

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Voter registration trend reshaping Kentucky

Over the years Kentucky has gradually become a true Two-Party state, yet it is regarded as a “Red State” in federal election returns.

The Kentucky Secretary of State revealed on May 1 the most recent totals of voter registrations since November 2012. The numbers show that the Democrat Party still has the majority of registered voters, but the Republican Party and those self-identifying themselves as “Other” are closing the gap.

The records show that prior to the Spring Primary, there were 44,852 new Republican registrants, 16,530 new voters registered as “Other,” and only 6,811 new Democrat registrants.

Still, the Democrat Party controls that largest number of potential voters with 1,672,664, the Republican Party has 1,196,183 and those listed as “Other” have 236,499. But the trend on new voters continues to lean toward the Republicans as it has for over 15 years.

Federal-Level Offices

In federal elections, Kentucky is regarded as a “Red State,” voting against President Barack Obama in 2008 with a 57.4 percent to 41.2

percent margin — more than a 16 point spread.

Then again, in 2012 it was worse — 60.5 percent to 37.8 percent — over a 22 point spread.

Since the 2008 election, Republicans have added 142,312 new voters while the Democrats have added only 10,571.

Who Controls the Seats of Power?

Governor

Democrat

State Senate

Republican 23-14-1

State House

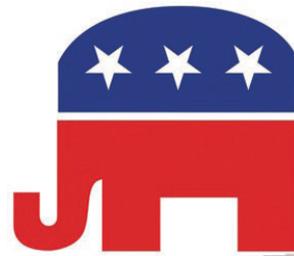
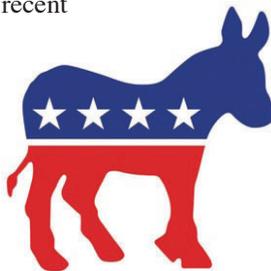
Democrat 54-46

U.S. Senators

Both are Republican

U.S. Congress

5 of 6 are Republican



In the other federally elected offices, Kentuckians have sent both of their U.S. Senators and five of their six U.S. Congressmen as Republicans.

As recently as 1985, both U.S. Senators from Kentucky were Democrats — Senators Wendell H. Ford and Walter D. Huddleston. And as recently as 1979, five of its then seven Kentucky U.S. Congressmen were Democrats.

State-Level Offices

But it is a different story on state-level offices, where Democrats have continued to hold dominance. And yet, even there are some trends that are emerging.

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At a glance . . .

Changing voter trends in the Commonwealth

New Voter Registrations

Nov. 2012 - May 2014

Total Existing Registrations

May 1, 2014

Republican



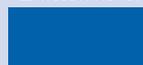
44,852

Other



16,530

Democrat



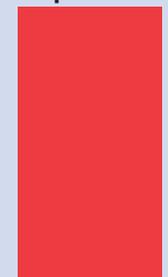
6,811

Democrat



1,672,664

Republican



1,196,183

Other



236,499

Should we each register to vote?

Simple question, simple answer: *YES!*

Why would you *NOT* register and why would you *NOT* vote?

Our Founding Fathers were weary of kings and other leaders making all the decisions about their lives so they set up a new kind of government – one that would serve the people. *NOT* a government that required the people to serve it.

So they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to create such a government. Some lost their lives. Some lost their fortunes. And some lost both. But none lost their sacred honor given the fact that a new form of government emerged that has changed the earth and all of mankind.

No, I am not saying that the United States has done everything perfectly and that it does not have its faults. But I am saying that nothing better has been devised and nothing even close to better has been implemented.

The issue today about our nation is similar to the one that was asked of Benjamin Franklin at the close of the Constitutional Convention in 1787: “Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?”

Franklin’s answer is even more appropriate today: “A Republic, if you can keep it.”

How else are we going to keep our Republic other than *by registering to vote and by voting?*

But the question needs an even deeper answer than a simplistic, “Go vote.” This is not about what I want. Or what you want. It is about what our Founding Fathers believed was the inspiration of this nation. Consider the Declaration of Independence:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; . . .”

“Laws of Nature and Nature’s God” and “they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights” are two expressions of the same concept which set American government apart from all previous governments: the concept that God is at the center of human equality and human rights. This concept, of course, had been highly celebrated in America until recent years.

How else will this concept of God at the center be maintained unless God’s people keep it alive with their words and their deeds *and their voting?*

Even *THAT* concept is articulated in the same Declaration: “*that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; . . .*”

How can those rights be “secured” unless the “consent of the governed” is made manifest? *That is . . . UNLESS “THE GOVERNED” VOTE?*

We of this generation must receive this Godly inheritance, so richly paid for in blood by our Forbearers, with humility and with faithful diligence owed to them, to our progeny and to others of this earth who have yet to experience the light of liberty.

The question I raised at the outset shouldn’t be: “Should we each register to vote?” Rather it should be: “Should we each register others to vote?”

The answer to both, of course, is a resounding “*YES!*”



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

Kent

According to the Secretary of State, new voter registrations in the Commonwealth since the 2012 elections totalled 61,193. The Family Foundation staff would like to *think* our efforts helped generate that number. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing exactly *WHO* can take credit. But, we can report that in the last year we launched two voter registration drives: one last Fall with Registration Kits mailed to over 6,500 churches and volunteers and another this Spring to over 7,000.

Would YOU like to help secure more?

For a free “Registration Kit,” call 859-255-5400

Voter registration

continued from page 1

Democrats have held the Governor’s mansion for all but one term since 1980. Democrats held the State Senate majority until 2000, when the Republicans took over and have held it ever since. And Democrats still hold the State House with a 54 to 46 majority over the Republicans.

Both Parties are seriously engaged in a fight for control of the House in this Fall’s elections.

Steve Robertson, current chairman of the Kentucky Republican Party, after seeing the voter registration numbers was quoted in an Associated Press story, saying, “Kentucky is about to do what we’ve been saying it’s going to do: it’s officially going to become a Red State.” Pointing to the

recent statistics, he asserted that many people are frustrated with the president’s policies. “I think these

numbers certainly support the theory.”

“There is no doubt that the president is not popular in Kentucky. That is a fact. That’s why we have to focus on issues instead of personalities, and that’s what we do.”

– Dan Logsdon, Chairman Kentucky Democratic Party

Kentucky. That is a fact. That’s why we have to focus on issues instead of personalities, and that’s what we do.”

But Kentucky Democratic Party chairman Dan Logsdon countered, “There is no doubt that the president is not popular in

ALL Parties (and candidates) are NOT the same

As you register, examine the Parties to find out “where you belong.” There will likely not be a “perfect fit,” but you can get close.

With all the frustration regarding what has been going on in Frankfort and what has been going on in Washington, it is easy to give up and say “the politicians are all the same.” They are *NOT* . . . and now more than ever is the time for discerning citizens to step up and make the difference in government by registering to vote and voting into office those who will align themselves with American ideals and with the values of those citizens.

When you vote and when you register, it is wise to line up your candidate and his/her Party and then make the choice. Like aiming a rifle on a target, one must line up the site at the end of the barrel with the site at the fore. When that happens in politics, pull

the trigger – you’ve got your choice!

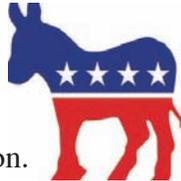
But, too often citizens examine only the candidate and vote for him/her. Then, when little gets done according to their wishes, there is major frustration. (*Read “Power of the Gavel” story below.*) Begin evaluating *BOTH* your Party and your candidates. So, evaluate the Parties before you decide to register and the candidates before you decide to vote.

Here is a reality with which every faithful citizen must come to grips: Very simply, a candidate that is *for* “Issue A,” but is in a Party that is *against* “Issue A,” may get elected . . . but will likely never move “Issue A” because he is overshadowed by his Party.

Here are some political Party generalities:

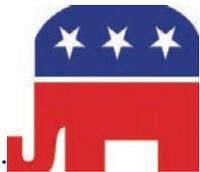
(Remember, candidates may differ in their views, but the overall Party’s will is usually pushed in Frankfort or Washington.)

The Democrat Party is more . . .



- . . . Pro-Choice regarding abortion.
- . . . Pro-Union regarding labor issues.
- . . . Pro-Gay rights regarding homosexuality.
 - . . . For new definitions of marriage.
 - . . . For larger, more helpful government supported by higher taxation.
- . . . For strong domestic spending by government coupled with less spending for military.

The Republican Party is more . . .



- . . . Pro-Life regarding abortion.
- . . . Right-To-Work regarding labor issues.
- . . . Pro-traditional values regarding homosexuality.
- . . . For marriage defined as one man and one woman.
 - . . . For smaller, less intrusive government combined with lower taxation rates.
- . . . For strong military investment coupled with less investment in welfare programs.

Remember, these are generalities.

As you vote, recognize the “Power of the Gavel”



Everyone must examine the candidates vying for an office to choose the one that they believe would best represent their values in Frankfort or, as the case may be, in Washington. But it is also important to underscore that the Party affiliation of the candidate must be scrutinized. That Party affiliation will determine the “Power of the Gavel” and that has enormous influence.

Here is a list of some of the powers that the Majority Party of a Chamber has in the State Capitol and in Congress. Because they are significant, it is best if the candidate you choose to vote for is in the Party that has a supportive platform of your values and priorities:

The Majority Party controls the gavel of any Chamber and the “Power of the Gavel” controls:

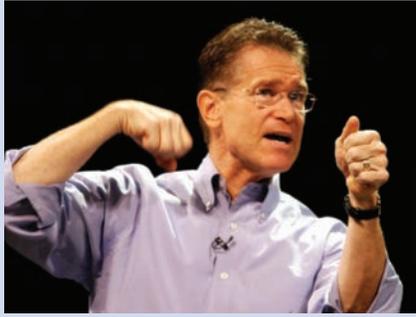
- **The flow and calendar of legislation** - The Senate President or Speaker of the House (the Majority Party leader) has complete control regarding when and if any bill will be heard.
- **All committee and subcommittee membership** - The Majority Party Leadership chooses WHO will sit on each committee, thus controlling if a bill will pass.
- **All committee and subcommittee chairmen** - The Majority Party Leadership chooses WHO will lead each committee, thus controlling what bills will be heard.
- **Which bills even get a hearing** - The committee chairmen serve at the pleasure of their majority Party Leadership . . . so they will do what Leadership wants.
- **Number and type of amendments allowed** - Again, the chairmen will do what Leadership wants, and they always have the votes that allow them to do so.
- **Which issues to address via hearings** - Same as above - the chairmen will do what Leadership wants, and they always have the votes that allow them to do so.
- **Oversight of the Executive Branch** - if the Executive Branch (the Governor and other statewide officials) is run by members of the same Party as the Majority Party of the Chamber, a committee becomes a lap dog as opposed to a watchdog, and the Governor’s powers are unchallenged or at least less questioned.

Here are some very real examples of the operation of the “Power of the Gavel” in Kentucky:

I. The Majority Party of the Kentucky State Senate is Republican. Because of that, no major “pro-union” legislation has passed the Senate in years, except the pension funding bill for state employees.

II. Similarly, the Majority Party of the Kentucky State House is Democrat. And, as a result, no new “pro-life” bills have been heard on the House floor for over 10 years. That includes bills sponsored by Democrats as well as Republicans.

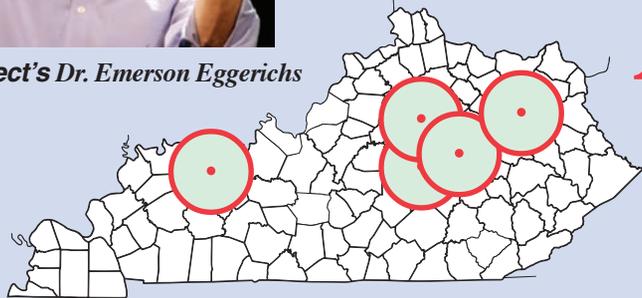
Clearly, the Republican Party is not a strong union Party. And, the Democrat Party has in its Platform the “pro-choice” plank. Because of the “Power of the Gavel,” choosing a “pro-union” candidate in the Republican Party will likely not get you where you want to be. And, choosing a “pro-life” candidate in the Democrat Party will likely not get you pro-life legislation.



Love & Respect's Dr. Emerson Eggerichs



Love & Respect's Sarah Eggerichs



The Kentucky Marriage Movement

Movement

Various regional events listed below

Salt Lick, Oct. 3-4

Love and Lordship Retreat - Greg Williams
KY Ministries of The Church of God - Four Seasons Retreat
3169 Mudlick Road, Salt Lick, KY 40371

Lexington, Oct. 12, 14, 15 & 16

Love, Life and Relationships- Greg Williams
UK Campus (UK Every Nation Campus Ministry)
Contact: Conrad Davies 615-739-4699 Lexington, KY

Lexington, Nov. 7

Love and Lordship Retreat - Greg Williams
Northeast Christian Church
990 Star Shoot Pkwy, Lexington, KY 40509

Owensboro, Nov. 14-15

Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Bellevue Baptist Church
4950 Kentucky 56, Owensboro, KY 42301

Lawrenceburg, Nov. 14-15

Love and Lordship Retreat - Greg Williams
Ninevah Christian Church
1195 Ninevah Road, Lawrenceburg , KY 40342

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

A message from the next generation . . . by Seth Schattner

The GENCON movie project

"It's hopeless! I give up!" "This country is doomed!" "I feel so bad for what my grandchildren will have to endure. I'm glad I'll be gone before all this hits the fan."

These verbal exercises in pessimism are quite common among the many concerned citizens of this nation. Rarely a day goes by where Americans do not worry about the moral decline of this country. It is easy to lament that it is all over and that there is nothing we can do to fix it.

We have seen how modern-day government, mass media, and education distort the views of our friends and colleagues on issues from moral values to economics. We are desperately searching for ways to reconnect our fellow brothers and sisters to the traditional American, Judeo-Christian values that made our country great.

In order to discover those channels of dialogue, we need to do something that will

help us understand how people from each American generation think and why they think that way.

The GENCON (Generation Conversation) movie project will be a series of engaging conversations and discussions with everyday Americans to see how people from each living generation view the country. We will learn how their opinions on issues have been shaped by their life stores, their challenges, and external forces such as family and government. GENCON will demonstrate how we can effectively persuade everyday people that America's traditional values will help them overcome the challenges they face today. It will not be government that saves; it will be the tried and true.

For more, go to:

www.blackandblondeassociates.com/the-gencon-movie-project/



Seth Schattner
is a recent
graduate of NKU

As I see it . . .

The real war is **FOR** women



Joyce Ostrander

In recent years “The War On Women” has been a popular rallying cry — regurgitated so often it has gained credibility. Certainly, women must be protected from this evil onslaught. However, many may not be stopping to ask, “Who and what is really under attack?”

“The War On Women” battle cry was heard when two businesses owned by Christian families were relieved from paying for drugs that kill fertilized embryos because doing so would violate their religious belief that life begins at conception. It was heard when Little Sisters of The Poor, a group of Catholic nuns, appealed for relief from a government contraceptive mandate that violates one of the long-standing beliefs of the Catholic Faith.

What has escaped those who claim these decisions are harmful to women is that many of the groups seeking relief include women in their ownership or leadership. Dan and Cathy Green and the Hahn Family would have lost their businesses because of fines incurred. Do I even need to explain Little SISTERS of the Poor?

According to the Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy, in 2012, 36 percent of the nation’s small businesses were female owned. Who is protecting the rights of conscience of these entrepreneurial women?

The battle cry was also heard when laws were considered to regulate (not outlaw) abortion or the surgical centers that provide them. In the post-Kermit Gosnell age, shouldn’t we protect women from substandard care?

According to a recent CNN Poll, a majority of the US population is pro-life and according to the US Census Bureau 50.8 percent of the population is female. You can do the math. Oh, and did I fail to mention the females being aborted? Had they been



Remember, Rosie was also a part of the Greatest Generation

asked, I suspect the majority of those women would also have been pro-life.

Who is protecting women like Barronelle Stutzman of Washington or Elaine Huguenin of New Mexico? These are business owners who, because of their sincerely held religious beliefs, declined to participate in a same-sex marriage ceremony. As a result, they have been heavily fined and may lose those businesses along with personal assets. This is under the guise of “fairness laws.” Ask them if they are being treated fairly.

The real “war” is *FOR* women like these. The real war is *FOR* women who desire to build strong families with both mother and father. The real war is *FOR* women who seek to nurture the next generation while caring for the previous, to have the choice and freedom to educate their children as they think best. The real war is *FOR* women who desire a culture of public decency where women and children and the unborn are respected, not victimized, sexualized or denigrated.

The real war is *FOR* the things most women want: opportunity, education, parental rights, family, stable marriages, respect for life, security, religious freedom, morality, decency, kindness, integrity and philanthropy.

The real war is not a “War *AGAINST* Women.”

The real war is the “War *FOR* Women.”

The real war is *FOR* women who desire to build strong families with both mother and father. The real war is *FOR* women who seek to nurture the next generation while caring for the previous, to have the choice and freedom to educate their children as they think best.

Joyce

Hope rises in federal marriage court battle

Kentucky and its sister states in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals may play a key role in the national battle to protect marriage.

On Aug. 6 in Cincinnati, attorneys for Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee made oral arguments before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals three-judge panel, along with the attorneys for the various same-sex couples who want the four state constitutional amendments overturned. Though points were scored by both sides of the argument, observers continue to believe, as suspected prior to the arguments, that the decision will come down to a 2-1 decision with Judge Deborah Cook being the deciding factor.

During the arguments, it seemed clear that Judge Martha Daughtrey was inclined toward the authorization of same-sex marriages and that Judge Jeffrey Sutton preferred the normal “political solution,” where, when and if same-sex marriage supporters could muster the support, they could change the laws through the legislative constitutional amendment process. This, of course, was the same process used to pass these amendments protecting traditional marriage in 2004 and the years after.

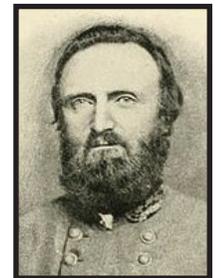
Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 2013, the gay rights movement has been on a long winning streak in the



lower federal courts. Many of these lower court decisions have gone much further than what the Supreme Court decided in overturning DOMA. And, these lower court decisions have struck down laws put in place by large majorities of voters in the states.

“My hope is that Kentucky and these three states will function as a collective ‘Stonewall’ Jackson in the Civil War battle of Bull Run — holding the line until the tide of battle can be turned,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation that submitted three *amici* briefs during the course of the case. “With all the efforts in these four states to focus prayers prior to the oral arguments, our hope is that true justice will be properly meted out.”

Most court-watchers anticipate a decision by the Sixth Circuit early this Fall, thus bundling these four cases with the others as they ascend to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015. The Sixth Circuit will be the third court of appeals to rule on marriage with more anticipated soon. The other two appeals courts both decided in favor of same-sex marriage.



Thomas
“Stonewall”
Jackson

Danville gay rights ordinance passed intolerantly

It appears that this was all about passing a law requiring citizens to tell members of the gay community that they are “Okay.”

Danville is an almost iconic small town in Kentucky’s Bluegrass. A little off the beaten path (the closest interstate highway is an hour drive), the town sports an old traditional main street, a prestigious liberal arts college (Centre), a regional hospital (Ephraim McDowell), and enough shopping and dining to avoid the need to drive to Lexington, which is an hour away.

Kentucky’s original capital, the town was one of *Time Magazine*’s top ten small towns in America, a designation it also received from *Rand McNalley*.

Political commentator Dinesh D’Souza once called it a “hotbed of tranquility,” a

Political commentator Dinesh D’Souza once called it (Danville) a “hotbed of tranquility,” a tranquility that was disturbed late last year when a small group of residents pushed the city council to consider a gay rights ordinance.

tranquility that was disturbed late last year when a small group of residents pushed the city council to consider a gay rights ordinance. The ordinance would eventually pass, but at what seemed a cost to its supporters.

In late summer of last

year, the city council began discussing the measure, and asked city attorney Stephen Dexter to begin drafting a proposed ordinance. Both supporters and opponents spoke on the proposal, making for what became a heated debate.

From the beginning, supporters made it clear that one of their chief concerns was how Danville looked to the rest of the world. The town should be a “welcoming commu-

nity,” said backers, who said the measure would prohibit discrimination against gays in housing and employment.

Any who opposed the measure, said one backer were in favor of “bigotry and discrimination.”

In an op-ed in the local newspaper, Martin

Cothran, policy analyst for The Family Foundation and a Danville

resident, fired back,

pointing out that “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 ‘bigots’ because of their sincerely-held religious beliefs is not ‘inclusive.’”

Opponents questioned whether there was actually any problem with anti-gay discrimination in Danville that would require a law. They challenged supporters to produce actual evidence

of anyone who had been denied a job or refused housing because they were gay. “How many complaints have been made?” asked Cothran in the *Danville Advocate-Messenger*.

As it turned out, supporters could only come up with one case, a case that ironically highlighted the central problem with the ordinance. The case involved a female employee of the Danville campus of Sunrise Children’s Homes, who revealed, after being hired, that she was a lesbian, contrary to the organization’s religious principles. She was subsequently let go from Sunrise, a Christian organization which serves abused and troubled youth.

“Their one case of actual discrimination turned out to be a case in which a group’s religious freedom was involved,” said Cothran. “It only served to underscore that this was a battle over First Amendment rights, not discrimination. It doesn’t solve any legitimate problems that now exist, but creates potential problems for people of faith.”

The ordinance passed, but without the vote of Mayor Bernie Hunstad, who had opposed it from the beginning, telling the local paper that the ordinance “violates the conscience of many in our community and threatens our religious freedom.”

But after the measure was approved on June 9, the debate continued, partly because, at the last minute, the city commission voted to exempt Sunrise from the restrictions. The change had supporters seeing blue, since they had pushed the commission to prevent the children’s home from operating on its stated religious principles.

Because the home received most of its money from the government, said ordinance supporters, it should have to follow anti-discrimination laws. But Cothran challenged this assertion in another op-ed: “Do we give up the First Amendment right to freedom of speech when we accept government funds? Do we give up the right to peaceably assemble if our paycheck comes from the taxpayers? Do we give up the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances if we enjoy state financial support? Of course not.”

So angry were ordinance supporters that several of them mounted a petition drive to unseat the Mayor, a petition drive that eventually petered out. “Just because you don’t agree with tolerance and diversity dogma, do you forfeit your right to serve in public office?” asked Cothran. “It is this kind of behavior that makes gay rights supporters seem so petulant,” he added. “They are winning a lot of battles right now, although that could change. But they are starting to look like sore winners.”



As it turned out, supporters could only come up with one case, a case that ironically highlighted the central problem with the ordinance.

Instant Racing case grinds on

It is hard to get the facts when they are deliberately being withheld.

We have entered our fourth year of litigating the “Instant Racing” expansion of gambling in Kentucky. This judicial effort was designed by Gov. Beshear’s administration to bypass the General Assembly after legislators refused year after year to change the Kentucky Constitution to allow casinos and, in particular, refused to authorize “Instant Racing” through legislation.

The eight Kentucky horse race tracks, the Horse Racing Commission and the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet filed an “agreed case” in 2010, which requires all the facts be made known to the court. Yet The Family Foundation attorney, Stan

Cave, is still laboring to have those entities come forward with the documents that confirms that the slot-like machines are indeed pari-mutuel, or, once and for all, proves they are not.

“After all this time we

still have seen absolutely no proof that these devices are anything more than a simple slot machine,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “In fact, several states have had their Supreme Court or Attorney General declare that they are not pari-mutuel.”

The case is currently in the discovery phase, which was specifically ordered by the Kentucky Supreme Court after years of non-cooperation by the “Instant Racing” advocates. Still, they are reticent to share all the information they have on the machines.



“After all this time we still have seen absolutely no proof that these devices are anything more than a simple slot machine.”

*– Kent Ostrander, Executive Director
The Family Foundation*

Irrational judgments from the judge

In his recent ruling striking down Kentucky's Marriage Amendment, Justice John G. Heyburn pronounced the arguments of those who defended the law as "not those of serious people." As an arbiter of seriousness, however, it is a little hard to take Heyburn seriously.

Just three pages before announcing his low regard for the arguments of the law's defenders, he makes this statement: "... the Court finds that homosexual persons are 'politically powerless' within the constitutional meaning of this phrase."

This was an interesting argument for him to make,

not only because it is not that of a serious person, but because he said it in the very act of succumbing to the significant and growing political power of gay rights groups who have used the judiciary as their own private political enforcement agency.



Heyburn's decision is

now being reviewed by the 6th District Circuit Court, which heard oral arguments on Aug. 6. It was blatantly political and is one of many such decisions which have forsaken reason and precedent in order to force liberal social change through what is supposed to be the least political branch of government.

This lack of respect for precedent is not unprecedented and the novelty of the pretension to rationality is nothing new.

In 1972, the U. S. Supreme Court, in another highly political decision, struck down the abortion laws of all 50 states. It too forsook precedence for partisanship and judgment for prejudice. However people feel about that issue, no one now seriously believes 42 years after the decision, with the debate over abortion going strong, that *Roe v. Wade* settled the issue.

No one, that is, except maybe those who practice Heyburn's brand of seriousness.

One of the reasons that *Roe v. Wade* failed to settle the issue of abortion is that it was perceived as unfair. Even at the time, it was seen by many people as a contrived and partisan decision—an interpretation that the later uncovered correspondence of Harry Blackmun, the author of the ruling, helped to confirm. The decision's resort to "emanations from penumbra" is still seen by many, including a number of politically liberal legal scholars, as completely new judicial doctrine woven out of whole political cloth rather than a legitimate interpretation of the Constitution in light of previous case law.

When the branch of government that is responsible for rendering justice fails so abysmally in acting justly, it not only undermines confidence in the fairness of the one

branch we count on to provide it, but it undermines the credibility of the causes it presumes to further.

This ideological use of the courts in the name of a new and permissivist definition of "equality" has resulted in a marked inequity in the way we make public policy.

Increasingly, while conservatives must continue to resort to the hard task of convincing legislators of their cause and follow the democratic processes they have always been told were necessary for changing laws, liberals enjoy the luxury of having their agenda instituted by court decree.

It is hard to argue that you are in favor of fairness

when the very procedures for determining what is fair are themselves unfair.

And this brings us back to Judge Heyburn's decision.

When you are engaged in political ideology masquerading as judicial interpretation, there is no need to consider arguments. That is why, in his *Love v. Beshear* decision, Judge Heyburn, in an act of profound unprofessionalism, dismisses the arguments in favor of traditional marriage out of hand.

Heyburn's method of judicial activism involves either mischaracterizing arguments and then refuting his own mischaracterizations, or not dealing with them at all.

There are also some people who apparently think the

Love decision is the consequence of the Supreme

Court's recent *Windsor* decision striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), but it is in fact exactly the opposite. The very reason the Court struck down DOMA was because it violated the state's right to define marriage, a right it acknowledged was in accordance with "tradition" and "definition."

In other words, the Supreme Court used one reason to

strike down the Congressional attempt to define marriage, and Heyburn used exactly the opposite reason for striking down Kentucky's law.

Funny how that works.

At some point, one begins to suspect that this ad hoc reasoning in favor of the fashionable opinions on social issues starts to look like the work of people who are more concerned with hijacking the judicial process for their own partisan purposes than with exercising respect for the law.



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

This lack of respect for precedent is not unprecedented and the novelty of the pretension to rationality is nothing new.

CHOOSE LIFE plates raise \$35K

Only the compassionate work of pregnancy care centers receives these funds.

Money raised from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 through the sale of the official, "CHOOSE LIFE" specialty Kentucky license plates has once again been passed on to the state's 51 pregnancy care centers that help women with untimely pregnancies bring their child into the world.



Past Giving

2006-2007	\$ 5,850.78
2007-2008	\$28,942.00
2008-2009	\$37,448.06
2009-2010	\$40,041.74
2010-2011	\$40,316.23
2011-2012	\$36,207.00
2012-2013	\$35,260.81
2013-2014	\$35,310.00

In 2005, the

Kentucky legislature

created an option for specialty plates to give various and diverse Kentucky organizations an opportunity to spread and support their message. The Family Foundation was designated as the organization to serve the Kentucky's network of pregnancy care centers (PCCs). In 2006, legislators made provision for a voluntary \$10 donation above the cost of the plate to be earmarked for local PCCs.

The initial cost of the specialty plate for a citizen is \$44.00. Of that, a \$10 donation is earmarked for the pregnancy center that serves the driver's county. In the ensuing years (renewal years), the cost for the plate is only \$31.00, again with \$10 going to the pregnancy care center.

One hundred percent of the funds donated are distributed to the PCCs by The Family Foundation, which itself contributes the cost of the annual audit as well as the administrative and distribution expenses.

“With the current state of our nation, what can I do?” (Far more than you realize!)

An encouragement from Director Kent Ostrander

It is important to begin with the fact that God has given you a sphere of influence. It is not the whole world. It is not the entire United States of America. It is not even all of the state of Kentucky . . . But you do have a sphere that you influence. Now imagine that each citizen was faithful with his or her sphere — the state, the nation and the world would be covered.

You and I cannot make everyone else be faithful; but you and I can be. It starts with you and me. And The Family Foundation is going to do its part in Kentucky so that this state offers the leadership that this nation and the world needs.

Here are some ideas that YOU can easily do:



Send me an email . . .

Sounds silly, doesn't it? “What can that help?” you ask. Probably much more than you know. Consider this:

- If we have your email address we can send you updates on what is happening in Kentucky regarding our government and the issues that affect your family.
- We can send you our daily (Monday thru Friday) “Let Us Pray” prayer message that takes one minute to read and pray and that connects you with the state’s largest daily prayer group. (If God doesn’t answer prayer, it’s stupid to pray. *BUT*, if God does answer prayer, it’s stupid *NOT* to pray.)
- You will be able to forward our candidate information for this November’s election to all your friends when we send it to you in early October.
- And in January, when the 2015 General Assembly begins, you will receive weekly updates on what is happening in the Session. We will share with you how your phone calls to simply leave a message on the message line *CAN* and *WILL* make a difference.

Give me a phone call . . .

“Oh, joy. Now he wants me to call him.” (By the way, you *could* send another email if you prefer.) Just ask me for our free Voter Registration Kit and register friends at your church or nonprofit group to vote this November. Re-read the first three pages of this publication . . . there are exciting opportunities and challenges for you and the state going on right now.

Don't be a spectator — be a player. We all know it's fun to jump around the room when the UK or U of L basketball team is on a roll. And, we even feel like we helped when they win. But think about . . . even if we did “help,” did the world change when they win? . . . even if they win a Championship?

Now consider the issues that confront Kentucky, our culture, and your family and my family. We have no choice but to at least *TRY* to

The Kentucky CITIZEN

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make a difference — the cost is too great if we fail. And we will fail if we do not try!

I can promise you this: If you put your shoulder to the wheel that I am describing, we will not fail.

Pray with faith . . .

Yes, I already mentioned our *Let Us Pray* efforts that help citizens know how to pray regarding the issues of the day in our Commonwealth. But we need even deeper faith and action than that. Consider Joseph whom God chose to advise the heathen Pharaoh. Consider Daniel whom God chose to advise the heathen Nebuchadnezzar. Consider Esther who stepped forward at risk of life to counsel Ahasuerus, and saved her people.

Clearly, here is what we *know*: “If my people who are called by my name humble

themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

We know that God heals our land if we do our part. Let us set aside the wicked ways of ignorance and apathy, and be about our Father’s business.

Don't just read this. Let's ACT!

Send me an email:

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

Give me a phone call:

(859)255-5400

Pray with faith:

II Chronicles 7:14