

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Family values stymied by House Leadership

The 2014 Session was a mixture – some very good defensive victories, but no major positive steps forward for the family.

It's hard to know whether Kentucky families should be thankful their state lawmakers didn't allow too much bad legislation through in this year's Kentucky General Assembly or whether they should be frustrated that little was done in terms of progress on family issues. On the one hand, advocates of casino gambling never got their legislation off the ground. On the other, pro-life legislation was again stifled by liberal Democratic leaders in Kentucky's House of Representatives.

The gambling industry was once again plagued by internal dissension in its effort to pass casino legislation. The powerful influence of the state's horse racing industry is necessary in order for any gambling legislation to be successful, which is why in the past, such efforts have usually included the horse industry in any coalition supporting it.

Since 2000, attempts both to simply change the statutory law and attempts to change the Kentucky Constitution have included the state's race tracks. This year, however, legislative leaders cut the horse industry loose and decided to try to pass legislation without their support. Only Churchill

Downs, which is "more of a casino corporation than a horse track," says Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation, supported this year's attempt to open the state up to casinos.

Without support from horse tracks—and with explicit opposition from

horse industry groups like the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), which had supported expanded gambling legislation in previous years—legislation which would have amended the Kentucky Constitution to allow casinos, never even made it to the House floor for a vote.

Gay rights legislation was heard for the first time in the Democratically-controlled house. HB 171, a statewide gay rights bill was given a hearing, but even in a Democratically-controlled committee, it was greeted with silence from all the lawmakers on the

panel, an indication of continuing unpopularity of such a bill. No further action was taken.

Bully legislation granting special rights to gays and legislation that would mandate HPV vaccinations for school-age children never made it through the process.

Although there were no bills explicitly affecting the issue of traditional marriage, the ruling by Judge John Heyburn in the *Bourke v. Beshear* case insinuated itself into the legislative process in the form of a bill that would have given the State Senate and State House legal standing to help fight for the state's Marriage Amendment which the *Bourke* ruling overturned. The bill was introduced after Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway refused to appeal the decision, saying he agreed with the

judge's decision that Kentucky's Marriage Amendment was discriminatory in defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

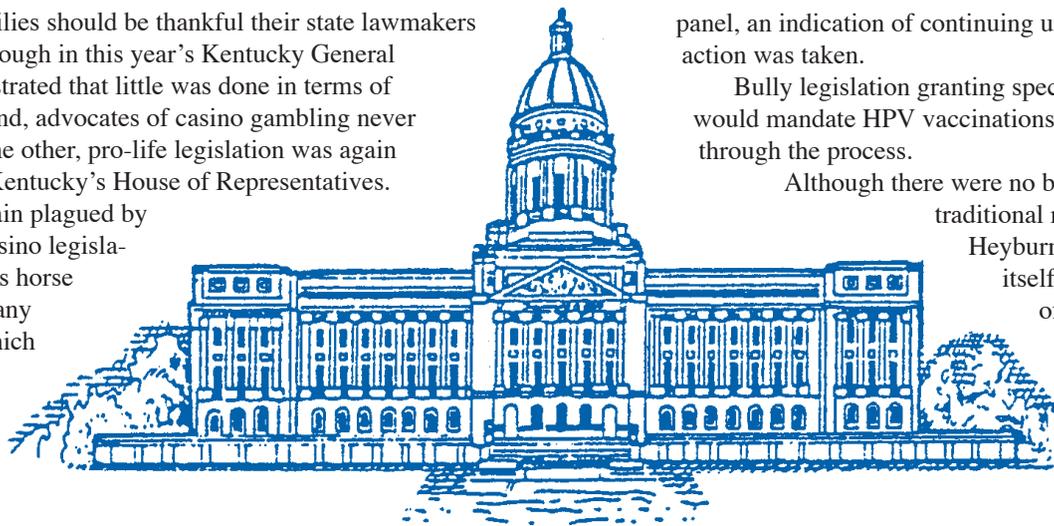
On the abortion issue, the State House again refused to act on legislation that would provide what supporters call "common sense abortion regulations." Two bills that would have given women a chance to view an ultrasound of their unborn baby before having an

abortion were sent by the House's Democratic leadership to the House Health and Welfare Committee, which has traditionally been unfriendly to pro-life legislation. "House Leadership could have sent this to a more sympathetic committee," said Cothran.

"Instead it sent it to a committee they knew would kill it."

"House Leadership could have sent this [pro-life legislation] to a more sympathetic committee. Instead they sent it to a committee they knew would kill it."

– Martin Cothran
The Family Foundation



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Email kent@kentuckyfamily.org for updates

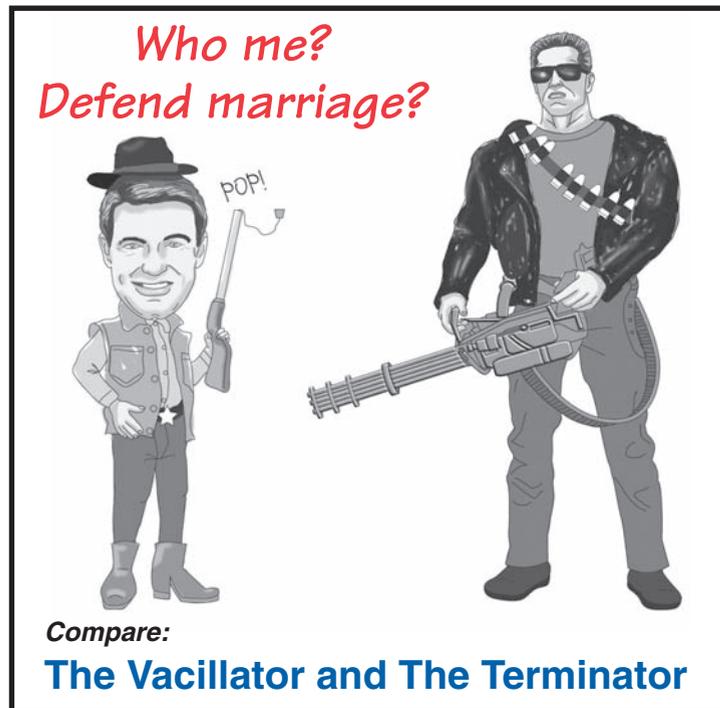
Opinion: We are no longer ruled by laws passed by our legislature, but by personal opinions of our executive branch leaders.

Kentucky's "new" debate on marriage

When it comes to marriage in Kentucky, the debate that raged in 2004 percolates again ten years later. Then, it was among the people and the people's legislative body; now, it is in the court and within the Democrat Party.

Currently, there are serious problems in the Executive Branch of government in Kentucky. Consider these facts:

Attorney General Jack Conway is the Governor's lawyer. He is the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the Commonwealth. Like the Governor, he takes an oath, one specifically proscribed in Kentucky's Constitution, stating, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky so long as I . . ."



Unfortunately, one bold quote has stood out in this second round of the debate on marriage: "Governor Beshear and Attorney General Conway are thus required by oath to defend this provision of the Kentucky Constitution."

Who would have proclaimed such a biased admonition?

Oops. It was the Attorney General himself in his first brief before Judge Heyburn's court on Jan. 13.

Since then, he has obviously had a change of heart . . . and a change of course.

But there were early indications that the Governor's and Attorney General's hearts were not really in it from the start. In a Jan. 15 WFPL story, just two days after the above-mentioned filing, Dan Canon, an attorney for the gay couple in the case, was quoted saying, "It's the plaintiffs' position in this case, and it has been all along, that Kentucky's laws prohibiting same-sex marriage are unjust and unconstitutional. I think that the Beshear administration knows that, and the response that they filed yesterday tacitly acknowledges that."

Frankly, the facts of the legal documents speak just as clearly: The Plaintiff's brief was 31 Pages; The Family Foundation's *amicus* brief was 28 pages; Judge Heyburn's opinion was 23 pages; but the Governor and AG could only muster 10 pages in defense of marriage.

Across the nation, Attorneys General have defended marriage laws if they were Republican, and passed on defending it if they were Democrat. So in Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia and Kentucky, the state laws have been abandoned, just as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder refused to defend the federal 1996 Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA).

In Kentucky, it is a little different – clearly, the Democrat Party is divided – manifest by the Governor himself going one way and the AG jumping ship.

There are 1,222,125 Kentucky citizens who voted affirmatively in the 2004 ratification process and were thus poorly represented by the Governor and the Attorney General. What most people do not realize is that more people voted "Yes" to ratify the Marriage Protection Amendment than had ever voted both "Yes" and "No" combined on any other Kentucky amendment. These Kentuckians have been disenfranchised because of the *personal opinions* of some of our elected leaders.

Where is the rule of law?



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

Kat

The remedy - SB 221 - was killed by House Leaders

The "Standing Bill" was an attempt to give the legislators standing in the court system when their work is not properly defended.

Judge John G. Heyburn's Feb. 12 decision to overturn part of the 2004 Marriage Protection Amendment and Attorney General Jack Conway's poor defense of it in court generated some push back in the State Senate. Senate Bill 221 was filed on March 6 by Sen. Sara Beth Gregory (R-Monticello) to enable legislators to have standing in court to defend their statutes or constitutional amendments when they are not being properly defended by the Governor or the Attorney General.

"The issue ironically is about 'fairness,'" said Gregory. "When the Attorney General violates his oath of office to defend our Constitution, someone needs to step up. The lawmakers are perfect for that task since they know what they passed into law and why they passed it."

Heyburn struck down the second half of the Marriage

Protection Amendment which states that Kentucky will not "recognize" marriages from other states or nations that are not between "one man and one woman." Heyburn has now accepted a second pair of plaintiffs who want to overturn the first half of the amendment so that they can be married in Kentucky — have a same-sex marriage "validated" by state law.

SB 221 passed the Senate 31-6-1 in a bipartisan way but Speaker Greg Stumbo and the rest of House Leadership never allowed it to be heard in committee, much like the various pro-life bills killed that have been in the House.

Gov. Beshear has gone ahead and contracted with a private law firm to help defend the law on appeal. Though members of that firm have been large donors to Democrat political interests, most believe they will make a sincere

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— Sen. Sara Beth Gregory



attempt at defending marriage.

There is one more silver lining: Because Ohio and Michigan have also had their marriage protection amendments challenged, it is likely that those cases will be combined with Kentucky's in the appeal process.

All “life” bills die in House of Representatives

It has now been ten years since any new pro-life bill has been allowed on the House Floor. House Leadership is responsible.

Pro-life legislation in the 2014 General Assembly read like a Dickens’ novel, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” The best of times because a total of eight bills were offered, both Chambers sponsored pro-life bills, both parties sponsored pro-life bills and two House bills had more sponsors than votes needed to pass.

However, it was the worst of times because all pro-life bills were once again assigned to the “graveyard” House Health and Welfare Committee where they were summarily executed. Because Democrats have the majority in the House, there are more Democrats on every House committee. Although there are pro-life Democrats in the House, House Leadership has assigned only pro-choice Democrats to Health and Welfare.

Pro-life advocates were hopeful this year because two of the House bills were co-sponsored by the majority of House members. HB 184 had 59 co-sponsors out of 100 representatives and HB 575 had 62 co-sponsors. This indicated there were far more than enough votes to pass in the House should the bills receive a fair hearing.

The Senate had already indicated their support of pro-life legislation. According to Senate President Robert Stivers, pro-life legislation is a priority for the Senate.

Further reason for hope was that HB 184 had two Democrat primary sponsors, and HB 575 had a Democrat and a Republican primary sponsor. In recent years, Republicans had sponsored all pro-life legislation. This year’s Democrat bill sponsors appealed to the Democrat-controlled House Leadership to allow these bills to go to a committee other than Health and Welfare. The bills could make it onto the House floor where they would pass if a different committee heard them.

Since some of the bills sat in Health and Welfare for more than two months with no action, Republicans in the House made several procedural attempts to bring the hostage bills to the floor. On March 14, after filing a discharge petition on the Senate ultrasound bill (SB 8), Rep. Tim Moore (R-Elizabethtown) moved to suspend

the rules to allow SB 8 to be debated on the floor. All Republicans present voted “yes” on the motion but only two Democrats voted “yes.” The measure failed.

SB 8 and HB 575 enabled women to be better informed by giving them the choice to see their routinely done ultrasound prior to proceeding with an abortion. Neither bill restricted abortion.

Joyce Ostrander, policy analyst for The Family Foundation, said, “When a reasonable bill like HB 575, that is Democrat-sponsored with 62 of 100 House members co-sponsoring, isn’t allowed onto the House floor for a vote, Democrat House Leadership has just pronounced all their pro-life Democrats impotent to pass any pro-life legislation.”

A listing of pro-life bills killed this Session

Senate bills

- SB 3 Face-to-Face Consultation
- SB 8 Ultrasound Bill
- SB 57 Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

House bills

- HB 132 Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Ban
- HB 163 Physical Exam Prior to Medical (pill) Abortion
- HB 180 No Judicial By-Pass for Out-of-State Minors
- HB 184 Ultrasound Bill with Face-to-Face Consult
- HB 575 Ultrasound Bill with State-Run Info Website

All Senate bills passed the Senate and died in the House. All House bills never moved.

The problem is with the House Leadership

They have decided for political reasons to block all “life” bills.

After ten years of blocking all new pro-life bills, most Kentucky citizens are hoping for change in the five people in House Leadership. Currently the Kentucky populace is overwhelmingly pro-life, as are both Chambers of its legislative body.

To illustrate the magnitude of the Commonwealth’s pro-life inclination, the last new pro-life bill passed was the Fetal Homicide Bill (in 2004). It passed 88 to 5 through the House and 33 to 4 in the Senate. Even more, it was not some minor regulation — it affirmed that an unborn child, or fetus, was, in fact, a human being *except* in regard to the abortion procedure. To kill an unborn child (except through abortion) is indeed a homicide in Kentucky.

What kind of “change” is needed to allow pro-life bills to have a fair hearing?

That “change” can come in a number of ways. First, there could be a change of heart — same Leaders, but “changed” convictions. This is not out of the question because most people who are pro-life can remember when they were “pro-choice.”

Or, the change could come as a shift in the people in Leadership. That could come with one or more retiring, one or more losing their Fall election, or one or more not being re-elected to Leadership by the Majority Party in January of 2015.

What Republicans want is a change of the Majority Party in the House. House Minority Leader Jeff Hoover has said that if the Republicans claim the House in this Fall’s election, the first bill passed will be a piece of pro-life legislation.

Will there be change? Only prayers, elections and time will tell.

CHOOSE LIFE

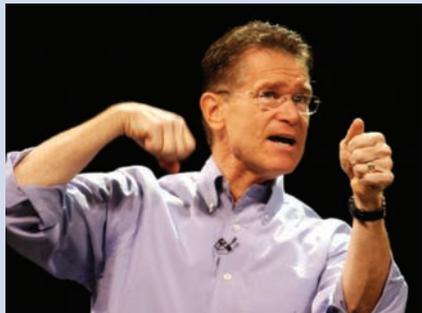
official state license plates

Go ahead, get one for your car and 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.

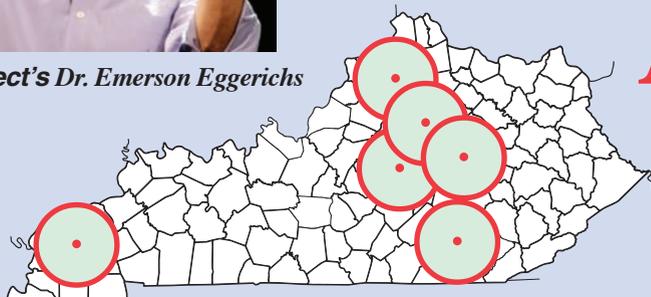
THIS is Unbridled SPIRIT in Kentucky!



Love & Respect's Dr. Emerson Eggerichs



Love & Respect's Sarah Eggerichs



The Kentucky Marriage

Movement

Various regional events listed below

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

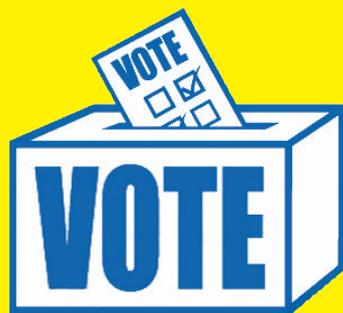
Lexington, May 16-17

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

Williamsburg, June 20-21

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Pleasant View Baptist Church
West Church Street, Williamsburg, KY 40769

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



Voting: A powerful force for good!

*The Spring Primary in Kentucky will be held May 20. Be sure to vote!
But before you do, be sure to get educated about the candidates and the issues.
AND . . . be sure to learn about the differences in the Party Platforms.
You can do all of this by going to:*

www.VoteKentucky.us

Candidates in their own words, analysis of the two Parties will be online May 5.

Are gay rights civil rights?

A fresh look at the current “cause celeb” in Kentucky.

The liberal media seems obsessed with promoting gay rights. In recent weeks we’ve been inundated with news features about the first openly gay professional basketball and football players, the thirty-four same-sex couples married at the Grammys and the Arizona governor’s decision to veto a law that allowed business owners to refuse service to gays and lesbians on the grounds of religious conviction. Another big story locally was a federal judge’s ruling that gay marriages performed out of state must be recognized as valid in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On and on it goes.

We were once told that what people did in their own bedrooms should be a private

“We were once told that what people did in their own bedrooms should be a private matter, now it’s front-page news and advocates demand public approval.”

matter; now it’s front-page news and advocates demand public approval. Frequently the pro-homosexual decisions are labeled as “advances” in the battle for gay rights. Kentucky’s Attorney General refused to appeal the federal

judge’s ruling saying, “I came to the inescapable conclusion that I would be defending discrimination.” An editorial lauded that decision as, “Bold.”

Why are the media and the entertainment industry so consumed with the approval of homosexuality?

The obvious reason is that the gay agenda is wrongfully equated with civil rights. Progressives regard the issue as comparable to the African-American battle for equality in the 50’s and 60’s. Liberals want to be compassionate and to come down on the right side of history. They conclude those of us who stand for the traditional family are as backward and bigoted as the prejudiced Southerners who opposed racial integration a half century ago.

I am of the conviction that homosexuality is not a civil rights issue at all. It is a behavioral issue. To have sex with someone of the same gender is an individual choice. It is not a distinctive like race, which is a God-given feature that cannot be denied.

The Bible teaches that every person inherits the sin nature of Adam. We all have carnal temptations that need to be restrained. Some have an innate inclination to temper, others to obesity and others desire relationships with a multiplicity of partners. There’s little doubt that some have same-sex attractions from youth. But for 6000 years of recorded history, every civilized society has encouraged any who are tempted in those

areas to practice self-denial. The Bible urges us to “abstain from the evil desires that war against the soul.”

Smokers have that message preached to them daily. No matter how much a smoker craves nicotine, society demands they resist their desires and not contaminate public places with second-hand smoke. Their behavior is heavily taxed and is unlawful in many establishments. It’s not hateful to discriminate against smokers, but reasonable and compassionate to do so.

Clergy who have abused children are not given a free pass because they have an innate desire for sex with minors. All agree the offenders should be held accountable for not denying their impulses and putting the well-being of others ahead of self.

There is now a nationwide crusade to train children to deny their desire for sweets and comfort food. We are told that to refuse to serve soft drinks and candy bars at school is not denying teens their civil rights; it’s encouraging disciplined behavior that results in better health.

“I am of the conviction that homosexuality is not a civil rights issue at all. It is a behavioral issue.”

To those who struggle with same-sex attractions the solution is not endorsement of a behavior that shortens life spans, transmits diseases and offends the basic values of a large portion of society. The solution is to encourage abstinence. Or, at the very least, to keep what is done in the bedroom a private matter and not demand society celebrate it as healthy behavior.

If gay marriage is a civil rights issue, then the liberal media and activist judges are right in favoring it. On the other hand, if homosexuality is an individual choice to participate in immoral behavior, those who promote it are expediting the disintegration of the family, paving the way for a national collapse and inviting the wrath of God.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)



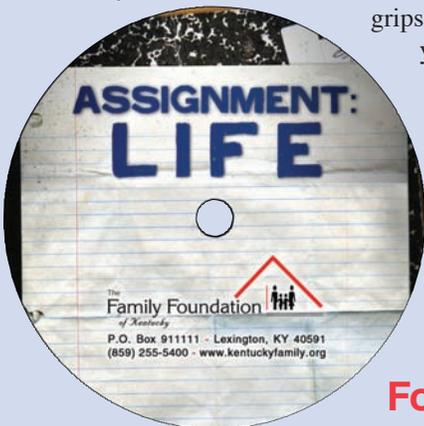
Bob Russell is the retired senior pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville and currently mentors other pastors through Bob Russell Ministries.

For more, go to:

www.bobrussell.org

Pro-Life video is re-released

The Family Foundation has re-released a 45-minute DVD that has helped thousands of Americans come to grips with the sanctity of life issue. Though originally produced almost 35 years ago, the documentary-style video hits timeless truths that are not even discussed today.



The video features leaders and experts like the late Dr. Bernard Nathanson, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Jack Willke as well as the late Congressmen Henry Hyde and Bill Donnemeyer. Pro-Choice leaders are also interviewed.

“Though the outfits and the hairstyles are dated,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, “the message is timeless. Abortion realities haven’t changed that much in 40 years, with the exception of the morning after pill drugs.”

For a free copy of the video, call 859-255-5400.

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The Family Foundation



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Sign up for our email list by email to:

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

Instant Racing: Another confrontation is coming

The Assembly votes to tax, more tracks choose to invest in the machines, and The Family Foundation's attorney is starting discovery.

The "Instant Racing" debate has become a bit more intense since the Kentucky Supreme Court decided 7-0 on Feb. 20 that two things were firm: First, The Family Foundation was indeed denied the right to do discovery to determine if, in fact, these slot-like machines are pari-mutuel horse racing. And secondly, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) had the right to promulgate regulations.

However, if the machines are not pari-mutuel, clearly the KHRC cannot make legal something that is against the law.

Since that decision, several new developments have emerged.

The General Assembly voted to tax the proceeds of "Instant Racing." House Bill 445 initiated a tax on Instant Racing. The Senate, instead, grabbed House Bill 208 and inserted its proposed taxation plan. Then, finally, in a Free Conference Committee, House Bill 445 was re-negotiated to make taxation lawful — and retroactively.

Since the bill was passed, two Lexington race tracks — Keeneland and The Red Mile — entered the fray to secure Instant Racing licenses and were awarded them on April 3. They join Kentucky Downs in Franklin, KY, and Ellis Park in Henderson, KY, as tracks authorized to host Instant Racing machines in the Commonwealth.

Keeneland is planning a purchase of 600 Instant Racing machines and constructing a facility exclusively for their use. The Red Mile is hoping to purchase 500 machines and use up to \$25 million of economic development funds for their overall project.

These new developments indicate a growing divide between Churchill Downs, a

casino corporation that also owns several race tracks, and the rest of Kentucky's horse racing venues. With this new "Instant Racing" strategy, the race tracks can control all the gambling and, over time, attempt to expand to table games and other full-blown casino gambling. This is contrasted by the Churchill Downs



approach which demands casinos now, some of which would be located apart from race tracks and would thus be considered as competitors for gambling dollars by racing interests.

While all of these developments were being created, Stan Cave, attorney for The Family Foundation, began his discovery process in order to secure information about the machines themselves. He will also be exploring the

process by which these machines were authorized by the KHRC and granted legal status by the Franklin Circuit Court before the Kentucky Supreme Court rendered its decision-reversing opinion.

The discovery process which Cave is implementing is likely to take some time, given the number of individuals that need to be questioned and the amount of information that needs to be examined. But it is through this process that the truth will come out.

"What I don't understand is how they honestly thought they could ultimately win the case by violating one of the U.S. Constitution's most important principles," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "It is as though they were blinded by the desire to grab other people's money."

With this new "Instant Racing" strategy, the race tracks can control all the gambling and, overtime, attempt to expand to table games and other full-blown casino gambling.

Group helps believers leave homosexuality

Kentucky-based ministry serves those with unwanted same-sex attractions, offering freedom offered nowhere else.

For six years, individuals struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions have had a place in Louisville to help them walk away from homosexuality. Founded in April 2008 by Executive Director Daniel Mingo, Abba's Delight is a ministry focused on discipling participants in their relationships with God through one-on-one mentoring and support group meetings.

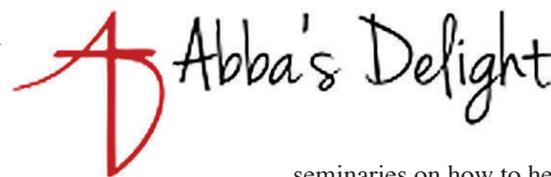
Abba's Delight does not practice therapy, as there are no licensed professionals on staff. Neither does the ministry pursue those who are happy and content with their gay lifestyle. According to Mingo, there are no trips to gay bars or recruiting from gay groups or clubs. "Participants in the ministry become involved on their own initiative. They contact us for help," Mingo said.

Additionally, Abba's Delight ministers to spouses, parents, families and friends of gay loved ones. The "Family & Friends Group" provides support to these individuals and allows them to share privately how homosexuality in their loved ones has affected their lives.

"We offer them a place to process their journey, pray for one another and their loved ones, and to build relationships with others whose lives have been similarly impacted," Mingo said. "Meanwhile, as a group, they deal with the isolation and shame that can accompany such an impact."

Abba's Delight also partners with churches to help pastors and congregations practice the most effective ways to love overcomers and families/friends with the kind of love individuals can receive along their journeys using testimonies, seminars, and workshops.

"The time has come, and really has already passed, when church leadership can no longer ignore the reality that there are those in their congregations whose lives have been



impacted either directly or indirectly by homosexuality," Mingo said. "The claim, 'No one in our congregation has that problem,' is no longer valid. I am told that there is little or no training in

seminaries on how to help someone who is gay-identified. And there are many ministers who have never been to seminary."

Abba's Delight ministry outreaches include individual mentoring/discipling, support group meetings for overcomer participants, Bible study and prayer ministry, printed literature, a monthly newsletter sent by email, a small library, church staff and congregation training, and a Family & Friends support group.

Prior to founding Abba's Delight, Mingo was the Branch Director in Louisville for Central Kentucky-based CrossOver. Abba's Delight was an Exodus International ministry affiliate until its closing in June 2013, but is now part of Hope for Wholeness Network.

As a Kentucky not-for-profit organization, Abba's Delight is funded primarily by donations from churches, individuals, and businesses. "In addition to financial contributions from those who believe in and want to support our work, we covet prayers that we will have open doors into churches to share our stories and our mission, that those truly seeking help to leave homosexuality behind will find us, and that our stories will have a positive influence on the culture as God sees fit," said Mingo.



Daniel Mingo

Go to Abba's Delight: www.abbasdelight.com or call 502-939-9269
Go to Hope for Wholeness Network: www.hopeforwholeness.org

Opinion: "Black robed supremacy" from the federal government now dominates American life.

Judicial fiat was not in the founding

Kentuckians should be greatly comforted by the recent decision by a federal judge overturning part of the state's marriage amendment: It relieves us of the uncomfortable burden of governing ourselves.

The decision in *Bourke v. Beshear* forces Kentucky to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

It did this by overturning the decision of voters in 2004 that amended the state constitution to define

marriage as between a man and a woman and to ensure Kentucky does not have its marriage policy dictated by other states.

The amendment was approved by almost 75 percent of Kentuckians — more votes in favor than votes

for and against any previous constitutional amendment.

But the will of the people is becoming increasingly unpopular with what U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has called the "black-robed supremacy": judges

... Scalia has called the "black-robed supremacy": judges who see it as their role, not to interpret the law, but to pronounce it.

democratically adopted laws in the name of judicial doctrines slowly taking us further and further from the original intent — and the plain words — of our country's Constitution.

As Scalia pointed out in his dissent in *United States v. Windsor*, the case invalidating the federal Defense of Marriage Act last year that is quoted as authority by Judge John G. Heyburn in the *Bourke* case, our government was formed of three branches, "perfectly coordinate by the terms of their common commission." Quoting the

who see it as their role, not to interpret the law, but to pronounce it.

This case is only the most recent example of federal judges invalidating

Voters, given the power in our country's founding documents to decide such issues for themselves at the ballot box, have now, with decisions like the *Bourke* case, been disenfranchised.

Federalist Papers, Scalia points out that no one branch could "pretend to an exclusive or superior right of setting the boundaries between their respective powers."

And yet this is exactly what courts have done: They have slowly encroached on the legislative and executive branches, which are closer to the people.

The *Bourke* case adds its voice to the chorus of judges announcing that American citizens no longer need to trouble themselves with self-governance: They are the

experts, and they can do the governing for us. On issues like abortion and same-sex marriage, federal courts are now in almost full control.

In the process of announcing that they are protecting the rights of

this or that special-interest group, judges let the rights of voters themselves slowly slip away. The only people who don't seem to deserve protection are, as Scalia put it, "the people in 'we, the people.'"

Voters, given the power in our country's founding documents to decide such issues for themselves at the ballot box, have now, with decisions like the *Bourke* case, been disenfranchised.

With such issues having been taken out of their hands, they must now console themselves with loitering about the steps of our temples of justice, awaiting the latest judicial decree.

And political liberals, who pose as the champions of enfranchisement, cheer this process on. And why not? They are the beneficiaries.

Members of the judiciary are compromised almost exclusively of a Brahmin caste that sees society through the lens of the liberalism that characterizes their class.

Having to test the arguments for the policies they see as "progressive" through the debate and discussion that characterize the democratic process is troublesome and time-consuming — and, let's face it, demeaning. Surely it is unfair to demand that the Mandarin class that now dictates social policy in this country should have to get their hands dirty in such a way when they can simply issue a proclamation.

How much more dignified it is to simply streamline the democratic process by dispensing with it.



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation



Dear Friend,

April 9, 2014

Twice each year The Family Foundation "knocks on the door" of our supporters and asks for financial assistance. We do this only twice each year because we know that we are not the only organization or cause that you contribute to . . . and we do not want to badger you.

Some people give to us because THEY value the information we send and they use it to make a difference. Some give because they know we are helping OTHERS engage with the information we distribute. And still others know that WE are ourselves working hard in Frankfort. My hope is that many give for all three reasons.

Please consider a gift now. Every gift is 100 percent tax-deductible and is used on the issues we focus upon. It is our conviction that everyday folks like you and me are indeed "the salt of the earth." And, if we don't release our savor (our "flavor"), we and our family values will be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. (Read Matt. 5:13)

Thank you for all of your efforts in the 2014 Session. And thank you for considering us now in your benevolent giving. By the way, I assure you, if everyone gives a little, we will have enough.

Blessings.

Kindly send your gift to:

**The Family Foundation
P.O. Box 91111
Lexington, KY 40591**

P.S. Checks can be made out to "The Family Foundation." Just so you know, one annual subscription to the *CITIZEN* costs us about \$10. A gift of \$35 or more helps cover the cost of our "hands-on" work in Frankfort.



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Serve by registering others

Faith and faithfulness through a simple church voter registration drive WILL make a difference!

Candidates are not the only ones who have an interest in seeing people registered to vote — families throughout the Commonwealth are strengthened when pro-family voters turn out on Election Day. Therefore, it is important to realize that churches and nonprofit groups can play a key role in getting citizens registered and engaged.

The process of voter registration has actually been made surprisingly simple, yet exactly *how* to do this is not always apparent. The Family Foundation itself has sponsored such drives in the past, but experience has shown that it is most effective when each church or group assumes responsibility for signing up its own members.

Currently, as many as 50 percent of church-goers are not registered to vote. The reasons to register or re-register generally fall into four categories: 1) change of address; 2) change of name by marriage (or divorce); 3) turning 18 years of age by the Fall election day; and last, 4) being dropped from the *active* voter registry because of not having voted in two federal elections in the last eight years.

Here are five steps to consider as you serve your pastor and church with a voter registration drive.

STEP 1: Secure Permission

It's always a good idea to obtain permission from your pastor first. This is simply a show of respect for the leader who must coordinate *all* the programs and activities of the church, not just this one.

STEP 2: Obtain Voter Registration Cards

Voter registration cards may be obtained through your local county clerk's office. Or, an on-line voter registration form may be printed out from the State Board's web site (www.elect.ky.gov) and copied to register as many voters as you choose. Or, a call to The Family Foundation asking for its free, simple "Voter Registration Kit."

STEP 3: Inform the Congregation

Explain to the entire congregation the importance and need for registration so the church can be "The Salt and The Light" in this culture. This will result in larger numbers of members registering—and exercising their right to vote on Election Day. Be sure to announce the day and time the registration will take place.

STEP 4: Register Those Interested After Church on Sunday

It only takes about three minutes to fill out a card. Keep in mind that all registration cards must be filled out *completely* in order to avoid processing delays.

STEP 5: Return Registration Cards

All registration cards must be turned into your local *COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE* at least 29 days prior to an election in order to ensure voter eligibility. [*DO NOT* forward cards to the State Board of Elections.] When turning in a number of cards, be sure to obtain a receipt as proof that materials have been received for processing. Within about three weeks, each new voter will be mailed an acknowledgment card indicating his/her precinct name and voting location address.

NOTE: To vote in the Spring's Primary (May 20), registrations must be to your County Clerk by April 21. For this Fall's Election (Nov. 4), registrations must be delivered by Oct. 5.

So as candidates sweat it out over campaigns, funding, and district lines, church voter registration should be a relatively painless process — and one that can yield promising results for the family and the values that make families strong.

**For a free voter registration kit,
call The Family Foundation:**

(859)255-5400