent news conference. "I know we are really busy around here and there's no room to do anything, but we'll find some time to talk about this issue."

While Graham acknowledged the unlikely probability of getting 50 votes for the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," he said support would grow as the public better understands the facts about the legislation and the science behind it.

Twelve states have enacted fetal pain laws since 2010, and others are considering them. Those that have passed laws are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Texas.

A critical issue of fetal pain laws is establishing when a fetus can actually feel pain. According to many physicians, pain receptors are present throughout the unborn child's body no later than 16 weeks after fertilization, and nerves link these receptors to the brain's thalamus and subcortical plate no later than 20 weeks.

According to Dr. Paul Ranalli, a neurologist at the University of Toronto, the 20th

week for unborn children is a "uniquely vulnerable time, since the pain system is fully established, yet the higher level pain-modifying system has barely begun to develop." As a result, unborn babies at this stage probably feel pain even more intensely than adults.

Many physicians also agree that by 20 weeks, the unborn child reacts to stimuli that would be recognized as painful if applied to an adult. Surgeons entering the womb to perform corrective procedures on unborn children have seen those babies flinch, jerk and recoil from sharp objects and incisions.

Despite the fetus's advanced development at 20 weeks allowing them to feel pain, many abortions are performed at this stage and even later. The most common abortion procedures at this stage are Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) and digoxin abortions. With D&E abortions doctors use sharp-edged instruments to grasp, twist, and tear the baby's body into small pieces, which are then removed from the mother's womb. Digoxin abortions are performed when a drug called digoxin is injected directly into the baby's heart giving the fetus a fatal heart attack.



It's about

YOU!

(You ARE the salt and light)

YOU were created to BE the difference!

- #1 Do you want a weekly emailed legislative *UPDATE* during the 2014 Assembly?
- #2 Do you want the same one-page lobbying pieces that we give to legislators?
- #3 Would you help distribute materials about legislation to others in your area?

If so, email or call us: tffky@mis.net
(859)255-5400

(We truly need your help)

It is this grisly, medical information that Sen. Graham wants debated on the Senate Floor and by citizens across the country.

Moments after Sen. Graham announced his proposed legislation, Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, sent out mass emails and posted a press release condemning the bill as "dangerous to women's health and rights." Ironically, they seem to be so focused on "women's rights" that they forget roughly half of the 333,964 abortions they perform nationwide, as reported in their 2011-2012 annual report, terminate the lives of unborn females.

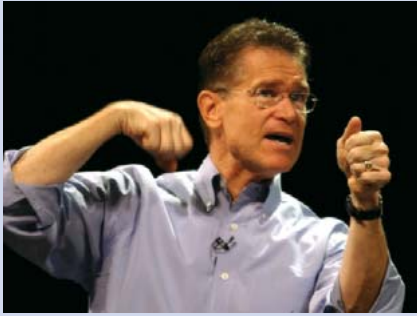
2014 Assembly *continued from page one*

standards could well make their way onto the General Assembly's radar screen.

Another topic of interest is religious freedom. After the success of HB279 last year – The Religious Freedom Restoration Act – other legislators have considered running religious freedom bills that would protect specific realms that have come under fire in recent months. This includes bills that would address religious freedom issues in the public schools or in local city and county governments.

And, of course there are countless other needs and ideas that will be vying for discussion in the Session. But besides the particular issues that will be debated *and* the backdrop of the sexual harassment investigation that will complicate them, there is also the biannual partisan overlay – 2014 is an election year and both Parties are trying to make headway.

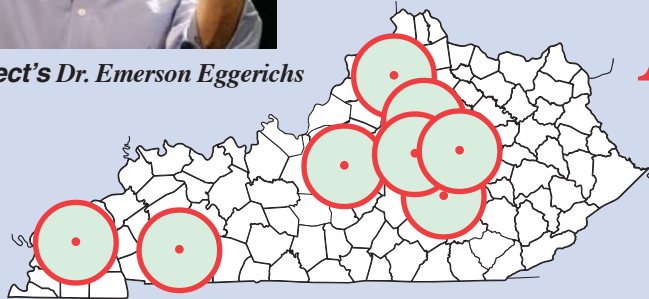
This, too, will add to the dynamics that emanate from Frankfort and make the Session "interesting" to say the least.



Love & Respect's Dr. Emerson Eggerichs



Love & Respect's Sarah Eggerichs



The Kentucky Marriage

Movement

Various regional events listed below

Lexington, Jan. 31 - Feb. 1

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
First African Baptist Church
465 Price Road, Lexington, KY 40508

Chaplin, Feb. 7-8

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Chaplin Baptist Church
5585 Lawrenceburg Road, Chaplin, KY 40012

Oak Grove, March 14-15

The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Restoration House Family Worship Center
105 Walter Garrett Lane, Oak Grove, KY 42262

Wheatley, April 11-12

The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Dallasburg Baptist Church
4760 Kentucky 227, Wheatley, KY 40359

Lexington, April 25-26

The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Broadway Christian Church
187 North Broadway, Lexington, KY 40507

Nicholasville, May 2-3

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Catalyst Christian Church
4000 Park Central Avenue, Nicholasville, KY 40356

Paducah, May 9-10

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Twelve Oaks Baptist Church
2110 New Holt Road, Paducah, KY 42001

Lexington, May 16-17

The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Lexington First Assembly of God
2780 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503

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



To host a marriage enrichment conference in your church or for a group of churches, just give us a call. It's easy and it's inexpensive. (859) 255-5400

Dec. 10 Special Election splits on Party victors

The State House picks up a new Republican seat and the State Senate retains a Democrat seat.

Kentucky was a “border state” during the Civil War, and in many ways it has remained so. One of those ways is its political climate. Tuesday, Dec. 10 was just another example of its bipolarity with one of the two Special Elections going to a Democrat and the other going to a Republican. Democrat Reggie Thomas won Lexington’s Senate District 13 and Republican Suzanne Miles won Western Kentucky’s House District 7, comprised of portions of Henderson, Daviess and Union Counties.

The real significance is not just the fact that the Parties split the victories, but that the House win pushed the ever-tightening struggle to control that Chamber one step closer to a major transition. Democrats now control the House with only a 54 to 46 majority, but a controversial 2014 General Assembly starts Jan. 7 and a major election cycle approaches next Fall.

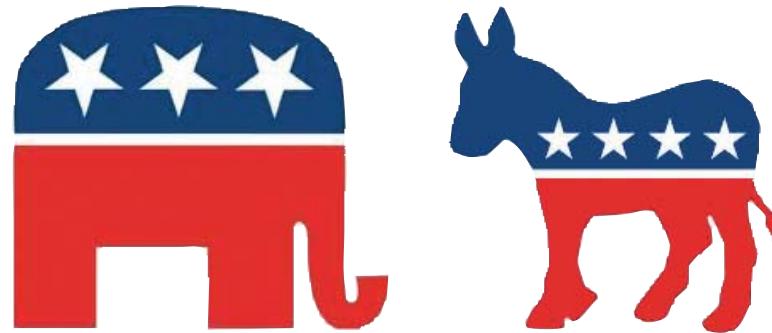
Kentucky has been slowly moving to a more “Red” or Republican state for several decades. Currently, Republicans boast both U.S. Senators and five of the six U.S. Congressmen. It also controls the State Senate with a 23 to 14 majority. There is also one Independent who caucuses with the Republicans.

Democrats have long controlled the Governor’s mansion as well as the House of Representatives.

That battle for control of the House mirrors the changing attitudes across the nation with the Democrat Party moving more liberal and the Republican Party securing more conservative citizens. Last year, when the Democratic Convention affirmed a pro-abortion and pro-gay marriage platform that also “almost” removed the word “God” from its verbiage, many Kentucky Democrats reacted.

It is that residual conservatism in Kentucky that has Democrats nervous and Republicans optimistic with the legislative battles looming and with elections following just months behind.

It was no surprise that Thomas won the Lexington senate seat, defeating a Republican and an Independent. He is relatively liberal, is for the expansion of gambling and this seat has had as its previous two holders Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, an openly gay politician and Sen. Kathy Stein, a bold advocate for liberal causes.



The makeup of the State House shifted from 55 Democrats versus 45 Republicans to 54 versus 46. The elections in the Fall of 2014 will likely be hotly contested.

The makeup of the State Senate remained the same: 23 Republicans, 14 Democrats and one Independent, who caucuses with the Republicans.

Miles winning the 7th House District raised some eyebrows, but was not a total surprise. Last year, Rep. John Arnold was nearly defeated by Republican Tim Kline, winning by 5 votes. In this election, after the seat was vacated by the sexual harassment charges against Arnold, Miles won by a mere 112 votes—another close election, leaving Kentucky’s “border state” classification in tact for a while longer.

By The Numbers . . .

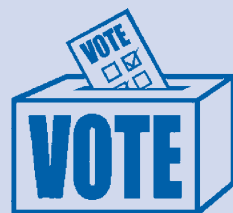
Senate District 13

R. Thomas (D) 4,040
R. Moloney (I) 2,617
M. Johnson (R) 852

House District 7

S. Miles (R) 3,548
K. Humphrey (D) 3,436

*You can make a difference in your community!
Register your church members to vote.*

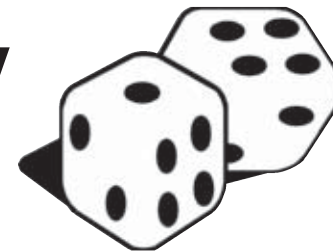


Voting: A powerful force for good

Founding Father Noah Webster: *“When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, ‘just men who will rule in the fear of God.’ The preservation of government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.”*

Call us: 859-255-5400. We’ll send you a simple “Voter Registration kit” at no cost. (You’ll only need a standard office copier and a little time on a Sunday morn-

Kentuckians should learn from history



An understanding of America's gambling history should give pause to anyone considering its expansion.

In Kentucky, the last four Attorneys General prior to Jack Conway have issued opinions regarding whether a constitutional amendment is required to allow casino gambling in the state. Three said it is required; the current Speaker of the House, Greg Stumbo, was the one (former) Attorney General who opined that an amendment is not needed.

But more important than the opinion of an attorney general is the overwhelming evidence of damage that unrestricted gambling brings. It is this evidence – and, in particular, the historical context that had our forefathers ban casinos in our state Constitution – that offers the most convincing argument against the expansion of casino gambling today.

In the early 1800s as U.S. cities grew, lotteries spread, offering hope of at least a temporary escape from poverty. By 1832 at least 420 lotteries were drawn in eight states, taking in over \$66 million dollars – several times the federal budget. From there, they spread rapidly from state to state, much like the casino movement of today. In less than

30 years, 24 of the country's 33 states would have conducted a lottery.

However, by 1833 there was so much corruption that Massachusetts and New York banned all lotteries. Pennsylvania did the same in 1834, and by 1844 nine more states followed. The trend of legal restrictions culminated in federal legislation in 1872 that authorized the Postmaster-General, upon collection of sufficient evidence, to deny

and money orders to “fraudulent” lotteries.

But the seeds of the next major wave of gambling that was to sweep the nation were already planted. On Aug. 11, 1868 Louisiana approved a lottery with more than \$200,000 in documented bribes. Tickets were sold nationwide. At its peak, this lottery took in \$28 million per year on the monthly lottery and \$22 million more on the daily lottery. (Note: At that time, the average Louisiana farm income was \$17.00 per month.)

The promoters made \$5-\$6 million a year after expenses and bribes. They used their profits to buy sugar refineries, banks, cotton presses, newspapers and land, which placed hundreds of jobs at their disposal. Bribery, including through job placements for legislators' extended families, was openly practiced. The lottery was more powerful than the legislature and the judiciary in Louisiana.

On Sept. 18, 1890 the federal postal legislation of 1872 was extended to all lotteries. The Louisiana Governor vetoed an 1890 bill for a new lottery. An override failed by one vote in the Senate but was approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court after senate leaders changed the vote after adjournment. In 1892, with destitution rampant, Louisiana voters elected a legisla-

ture which closed down the lottery altogether.

In 1891, when Kentucky revised its constitution, it joined the many other states that banned all forms of gambling through its constitution because of the disastrous effects unlimited gambling had on the citizenry. Kentucky made an exception only for horse races. Kentucky has already rejected unrestricted gambling at its highest level (Constitutional Convention); hence, the reason for the need to amend the Constitution to expand gambling today.

Since 1962, with the growth of gambling in 48 of 50 states, the parallel growth of influence peddling is evident as was the case in the 1800s. Citizens have frequently seen elections where pro-gambling candidates triumphed using campaign contributions of over 80 times that of their opponents. In one Kentucky state senate race in 2006, the gambling candidate was given \$50,000 legally by gambling interests to underscore to other legislators their powerful block of influence.

Gambling interests have become the largest political donors when there are gambling elections at stake. Examples of corruption and political manipulation came to a head on the national level in the Jack Abramoff scandal with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Congress. Abramoff served 3 years in prison after pleading guilty in 2006 to corrupting public officials, tax evasion and fraud. Interestingly, Abramoff was paid by the Kentucky Ethics Commission to speak to Kentucky's legislators at their orientation and training the first week of the 2012 General Assembly.

“I certainly didn't think I was Satan,” Abramoff said. “I thought I was a good guy. I was working for my clients, and we were winning most of our fights. I didn't realize that I was doing some really bad stuff until someone hit me on the head with a two-by-four.”

In recent decades *without casinos in the state*, Kentucky citizens have had to endure the BOPROT bribe scandal and the replacement of an entire Lottery Board because of its mishandling of funds.

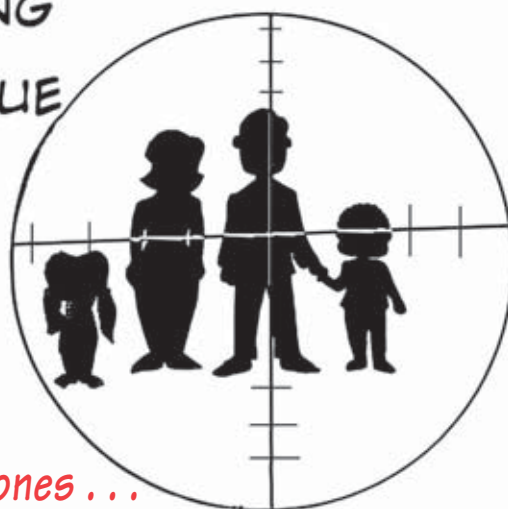
With the casino movement making headway across the nation, the peak of a new wave of corruption is approaching that will eventually bring voter revulsion and another revolution concerning gambling. If legislators and citizens can learn from history, Kentucky need not repeat any of Louisiana's painful past.

“I certainly didn't think I was Satan. I thought I was a good guy. I was working for my clients, and we were winning most of our fights. I didn't realize that I was doing some really bad stuff until someone hit me on the head with a two-by-four.”

– Jack Abramoff

[Abramoff served 3 years in prison after pleading guilty to corrupting public officials, tax evasion and fraud.]

HUNTING
FOR
REVENUE



**“Aim for
the tall ones . . .
We don't care about the little ones.”**

Their ORIGINAL opinion (from 1999): Now horsemen have turned, saying, “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.” (own them)

Horsemen once worked against casinos

Editor’s Note: For years the horse racing industry in Kentucky and The Family Foundation worked side-by-side against the expansion of casino gambling. That alliance was broken when horsemen radically changed their position to one of wanting to own casinos. Illustrating their earlier views is an opinion piece by horseman and former Gov. Brereton Jones printed by the Lexington Herald-Leader on June 8, 1999. The point is that the horse industry leaders once absolutely opposed casinos — logically and eloquently. The Family Foundation agrees with Gov. Jones’ 1999 piece and we do not recognize anything that would change the veracity of his arguments.

From the Lexington Herald-Leader Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Let’s get straight to the point. Casino gambling in Kentucky is a bad idea. The very thought of our own government promoting the deception of slot machines and roulette wheels is a sad commentary.

These casino “games” are programmed so that the house cannot lose. Regardless of how much money you have, you are guaranteed to lose it all if you play long enough. This is absolute. We already have an abundance of gambling opportunities with the lottery, bingo and horse racing.

At least the horse business creates a signature industry that provides 80,000 jobs and produces a commodity that sells around the world for million of dollars. You can succeed at various levels in the industry with education and hard work.

If we find that casino gambling in adjoining states is destroying this industry, then we will need to make conscious decisions about how we can overcome this situation.

We have already begun to address this with the creation of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. To react too hastily and create an overabundance of gambling could do major harm to this important segment of our economy.

If we legalize casinos, a few managers, lobbyists and politicians will make a lot of money, and tens of thousands of Kentuckians will lose a lot of money. We are told, however, that the state will make \$200 million to \$300 million and that this can be used to do wonderful things for all of us. You name it and the casino money will pay for it.

Does this sound familiar? I remember a candidate for governor who was proposing a state lottery. His ads said, “What do you want – higher taxes or a lottery?” Kentucky voted for the lottery. We also got the state’s highest tax increase in our state’s history.

We justifiably frown on any person in our society who profits by deceiving others. We have an abundance of laws on the books to protect us from the deception of our

fellow citizens.

How then, in the name of decency and common sense, can we justify proposing that our own government should enter into the business of promoting games of chance, where our own citizens have no chance for long-term success?

Gov. Paul Patton deserves a great deal of credit for the emphasis he has put on education, which is absolutely the real key to our future. Preparing our people for good jobs with good pay is a far more worthy goal for our state than to fund the creation of a bunch of casinos, with mostly dead-end jobs, whose intent it is to fleece the public on a daily basis.

We have a Cabinet for Economic Development in state government that is second to none in the United States. It is run by people with great ability, dedication and integrity.

With our educational, business, labor and political leaders working with these folks, we can help give them vision and create better jobs with much better pay than the casinos will ever provide, and we will all feel much better about our future.

Please call your legislators today and ask them to vote no on casino gambling. Tell them to dispose of this issue during the first half of the next session of the General Assembly so that they will be free to do the important business of the people before they adjourn.

They must not allow this issue to monopolize their time. We can do better.



Former Gov. Brereton Jones: horseman and honest Kentuckian

From Newtown to Re-Newed Nation

Gun control isn’t the way to re-new America, but establishing a “Culture of Life” IS.

Dec. 14 was the first anniversary of the devastating Newtown shooting. Millions of men, women and children all across the nation reflected deeply in their hearts on how best to respond to Newtown’s call to “public service” and to “performing acts of kindness” or “volunteering at a local charity” as a way to remember the precious lives of the 20 children who were lost that tragic day as well to honor the 6 adults who heroically tried to save them at the cost of their lives.

A few days after the tragedy, Dr. Elizabeth Rex, president of The Children First Foundation, was deeply moved to discover that 6 residents of Newtown and Sandy Hook had recently renewed their Connecticut “Choose Life” license plates that feature the child’s drawing of two smiling children with the sun shining through their faces as well as a child’s handwritten message to “Choose life.” “It was so moving. It was so providential,” said Rex.

“Those six ‘Choose Life’ license plates were there a year ago, in the midst of the unspeakable sorrow; and they are still there today, inspiring and encouraging everyone to promote and support a ‘Culture of Life’ that defends and protects innocent unborn and newborn children by promoting the loving choice of adoption and by funding our nation’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes,” said Rex

“Choose Life” license plates have been approved in 29 states and in the nation’s Capital, Washington, DC. The plates raise greater public awareness and the much needed funding to help save the lives of innocent children.

Heart by heart and car by car, the United States is becoming a “Choose Life Nation.” Consider securing one this year when your license plates need to be renewed. By so doing, you do your part in making Kentucky a “Choose Life State.”



Go ahead, get one for your car!

Drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town. You’ll be making a stand for life and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.

Opinion: The twisting of words perverts the Founders' intentions.

“Fairness” groups deny religious freedom

A law that violates the First Amendment right to freedom of religious exercise is not “fair,” and a law that effectively brands half the community as racist because of their sincerely-held religious beliefs is not “inclusive.” Yet these things are precisely what “fairness ordinances” currently being discussed in several Kentucky communities could do.

The first question to ask about such an ordinance is whether it is even needed. How many complaints about discrimination against gays have been made in these communities? If there have been complaints, are they increasing or decreasing?

These are important questions since such a law would probably require a new bureaucracy to handle complaints (if there really were any), since state government does not provide assistance in such cases. According to a city attorney in Danville, one of the communities considering such a law, the ordinance would result in “the largest expansion of municipal government since Planning and Zoning”—all of this to protect people against discrimination that may not even be occurring.

Proponents of these ordinances argue that 87 percent of Kentuckians surveyed are against discrimination based on gender identity. But there are plenty of people who are against discrimination based on gender identity who still oppose gay rights laws (something this survey, commissioned by a gay rights group, failed to ask about).



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

In fact, gay rights laws do little to diminish discrimination against gays precisely because so many people are already opposed to it. Being gay is not only celebrated in our media, but rewarded with benefits by government and many businesses. The fact that so many people are opposed to discrimination based on gender identity is not an argument *for* such ordinances, but an argument *against* them.

The second question has to do with how such an ordinance would affect churches and other religious-based institutions – as well as Christian business owners. Typically such laws exempt churches, but not other organizations or individuals.

Would Christian schools be required to violate their stated principles in order to comply with such a law? What about religious foster care organizations and adoption agencies which have similar restrictions because of their explicitly Christian mission? What about Christian bookstores? What about Boy Scout troops

The Kentucky CITIZEN

Executive Editor **Editor**
Kent Ostrander *Sarah Roof*

Contributing Editors
Martin Cothran

Jack Westwood *Jack Henshaw*
Don Cox *Greg Williams*
Ivan Zabilka *David Moreland*

The Family Foundation
P.O. Box 911111
Lexington, KY 40591-1111
859-255-5400

e-mail: tffky@mis.net
Web site: www.kentuckyfamily.org

The Kentucky Citizen is published by The Family Foundation, a Kentucky nonprofit educational organization that works in the public policy arena on behalf of the family and the values that make families strong.

The Family Foundation
P. O. Box 911111
Lexington, KY 40591-1111

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Lexington, KY
Permit No. 555

which are not allowed to hire gay scoutmasters?

And then there is the matter of Christian-owned businesses. In Oregon, a Christian bakery owner lost his business because he declined to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple. In Lexington, Kentucky a t-shirt company refused to print a t-shirt promoting a gay rights event because of the owner's Christian convictions and was hauled before the city's Human Rights Commission, which is now investigating the business. In New Mexico, a court ordered a Christian photographer to cover a gay wedding despite his religious convictions, which, among other things, effectively required the man to go to church, something the court would never do for any other reason.

Many supporters of these ordinances say that churches should be exempt because of their Constitutional rights, but not other organizations or individuals. Gay rights laws that exempt churches effectively assume that First Amendment religious freedoms apply only to churches. But the First Amendment does not apply only to churches: It also applies to individuals. No reputable legal scholar holds the position that the First Amendment

applies only to institutions.

Gay rights laws will have little effect on actual discrimination even if such discrimination existed. There are a thousand reasons a business can give for not hiring a person it did not want to hire. What these laws really do is brand people with traditional religious beliefs about sexuality as hateful bigots.

Under these ordinances, people who run organizations that do Christian work or who want to run their businesses on Christian principles are put into the same category as racists.

Is this something we really want local governments doing? Designating half their population as potential criminals for their sincerely held religious beliefs?

Make a New Year's resolution to be involved with us during the 2014 General Assembly (Jan. thru March). We really CAN make a difference. We will do our best to help you be the salt and light you were created to be. (And . . . we need your help.)

Call or email me: (859-255-5400 or kent@kentuckyfamily.org

Kent