

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XXV No. 1

January/February 2016

The 2016 General Assembly has promise

For 12 years all new pro-life bills have been barred from reaching the House Floor for debate. But things are changing!

The 2016 Session is shaping up to be a turning point in the history of governance in Kentucky, but perhaps not for the reason that most would suspect. Most are looking at the balance of power at the state level in Kentucky, and surely, that factor is in play. But the more significant shift is whether legislation in the House will be given the chance for open debate and representative voting on the House Floor. That is where the revolution is.

First, it is important to recount the balance of power currently in Frankfort. Republicans control the State Senate with a 27 to 11 majority.

The Executive Branch was just dramatically changed in the Nov. 3 election when Republicans won the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, State Treasurer, State Auditor and Commissioner of Agriculture. Only the Secretary of State and Attorney General's offices remain in Democrat control.

But the most profound change perhaps is already happening – that change would be “The Fall of the House of Stumbo.”

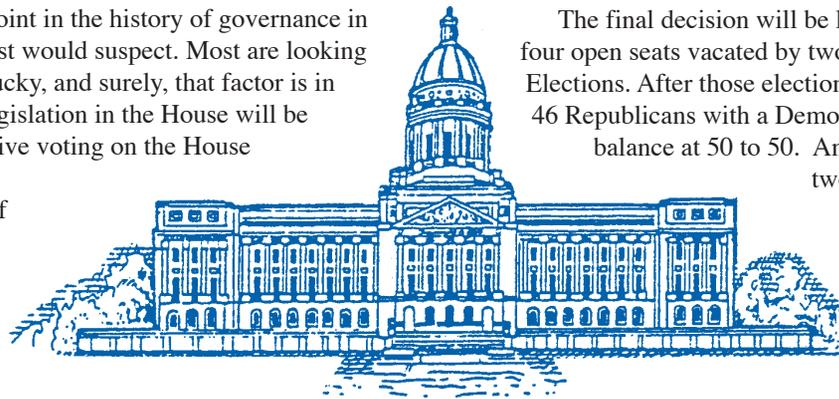
over the Republicans.

Then, the election happened, calling two Republicans out of the House and up into the Executive Branch – Rep. Mike Harmon (Danville) was elected State Auditor and Rep. Ryan Quarles (Georgetown) was elected Commissioner of Agriculture. That made the Party divide 54 to 44.

**Turn to
pages 4-5 for
information
on key bills of
this Session**

Then, the unimaginable happened: Gov. Bevin appointed Rep. John Tilley (D-Hopkinsville) as the Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and Rep. Tanya Pullin (D-South Shore) as an administrative law judge in Bowling Green. That made the ratio 52 to 44.

At that point, Rep. Denver Butler (D-Louisville) and Rep. Jim Gooch (D-Providence) switched Parties, rendering a 50 to 46 ratio.



The final decision will be left to the citizens of Kentucky on March 8 when the four open seats vacated by two Democrats and two Republicans will have Special Elections. After those elections, the balance could swing back to 54 Democrats to 46 Republicans with a Democrat sweep OR a Republican sweep could set the balance at 50 to 50. And, of course, there could be any ratio between those two extremes.

But the most profound change perhaps is already happening – that change would be “The Fall of the House of Stumbo.”

The fact is Speaker Stumbo has run the House with significant strength, causing some legislators to vote even against their own convictions. Stumbo has been and is a very capable politician,

getting leaders to follow his way whether they like it or not. That is what may be changing in Kentucky, and that is good because it will allow legislators to represent their district first, and then do Party politics second. And, of course, that is the purpose of our representative form of government.

Early evidence of this shift has possibly already been made manifest – at least two pro-life bills have had parliamentary procedures voted upon in the House with the optimism that they may actually be fairly debated on the House Floor. Though it is too early to fully know, “the times may be a’changin’.” (See top page 2 for more on SB 4.)

It's time: Move forward with faith!

I cannot but sense that “Spring is coming” to Kentucky just as C.S. Lewis described in his *Chronicles of Narnia* when Aslan the lion king returned to the land that had been frozen by powers of wickedness. It is interesting . . . here in these cold days of winter I suggest that “Spring is coming.”

I believe we actually have been witnessing a whole new, extended season of time that we will look back and call “Spring time.” We’ve been seeing signs of it since early 2015 in the political and policy battles in the Commonwealth. Each of us can testify to changes that we have experienced and seen – some have been remarkable. The King is at work . . . let us be about Our Father’s business.

Session *UPDATE*: Senate Bill 4's eventful journey

A law to have an abortionist actually meet with his patient 24 hours before the procedure has been blocked since 1998. It passed!

On Jan. 28, 2016 two events of interest to the pro-life community occurred. Senate Bill 4 was passed in the Kentucky House of Representatives and Planned Parenthood of Louisville began doing surgical abortions.

Historically, SB4, the "Face to Face" Consultation Bill, had passed the Kentucky Senate multiple years only to die in the Democrat controlled House. Many believe that because of recent Republican victories in the Executive Branch and the narrowing margin between the Democrats (50) and the Republicans (46) in the Kentucky House, this year is different.

Before an abortion, state law requires that women be given information 24 hours in advance for informed consent. The abortion clinics have been providing that information using a recorded telephone message. SB4 required that the information be given "face to face" as healthcare providers do for other surgeries.

Within the first two weeks of this year's session, SB4 once again passed the Senate 32 to 5 and was received in the House on Jan. 19. Then, on Jan. 21, before Leadership assigned SB4 to a House committee where it has historically been defeated, House Minority Leader Jeff Hoover (R-Jamestown) made a successful procedural move to get the bill onto the floor for its first reading. Bills need three readings before they can be voted on.

Pro-life advocates became concerned when Rep. Kelly Flood (D-Lexington) filed an abortion bill and Democrat leadership called SB4 for its second reading. They believed SB4 might be amended to include Flood's bill, likely opening the door to Planned Parenthood's Iowa model. That model allows medical abortions (abortifacient pills) to

be dispensed from a drawer in the patient's locale after only a remote video conference with the doctor.

During the afternoon session on Jan. 28, while House Democrats recessed for a private two-hour meeting, Legislative Prayer Caucus members prayed. Upon return, House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg) called a meeting of the Health and Welfare Committee. The committee then amended SB4 with committee member Flood's "telehealth" abortion bill and brought it to the House floor. Usual committee testimony about Flood's bill and SB4 was never heard. Stumbo presented the bill to House members as a compromise allowing the 24-hour in advance consultation to be done by video-conference, claiming it saves rural women from having to make two trips to an abortion facility.

Hoover, perceptively, objected saying that is not what the bill would do because the amendment was on the wrong part of the statute. He alleged it was too important an issue to hurry through, especially not knowing exactly what the bill would do if passed. Hoover called on members to suspend the rules and "fix" SB4.

After a tense exchange, leaders from both parties met to draft a new amendment. Upon return, Stumbo apologized for unintentionally misleading the body. Onlookers report Flood was irate at the change. The newly amended SB4, a compromise, then passed the House 92 to 3, requiring a "face to face" or real-time video consultation for 24-hour advanced informed consent prior to an abortion.

Rep. Tim Moore (D-Elizabethtown) commented that despite what some may have been attempting, he "saw the Lord bring about the victory that He wanted."

On Feb. 1, the Senate concurred with the House changes in a 33 to 5 vote. Then on Feb. 2, Gov. Bevin signed the bill into law. This was the first bill Bevin has signed, and many are expressing that after 10 years of no pro-life bills at all, this is a great start.



Rep. Tim Moore (D-Elizabethtown) commented that despite what some may have been attempting, he "saw the Lord bring about the victory that He wanted."

Kentucky Marriage Movement schedule

This is an excellent opportunity to build and strengthen a solid, life-giving marriage.



Cynthiana, Feb. 13-14

Love and Lordship Presentation - Greg Williams
Leesburg Christian Church
6005 KY Hwy 1842 North, Cynthiana, KY 41031

London, March 11-12

Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Calvary Baptist Church
111 North McWhorter Street, London, KY 40741

Nicholasville, April 1-2

Love and Lordship Conference - Greg Williams
Nicholasville Assembly of God
1701 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356

Owensboro, April 15-16

Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Bellevue Baptist Church
4950 State Route 56, Owensboro, KY 42301

Lexington, April 22-23

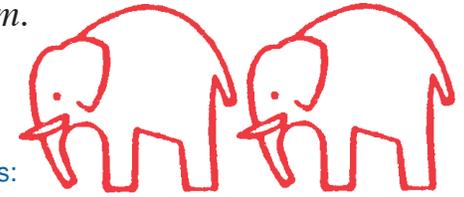
Love and Respect video conference - The Eggeriches
Porter Memorial Baptist Church
4300 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40515

For more, call us at:
(859)255-5400 or visit:
www.kentuckymarriage.org

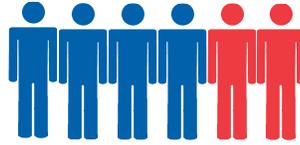
Two “elephants” in the Democratic House

Speaker Stumbo is grasping to retain control of the House, but two realities are working against him.

There are two things between this moment and the greatly anticipated 2016 Fall elections that will determine who wins control of the House – the Republicans or Democrats. One is the March 8 Special Election where four vacant House seats will be filled. The other is the outcome of the 2016 General Assembly regarding how it decides the many social issues that have been set aside for more than a decade. Boring down more deeply, there are two specific pivots that will determine what the future holds:



House Committee Assignments



On the first day of the 2016 General Assembly, Rep. Jeff Hoover (R-Jamestown) challenged House Democrat leadership about their handling of committee assignments. At issue is the disproportionate number of Democrats assigned to committees in the House of Representatives, thus tipping the power balance.

For a bill to pass the General Assembly, it must first be heard, debated and voted on in a committee before the entire chamber can vote on it. For it to become law, it must then go to the other chamber and repeat the same process.

Every member of the General Assembly serves on at least one committee with some members serving on as many as seven. After the Fall 2014 elections, House Leadership, controlled by Democrats, began assigning Democrats to more committees on average than their Republican colleagues. Newly-elected Democrats were all assigned three or four committees, whereas newly-elected Republicans were assigned only one.

With the ensuing appointments after last November’s Executive Branch election and with two Democrats switching parties, Democrats currently hold only a slim 50-46 majority in the House, with four open seats to be decided on March 8. Committees that hear pro-life, education and religious freedom bills all have disproportionate Democrat membership exceeding the 50-46 ratio. For example, the House Education Committee

has a total of 33 members with 21 Democrats but only 12 Republicans (roughly two to one ratio). One House committee actually has a 5 to 1 Democrat to Republican ratio.

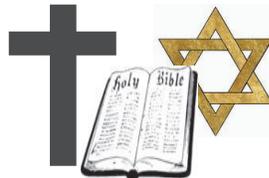
This has not gone unnoticed by the Republican House Leadership which is why Rep. Hoover, Republican Minority Floor Leader, challenged the House Democrats regarding the committee makeup. On Jan. 12, House Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook) responded, announcing several committee reassignments, but the disparity was not fully remedied.

Prior to the reassignments on Jan. 12, the committee assignments were even more disproportionate. “We would like proportionality as required by law and the rules,” said Rep. Stan Lee (R-Lexington), House Minority Caucus Chair. “We were able to gain a few committee assignments, but we are not where we want to be.”

In the other chamber – the Republican-controlled Senate – committees have been assigned based on the actual proportion of Democrat and Republican membership: 11 Democrats to 27 Republicans.

Here is the concern: Since the Nov. 3 election, Democrats in the House have been feeling increasing pressure from their traditional values constituents. Observers point out that with extra Democrat members on key committees, Democrats from conservative districts can now vote in the committee for bills such as the Ultrasound Bill or the Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Act, but the bills can still be defeated in committee and kept from the House Floor where they would pass, thus giving political cover while still accomplishing Democrat Leadership’s goal.

Social Issues Legislation



Speaker Stumbo also has a problem with the Democrat-controlled House’s record on social issues. Consider the sanctity of life issue – here is its background specifically:

In 2004, halfway through the 60-day Session of the General Assembly, the Marriage Protection Amendment was introduced in the State Senate. That began an eight-week roller coaster ride that was focused in the House because the Senate quickly voted to support traditional marriage – one man and one woman.

Liberal Democrats, predominantly from Louisville and Lexington, wanted to kill the amendment. Conservative Democrats from rural areas wanted to pass the measure, to represent the citizens in their districts. Those rural Democrats broke ranks with Democrat Leadership, sided with the Republicans and passed the amendment. The people of Kentucky ratified the amendment that Fall with a 75 to 25 percent margin.

But it was more significant than that – in that 75 percent, more people voted “Yes” for traditional marriage than had ever voted both “Yes” and “No” combined on any other Kentucky constitutional amendment. This made the liberals in the Democrat Caucus irate so they formed their own small caucus, which they themselves named the “Bitch Caucus,” because it was made up of progressive female members of the House.

As a result, given the makeup of the House at that time, 58 Democrats and 42 Republicans, someone who wanted to become Speaker simply needed to secure about 15 members in the Democrat Caucus to support him and then promise the “Bitch Caucus” that no more socially conservative bills would be allowed on the House Floor (Pro-life bills or any bills that would limit the gay agenda).

This is how the Speaker has retained his power – by promising the liberal component of his Party one thing and then fulfilling the promise by blocking all pro-life bills.

There had been **NO NEW PRO-LIFE BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR SINCE 2004** when the House (and Senate) passed the Fetal Homicide Act, making it illegal to kill an unborn child unless you were an abortionist. (See *UPDATE* page 2)

There was one unusual exception: In 2006 the House did pass a “Face-To-Face Consultation” bill, requiring the abortionist to actually consult the mother 24-hours prior to the abortion. This was the intent of the original bill passed in 1998 – face-to-face, doctor-to-patient counseling. However, pro-choice individuals grabbed control of the group writing the regulations for the 1998 bill and then allowed a tape-recorded message heard over the phone to replace the “counseling” 24-hours before the procedure. This bill was amended slightly in the Senate to avoid any fraud, but then the House did not concur, killing the bill.

So, until Jan. 28 (See *UPDATE* page 2), there had been no **NEW** pro-life bill on the House Floor since 2004, and no pro-life bill of any kind since 2006 – 12 years and 10 years. This has created significant and ongoing tension within the Democrat Caucus because Kentucky is a pro-life state. Now the question is, “Will there be more?”

Here is the bind: If Speaker Stumbo corrects the committee assignment disparity, it is likely that socially conservative bills will pass, inflaming the liberal side of his Caucus and jeopardizing his tenure as Speaker. But if he does not do that and he allows some pro-life bills to pass, he runs the risk of losing his Party’s majority status in the March 8 Special Elections or in the elections scheduled this Fall. In some sense, the two elephants in the room are both “Republican.”

To move forward, legislators need your help. Will you make a few toll-free calls?



The Student Privacy Act - House Bill 364

Across the country, some school administrators have been focused on “being sensitive” to students who struggle with their sexual identity. Being kind and understanding, without doubt, is important. However, many schools have decided to allow, for example, an 18-year-old high school boy who believes he is a girl “trapped in a boy’s body” to use the girls’ restroom and locker room. In the interest of being sensitive to the boy, they are violating the privacy rights of all the female students. This bill gives the school other options, such as providing a single-user bathroom, providing a uni-sex bathroom or allowing the gender-conflicted student to use the faculty restroom (with the oversight/protection that it provides).



The Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience Act - *(Senate Bill # not yet assigned)*

Across America, Religious Liberty has been intensely under attack for more than two decades. To stop the onslaught, this bill underscores the underlying premise of the First Amendment – in particular, the “free exercise” of religion. By so doing, it is an effort to properly apply Thomas Jefferson’s “wall of separation” that he proposed in order to *keep government out of a citizen’s free exercise of their faith*. Very recently, especially with last June’s *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision, individuals and organizations have attempted to force others to participate in religious wedding ceremonies in violation of their consciences.

Here is the problem uncovered: When *Roe vs Wade* was decided in 1973, citizens were not forced to participate in an abortion against their sincerely-held beliefs. With *Obergefell*, activists are trying to use the momentum of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to bring the force of law against people with deeply-held and centuries-old spiritual convictions.

Those that this bill protects are American workers such as cake bakers, photographers and florists – “Protected Service Providers” all – who often serve in the wedding ceremony realm and who do not want to use their personal and specialized skills in furthering something their faith says is not in God’s will.



Student Free Speech & Religious Liberty Act - *Senate Bill 15*

This bill would prevent schools from infringing on the basic First Amendment rights of students in classroom assignments and speeches, and would require schools to grant access to public forums to religious student groups in the same way they grant it for all other groups. It would allow a valedictorian to “thank my parents and God” in their graduation address – no longer will the word “God” be censored. Students would no longer be intimidated by school officials just because they are people of faith. In addition, it would release free artistic and literary expression when the school chooses to present plays that may have religious verbiage in them (i.e. *Charlie Brown Christmas*). It will also restrict school officials from discriminating against a student group (like a Christian Student Fellowship) simply because it conducts its internal affairs and elects leaders in accordance with its stated mission. The bottom line is that this bill will give students protection from school officials who talk about diversity, but who actually practice intolerance. It passed the Senate 31 to 2.

Make one call for each bill!

Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave the following messages. It is very easy. You will not have to speak to your legislator – simply leave a message for “all the legislators in (my) county” with a receptionist.

Double your impact by having your spouse call. *Call on each bill (on different days) and ask the receptionist to convey these following messages. And, ask her to “copy” each message to “House Leadership” since it is the House that may not give these bills a hearing.*

#1 “Pass The Student Privacy Act - House Bill 364”

This bill would protect the privacy rights of students by barring schools from allowing students with opposite biological genders to share the same restroom, locker room or shower room at the same time.

(Call House members – your Representative – if it clears the House it will pass!)

#2 Just say: “Pass The Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience Act”

This bill protects individuals who invest themselves in creative expression so they cannot be forced to violate their conscience or religious beliefs.

(Call House and Senate members)

#3 “Pass The Student Free Speech & Religious Liberty Act - Senate Bill 15”

This bill guarantees that students would be free to maintain their 1st Amendment free speech and religious liberty rights without being penalized by school officials.

(Call House members – the bill has passed the Senate)

#4 Call on each of the Pro-Life Bills (see upper right)

With no new pro-life bills on the House Floor for 12 years (see page 2), it’s time for debate and action on bills that will protect women and unborn children alike.

(Call House members – your Representative – that’s where the battles are.)

You can call in the evening! The Legislative Message Line is open from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm EST Mon thru Thurs. It closes at 6:00 pm on Fridays.

Pro-Life/Sanctity of Life Bills - Senate Bills 7, 25, 152 & House Bill 257



Since 2004 – for 12 years – no *new* pro-life bills have been allowed on the House Floor by House Leadership. Clearly, as an American, whether you are “pro-life” or “pro-choice” you would be for honest and robust debate on issues that separate us. This should be particularly true for the House of Representatives, which holds the distinction as “the peoples’ Chamber.” Instead, because of politically-inspired manipulations, no *new* bill has reached the House Floor since 2004. *(NOTE: See story on Senate Bill 4 on page 2)*

Senate Bill 7 - After the discovery of Planned Parenthood’s selling of fetal body parts for profit, this bill underscores the principle that public funds should not be given in any way to organizations that provide abortion services. This bill cleared the Senate on Feb. 2 with a bipartisan vote of 33 to 5. *(Make your call to your Representative – it’s a House battle now.)*

Senate Bill 25 - This bill bans the sale of fetal body parts in Kentucky. It is in response to the video revelations from last year, demonstrating that Planned Parenthood was profiting from the deliberate harvesting of body parts taken from aborted fetuses. This bill cleared the Senate on Jan. 27 with a bipartisan vote of 36 to 2. *(Call your Representative – it’s a House battle now.)*

Senate Bill 152 - This is the common-sense Ultrasound Bill that simply lets the patient see all the hi-tech information that patients in all other surgeries are offered. *(Call your Representative – it has passed the Senate numerous times in the last 15 years, only to be blocked in the House.)*

House Bill 257 - This bill bars the dismemberment of an unborn child and it provides for the humane disposal of the fetal remains. The bill has 56 co-sponsors – clearly enough to pass it if it is heard. *(Call your Representative – it is a House Bill and it is in the House where opposition will rise.)*

YOU can have an impact for the Lord!

Your call to the Legislative Message Line should only take about one minute. Please try to make one call for each bill. Think about it – *it takes less time and it is easier than ordering a pizza!* You will be leaving a message for your legislator with a receptionist – do not be afraid, you do not have to be a debater, just a message giver. Here are a few tips to make your responsible Christian citizenship as easy, but as effective, as possible:

Be Kind - You can be firm, but be polite. Your legislator wants to hear from you (he wants your vote next time), so do not give him a reason to ignore your message by having a bad attitude.

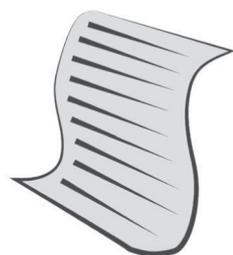
Be Direct - You do not have to have the bill number, particularly in the early stages of a Session when a bill number may not have been assigned, but state clearly what you want done. Your legislator will know what you want when he gets your message saying, “Pass the Student Privacy Act” or “Vote FOR the Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience Act.”

Be Full of Faith - You are speaking to the best of your ability the concerns that the Lord would have, so be confident, even bold with your encouragement. Remember, you are “giving heart” to someone who is under the gun in Frankfort.

Do Not Be “Religious” - Christian-speak and Bible-speak are not known languages in Frankfort. Speak your message in the language of the listener – simply make common sense for Kentucky. The truth that you share will have its own impact if it is simply understood. The Spirit will amplify it in His good time.

Call & Act Soon - Legislators will be strengthened in their resolve when they hear from you on each of these bills.

How A Bill Becomes Law



A law begins its journey toward enactment when it is introduced as a bill. It can be introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, but it must be approved by both in order to be sent to the Governor for his signature, at which point it becomes law.

Once a bill is introduced in one of the chambers (either the House or the Senate), the Committee on Committees (both the House and the Senate have one) decide to which committee the bill will be sent. This is an important decision because it is harder to get a bill through some committees than others.

The Speaker of the House is the chairman of the House Committee on Committees, and the Senate President is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Committees.

When the bill has been received by a committee, the chairman of the committee decides whether the bill should be heard by the committee. If the chairman decides that the bill should not be heard, it simply dies. If it is heard, it is either approved or defeated. If it is approved, it goes to the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee of each chamber is also a powerful committee. There a bill gets its second reading. The Rules Committee decides when and whether a bill gets to the chamber floor for a vote. It can either send the bill directly to the floor or back to another committee for further review.

When a bill finally reaches the floor, before it can be voted on, it must be announced three times. The Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate can refuse to call the bill for a vote, in which case it will eventually die. If the bill is voted on and passed, it goes on to the other chamber and starts the same entire process for approval there.

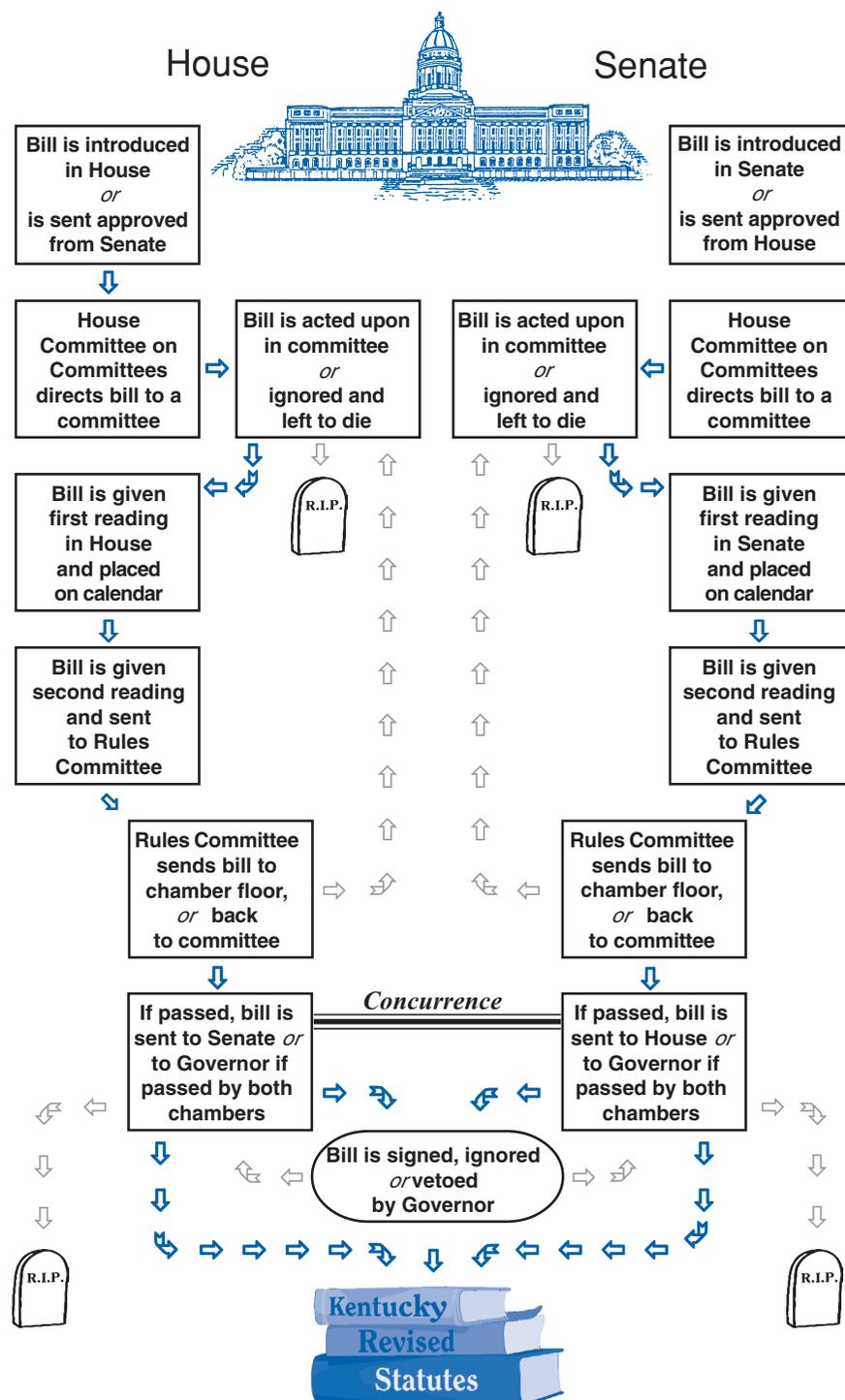
If one chamber passes a bill and the other chamber changes it in any way, the bill must go back to the chamber in which it originated to approve the change. This is called "concurrency."

Once it passes in both chambers, it goes to the Governor for his signature.

When the Governor receives the bill on his desk, he can do one of three things: he can sign it, veto it, or simply not act on it. If he signs it, it becomes law. If he does not sign it, it still becomes law. Not signing a bill but letting it go into effect is a way for the Governor to express disapproval without actually stopping the bill.

If the Governor vetoes the bill, the bill can only become law if the General Assembly overrides the veto. A veto can be overridden only by a constitutional majority of both chambers. In the House, a constitutional majority is 51 votes (one more than half of 100). In the Senate, it is 20 votes (one more than half of 38). If the veto is overridden in this way, the bill becomes law. If it is not overridden, it does not become law.

The Road to Passing a Bill



Calendar

for the 2016 General Assembly

January 5

February 15

February 19

February 29

March 2

March 25 & 28

March 29-April 8

April 11-12

Session Begins

President's Day (holiday)

Last day for new bill requests

Last day for new House bills

Last day for new Senate bills

Concurrency

Governor's veto period (10 days)

Veto override period and *Sine Die*

Opinion: Our religious freedom is described in the FIRST part of the FIRST Amendment. What part of this do they not understand?

Religious Liberty: It is our **FIRST** right

On the night of Kentucky's gubernatorial election last November, I was sitting in my chair next to the wood stove and I checked my smart phone. I hadn't checked it in a couple of hours and I realized that Al Cross, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* columnist, had texted me and I had missed it. I texted him back: "You still up?" "Yes," he said, so I called him.

It was later in the evening, after it had become clear that Matt Bevin had defeated Attorney General Jack Conway to win the



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

spontaneously to the increasing threat to religious freedom and rights of conscience, and that Bevin had been their most vocal defender on that issue.

Bevin was particularly vocal in his opposition to the jailing of Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis by Judge David Bunning, who

simply ignored part of the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed in 2013 in his ruling against Davis. The Davis story became a national one.

In his weekly column the next Sunday, Al quoted my remarks and agreed that the religious freedom issue (the jailing of Kim Davis in particular, Bevin's opposition to it, and Conway's wavering) was the single

most significant factor in the election.

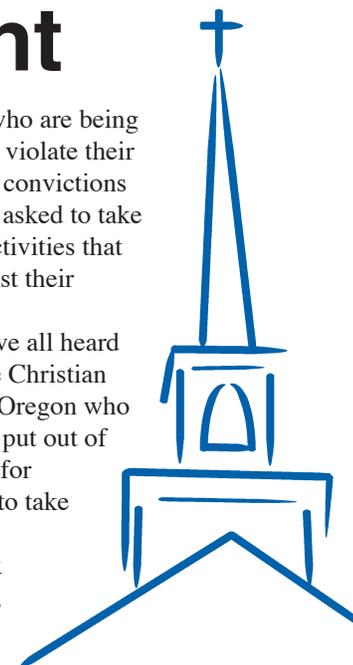
Gov. Bevin was certainly a formidable candidate, but it was his outspoken defense of religious liberty and rights of conscience that put him in office. And as soon as he took office, he demonstrated his seriousness by issuing an executive order to take the names of county clerks off the authorization of marriage licenses to protect their rights of conscience.

Bevin's action was a significant step toward greater protection for those with strongly-held religious convictions. But more needs to be done.

Bevin's executive order – one that is expected to be set in statutory stone through proposed legislation this session – was certainly necessary, but what about

owners who are being forced to violate their religious convictions by being asked to take part in activities that are against their beliefs.

We've all heard about the Christian baker in Oregon who has been put out of business for refusing to take part in a same-sex wedding, or the New



Mexico photographer who refused a similar request and was fined. Closer to home, a religious owner of a Lexington T-shirt company was dragged before the Lexington-Fayette Human Rights Commission

because he refused to print a T-shirt promoting a gay rights event.

When someone becomes a business owner, they do not forsake their right to free religious exercise. They shouldn't refuse their services to those with whom they disagree, but they should not be forced to engage in activity that makes them a part of what they oppose.

A Jewish restaurant owner should serve everyone – but he shouldn't have to serve pork.

Such protections are even more imperative in light of proposed gay rights legislation that will not do anything to protect gays in housing and employment (since such discrimination is almost non-existent), but is aimed instead at Christian business owners who refuse to fall in line with the dictates of the increasingly strident and authoritarian Tolerance Police.

Gov. Bevin was certainly a formidable candidate, but it was his outspoken defense of religious liberty and rights of conscience that put him in office.

governor's office. Al wanted to know about the organization of Christian conservatives who turned out for Bevin.

I told Al, who is probably the state's most experienced political reporter and commentator, that I didn't think there was any formally-organized movement that had turned out votes. But I pointed out that Christian conservatives were just reacting

A Jewish restaurant owner should serve everyone — but he shouldn't have to serve pork.

the rights of average Kentuckians, those not holding political office? We hear more and more about religious business

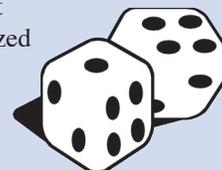
Decision: Instant Racing slot machines

YOU can influence this major decision. Call Gov. Bevin's office and leave your message.

The Bevin Administration must decide whether to continue Gov. Beshear's efforts to legalize Instant Racing slot machines. Gov. Beshear and his Administration worked to have them installed and utilized before they were declared legal. The case has been in court for more than five years but a court decision has not been rendered. Yet the machines still are functioning.

If Gov. Bevin decides to move forward in support of the machines, he will complete Gov. Beshear's gambling legacy for him. Beshear tried numerous times to expand gambling in Kentucky, failing with every legislative effort that he attempted because the General Assembly did not want to legalize casino gambling or expanded gambling of any kind. But Beshear's last effort was through the court system. His Administration tried to have a judge rule that the use of horse racing-themed slot machines was actually pari-mutuel wagering on horse races.

Concerned about manipulation, The Family Foundation petitioned to enter the case in August of 2010. The Foundation's attorney, Stan Cave, has argued the case against overwhelming odds but has made great strides, particularly by uncovering the fact that Instant Racing machines use random number generators – like slot machines. It's not horse racing!



Leave this kind, supportive message on Gov. Bevin's message line: 502-564-2611

"Please stop the Instant Racing slot machines."

It's time to stand!

This is a VERY important season.

We are looking for new people, new groups and new churches that would like to lock arms with us. [Can you help us?](#)

We will have updates and materials to share during the 2016 General Assembly. [Can you help us?](#)

There are many people who need to get "connected" via email, Facebook and Twitter. [Can you help us?](#)

We have a women's outreach that will encourage women's groups in the key role they can play.

[Can you help us?](#)

We can speak in your church on "Responsible Christian Citizenship."

[Can you help us?](#)

If we each do a little, a lot of good work will be done!

[Please contact us!](#)



Pass it on!

"Like" us on Facebook:

The Family Foundation



Follow us on Twitter:

@KentuckyFamily



Sign up for our email UPDATE by emailing to:

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

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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.

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Sanctity of Life, Religious Liberty, Privacy for Students

We are our Father's children and we must be about His business. If we do not act on these issues, who will? Who can?

On Aug. 22 last year, somewhere between 6,000 to 8,000 Kentuckians made their way to Frankfort to stand with Kim Davis, Casey Davis and Kay Schwartz – the County Clerks who could not in good conscience sign their name to authorize a same-sex marriage. It wasn't what *they did wrong* that "got them in trouble" – it was what the *Governor didn't do* . . . By law he was supposed to offer them some kind of accommodation so as not to violate their convictions as he got the licenses issued.

He didn't and Kim went to jail . . . for her faith!

It was a significant moment for the Clerks, for Kentucky and for the nation because these three people stood in the gap between tyranny and religious freedom.



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

Kim went to jail for five days, but she stood her ground . . . and because she did, many in the Church woke up both here in Kentucky and around the nation! She – and we – were not being hostile or contrary – we were just standing for what is right.

All of that took place with no General Assembly Session in the background. *NOW* the 2016 Session has been convened so *NOW* is the time to remedy a number of ills that our legislators can address. But, they need your support and they need your encouragement! In some sense, it is time to Rally again – but rally by using the telephone.

Go to pages 4 & 5 and see if there are bills there that you have an opinion about.

If you like these bills, consider helping us get information out across your community, and, if many help in their own areas, it will be across the state.

Note that the bills include the sanctity of life, religious liberty, student free speech/religious liberty, and student privacy.

Kentucky can lead the nation in these things, if we will just step forward (with faith).

If you can help distribute information, please contact me! (ASAP)

859-255-5400 or

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

STAND FAST, KIM