

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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The 2012 General Assembly: What family issues will it bring for debate?

Expanded gambling has already been proclaimed as the goal of the Governor. Other issues seem to pale in his estimation.

Kentucky lawmakers will begin the General Assembly session this January with several issues looming over their deliberations. Besides the always contentious issue of legislative redistricting and whether to make cold and allergy medicine harder to obtain to prevent illegal methamphetamine production, the issue of expanded gambling is once again being pushed by Gov. Steve Beshear.

In his second inaugural address in December, Beshear said he would unveil a proposed constitutional amendment to expand gambling, a proposal he said would help provide funds for state government. "We're going to go all-out to get expanded gaming on the ballot," said Beshear. The governor called on the State Senate to pass the amendment first because the House had already gone on record supporting expanded gambling.

But Martin Cothran, spokesman for The Family Foundation, pointed out that the House vote in favor of gambling in the 2009 Special Session was not a good measure of House support. "That bill was loaded down with school building projects for members' districts," he said. "That's why we called it the 'Slots for Tots' bill. They were voting in favor of projects for their districts, not expanded gambling." Cothran also pointed out that if the bill had to do with revenues for state government, then constitutionally, it would have to start out in the House. Cothran added, "Not like advocates of expanded gambling have ever respected the state's Constitution."

Senate President David Williams called on the governor to tell the legislature what his actual gambling proposal is and vet it with legislators first. So far, the governor has not been in contact with Williams about the bill and has not reached agreement on it even from his Democratic allies.

But Cothran warned of what happens every time the gambling industry lures

politicians into pushing its agenda. "The political process is always distorted," he said.

"The high-priced lobbyists are being hired right now," Cothran said, "and soon we'll see a legislator or two who is opposed to expanded gambling surreptitiously disappear from the committees that will deal with the issue. And then we'll see the votes of legislators being bought by projects for their districts – and threatened with not getting them if they don't go along. All this has happened before at the behest of legislative leaders who have received campaign contributions from gambling interests, and Kentuckians should strap themselves in again for the corruption of our political process that always accompanies these efforts."

"The big monied gambling interests have already disfigured our political process," said Cothran, whose group has turned back repeated efforts to expand gambling in the state. "We will continue to oppose them and are confident that there will be enough lawmakers who value the political integrity of this state to stop this effort once again."

Just because expanded gambling has been placed on center stage by Gov. Beshear

(continued on top of page 2)

"We're going to go all-out to get expanded gaming on the ballot."

– Gov. Steve Beshear



"The big monied gambling interests have already disfigured our political process . . . We will continue to oppose them."

*– Martin Cothran
The Family Foundation*

The 2012 General Assembly

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does not mean that The Ultrasound Bill will not see yet another round of debate. The Kentucky Right to Life Association has already said that it will be its highest priority, and with three previous years of advocacy from many groups, it is likely to succeed.

It is important to note that no prolife bill has passed the Democrat-controlled House in seven years, and that Gov. Beshear, a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood, did not sign a single prolife bill in his first term of office. This absence of any signed prolife legislation during a gubernatorial term has not happened in at least 20 years.

Still, prolife advocates are optimistic since this is an election year with President Obama on the ballot. Their expectations have prolife voters showing up in droves in the Fall of 2012 to vote Obama out of office. This fact has not gone unnoticed by state Democrat House members who know that it has been their Leadership that has blocked all bills. They very likely will want to correct this "oversight" in the 2012 Session.

Lawmakers are also expected to be asked to pass another "bullying" bill this session. "We already passed a bullying bill in 2008," said The Family Foundation

Williams called on the governor to tell the legislature what the actual gambling proposal is and vet it with legislators first.

– Senate President David Williams



policy analyst Andrew Walker. "We received an A++ rating from a prominent national bullying watchdog organization. This really is just a gay rights bill in disguise."

The Family Foundation will also be asking legislators to vote on a religious freedom amendment to the State Constitution to ensure that religious organizations will be protected from attempts to force them to compromise their principles in the face of increasing pressure from politically correct groups hostile to religious beliefs.

Other issues on the agenda for lawmakers include the Public Decency Act that would place greater restrictions on strip bars, and a tuition moratorium on college tuitions.

The Session is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and conclude its normal deliberations on Tuesday, March 27. The Governor will then have ten business days to veto any legislation he feels is inappropriate for his agenda, and the legislators have two days, April 6 and 9, to consider overriding any of his vetoes. The final day of the 2012 Session is Monday, April 9.

Likely Issues for 2012

**Gambling Expansion
Religious Liberty Amendment
The Ultrasound Bill
The Bullying Bill
The Public Decency Act
A College Tuition Moratorium**

Makeup of the 2012 General Assembly:

*The House is made up of
59 Democrats and 41 Republicans.
The Senate has 22 Republicans,
15 Democrats and 1 Independent.*

Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus formed

The launch of the bipartisan caucus is slated for Jan. 10 in the Capitol Rotunda.

There's a movement afoot in our nation to preserve God's rightful place in America, and Kentucky is in the forefront of this movement. Over thirty State Legislators have already formed the Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus, a group of elected leaders committed to seeking God's will together and protecting the religious liberties of every citizen.

Joining an effort to create a nationwide network, the Kentucky Legislative Prayer

Caucus is modeled after the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of 100 U.S.

Representatives dedicated to protecting religious freedom and preserving Judeo-Christian heritage.

With the assistance of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, a non-profit organization working to facilitate the formation of state and local legislative prayer caucuses, Kentucky becomes the sixth state in

the union to form such a caucus.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012, at noon, in a ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, the newly-formed caucus will host "Kentucky Call to Prayer Day." At this historic event, citizens from around the state will join their government leaders in signing the *Kentucky Call to Prayer Proclamation* and celebrating the national motto – "*In God We Trust.*"

The recent, overwhelming passage of 2011 Congressional House Resolution 13, by a vote of 396-9, reaffirms this official motto. As momentum builds, and with the full support of the members of the Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus, there will be a national promotional campaign launched, encouraging the proud display of the national motto.

**At this historic event,
citizens from around the state
will join their government leaders in
signing the
Kentucky Call to Prayer Proclamation
and celebrating the national motto –
"In God We Trust."**



The Family Foundation is pleased to support the Kentucky Legislative Prayer Caucus and the effort to elevate our national motto, "*In God We Trust.*" Join us at the State Capitol at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10 in the Capitol Rotunda.

For more information, go to

CalltoPrayerKentucky.com

Should YOU (or someone you know) run for office and serve both God and man in government?

Running for office: *God's will for YOU?*

by Kent Ostrander

In 1775, America was at a crossroads. British soldiers occupied the land, many quartered in private homes; American ports were strangled by a blockade; taxes were levied without representation; and justice was denied by the courts. The picture is one of tyranny, and the colonists, being free men, chose to stand against it.

We stand on a similar precipice today where tyranny of another kind reigns. Human life is denied in the womb, political correctness threatens free speech, and the judiciary, untethered from the Constitution, seems to make up rules as it goes along.

At the state level, common sense policies have been thwarted by narrow special interests. For the last four years, abortionists have won the right to keep ultrasound pictures from women seeking abortion. Statewide strip club regulations, while on the books in surrounding states, have been blocked for the last decade. Government debt continues to mount, and the best proposal is for government to rip off families even more deeply with expanded gambling.

Can our freedom and liberty be maintained when good people do nothing? More to the point: Can our government at all levels be expected to do any better

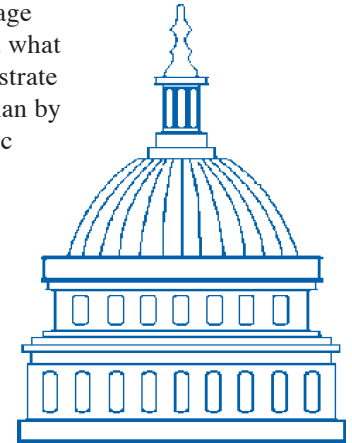
when God's people refuse to run for office?

Yet, many object to Christian involvement in civic affairs. "Politics is dirty; Christians should stay out" is the mantra, but that is not a Biblical idea. Romans 13:1 tells us, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." In other words, God establishes government. So who better to be involved in government than His people?

Government assumes the idea of servanthood. Later in Romans 13 (verse 4), Paul emphatically states, "For it (a government ruler) is a minister of God to you for good." In fact, many countries call their government leaders "ministers." Clearly, government service can be a truly spiritual ministry today.

If our Founding Fathers were willing to sacrifice their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to give us this great country, what are we willing to do to maintain it? Certainly, staying informed and voting are two ingredients to a healthy body politic, but have *YOU* ever considered running for office? If you would like to learn more about what it takes to run for office, The Family Foundation would like to hear from you. Part of our

mission is to encourage good citizenship and what better way to demonstrate civic participation than by the sacrifice of public service? So, if you or someone you know would be willing to offer leadership in the midst of the mess in Frankfort, please give us a call.



Questions about running for office?

For basic information, call us at:

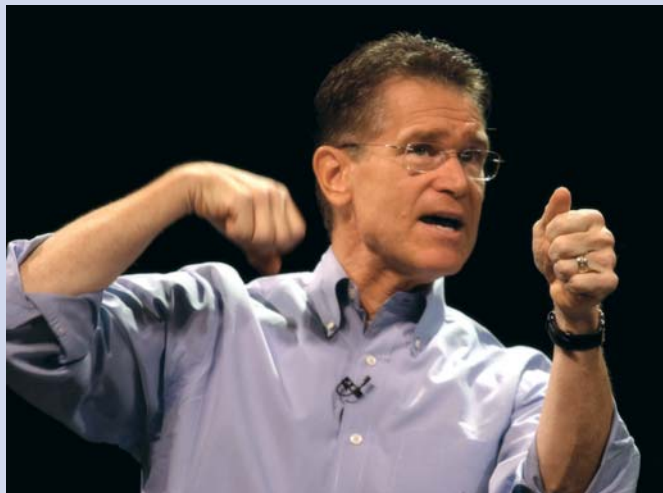
(859) 255-5400

**We are currently fundraising for our 2012 efforts.
We are behind, and we NEED your support. Please help.**

Above normal policy work, our costs in 2011 included our new emphasis – the Kentucky Marriage Movement, our massive *Kentucky Candidate Information Survey* project and the "Instant Racing" court case. Our 2012 projections indicate heavy needs associated with the Governor's false belief that he now has a mandate to push expanded gambling (see op-ed on page 8) AND, in addition, we need to pass The Ultrasound Bill after four years of the House stonewalling it and a total of seven years stonewalling ALL pro-life legislation in that Chamber.

Please give if you can.

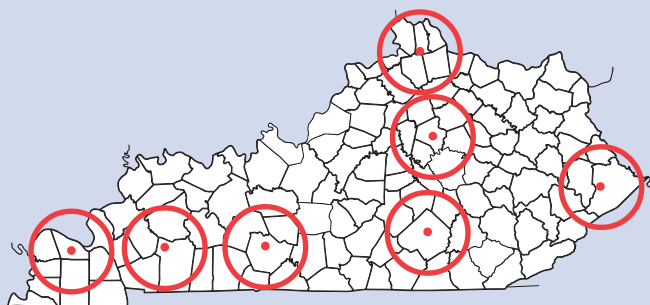
All gifts are tax deductible. Kindly mail to: The Family Foundation P.O. Box 911111 Lexington, KY 40591



Love &



Respect



*National ministry coming to Kentucky again this Spring
(Specific dates will be forthcoming)*

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

Seven video conferences set for this Spring

The goals are clear: 1) Strengthen the marriages of attendees; 2) Prepare attendees to strengthen the marriages of others.

The Family Foundation initiated four *Love & Respect* video conferences this past Fall in an effort to stir focused attention on marriage throughout the state. Because the conferences were so well-received, seven more are planned for this Spring, and their impact will extend from one end of the state to the other.

Each of the conferences is designed to move the Kentucky Marriage Movement forward, which, most simply stated, focuses on challenging everyone to be *deliberate* about building their own marriage as well as strengthening the marriages of others.

“Every parent must realize that the most important thing that they can give their children is an example of a loving and well-integrated marriage,” said Greg Williams, Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation. “Even those that believe that offering spiritual truths for their children is most important must agree that a healthy marriage is an *actual demonstration* of spiritual truth.”

The seven regions chosen for the conferences include: Paducah, Hopkinsville, Bowling Green, Somerset, Pikeville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky. Each of the conferences include a Friday evening and Saturday morning schedule of five different video segments.

“Part of the rationale for developing the Kentucky Marriage Movement is the fact that many couples are living just below the level of relational meaningfulness each partner desires,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “Making only a ‘passing grade’ at marriage is not enough since most couples want more. That’s what these video conferences are all about.”

Pastors, counselors and laymen alike are benefiting from the seminars because they are designed and delivered in such a way that real life marriages are touched by real life examples of how to dodge the pitfalls and maximize the assets of a marital relationship.

Individuals who would like to assist with the promotion of the seminar in their region are encouraged to contact The Family Foundation.

For more information or to register for a conference, visit www.kentuckymarriage.org.

Would you help marriages in Kentucky by involving your church or group of friends, or by distributing conference promotional information? If so, call (859) 255-5400.

ANALYSIS: There has been a deceptive shift in the values for which this organization truly stands.

AARP: Not your grandparents' values anymore

Mention the word retirement and images of gray-haired grandparents sharing laughs and doting on grandchildren come to mind. Gay political activism usually doesn't. Yet, America's largest advocacy group for the elderly, AARP, announced in its *July/August AARP Bulletin* that it is planning for "advocacy efforts in the LGBT arena."

The article on page 38 is titled "Pride Is Ageless," but to a generation where over 60 percent still support traditional marriage, AARP's venture into gay politics may be a tough pill to swallow. AARP's new online home for the elderly LGBT community contains links to stories on gay adoption and same-sex marriage. A recent article on the site is called "The Gay Man's Guide to Dating After 50"—a topic traditional, family-oriented seniors could do without.

Pro-family organizations such as American Family Association and Citizens for Community Values are calling for conservatives to cancel their memberships. "Perhaps we shouldn't be so surprised," said The Family Foundation policy analyst Richard Nelson. "AARP has a long track record of supporting left-leaning causes. What's new is that they're becoming more brazen about it."

In 2005, AARP paid millions in an advertising campaign to oppose Social Security reform. In 1995,

they worked with the Clinton administration to defeat a balanced budget amendment. In 1991, they sought to defeat the confirmation of now U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. "AARP is one of the most liberal organizations in Washington, D.C.," said House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio). "Obviously, most seniors aren't aware of that."

AARP began dabbling in gay political activism in 2001 when they hosted a gay pride event . . . So it should come as no surprise that AARP recognizes same-sex domestic partners for the purpose of receiving benefits.

AARP began dabbling in gay political activism in 2001 when they hosted a gay pride event. In 2002, they gave a matching-funds grant to a gay senior organization called SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment). So it should come as no surprise that AARP recognizes same-sex domestic partners for the

purpose of receiving benefits.

AARP, which boasts nearly 40 million members and a billion dollar annual budget, has spent more than \$130 million on lobbying activities since 2005. That is more than twice spent on lobbying by the Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs combined. Some of the lobbying expense was related to fighting charges of misusing membership dues, but much of it is used to promote liberal policies and candidates.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, individuals associated with AARP donated \$48,801 to Democratic candidates and PACs, compared with only \$5,121 to Republicans. And such donations seem to be

paying off as their already deep pockets are further lined with taxpayer dollars.

According to a 2008

AARP donor

list, they have received contributions from the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, IRS, Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Labor.

Journalist Dale Van Atta concluded his investigation of AARP and its claim to nonprofit status by saying it is "a Fortune 500 company that sidelines as a lobbying organization for the Washington staff." Such resources have allowed them to successfully flex their muscle and engage their politically active constituency to influence public policy.

Liberal activism is not the worst of AARP's problems. They have faced legal troubles since the 1980's when they were charged by the IRS for failure to pay taxes. After fighting the charges for nearly a decade, they eventually settled after paying \$135 million in back taxes. In 2008, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) began a probe into AARP's misrepresentation of an insurance product it was selling.

Last year, critics charged that AARP's support of Obamacare passed in 2010 was a conflict of interest. Under the plan, Medicare was slashed by billions, resulting in an increased cost for recipients, many of whom are AARP members. Yet while AARP supported Obamacare, it was also pushing its Medigap insurance product that picks up the difference between Medicare reimbursements and out-of-pocket expenses. Bottom line: AARP stood to make a financial killing.

Several AARP members who have canceled their memberships are flocking to other senior advocacy groups like the more conservative American Seniors Association and 60 Plus. Jim Martin, CEO of the 5.5 million member 60 Plus, harshly criticized AARP last year for endorsing Obamacare. "Not only should AARP be ashamed of being more focused on the bottom line than helping seniors, Democrat leaders should be ashamed of the sweetheart deals they've had to cut," Martin said.



Richard Nelson is the western Kentucky policy analyst for The Family Foundation

AARP's history of gay political activism:

AARP's Andrus Foundation provided a matching-funds grant to SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) in 2002.

AARP featured gay pride month on its 2001 and 2002 online calendars.

In 2003, AARP invited homosexual groups to its national annual meeting in Chicago.

Also in 2003, AARP Prime Time Radio featured a gay history segment and segments on "two daddies," and AARP began profiling gay couples in its *My Generation* magazine.

In 2008, AARP sponsored SAGES's "National Conference on LGBT Aging," declaring that "AARP is paying attention to LGBT needs to minimize discrimination . . ."

To cancel your AARP membership:

Call 1-888-687-2277 with membership number in hand and follow the automatic prompts. Or, send an email to member@aarp.org with name, address, date of birth and membership number and request to cancel. Be sure that an email confirmation of cancellation is received within two days.

Taking an honest look at homosexuality . . .

With just a little effort, one can sift through the voices and find clarity on homosexuality. Here is one man who did.

Some issues in culture become so “off-limits” that debate becomes impossible. Consider the recent media storm around Marcus Bachmann, the husband of Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann, who runs a counseling center that specializes in reparative therapy for individuals with same-sex attraction. When the media discovered that Mr. Bachmann believes that sexual orientation can be altered, his professional career was mocked when facing prevailing cultural opinion. But the issue whether sexual orientation can be altered got lost in the media storm.

Stan Guthrie, Editor at Large at *Christianity Today*, offered stunning commentary on the issue of homosexuality in a recent opinion column at *Crosswalk.com*. Guthrie’s article—provocatively titled “Inconvenient Truths About Homosexuality”—challenged mainstream opinion about homosexuality. There are three “inconvenient truths” he addressed:

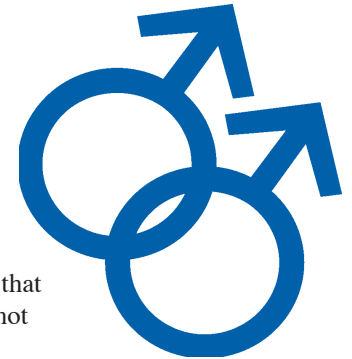
Inconvenient Truth No. 1: It is possible for people to change their homosexual orientation.

Highlighting a recently peer-reviewed article by Wheaton College Professor Stanton Jones in the *Journal of Sex and Medical Therapy*, Guthrie summarized findings that revealed that more than half of 98 individuals who received reparative therapy were able to successfully change their sexual orientation when properly tracked over time.

Inconvenient Truth No. 2: Homosexuals are not “born that way.”

Individuals insist that if an individual is born with an innate desire, then, *ipso facto*, the innate desire itself must be inherently good and noble. Research, Guthrie shows, is

inconclusive on this fact. Guthrie states that “numerous studies attempting to establish a genetic cause for homosexuality have not proven to be valid or repeatable – two important requirements for study results to become accepted as fact in the scientific community.” He goes on to quote noted scientist and evangelical Christian Francis Collins, the former head of the Human Genome Project, that “sexual orientation is genetically influenced but not hard-wired by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent predispositions, not predeterminations.”



Inconvenient Truth No. 3: Far less than 10 percent of the population is homosexual.

In May 2011, a Gallup Poll indicated that Americans believe there are more homosexual persons in the United States than Catholics. Actual findings from UCLA demographer Gary Gates indicates that the homosexual individuals comprise 1.7% of the population, a far cry from the number of Catholics in the United States which makes up 25 percent of the population.

Guthrie’s excellent article is a reminder that all issues can become politicized and that citizens must cut through the complicated minutia of constant news cycling to find the truth. It is also important to consider the human proclivity to distort facts.

News Briefs:



Kentucky’s “reliance upon God” upheld by Court of Appeals

On Oct. 28, the Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld a plaque outside the entrance of the Department of Homeland Security that acknowledges our reliance upon Almighty God. The ruling also upheld similar language in agency training and educational materials published by the department. Judge Laurance B. Van Meter wrote the majority opinion for the three-judge panel that voted 2-1 to overturn a lower court ruling that struck down the wording. “The legislation complained of here does not seek to advance religion, nor does it have the effect of advancing religion,” Van Meter wrote, “but instead seeks to recognize the historical reliance on God for protection.” The Family Foundation filed an amicus brief to support the language. A 2002 legislative finding said the “safety and security of the commonwealth cannot be achieved apart from reliance upon Almighty God.” A 2006 law created Kentucky’s Department of Homeland Security.



Murray State extended family benefits unused, unnecessary

After an arduous battle to extend health insurance benefits to unmarried, live-in partners of employees at Murray State University, not a single person signed up for the subsidized benefits according to Human Resources Director Tom Hoffacker, who spoke to the Faculty and Staff Insurance & Benefits Committee on Nov. 11. To receive the benefits, the dependent must prove they have been in a relationship for one year. Opponents of the change, which critics say undermines traditional marriage, are left wondering why homosexual activists pushed so hard to change the benefits plan. Six of Kentucky’s eight public universities offer similar benefits to unmarried partners.



HHS Secretary vetoes easy teen access to Plan B

The controversial morning after pill known as Plan B will *NOT* be available to teen girls in Kentucky and across the nation without a prescription. The FDA recommended that the drug, which prevents pregnancy if used within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse, be sold over the counter and available to young teenage girls. However, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius overruled the FDA decision on Dec. 7. Many on both sides of the life debate were shocked because Sebelius has been consistently pro-abortion, prompting some to point out that Planned Parenthood as an organization, deeply appreciated by President Obama, had much to lose if women could avoid their abortion services and “counseling” with this medication. Plan B, which most consider to be an abortifacient, has been available since 2009 and will remain available with a prescription.

Racing for more gay rights at Murray State

The blatant push for the gay agenda by a state school is totally out of step with the Kentucky citizens whose tax dollars fund it.

Murray State University's (MSU) mascot is a racehorse, but parents who are interested in seeing their children educated are asking why the school is racing down a course that makes the university a hotbed of gay activism in Western Kentucky. In early October, MSU President Randy Dunn announced in his State of the University address that the university will extend marriage-like benefits to unmarried, live-in partners. The latest effort is to build a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) resource center.

Jeff Osborne, associate professor of English and philosophy, delivered a petition to MSU Provost Bonnie Higginson on Nov. 3 asking that the university provide a resource center for homosexuals. "Right now my only task is to gather signatures of faculty and staff who would like to see an LGBT center," Osborne told *The News*, MSU's student newspaper. "The petition simply indicates to the administration that there is widespread faculty support." A total of 121 faculty and staff signed the petition.

Jody Cofer, faculty advisor to the homosexual and transgender student group called Alliance, told *The News* that even though MSU has "Safe Zones" on

campus, this center would be exclusively designed for the LGBT community. Cofer added that the center would be a depository for the books, videos and general helpful tools that "LGBT students find useful whether they're contemplating coming out, whether they're looking at family issues, having trouble with school, all these kinds of things can be housed in one location . . . A center would provide a stable and permanent infrastructure to centralize these activities."

Cofer lamented that the Alliance is a structure without a foundation. "You can only build the tower so tall, and then it's going to fall over if you don't have a foundation under it," Cofer told *The News*. "And I will say, we have built a very impressive tower and we have not done as well on the foundation." Cofer

suggests that a paid staff member would help carry on the mission of MSU's LGBT community.



This is what has parents concerned. "Parents send their kids to university to get an education. Most would rather not have their tuition dollars earmarked for projects involving sexual politics," said Richard

Nelson, western Kentucky policy analyst for The Family Foundation. Nelson testified before the MSU Board of Regents in May to oppose the creation of benefits for domestic partners and extended family dependents. He said scarce tax dollars should not be allocated for controversial social experiments. Since 2003, tuition at MSU has increased by 76.6 percent.

Critics say that adding a LGBT student center will further increase the cost of a college education at MSU.

Currently, the LGBT Resource Center, primarily an online resource for homosexual students, offers students to join the Stonewall Scholars Book Club. This semester members jointly read: *Queer America, Fun Home, Five Married Men*, and selections from *Ceremonies*. They also watched gay-themed movies like *The Butch Factor*. The Resource Center is funded by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of the Provost.

Nelson asked what promoting homosexuality has to do with a serious education. "If homosexuality is risky, unhealthy and morally objectionable, then why are so few educators on campus willing to voice their concerns?" Nelson asked. "Wouldn't that be true diversity?"

Timeline of Gay Political Activism at Murray State University:

- Aug. 29, 2003** – Alliance pushes for benefits for same-sex couples
- Feb. 29, 2008** – Sexual Orientation included in non-discrimination code
- Oct. 11, 2010** – Safe Zone project implemented
- Sept. 1, 2011** – President Dunn extends marriage benefits to unmarried partners
- Nov. 3, 2011** – Faculty and Staff petition submitted calling for LGBT resource center

The corruptive nature of the casino industry

Coming in the next CITIZEN is an in-depth report on how the gambling industry twists government to do its bidding.

There are many reasons that a massive expansion of gambling will destroy Kentucky culture forever. The Family Foundation has elevated four key realms that will suffer major impact if casino gambling is expanded. **#1 The Family is targeted.** Corporations can't gamble, nor can businesses, institutions, schools, churches, nonprofits, clubs, nor civic organizations – only moms and dads, and a few singles. **#2 Businesses will lose.** Think about it . . . after all the millions of dollars of losses, that is millions of dollars that won't be spent in businesses. **#3 Government will be corrupted.** The industry with the most money will be the gambling industry. **#4 The Vulnerable will be destroyed.** Not all are vulnerable, but those who are (and their families) will be devastated in every sense of the word.

In the next issue of the *CITIZEN*, articles will focus on the third realm – *How the gambling industry will corrupt government.* Included in these articles will be concrete evidence on how our Kentucky system of government has already been damaged, even before the big money has started flowing.

This is a photo of one of the 200 "Instant Racing" terminals currently in operation at Kentucky Downs. Government agencies have claimed in court that the device is legal because it is a live horse race in the "mind of the patron."



Opinion: Don't listen to the pundits regarding the election returns.

Mandate, what mandate?

The number of editorialists now declaring that Gov. Steve Beshear has an electoral mandate or that Senate President David Williams received a vote of no confidence may just exceed the number of people who actually voted in the election. The polls in early November were a very lonely place, but the media house is now packed with pundits announcing confidently what it all meant.

The *Lexington Herald-Leader*, in attempting its election analysis, intoned that William's agenda had been rejected and that

Beshear had come closer to the "public pulse."

Public pulse? The *Herald-Leader* might want to check its political stethoscope:

if the election showed anything about a pulse, it was that, at least on the first Tuesday of November this year, the voting public didn't have one. It was democracy on life support.

The editorial goes on to give a litany of all the particular policy initiatives that voters, in an election they largely ignored, supposedly endorsed, a list that bears a striking resemblance to the paper's own liberal editorial positions.

The problem with David Williams, it



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

says, was that his ideas were "unpopular and outside the mainstream." I'm trying to comprehend the degree of irony involved

in the *Herald-Leader* lecturing someone else on being "outside the mainstream" in a state like Kentucky with a conservative electorate.

That the media would argue what voters were saying about issues in an election in which the chief issue was the governor's refusal to debate them with his opponent is ironic, if not simply laughable.

If a sitting Republican governor had followed the strategy Beshear followed this year and refused to debate his Democratic opponent on the issues, reporters would have been forming the journalistic equivalent of lynch mobs. But since it was their boy doing the dodging, they simply

Public pulse? The *Herald-Leader* might want to check its political stethoscope: if the election showed anything about a pulse, it was that, at least on the first Tuesday of November this year, the voting public didn't have one. It was democracy on life support.

For a weekly email update on what is happening *inside* Frankfort during the 14-week 2012 General Assembly session, please send an email to tffky@mis.net.

That's 14 weeks & 14 emails . . . at no cost.

The Kentucky *CITIZEN*

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looked the other way.

In fact, the paper has placed itself in the preposterous position of Beshear himself, who thinks he has a mandate on the very issues he didn't think important enough to discuss in public with his opponent.

And speaking of Republicans, Mitch McConnell biographer John David Dyche got in on the action too, declaring at the Kentucky Hospital Association convention that the election "marks the end of the era of David Williams." But that analysis, too, is dead on arrival.

Only 28.6 percent of Kentuckians even bothered to come out and vote, and there is little evidence that they had anything particular on their minds. Editorialists who make grandiose claims about what voters were saying in an election in which the vast majority of registered voters didn't bother to make their voices heard should at least have some proof that the voters were saying what they now declare they were obviously saying.

The people who say that the election was a mandate for Beshear apparently didn't notice that he received the votes of

only 15.3 percent of the total number of registered voters in the state. And those who argue that there was some kind of endorsement of Beshear's first term need to contend with the fact that he received 155,307 fewer votes than he received in 2007.

This election contained no mandates. It didn't even amount to a pat on the back. In fact, it seems to have been one big, collective, electoral yawn.

If the *Herald-Leader* and others in the Kentucky media are serious about engaging in political analysis, they should at least be able to tell the difference between voter decisiveness and voter despondency.