

# The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XVII No. 1

January/February 2008

## Kentucky's African-American leaders stand against slot machines, expanded gambling

*Their resolve and unity is shaping the debate as legislators examine the damage casino gambling inflicts on families.*

Kentucky's African-American leaders will make history on Feb. 6 when they rally in the Capitol Rotunda in opposition to slot machines and casinos. According to organizers, the gathering is intended to convince legislators to oppose all constitutional amendments that would allow slot machines and casinos in the Commonwealth.

"It's absolutely necessary considering the impact that casino gambling would have on the Commonwealth," said Rev. Willis Polk, pastor of Lexington's Imani Baptist Church and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention African-American Fellowship. "I'm at a place in my life where I cannot be passive about what is happening in the culture and our society. We cannot take this sitting down."

Rev. Polk stated that his motivation in helping organize the event is rooted in his calling to serve the disadvantaged in society, and he highlighted the historic nature of the gathering.

"My fight is not just for the African-American community," he said. "It's for the poor and the disadvantaged. Frankfort has not heard from African-American



(l to r) Dr. Lincoln Bingham of Louisville, and Rev. Willis Polk and Rev. Leon Slatter of Lexington.

leaders consistently across the years. Now is the time. For us to organize and go to Frankfort, I think it could be one of the first of its kind."

**"We hope that the legislators vote 'No.' It's just that simple. Expanded gambling at the most basic level is poor public policy."**

— Rev. Willis Polk  
Imani Baptist Church

level is poor public policy."

Dr. Lincoln Bingham, a longtime community leader in the Louisville area, will also participate. Dr. Bingham serves as pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and has filled numerous leadership positions during his 46-year career. He believes the gathering will send a strong message to Gov. Steve Beshear.

"The majority of African-Americans voted for Steve Beshear and were instrumental in his winning the election," Dr. Bingham said. "From the very beginning, however, the majority of our leaders have opposed additional gambling.

We deal with people who lose money they desperately need. We don't need another issue that makes our communities poorer than they already are and creates more problems than they already have."

Rev. Leon Slatter, pastor of Cadentown Missionary Baptist Church in

Lexington, hopes the event's message resonates with the Governor, legislators and with people in communities throughout the state.

"I'm very concerned as a pastor and as an African-American male, especially with those having a hard time making ends meet, looking for a quick fix," said Rev. Slatter. "I hope we make a statement not only to our leaders but to others in our community to get involved. I think there are a number of people that understand that this is the wrong way for us to take care of the fiscal matters of our state. However, because our state is in such need, they are hesitant to make a stand. If they see other individuals make a stand, then hopefully they will be willing to come along side and join in this effort."

**African-American leaders to rally in Rotunda against casinos**

**Wednesday, February 6 at 10:00 AM**

*"I hope we make a statement not only to our leaders but to others in our community to get involved . . . this is the wrong way for us to take care of the fiscal matters of our state."*

— Rev. Leon Slatter, Lexington



# The 2008 General Assembly session promises hardy debate on family issues

*There are already numerous issues and proposed pieces of legislation which beckon citizen involvement.*

The 2008 General Assembly Session, which lasts for 60 days from Jan. 8 through April 15, will be the vortex of heated debate on numerous issues that affect the family. Part of the reason for the intensity is the fact that some business from the 2007 Session and the 2007 Special Sessions was not completed and is being carried into this Session. But, in addition, it should be no surprise to anyone that the new administration has members within it that are on record for being opposed to some of the proposed traditional-value, conservative legislation. Strap yourself in!



## Casinos in Kentucky

The casino industry has been working to have access to the assets of Kentucky citizens for over a decade but has been frustrated repeatedly because they've never mounted the force needed to overcome opposition. Now, with their governor in office, they have renewed optimism. However, citizens across the state have become increasingly aware that they must lose \$1.429 billion each year in order for the casinos to deliver on their promised \$500 million to government each year. That works out to be \$357.25 of losses each year required from every man, woman, child *and baby* – something not very attractive to the average worker . . . or parent. Watch for more fireworks as the debate unfolds.



## Domestic Partner Benefits at State Universities

After being passed twice by the Republican-controlled State Senate and being allowed to die twice in the Democratically-controlled House last year, conservative Democrats in the House have resurrected the same bill this Session. House Bill 118 would bar state universities and state agencies from offering benefits just because someone is having sex with another person – same sex or the opposite sex. Gov. Beshear pledged to veto the bill last year while he was on the campaign trail, thus currying support from the gay and lesbian communities in Kentucky for his election bid. Whether the Governor will follow through with his promise (and whether the conservative House Democrats follow through with their effort to pass HB 118) remains to be seen. What is without doubt is the fact that HB 118 will cause a stir.



## Sanctity of Life

Kentucky is one of the most pro-life states in the union. In fact, one national pro-life group ranks Kentucky 11th with respect to strong pro-life laws. Senate Bill 40 will require an abortion clinic to give full disclosure to a woman considering abortion via an ultrasound. Since clinics currently use ultrasound to help determine the amount of money to charge for an abortion based on age of gestation, they should have no problem with allowing the woman to see the image of the child within her womb. Other legislators are talking about the need to help solidify state abortion laws with an omnibus bill that would secure the ban on Partial Birth Abortion and require an abortion clinic to have face-to-face disclosure and consent of a woman considering abortion with a 24-hour waiting period before the procedure.



## No-Fault Divorce Reform

Watch for legislation that will change the way no-fault divorce impacts children. As it is now, one parent can file for divorce and 60 days later the divorce is final . . . even if the other spouse wants to try to work things out. When children are part of the equation, a divorce like this can cause life-long devastation. Research indicates that a longer waiting period and requiring mutual consent can help the process of reconciling the struggling couple before the headlong rush-to-judgment divorce decision is made. No bill has been filed to date but the concept is being discussed.

## Sexually Oriented Business Regulation



A bill that has had success in both chambers of the General Assembly but never both chambers *in the same year* is Senate Bill 63. This bill allows for local regulation of sexually oriented business but strengthens the local community's hand with state authority by barring total nudity as well as any touching of a nearly nude performer. More stringent regulations can be enacted by local authorities. The bill gives a baseline of minimal protections and an over-arching umbrella of state law for communities who are inclined to deal with the excesses of such businesses.

## Protecting Minors from Sexual Advances



After a school teacher in western Kentucky had legal sex with a high school student, several legislators decided that the best deterrent was to increase the age of consent for sex from 16 years of age to 18. Proposed House Bill 235 does just that, as well as increasing the penalty for violating a minor from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony. What makes this bill even more interesting is that Rep. Kathy Stein, generally regarded as relatively "liberal" in perspective, is the sponsor.

All of these and other bills and issues promise to make the 2008 Session go into the history books as one of sharp contention and vigorous debate.



**Your voice, full of the faith that believes you can make a difference, is the most powerful "weapon" in the issue battles of our day.**

**Step up to the "firing line" and politely let your voice be heard.**

**Calling the message line, you simply speak to a receptionist and leave a brief message. To do more, turn to page 4 and learn about the other opportunities you have to engage.**

## FRANKFORT CONTACT INFORMATION:

### Writing legislators:

Address: The Honorable (Full Name)  
Capitol Annex  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Salutation: Dear Sen. or Rep. (Last Name)

### Leaving phone messages:

Legislative Message Line (Toll free)	1-800-372-7181*
Legislative Meeting Information	1-800-633-9650
Legislative Message Line	1-502-564-8100
Governor's Message Line	1-502-564-2611

\* The toll free message line is open Mon-Thurs 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST during the session. It closes at 6:00 PM Fridays.

# How A Bill Becomes Law



A bill 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 on 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."

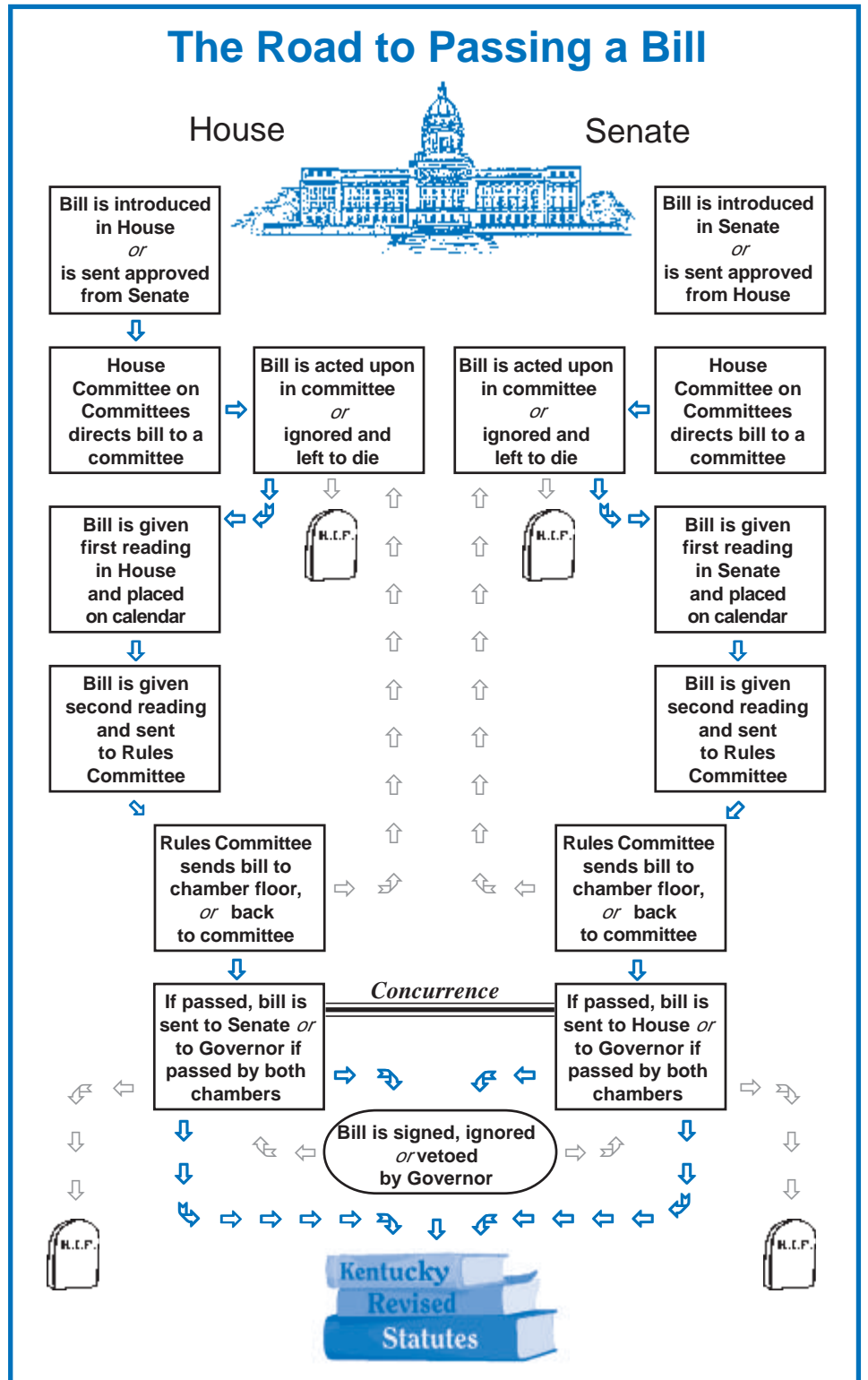
Once it passes in both chambers, it goes to the Governor for his signature.

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 upon 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



### The 2008 General Assembly

## Calendar

- |                          |                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January 8</b>         | <b>General Assembly begins</b>                  |
| <b>January 21</b>        | <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (holiday)</b>    |
| <b>January 29</b>        | <b>Filing deadline to run for legislature</b>   |
| <b>February 18</b>       | <b>President's Day (holiday)</b>                |
| <b>February 25</b>       | <b>Last day for bill requests</b>               |
| <b>March 3</b>           | <b>Last day for new House bills</b>             |
| <b>March 5</b>           | <b>Last day for new Senate bills</b>            |
| <b>March 28 &amp; 31</b> | <b>Concurrency</b>                              |
| <b>April 1 thru 11</b>   | <b>Governor's veto period (10 days)</b>         |
| <b>April 14-15</b>       | <b>Veto override period and <i>Sine Die</i></b> |

# Make a difference!

*Go ahead, get involved. It's important. (And it's fun.)*

Many people feel too insignificant to think they can make a difference in the way government makes laws. But there are several simple ways you can maximize your effect on state-level policy-making. . . and legislators will listen! The fact of the matter is that a legislator rarely receives more than a handful of communications on any given piece of legislation. Yes, there are notable exceptions, like the 2004 Marriage Amendment, but most bills run their course with very little comment. Get in the game and make a difference with your perspective.

## The "Do's"

The easiest way to have an impact on the legislature is to call and leave a message with a receptionist for your own legislators using the legislative message line (1-800-372-7181). You can easily double your impact by having your spouse call as well – both are citizens and both vote so shouldn't both be listened to?

Double your impact again by calling your legislator in his local district and discussing your concerns. You might even try making an appointment to see him or her in person. This approach is best when you feel you have a grasp of the issue or have a particular point that you want to make and feel confident with it.

Multiply your impact by writing your legislator. Be brief, but clear. Anyone who takes the time to write makes an impression on the letter's recipient. Don't feel that you have to cover every aspect of the issue. Make your point and make it well. Legislators will respond to your clarity and your conviction.

New technology! Yes, use e-mail, but be particularly careful to be brief. (It can quickly become junk e-mail.) The legislators' e-mail addresses are listed on The Family Foundation's web site at [www.tffky.org](http://www.tffky.org).

Visiting Frankfort is another way to have an impact. You can call our office for advice on how to do this. And bring your friends because a small group that invests the time to meet a legislator in Frankfort leaves an indelible mark on his memory.

When calling the message line, ask that your message also be given to the legislative leaders in the House and Senate, who control much of what goes on in Frankfort. This way your call reaches your legislator and let's those in charge of each chamber know that messages are being received by legislators across the state.

Strategize with like-minded friends using weekly morning teas or evening desserts during the session. These are very effective and fun, and since the 2008 session only lasts until mid-April it's not too demanding.

Increase your impact exponentially by giving information to churches and groups to which you belong. Certainly this publication is available in bulk quantities and has particularly strong influence among those who have families and who own or work in small businesses.

## The "Don'ts"

Along with the "Do's," also remember a few "Don'ts."

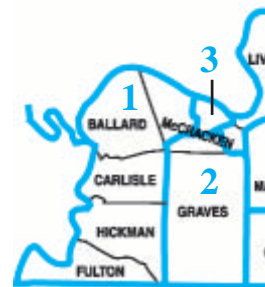
Do not use religious language when addressing a legislator. Unless he attends your church or shares your Christian convictions, he probably will not be able to relate to it.

Do not make threats. He is far more likely to do what you want if you build a responsible and credible relationship. Unless you are an official spokesperson for a group, make sure you speak only for yourself. Mentioning a group may only pigeonhole you so that the listener writes you off as "another wacko from \_\_\_\_\_ group." Be your own man (or woman) and let your voice ring with its own authority. You're a citizen and a voter and you have a say!

And last, remember, you don't have to be a professional lobbyist to have an impact, only a concerned citizen. In fact, a lobbyist does not vote for any more state legislators than you do – one senator and one representative. And your legislators will listen to you because it's your vote, not the lobbyist's, that they need.

# The Kentucky House 2008

<b>01 Steven Rudy</b>	270-462-3156 (H) 270-744-8137	<b>32 Scott Brinkman</b>	502-560-4244 (H) 502-893-8769	<b>63 Alecia Webb-Edgington</b>	859-426-7322
<b>02 Fred Nesler</b>	270-623-6184 (H) 270-247-8557	<b>33 Ron Crimm</b>	502-245-2118 (H) 502-245-8905	<b>64 Tom Kerr</b>	859-431-2222 (H) 859-356-1344
<b>03 Frank Rasche</b>	(H) 270-443-5521	<b>34 Mary Lou Marzian</b>	(H) 502-451-5032	<b>65 Arnold Simpson</b>	859-261-6577 (H) 859-581-6521
<b>04 Mike Cherry</b>	(H) 270-365-7801	<b>35 Jim Wayne</b>	502-451-8262 (H) 502-456-4856	<b>66 Addia Wuchner</b>	859-525-6698
<b>05 Melvin Henley</b>	(H) 270-753-3855	<b>36 Lonnie Napier</b>	859-792-2535 (H) 859-792-4860	<b>67 Dennis Keene</b>	(H) 859-441-5894
<b>06 Vacant until Feb. 5 election</b>		<b>37 Ron Weston</b>	(H) 502-366-2039	<b>68 Joe Fischer</b>	513-794-6442 (H) 859-781-6965
<b>07 John Arnold, Jr.</b>	270-333-4641 (H) 270-333-5763	<b>38 Tim Firkins</b>	(H) 502-367-2981	<b>69 Adam Koenig</b>	(H) 859-578-9258
<b>08 John Tilley</b>	270-886-8272 (H) 270-881-4717	<b>39 Robert Damron</b>	(H) 859-887-1744	<b>70 Mike Denham</b>	606-564-4001 (H) 606-759-5167
<b>09 Myron Dossett</b>	(H) 270-475-9503	<b>40 Dennis Horlander</b>	502-447-2498 (H) 502-447-6122	<b>71 John Will Stacy</b>	(H) 606-743-1516
<b>10 Eddie Ballard</b>	270-821-4767 (H) 270-821-6255	<b>41 Tom Riner</b>	(H) 502-584-3639		
<b>11 David Watkins</b>	(H) 270-826-0952	<b>42 Reginald Meeks</b>	502-772-1095		
<b>12 Jim Gooch, Jr.</b>	270-635-1139 (H) 270-667-7327	<b>43 Darryl Owens</b>	502-584-6341 (H) 502-778-5251		
<b>13 Jim Glenn</b>	(H) 270-686-8760	<b>44 Joni Jenkins</b>	(H) 502-447-4324		
<b>14 Tommy Thompson</b>	270-926-1740 (H) 270-926-9736	<b>45 Stan Lee</b>	859-252-2202 (H) 859-224-9674		
<b>15 Brent Yonts</b>	270-338-0816 (H) 270-338-6790	<b>46 Larry Clark</b>	(H) 502-968-3546		
<b>16 Sheldon E. Baugh</b>	270-726-7616 (H) 270-726-2712	<b>47 Rick Rand</b>	502-255-3286 (H) 502-255-3392		
<b>17 C.B. Embry, Jr.</b>	270-526-6237 (H) 270-791-1879	<b>48 Bob DeWeese</b>	(H) 502-426-5565		
<b>18 Dwight Butler</b>	270-756-5931 (H) 270-756-0100	<b>49 Larry Belcher</b>	(H) 502-957-2793	<b>72 Sannie Overly</b>	859-987-9879
<b>19 Dottie Sims</b>	(H) 270-786-3948	<b>50 David Floyd</b>	502-349-6214 (H) 502-350-0986	<b>73 Don Pasley</b>	(H) 859-842-3337
<b>20 Jody Richards</b>	270-781-9946 (H) 270-842-6731	<b>51 Russ Mobley</b>	(H) 270-465-6436	<b>74 Richard Henderson</b>	(H) 859-497-9265
<b>21 Jim DeCesare</b>	270-792-5779 (H) 270-843-8982	<b>52 Ken Upchurch</b>	606-340-8490	<b>75 Kathy W. Stein</b>	859-225-4269 (H) 859-252-1500
<b>22 Rob Wilkey</b>	270-781-9100 (H) 270-622-5050	<b>53 James Comer, Jr.</b>	(H) 270-487-5585	<b>76 Ruth Ann Palumbo</b>	(H) 859-299-2597
<b>23 Johnny Bell</b>	270-651-7005 (H) 270-590-0110	<b>54 Mike Harmon</b>	859-238-9717 (H) 859-854-6328	<b>77 Jesse Crenshaw</b>	859-259-1402 (H) 859-252-6967
<b>24 Jimmy Higdon</b>	270-692-3881 (H) 270-692-6945	<b>55 Milward Dedman</b>	859-734-2880 (H) 859-734-2662	<b>78 Thomas McKee</b>	(H) 859-234-5879
<b>25 Jimmie Lee</b>	270-765-6222 (H) 270-737-8889	<b>56 Carl Rollins</b>	(H) 859-846-4407	<b>79 Susan Westrom</b>	(H) 859-266-7581
<b>26 Tim Moore</b>	(H) 270-769-5878	<b>57 Derrick Graham</b>	(H) 502-223-1769	<b>80 Danny R. Ford</b>	606-678-0051 (H) 606-256-4446
<b>27 Jeff Greer</b>	(H) 270-422-3764	<b>58 Brad Montell</b>	502-633-7017 (H) 502-633-7533	<b>81 Harry Moberly</b>	859-622-1501 (H) 859-624-2781
<b>28 Charles Miller</b>	(H) 502-937-7788	<b>59 David Osborne</b>	502-645-2186 (H) 502-228-3201	<b>82 Charles L. Siler</b>	606-549-0900
<b>29 Kevin Bratcher</b>	(H) 502-231-3311	<b>60 Sal Santoro</b>	(H) 859-371-8840	<b>83 Jeffrey Hoover</b>	270-343-5588 (H) 270-343-2264
<b>30 Thomas Burch</b>	(H) 502-454-4002	<b>61 Royce Adams</b>	859-824-3387 (H) 859-428-1039	<b>84 Brandon Smith</b>	606-436-3119 (H) 606-436-4526
<b>31 Steven Riggs</b>	502-736-7000 (H) 502-499-6050	<b>62 Charlie Hoffman</b>	502-863-4807 (H) 502-863-9796	<b>85 Tommy Turner</b>	(H) 606-274-5175

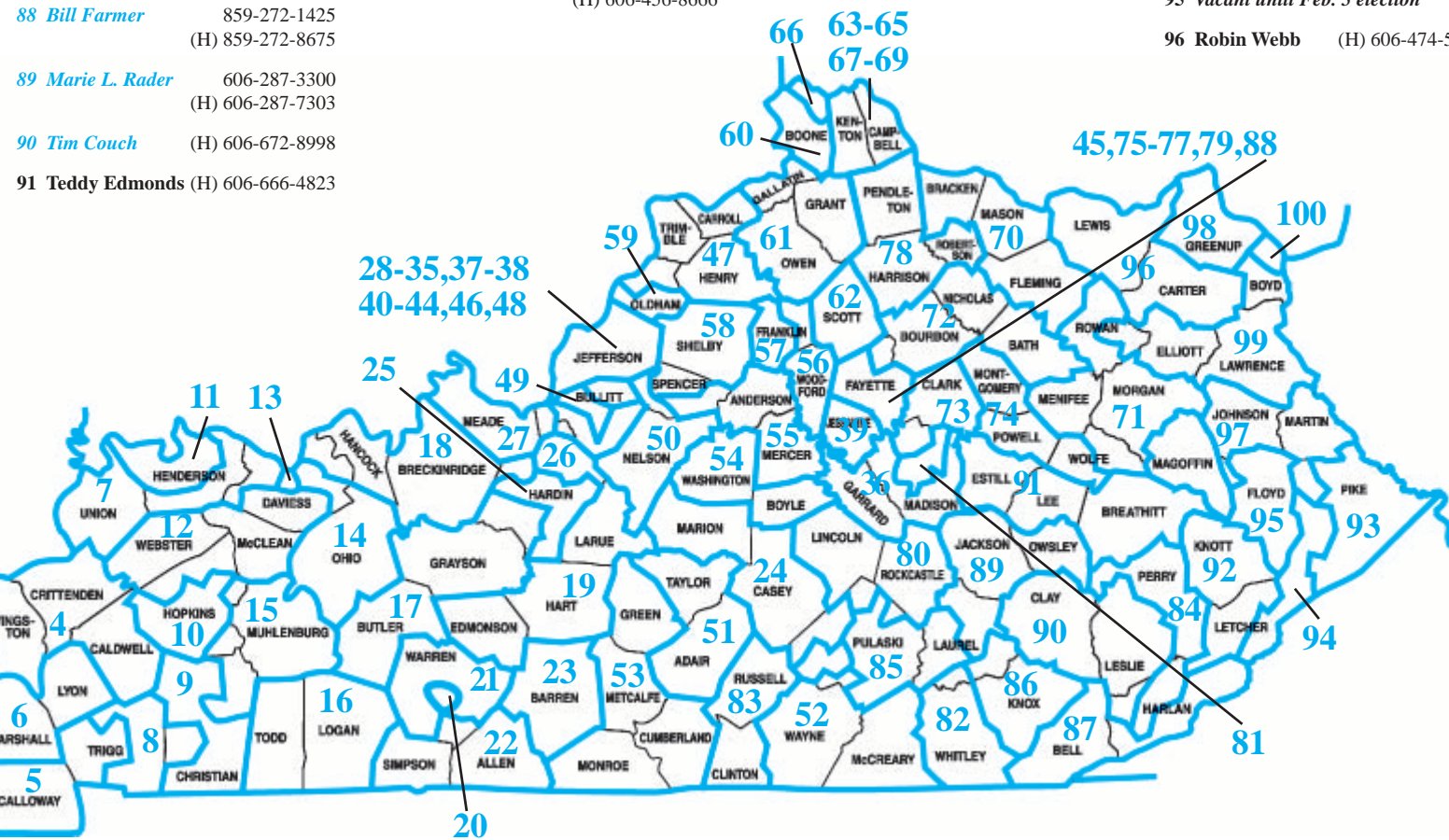


86 *Jim Stewart* (H) 606-542-5210  
 87 *Rick Nelson* (H) 606-248-8828  
 88 *Bill Farmer* 859-272-1425  
 (H) 859-272-8675  
 89 *Marie L. Rader* 606-287-3300  
 (H) 606-287-7303  
 90 *Tim Couch* (H) 606-672-8998  
 91 *Teddy Edmonds* (H) 606-666-4823

92 *Ancel Smith* (H) 606-785-3844  
 93 *W. Keith Hall* 606-456-3432  
 (H) 606-456-8666

94 *Leslie Combs* 606-433-4317  
 (H) 606-477-6672  
 95 *Vacant until Feb. 5 election*  
 96 *Robin Webb* (H) 606-474-5380

97 *Hubert Collins* (H) 606-297-3152  
 98 *Tanya Pullin* 606-932-2505  
 (H) 606-932-3945  
 99 *Rocky Adkins* 606-928-3433  
 (H) 606-738-4242  
 100 *John Vincent* 606-329-8338  
 (H) 606-325-0952



**Democrats are in black, Roman type.**  
*Republicans are in blue italic.*  
**Sen. Bob Leeper (Dist 2), the Assembly's only Independent, is red.**  
 The first number listed is the Legislator's office number (if available). The second number is the home listing, designated (H).

# The Kentucky Senate 2008

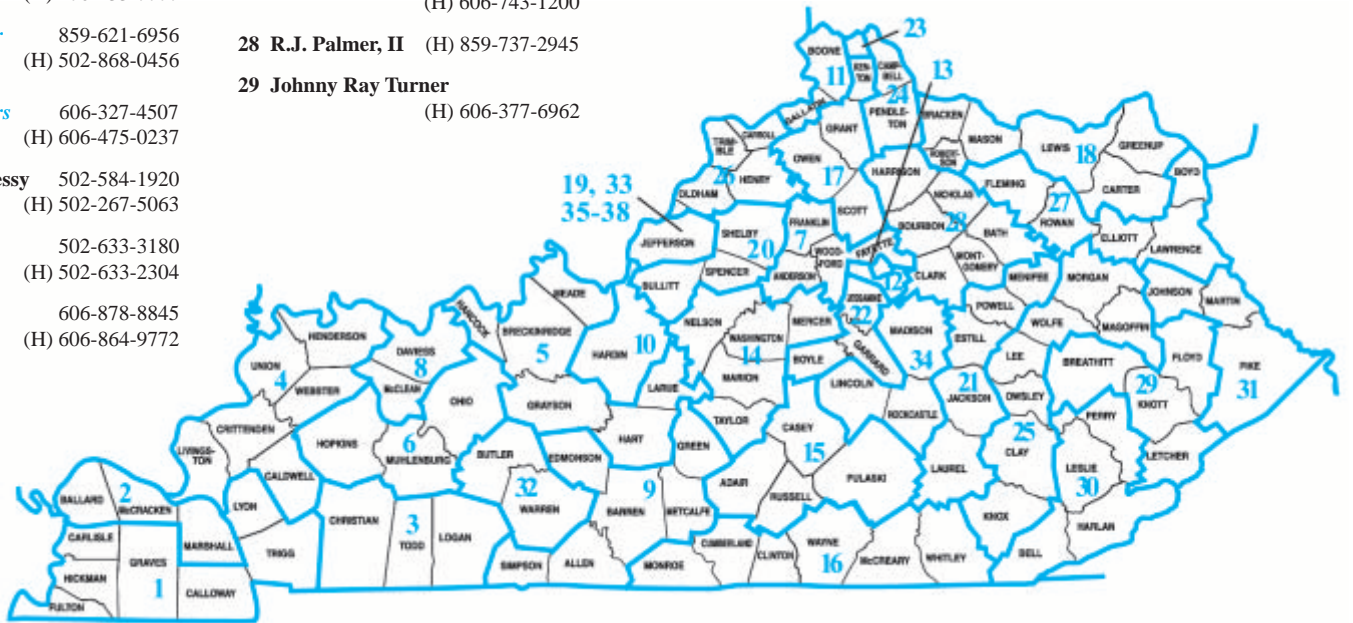
01 *Kenneth Winters* (H) 270-759-5751  
 02 **Bob Leeper (Independent)** 270-554-9637  
 (H) 270-554-2771  
 03 *Joey Pendleton* (H) 270-885-1639  
 04 *Dorsey Ridley* 270-869-0505  
 (H) 270-826-5402  
 05 *Carroll Gibson* 270-230-5866  
 (H) 270-259-6289  
 06 *Jerry Rhoads* 270-825-1490  
 (H) 270-825-2949  
 07 *Julian Carroll* 502-223-8806  
 (H) 502-695-4459  
 08 *David Boswell* (H) 270-771-4921  
 09 *Richie Sanders* (H) 270-586-5473  
 10 *Elizabeth Tori* (H) 270-351-1829  
 11 *Dick Roeding* (H) 859-331-1684  
 12 *Alice Forgy Kerr* (H) 859-223-3274  
 13 *Ernesto Scorsone* 859-254-5766  
 (H) 859-254-3681

14 *Dan Kelly* 859-336-7723  
 (H) 859-336-9048  
 15 *Vernie McGaha* (H) 270-866-3068  
 16 *David Williams* 270-864-5636  
 (H) 270-433-7777  
 17 *Damon Thayer* 859-621-6956  
 (H) 502-868-0456  
 18 *Charlie Borders* 606-327-4507  
 (H) 606-475-0237  
 19 *Tim Shaughnessy* 502-584-1920  
 (H) 502-267-5063  
 20 *Gary Tapp* 502-633-3180  
 (H) 502-633-2304  
 21 *Tom Jensen* 606-878-8845  
 (H) 606-864-9772

22 *Tom Buford* (H) 859-885-0606  
 23 *Jack Westwood* (H) 859-344-6154  
 24 *Katie Stine* (H) 859-781-5311  
 25 *Robert Stivers* 606-598-2322  
 (H) 606-598-8575  
 26 *Ernie Harris* (H) 502-241-8307  
 27 *Walter Blevins* 606-743-1212  
 (H) 606-743-1200  
 28 *R.J. Palmer, II* (H) 859-737-2945  
 29 *Johnny Ray Turner* (H) 606-377-6962

30 *Vacant until Feb. 5 election*  
 31 *Ray S. Jones, II* 606-432-5777  
 (H) 606-432-6198  
 32 *Brett Guthrie* 270-781-0049  
 (H) 270-781-5597  
 33 *Gerald A. Neal* 502-584-8500  
 (H) 502-776-1222  
 34 *Ed Worley* (H) 859-623-6524

35 *Denise Harper Angel* (H) 502-452-9130  
 36 *Julie Rose Denton* (H) 502-489-9058  
 37 *Perry Clark* (H) 502-366-1247  
 38 *Dan Seum* (H) 502-749-2859



# Homosexuality continues to be the center of policy battles touching all areas of life

It's often said: "Why is it your business if somebody chooses homosexuality? It's just another lifestyle choice. And after all who are they really hurting?" Clearly, not all lifestyle choices are equally good. In fact, some choices are destructive and often result in serious consequences. But the consequences for civil liberties are often overlooked as society is pushed to elevate, embrace and mainstream homosexuality.

**... the consequences for civil liberties are often overlooked as society is pushed to elevate, embrace and mainstream homosexuality.**

Consider how a few areas are affected:

## Public Restrooms

In early November 2007, the Montgomery

County, Maryland local council passed a bill that makes cross-dressing a right. Specifically, it bans "discrimination" against cross-dressers and transgendered individuals in the workplace, housing market,



and delivery of services. The law originally included a controversial provision that entitled transgenders to

use the public restrooms, showers, or locker rooms of their choice. While the council dropped that language, such behavior is not explicitly prohibited.

Thus, the door is literally open for unisex bathrooms.

## Public Schools

In late November, Jefferson County Schools implemented a nondiscrimination policy which covers sexual orientation. The policy will protect cross-dressing teachers. It will also prohibit the firing of teachers who proselytize their students about the gay lifestyle since it is now a protected category of behavior.

In addition, when Boyd County Schools refused to recognize a gay-straight alliance in 2002, the ACLU pressured the school to implement gay sensitivity training. Parents were not allowed to opt-out their kids. Nor were students allowed to speak negatively about the homosexual lifestyle. A federal court recently vindicated the free speech rights of students who openly disagree with homosexuality but the mandatory gay sensitivity training is still in place.

## Public Office

Just holding the view that homosexuality is immoral or abnormal may jeopardize one's aspirations to public office. James Holsinger, President Bush's nominee for surgeon general earlier this year, was excoriated for his view on homosexuality and saw his confirmation nearly derailed. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was also roundly criticized for calling homosexuality immoral. He was not renominated for the post after his term expired.

## Professional License

Also in 2007, Massachusetts resident Stephen Dunne filed a federal lawsuit charging that he was denied a license to practice law because of his "refusal to affirmatively accept, support, and promote homosexual marriage and homosexual parenting" in response to a question on the state's bar exam.

## Free Speech

In 2004, several members of the group Repent America, publicly voiced their opposition to a Philadelphia street festival for homosexuals. They were



**Ricard Nelson is the western Kentucky policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

arrested and jailed for violating the state's hate crimes law. They were later vindicated in court.

## Freedom of Association

The Boy Scouts were nearly forced by the U.S. Supreme Court to accept gay scout leaders in 2000. Such a move would have jeopardized their entire organization. Their oath would have to be abandoned and moral teaching shelved. Now because of their stand for traditional morality, the Scouts are being squeezed out of public places.

Clearly, homosexuality has implications that go beyond individuals. So militant has the gay agenda become in Europe that it is now illegal to speak negatively about homosexuality in many countries. Alarming, in 2004, gay politics clashed with pulpits in Sweden when Ake Green, a Pentecostal pastor, was prosecuted for preaching a sermon on the Biblical view of human sexuality. He was originally convicted of violating the country's hate crimes law and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The nation's high court later overturned the conviction.

In 2007, John DeCicco, a Canadian City Councillor was forced to apologize and fined \$1000 for saying that homosexuality "is not normal or natural."

These varied examples of controversy indicate that when homosexuality is mainstreamed and embraced, there is little room for disagreement with the lifestyle. America is now at a crossroads and will soon be forced to decide if tolerance should only be a one-way street.

## A pastor prays for the Governor and the General Assembly

On Jan. 14, Gov. Steve Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth address. Dr. Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, gave the following invocation, particularly noteworthy in light of current efforts to bring casino gambling into Kentucky:

*"Heavenly Father, we bow in a moment of reflection and acknowledgement of our utter dependence on you. In this room are represented all three branches of the government of this Commonwealth—those who serve because deep in their hearts resonates a call to make this state better. I ask you to bless them.*

*"They are charged with enacting laws and establishing priorities that provide opportunity and ensure justice for the weakest as well as the wealthiest. They are designated to deal with bridges and budgets, roads and revenues, jobs and jails, laws and lives. Grant them wisdom and moral courage. Protect them.*

*"May they never sacrifice integrity on the altar of expediency. May the crisis of the moment never justify a role of the dice with our future. May they refuse to fuel the good goals of government with a share of the profits gained from morally reprehensible means. May the citizens of this Commonwealth be willing to join with them in sharing the burden of providing adequately of our time and our resources so that the weakest among us may truly be brother and sister to the strongest.*

*"Bless our Governor, his cabinet, and these honorable members of these chambers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*

# Unsavory characters push London casino

Too often casino pushers mock opponents when they offer evidence linking casinos and social ills, such as prostitution and abortion. But the most recent meeting of the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority (KHRA) shed new light on this discussion.

Sprint Racing group is the latest interest jockeying for a casino as they presented their plan on Dec. 10

to open up a new horse track near London, KY. With only 13 days of racing planned a year, it is clear that the Sprint partners are expecting to have casino revenue driving the business.

The partners of the group were presented as pillars of the community, but after close inspection, they are not the “boy scouts” proponents claimed. The KHRA is currently doing background checks, but they will not have to dig far to unearth the unseemly past of Sprint

Racing partners.

The *Lexington Herald-Leader* reported on Dec. 8 that one partner, R.D. Hubbard, was forced to surrender his gambling license in Indiana for his involvement in prostitution. Now we are

inviting him to set up shop in Kentucky?

As head of the Belterra Parent Company,

**“When a sullen black woman of 17 or 18 can decide to have a baby and get welfare and food stamps and become a burden to us all, it’s time to stop.”**

— *Dr. Edward Allred, abortionist*

Pinnacle, Hubbard put on a golf tournament bearing his name, The Hubbard Invitational. A private jet was leased by Pinnacle to fly “hookers” from the west coast to Belterra to “entertain” the golfers.

In a 2002 settlement, Hubbard surrendered his license and paid a \$740,000 fine, while Belterra had to pay a \$2.26 million fine and shut down its operations temporarily. Hubbard was then forced to resign.

I guess folks in Indiana think casino

operators shouldn’t also be pimps.

Hubbard’s partner in this new Kentucky venture is Dr. Edward Allred. While there have been no prostitution allegations, Kentuckians will find little comfort in Allred’s résumé.

Allred, the owner of the Los Alamitos racetrack, originally amassed his fortune from a chain of abortion clinics in California and Chicago that, according to *Forbes* magazine, generated \$70 million for the doctor. In 1980 he claimed that he personally had aborted 250,000 babies, but had since stopped counting.

Some pro-abortion Kentuckians will not care about the “good doctor’s” profiteering in the abortion business, but they may be concerned about his racist ideology.

Dr. Allred was quoted by *The San Diego Union* on Oct. 12, 1980 as saying: “When a sullen black woman of 17 or 18 can decide to have a baby and get welfare and food stamps and become a burden to us all, it’s time to stop.”

But his bias is not limited to African-Americans. “Population control is too



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important to be stopped by some right-wing pro-life types,” said Allred. “Take the influx of Hispanic immigrants. Their lack of respect for democracy and social order is frightening. I hope I can do something to stem that tide. I’d set up a clinic in Mexico for free if I could.”

Most Kentucky citizens already have concerns about the kind of unsavory people casinos will draw into the state. How will they respond to these revelations that casino operators might not only act like pimps and profit from abortion, but are also racist?

# MSU recants speech bias against preacher

*Gay groups had been sponsored by the University while an evangelist was denied the opportunity to share his message.*

Most universities pride themselves in tolerance and the free exchange of ideas. But at Murray State University (MSU), tolerance became a one-way street, and free speech suffered a setback after administrators implemented a new speech code that restricted campus evangelism.

In 2004, MSU administrators told Evangelist Jim Gilles that he could not preach on the campus unless he obtained sponsorship from a university department or organization. Gilles, who preached at MSU for two decades, objected to the policy and filed suit in 2006. He contended the policy to be an arbitrary and unconstitutional restriction on his right to speech in a public place. His attorney, Nate Kellum, agreed.

“Essentially, they set themselves up as speech dictators, retaining for themselves the power to pick and choose whatever speech they wish to hear, premised on nothing more than their individual preferences and biases,” Kellum said.

After two years of court battles, MSU officials rescinded the school’s policy regarding outside speakers and changed the policy on Nov. 30, 2007.

“Christians should never be treated as second-class citizens simply for choosing to express their faith in public areas,” Kellum said. “We are pleased with MSU officials’ decision, which will not only restore our client’s free speech rights, but ensure that no one else is silenced in the future. We only regret that a federal lawsuit was required to force MSU to recognize these important rights.”



MSU officials dropped the sponsorship requirement for outside speakers and created a “free-speech zone” which was made available to anyone who signs up. It was enough to satisfy Gilles who filed notice of the out-of-court settlement on Dec. 21 in U.S. District Court in Louisville.

While this situation has been resolved, critics of MSU’s original policy charge the school with latent bias against conservative speech. In April 2003, the university allowed a controversial student gay rights organization to host *Come Together Kentucky*, which featured noted homosexual activists, gay and lesbian movies and more than 25 workshops that covered topics on sexual fetishes, an introduction to sex toys, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered paganism, and lesbian sex. A major tenet of gay activism is to stifle opposition to the homosexual lifestyle—something Gilles is not afraid to criticize.

The settlement was a pleasant surprise for Gilles and his attorney since he received a setback on July 2, 2007 when U.S. District Judge Thomas Russell sided with the school’s campus speech policy. Gilles, who resides in Symsonia (Kentucky), has fought speaking restrictions at other colleges, including Virginia Tech, University of Missouri, and Vincennes University.

Gilles told the Associated Press that he planned to return to MSU in the spring once the weather warms up.

# Unbridled greed through unbridled gambling

The Beshear administration came to office on the wings of a promise that it was going to avoid what it considered the ethical lapses of the previous administration. Does it seem strange to anyone that, in the wake of this exalted rhetoric, his first act as governor has been to ally himself with an industry far-famed for corruption?

Of course, Beshear never hid his intention of pushing for casino gambling during his campaign for the state's highest office. But what he didn't say was how it was going to be done.

Beshear and other casino advocates say that opening the floodgates to casino interests will benefit average Kentuckians. But if this is

true, then why is it not average Kentuckians, but big gambling interests, who are now in the process of doing what they do best: maximizing their profits by minimizing good government?

Before elected leaders turned away the gambling industry two years ago, a pro-casino group attempted to influence a special State Senate election by pouring tens of thousands of dollars into the campaign of the pro-casino candidate. The candidate won, but the strategy thankfully backfired when attention to the potentially harmful impact of big gambling money on state government was exposed.

This year, the gambling industry has turned on the financial spigots once again. According to the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, gambling interests poured almost half a million dollars into a little-known Democratic campaign fund with the obvious intent of buying influence in the debate over inviting casinos into the state. "Nearly 40 people connected with those interests," said the report, "accounted for about 28 percent of the money raised by the Kentucky Victory 2007 Committee."

It is a strange historical irony that



**Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

attempts by gambling interests to influence government should be directed at

**... gambling-related scandals haven't ceased in recent times, as the public's familiarity with names like Edwin Edwards and Jack Abramoff testifies.**

Kentucky's constitution prohibits casino gambling for a very good reason: because it can distort and disfigure the political landscape of a state. Anti-gambling language was included in Kentucky's constitution in 1891 because of numerous scandals involving corruption and influence peddling by the gambling industry.

Yes, that was a long time ago. But gambling-related scandals haven't ceased in recent times, as the public's familiarity with names like Edwin Edwards and Jack Abramoff testifies.

The casino industry will argue that it isn't like it used to be. They will say that, unlike their institutional forbears, they are not bribing public officials for their votes. No, they're not. No one is putting a wad of cash into anyone's pocket: that's the old way of doing things, and it's illegal.

Instead, they are putting a wad of cash

changing constitutional language that was placed there for the very purpose of preventing attempts to influence government by gambling interests.

**It is a strange historical irony that attempts by gambling interests to influence government should be directed at changing constitutional language that was placed there for the very purpose of preventing attempts to influence government by gambling interests.**

into political campaign funds: that's the new way of doing things, and it's perfectly legal.

But the fact that the gambling industry is now legally peddling influence on a large scale, and not illegally doing it on a small scale, will come as cold comfort to Kentuckians concerned about the potential for political corruption in the Commonwealth.

The arguments offered by the casino industry are not themselves very compelling. But the casino industry does not need logic to further its cause. Unlike the rest of us, the casino industry is not limited by the strength of its case. It is limited only by the size of its bank accounts. Arguments are not its greatest asset: assets are its greatest asset.

Why try to convince policymakers, when you can simply purchase them? And there is another irony. Relatively

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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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