

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Effort to bring casinos into Kentucky stumbles again, faces broad opposition

Though not yet fully dead, political leaders have had an earful of citizens telling them to stop the push for casinos.

Gov. Beshear's effort to bring casinos into Kentucky has faced a series of evermore intense opposition from various groups in the Commonwealth. Adding to his problems from opposition was the division of the House Leadership along with a number of serious gaffs, which has brought the bill to a virtual standstill with just three weeks left in the Session.

Opposition in Frankfort began with an effort led by Rev. Willis Polk, a Lexington pastor, who coordinated a news conference in the Capitol Rotunda on Feb. 6 convened by the Kentucky Baptist Convention African-American Fellowship. More than 40 pastors and leaders assembled in the Rotunda, many of whom expressed personal support of Gov. Beshear, but complete opposition to his plan to bring casinos to the Commonwealth.

A week later, on Feb. 14, Gov. Beshear announced a massive twelve casino proposal that would dot Kentucky's landscape with expanded gambling and allegedly bring \$600 million into the state coffers each year. No mention was made by the administration regarding the losses by Kentucky citizens required to generate that much money. The proposal was received with skepticism by many across the state, including by some members of the media.

The next group to bring their message to Frankfort was Women Against Gam-



(l to r) Rev. Willis Polk led the Feb. 6 news conference, Carol Devine headed up the Feb. 19 WAGE gathering, and Pastor Jeff Fugate moderated the March 5 rally of 500-600.

bling Expansion (WAGE), headed up by Carol Devine. They gathered in the Capitol Rotunda on Feb. 19 and assembled about 200 participants. Joy Bolton of the Kentucky Baptist Convention moderated the gathering and introduced a number of speakers that crossed racial, denominational, and party lines.

A week later, on Feb. 26, a modified version of the Governor's casino plan that was expected to pass its House Committee, failed. Even though several adaptations were proposed, none received favorable passage. The resulting confusion prompted one committee member to move for adjournment, and members quickly agreed.

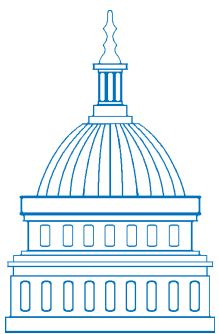
Later that day, Rep. Dottie Sims was removed from the committee by Speaker Jody Richards for voting against his will, and two pro-casino representatives were added to the committee. At that point, a

casino bill was passed successfully from committee, but serious damage was done to the credibility of the process.

On March 5, the third wave of opposition met in Frankfort; this time with overwhelming numbers, filling up the Rotunda and the balconies above it. Pastor Jeff Fugate of Lexington's Clays Mill Baptist Church coordinated and moderated the rally that news agencies estimated at 500-600 participants. The date of this gathering proved timely, as House Leadership struggled to pull together casino and horse racing factions into a workable compromise. Two days after the rally, Gov. Beshear, signaling discouragement, endorsed a large tax increase for cigarettes to bring about the new revenue he claims he needs to run the state.

Rep. Greg Stumbo, recently retaking his formerly held House seat in a February special election, initiated a compromise on March 6, which scaled back the proposal from casino gambling to "casino-like" gambling only at racetracks. Very simply, he proposed slots at the tracks. Early reception has been cool to his proposal in the wake of the previous dissension and opposition.

The legislature may have had enough wrangling over casinos, but gambling expansion opponents are still concerned about a possible renewed effort from die-hard proponents.



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2008 General Assembly by email.

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on our new website at

www.kentuckyfamily.org

Members of the 2008 General Assembly need to focus on family issues

It's time that legislators focus on doing the business of the people, NOT doing the business of the casino industry.

The 2008 General Assembly Session, now well into its third and last month, has experienced a roller coaster ride of debate and intrigue as the House Leadership wrangled with the Governor's proposed casino plan. What has been missing is the normal focus on the issues that Kentucky families care about, particularly bills that reflect the state's pro-life and pro-marriage convictions.

Below are a number of bills that have already passed one of the two Chambers of the Assembly and only need to pass the second Chamber by March 27 to become law:

Senate Bill 112: 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. As it turned out, the identical bill in the Senate – Senate Bill 112 – has moved first and cleared the Senate on Jan. 30 by a vote of 30-5. SB 112 would bar state universities and state agencies from offering benefits just because someone is having sex with another person – same sex or opposite sex. It now has strong opposition from various members of

House Leadership who are trying to kill it by not allowing it a hearing.

Senate Bill 40: Sanctity of Life



Senate Bill 40 will require an abortion clinic to give full disclosure to a woman considering abortion through 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. In some states that have this legislation, up to 50 percent of the women choose life rather than follow through with the abortion. Similarly important, that choice of life protects the women from a lifetime of grief and regret. In

addition, the bill bans Partial Birth Abortion and requires an abortion clinic to have face-to-face counseling with the abortionist prior to the procedure rather than the taped recording some use to skirt the law. Kentucky is one of the most pro-life states in the nation. In fact, one national pro-life group ranks Kentucky 11th with respect to strong pro-life laws. The passage of this legislation would make Kentucky a national leader with respect to the sanctity of life. This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 32-4, but has strong opposition among House Leadership.

Senate Bill 63: 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. This 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. Already 114 of

Kentucky's 120 counties have passed such a regulation. This would be the state coming in and standing with them with the force of state law. The bill passed the Senate 34-3, but a key House leader said they would not hear this bill.

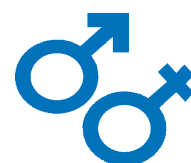
Senate Bill 1: Replacing the CATS Testing System in KERA



The CATS testing system has had 10 years to prove itself and has yet to do so. Some 10 years ago, the CATS test replaced an earlier version, called KIRIS, which was similarly flawed and similarly expensive. Senate Bill 1 will replace the CATS test with a test that has five important qualities: *it would be* 1) more objective, 2) easier to administer, 3) easier to grade, 4) more reliable on an individual student level and 5) quicker to give educators feedback on how students and schools are doing. Like several of the other bills listed, Senate Bill 1 has passed the full Senate and is awaiting

a hearing in the House. Indications are that it too will receive a hostile reception from some key members there.

House Bill 211: 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. In addition, a number of Catholic legislators have moved to bring new regulation and penalties for an individual in authority to abuse a minor sexually. These concerns have been merged into House Bill 211. The bill increases the penalty for violating a minor from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony. Currently, there is optimism that the Senate will join the House by passing this legislation.

For these to pass, we must **EACH** do our part.
Call the Frankfort legislative message line
and leave a message with the receptionist:

1-800-372-7181

SB 112 has passed the Senate – tell your Representative:
“Protect marriage! Pass Senate Bill 112
There is no reason for the state
to reward sex outside of marriage
with benefits.”

TIP: To double your impact, husbands and wives should both call the message line.

SB 40 has passed the Senate – tell your Representative:
“Pass Senate Bill 40. Women
should receive full disclosure with the
ultrasound imaging.”

TIP: The message line is open from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM Mon-Thurs, but closes Fri at 6:00 PM.

SB 63 has passed the Senate – tell your Representative:
“Pass Senate Bill 63!
Women should not be required
BY ANYONE to perform totally nude.”

TIP: Make one call for each bill.

SB 1 has passed the Senate – tell your Representative:
“Pass Senate Bill 1. It's time to simplify
and streamline the testing system.”

TIP: You may call more than once on any bill, but we suggest that you call not more than once a week on it.

HB 112 has passed the House – tell your Senator:
“Pass House Bill 211.
Protect children from abuse by
predatory authority figures.”

Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn secures site in Frankfort cemetery

After surveying areas in Lexington, Louisville and rural Central Kentucky, a site overlooking the State Capitol was chosen.

After meeting and searching for two years, the steering committee for the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn has announced a location for the memorial – Frankfort Cemetery, on a hill overlooking the Kentucky River and the State Capitol. Parents and family members who never had the chance to know and share in the life of their unborn baby will, in the not too distant future, have a place to memorialize their child thanks to an effort that has been organizing and planning since early in 2006.

“Our goal these last months has been to identify the proper location for the Memorial,” said Kathy Rutledge, Memorial Committee chairman. “We were seeking an area that is easily accessible and visible, yet serene and private. And we’ve found it!”

Now that the preliminary design has been drafted and the site

has been secured, organizers are preparing to invite the citizens of Kentucky to participate in its construction and in passing the word that this place of healing, rest and closure exists. Their goal is to produce informational materials and a brief video by the end of May so that they can be used this summer by volunteers who will reach out to all 120 counties to find those who want to be involved.

“Regarding abortion, we have Kentucky Right to Life Association that articulates very effectively the truth about life in the womb. And, we also have a host of pregnancy care centers that meet women in their point of need, enabling

them to choose life for their child and for themselves,” said committee member Kent Ostrander. “But what is still missing is that place of healing and closure for those living victims of the abortion procedure.”

The Memorial seeks to reach out

to these victims who have experienced unresolved grief after losing their aborted child and to families who have suffered

miscarriages by honoring all children who lost their lives before birth. Women who chose abortion often wish they had given life to their babies and experience more heartache and grief than anyone

could have expected. Couples whose dreams centered around having a child instantly have them shattered when they miscarry unexpectedly. The Memorial will serve as a place of remembrance to help all who grieve the loss of an unborn child to release that burden.

In addition, the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn will offer healing and hope through an inspired garden journey. The garden will include an inscription from Jeremiah 31, “A voice was heard in Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children

who are no more...but, there is hope.”

In the plans, the garden begins with a memorial wall, designed to be reminiscent of the

Western Wall in Jerusalem. On the wall, words of dedication can be permanently placed by mothers, fathers and grandparents

for each unique unborn child – lost, but created in the image of God. A child can be remembered by name or in a more private, even anonymous way.

The design then leads visitors into an area landscaped in the general form of a womb – the hidden place designed by God to protect and nurture the beginning of human life. From there the walk moves to a resting place at the foot of a life-size bronze of “Rachel Weeping for her Children.”

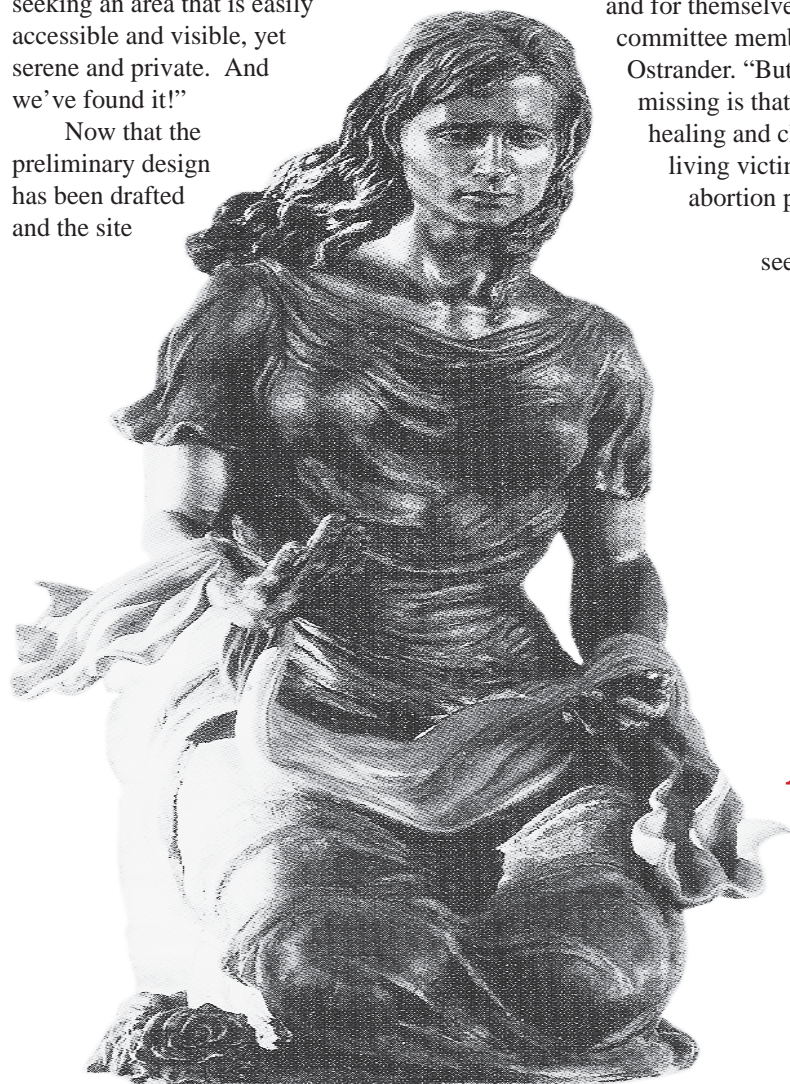
“I believe the Memorial will provide a ministry of reconciliation that draws the hearts of fathers and mothers back to their children,” said Rutledge, referencing Malachi 4:6. “The memorial wall will allow individuals to express heartfelt love for their babies lost before birth, one child at a time. God calls each of us by name and does not forget a single one of us.”

Because the Memorial is designed to serve the entire state, the committee is also seeking individuals who would be interested in working in their own county to get the news out about the Memorial. This way, all 120 counties can share in the vision and the building of the site as well as the on-going outreach to those who labor under the hurt and loss of their unborn child.

Once completed, it will stand overlooking the State Capitol, constructed by citizens from every corner of the Commonwealth and honoring the specific children memorialized on the wall. And yet, at the same time, it will also stand as a testament to the humanity of all children in the womb.

“We were seeking an area that is easily accessible and visible, yet serene and private. And we’ve found it!”

*– Kathy Rutledge
Committee Chair*



***If you would like to
help establish the
Kentucky Memorial
for the Unborn,
please contact us.
A team for each county
is being formed.***

***Call 859-255-5400 or
email tffky@mis.net***

MSU Board embraces homosexuality, adds “sexual orientation” to its code

Another state university is trying to guide Kentucky to a whole new realm that the legislature hasn't authorized.

Under the guise of tolerance, Murray State University Board of Regents voted on Feb. 29 to revise its non-discrimination code and include sexual orientation. The move, part of a several year effort by gay activists, politicizes human sexuality by elevating homosexuality and transgenderism to protected status.

Board of Regent member Bill Adams opposed the measure and made a motion to strike the term from the revision but was voted down 7-3-1. Vicki Travis and Marilyn Buchanan voted with Adams. “Homosexuals are already protected under current law,” Adams said. “This is more an issue of recognition and acceptance instead of a matter of discrimination.”

After Adams’ amendment was voted

down, Staff Regent Gina Winchester proposed that marital status and political

“If sexual orientation reaches nondiscrimination protection, male professors at MSU could come to work in a dress and high heels, female employees could show up on the job dressed as a man and persons of indeterminate sex may insist on using either the men’s or women’s bathroom.”

— *Richard Nelson*
The Family Foundation

affiliation also be included in the non-discrimination code. After Adams asked if

that means “gay marriage from Massachusetts,” the proposal was voted down.

Murray State President Randy Dunn backed sexual orientation inclusion even though there is no evidence of any discrimination going on at MSU. In December 2006, the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, Annazette McCane, testified before the staff Congress that there has never been a discrimination complaint by homosexuals in her 15-year tenure. McCane has since left Murray State. At press time, the interim director had not returned calls.

The controversial policy was spearheaded by a gay student group called The Alliance. One MSU staff member and a practicing cross-dresser also supported the effort. (*See editor’s note*



below)

This staffer is also a board chair of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance—a statewide gay political organization that advocates same-sex marriage and gay adoption.

Family advocates warn that the door at MSU is now open to more radical policies by homosexual activists. Richard Nelson, policy analyst with The Family Foundation, testified before the Board of Regents and asked them to not include sexual orientation in the new code. “If sexual orientation reaches nondiscrimination protection, male professors at MSU could come to work in a dress and high heels, female employees could show up on the job dressed as a man and persons of indeterminate sex may insist on using either the men’s or women’s bathroom,” Nelson said. “If Murray State doesn’t want to go there, then it should vote this down.”

Currently all eight of Kentucky’s public universities recognize sexual orientation as a protected class. University of Kentucky and University of Louisville give marital benefits to homosexuals, and both have lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender resource centers that promote gay activism. “This move by the MSU Board of Regents is an assault on the moral sensibilities of Kentucky taxpayers who are now funding an institution that elevates and protects sexual deviancy,” Nelson said. “Isn’t it time that our education leaders raise the standard and stop accommodating the sexual anarchy on our college campuses?”

[Editor’s Note: We’ve chosen not to specifically name one individual who was instrumental in the passage of the new policy lest there be any confusion — concerns expressed here are about errant policy, not about individuals.]

Another federal court affirms decency law

Over the years, Kenton County leaders have been firm in their stand for decency regulation.

Kentucky’s public decency advocates were given another reason to cheer when strip club restrictions were vindicated once again by the courts. Following a string of pro-decency rulings, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court upheld key provisions of Kenton County’s strip club restrictions on Feb. 6. The ordinance bans total nudity and keeps dancers at least five feet away from patrons. It also limits hours of operation, prohibits minors from entry, and imposes steep license fees.

Chief Judge Danny Boggs wrote for the 2-1 majority that the ordinance correctly targeted the “secondary effects” of sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) without unduly restricting speech.

The basis of Kenton County’s ordinance is to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the community and to stem negative secondary effects, such as crime, associated with SOBs. Between Jan. 1, 2002 and Feb. 11, 2004, Covington police made a total of 469 calls to sexually oriented businesses in the city. The crimes committed included robbery, assault, fraud, malicious mischief, public intoxication, prostitution and possession of illegal drugs—



activities that every community wants to avoid.

This ruling is significant in that it validates scores of other public decency laws enacted across Kentucky in the past four years. Currently, 114 of Kentucky’s 120 counties strictly regulate SOBs and ban total nudity and sexual activity inside strip clubs.

The ruling is also in line with other court opinions handed down in the past several years that uphold the rights of communities to restrict sexually oriented businesses. In 2006, the Kentucky Supreme Court unanimously upheld McCracken County’s strip club restrictions. It was later upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Richmond and Louisville ordinances have also been recently upheld in federal court.

Despite the litany of pro-decency rulings, sex industry provocateurs regularly challenge existing local laws, hoping to face an inexperienced attorney or under-funded government. Some decency advocates are pushing for a statewide public decency act that would further insulate communities against SOB owners inclined on challenging any regulation regardless of its constitutionality.

Pushing radical sexual agendas is not becoming of our state universities

When Murray State’s Board of Regents voted recently to elevate sexual orientation to protected status, we learned something about the difference between making an informed decision and caving into political correctness. We also learned what passes for higher education these days.

Terry Strieter, interim chair of the history department, spent quite a bit of time testifying before the Regents about the death of Matthew Shepherd. It’s unclear what that had to do

with the policy change to include sexual orientation in MSU’s non-discrimination code. Last time I checked, assault and murder is still illegal in all 50 states. Strieter also talked about tolerance and the Western tradition, as if we are to believe that affirmation of sexual deviancy is the logical extension of that tradition.

It’s funny how a history professor could miss something he’s supposed to specialize in. The history of gay politics is anything but tolerant, from the Stonewall Riot in 1969 to the commandeering of American Psychological Association conventions in the early 1970’s – tolerance works only if you agree with their politics.

University President Randy Dunn supported the change because he believed it would attract faculty and staff. Just what kind of faculty and staff would be attracted by such a policy is anyone’s guess. What MSU is likely to get in the near future is a tax-funded gay resource center and a domestic partnership policy controversy like UK and U of L’s. For years, both schools had elevated sexual orientation to protected status, which eventually served as a springboard for other radical policies. Dunn also pointed

to the other state universities that had enacted the policy. This reasoning amounts to “everybody else is doing it, so should we.” That kind of sloppy thinking may work for some people, but it shouldn’t for a university president.

When one Regent proposed an

sexual orientation discrimination in her 15-year tenure. She questioned why it was necessary.

So do others.

Consider that “sexual orientation” is typically used to refer to homosexual, bisexual or lesbian sexual inclinations.

But the term is actually much broader. In fact, one can even have a sexual orientation toward children, animals or objects according to Robert Knight, a

nationally recognized cultural researcher. The therapeutic manual of the American Psychiatric Association lists at least 20 distinctive sexual variations of sexual



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

Another Regent, Alan Stout, said the policy “has been adopted by the three constituents (faculty, students and staff). I really think it’s in the best interest of the university.” Stout failed to consider what is perhaps the most important constituency: taxpayers—most of which oppose the implementation of divisive policies at publicly-funded universities.



amendment to nix sexual-orientation protection, Regent Jeff Taylor whipped out the U.S. Constitution from his jacket and declared that it “stands for democracy, for fairness and for individuals having the right to choose.” Mr. Taylor can say the Constitution stands for anything he says it stands for, but it doesn’t change what the Constitution actually says. One thing is clear; it certainly doesn’t guarantee the right to practice homosexuality.

Another Regent, Alan Stout, said the policy “has been adopted by the three constituents (faculty, students and staff). I really think it’s in the best interest of the university.” Stout failed to consider what is perhaps the most important constituency: taxpayers—most of which oppose the implementation of divisive policies at publicly-funded universities.

The Alliance, a gay political group, has lobbied MSU for years to include sexual orientation in the non-discrimination code. It sounds like there have been all kinds of discrimination complaints going on at MSU. Not exactly. On Dec. 13, 2006, Annazette McCain, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), testified before the Staff Congress that there had never been a single complaint of

orientation including paraphilias, which are sexual disorders. It’s now on record that Murray State protects all kinds of sexual lunacy.

It’s appalling that educated people look past the facts to embrace an agenda that is dangerous. Of course, they’ll say it furthers their mission of “diversity,” but diversity without common sense is foolishness. And terms such as fairness and tolerance become hollow when co-opted by forces of political correctness to further an agenda.

Richard

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You’ll be making a stand for life and for compassionate life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.

THIS is Unbridled SPiRiT in Kentucky



Evidence of the casino industry's powerful influence mounts

Nationwide, the gambling industry has a notorious record of corrupting politicians with its money. Throughout its tumultuous history, dozens of gambling-based political corruption cases have been proven in courts. Now casino operators have their sights squarely set on the Commonwealth of Kentucky because they succeeded in getting a pro-casino governor elected.

An analysis of recent financial promises and campaign contributions to politicians reveals that casino operators have spent millions for access to Kentucky's political system. This latest activity shows a clear pattern of monetary promises and targeted contributions to all levels of government, from school boards to local government, from the state legislature to the Governor's Office.

Casino Contribution Initiatives

- **May 2005** – KEEP, the Kentucky Equine Education Project and casino advocacy group, promises local school boards and local governments new revenue from casinos at tracks.
- **November 2005 - 2006** – KEEP and other casino advocates pour more than \$100,000 into state legislative elections.
- **February 2007** – Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Steve Beshear announces his advocacy for casinos.
- **April 2007** – State Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Miller ends his campaign, endorses pro-casino candidate Beshear, and days later flies to Las Vegas for what he terms “personal business meetings.” Beshear appoints Miller to be Democratic Party Chairman.
- **2007** – Candidate Beshear raises \$7 million for his campaign, including huge sums from casino advocates.
- **2007** – Casino interests contribute \$489,500 to the Democratic Party's Kentucky Victory Fund.
- **2007** – Beshear supporter forms Bluegrass Freedom Fund, raises \$3.15 million to finance advertisements attacking Beshear's opponent and calling for governmental ethics reform. \$2.2 million of the “ethics reform” fund came from casino supporters, including \$1 million from Bill Yung, a casino company CEO who recently lost his New Jersey license and was sued by investors for reckless management.
- **November 2007** – Beshear wins election, proclaims casinos can produce \$500 million in new taxes but his claim is unsubstantiated by all except casino advocates.
- **December 2007** – Several pro-casino individuals, including casino owners who have lost their operating licenses in two states, make \$10,000 donations to Gov. Beshear's \$766,000 inauguration celebration fund.

Letter to the Editor, Hazard Post, January 25, 2008

To the Democrats of Harlan, Bell, Leslie, & Perry Counties:

I'm Roger Noe, a lifelong Democrat from Harlan. I tried to become your candidate to fill the seat vacated by Daniel Mongiardo. What I didn't realize was that Governor Beshear, Lt. Governor Mongiardo, Leo Haggerty, and Chester Jones had already chosen the Democratic candidate, and they did it in the most dishonest way possible, they rigged the election against Democratic policy. With the aid of Beshear's appointed head of the Democratic Party, Jennifer Moore, Scott Alexander was given the nomination. Leo Haggerty was given a \$50,000 a year job for his part, and I'm just waiting to see how Mongiardo awards Chester Jones.

I still believe in Democratic principles, but I am disappointed to have to say that I have no faith in our current Kentucky Democratic leadership. They have insulted the intelligence of the Democrats in our counties, and are strong arming public officials for support in furthering their dishonest agenda.

We Democrats were deceived by Beshear/Mongiardo, and the rest of the state should be prepared for the same treatment. Unless you vote responsibly we will be haunted by more of their immoral corruption of Democracy.

— Roger Noe
Harlan, Kentucky

Casino Industry Return on Investment

Once the “investment” has been made, those investors expect a return. Here's what happened next

- **February 2006** – A state House committee approves a proposed constitutional amendment to allow casinos, refusing testimony from opponents. The full House rejects the bill.
- **December 2007** – Freshman State Rep. Brandon Spencer (D-Prestonsburg) suddenly and unexpectedly resigns just weeks before the beginning of the 2008 General Assembly, leading to the subsequent election of Greg Stumbo, historically the state's most radical pro-casino legislator.
- **January 2008** – Gov. Beshear releases his state budget proposal, calling for government agency funding cuts, suggesting casinos could provide new tax dollars.
- **January 2008** – Gov. Beshear repeats his projection that casinos will raise \$500 million in future tax revenue, but is contradicted by a legislative study that projects \$300 million.

- **January 2008** – Gov. Beshear hand picks a pro-casino candidate to replace Lt. Gov. Mongiardo in the State Senate. Roger Noe, the locally favored candidate and former legislator who was rejected by Beshear, goes public in a letter to the editor before the special election, “They . . . are strong arming public officials for support in furthering their dishonest agenda.” (See inset left)
 - **February 2008** – Casino CEO who contributed \$1 million to ethics reform fund acquires northern Kentucky commercial property, states his expectations to compete for gambling license in Kentucky.
 - **February 2008** – Gov. Beshear suggests sales of casino licenses could produce “several hundred million dollars” in revenue during the current budget cycle.
 - **February 14, 2008** – Gov. Beshear announces massive 12-casino plan that is far larger than had ever been discussed. It includes casinos at race tracks and free-standing casinos as well.
- ## Casino Industry's Pressure Warps Process
- At this point, bizarre manipulations and irregularities take control of the process.
- **February 25, 2008** – Rumors of an FBI investigation of legislators swirl around the Capitol and on blogs. All eyes are focused on the casino lobby.
 - **February 26, 2008** – The House Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee meets to consider and presumably pass the “Casino Amendment,” but there are several votes on different versions of the bill and all fail. The committee members are in disarray and an abrupt vote is taken to adjourn.

Later that day Rep. Dottie Sims is removed from the committee by Speaker Jody Richards because she voted contrary to his preferred version of the amendment. She is replaced by two pro-casino members and the amendment passed favorably out of committee the next day.

- **March 3, 2008** – Newspapers and blogs report missing Capitol visit sign-in logs that indicate that casino CEO Bill Yung had met with the Governor in early January even though the Governor denies such a meeting.

The gambling industry's history in other states offers clear financial justification for their huge political contributions and resulting fiascoes. Once they get government approval, casinos have successfully expanded their number of locations, types of gambling, and even lucrative complementary businesses, like prostitution.

Fortunately, their expectations of new business opportunities in Kentucky are not yet reality!

OPINION: Most expected the corruption problem to wait until AFTER the casinos arrived.

Casino corruption in Kentucky?

Our Founders purposed to create a Constitution that was sound, fair and difficult to manipulate by any interest group. They barred casinos in 1891 through the Constitution because of all the negative side effects of gambling that had impacted Kentucky and the entire nation during that century. But the current corruption is more insidious than just “gambling.”

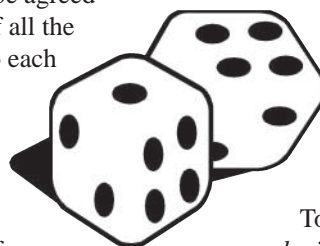
The framers not only wanted to stop rampant gambling; they wanted their

masterpiece – the Constitution – to be protected from all who would selfishly “have their way” with the

people of the Commonwealth. So, like leaders of the time from other states, they built what they believed to be a fail-safe, two-step process as to how our Constitution could be amended.

Kentucky’s Constitution, Section 256, reads: “. . . and if such amendment or

amendments shall be agreed to by three-fifths of all the members elected to each House, . . . Then such proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the voters of the State for their ratification or rejection at the next general election . . .” Legislators *FIRST* “shall be agreed” to amend, *THEN* the



people ratify or reject the amendment.

The deception, perpetrated by the gambling industry and

being hawked by our current governor, a former governor, many in the legislature and now a gambling-enriched “third party group,” is saying, in essence, “Forget the conviction of the General Assembly, just ‘Let the people decide.’”

In other words, they are asking

legislators to abdicate their constitutional duty and just turn the whole matter over to the casino pushers and their advertising manipulators so they can do their magic on the people in a November election. The purpose of this misinformation? To completely skirt the protective, legislative step of the amendment process. Exactly what the *Founders did not want!*

But exactly what the *casino industry wants!*

Our legislators, the people’s first line of defense from such a scam, were elected to know – *and are paid to know* – the details of such a swindle. Unfortunately, not all do. Case in point, reference the testimony of Larry Clark, House Speaker Pro Tem and casino advocate for several years, who, in

committee on Jan. 10 stated that he had never heard of the casino plan’s requirement of a \$14 billion “handle.” (The “handle” is the amount of money wagered.)

If *HE* hadn’t heard that reality, how can he, or the governor, or any other legislator presume that the people of Kentucky have been fully informed to make the casino decision?

Some legislators are literally espousing the casino pushers’ verbiage – “I’m voting to let the people decide.”

Reality check! Legislative history only records “Yes” votes and “No” votes on amendments. It does not record a “Yes-I’m-voting-for-the-people-to-decide” vote. A “Yes” vote in this matter, according to the Constitution, is just another “Bring casinos into Kentucky” vote.

The hypocrisy is palpable. At least one legislator has said publicly, “I’m going to vote *FOR* the amendment in the legislature, and then *AGAINST* it as a citizen.” His goal? Clearly, to use the power of his office to please the gambling industry (with its campaign contribution



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potential), but at the same time assure his constituents he’s “one of them.” It’s a simple betrayal of his district’s trust.

I can respect a “Yes” vote if a legislator truly believes casinos are good. I can applaud a “No” vote because I’m absolutely convinced they’re not. But the cowardly “Let the people decide” vote of the legislative invertebrate who is voting only for himself at the cost of Kentucky families is untenable.

Full-blown corruption usually begins as nothing more than the slightest

The first shovel has yet to be turned at a casino construction site, yet their influence is, unfortunately, already corrupting the way Kentucky works.

premeditated twisting of a good and fair system to benefit one particular segment of the

population over another – a mere tilt of the balance scales.

Recent news reports indicate that \$2.5 million was spent by casino proponents to elect and inaugurate our current governor. The same interests tried, unsuccessfully, to strong-arm the election of a pro-casino candidate to the 30th District State Senate seat.

The first shovel has yet to be turned at a casino construction site, yet their influence is, unfortunately, already corrupting the way Kentucky works.

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"What should we do for the casino industry this year?"

Rep. Dottie Sims sleeps with the fishes

Recent actions by casino proponents in the House of Representatives have prompted suggestions that there may be a more fitting slogan for the pro-casino effort than "Let the people decide." A more appropriate slogan might be "We're going to make you an offer you can't refuse."

State Rep. Dottie Sims (D-Horse Cave) was one of five state lawmakers on the House Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee who voted against casino legislation being pushed by Speaker of the House Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green), causing it, along with a competing casino bill, to fail. Sims then went about the rest of her business, until, later in the day, when she found herself sleeping with the fishes.

Sims got word in the afternoon that several members of House Democratic leadership had thrown her off the committee and replaced her with two other legislators. It could be that these House leaders were simply acting in accordance with the old Sicilian adage: "Women are more dangerous than shotguns." In any case, another committee meeting was quickly called, and Richard's casino bill was passed.

The lesson can't have been lost on rank and file House members, who have to see the actions taken against Sims as a sign of what may happen to them should they go against the will of the Speaker, who led the move against Sims.

In fact, some legislators might be advised to check under their sheets in the morning at their Frankfort hotels. According to recent news reports, there is an oversupply of retired thoroughbreds, and the horse industry is at a loss as to what to do with them. The casino industry can't fail to have asked why they shouldn't be employed to further the pro-casino cause, and whether, if the horse industry really means business, they don't have a few horse heads they can spare.



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There are, after all, those in House Democratic leadership with the requisite skills to do what needs to be done. Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown), the House Caucus Chairman, and one of the three members involved in giving Sims the axe, is one of them.

He is a professional meat cutter.

One serious problem casino forces have faced is the lack of internal cohesion. There has been increasing dissension among Democratic House leadership on how to approach the issue, resulting in an internal split between the families—er, rather, factions. The dominant faction seem to be the one led by Richards, whose legislation does not guarantee that casinos will be run by the horse tracks. Despite repeated attempts by Beshear to bring the warring parties to agreement have failed. In a recent meeting in the Governor's office, he tried, unsuccessfully in the end, to impress upon them the importance of unity and cooperation.

This prompts the obvious question: Was cannoli served at this meeting?

The strong-arm tactics of House Democratic leadership stacking the House committee resulted in approval of the bill,

Sims then went about the rest of her business, until, later in the day, when she found herself sleeping with the fishes.

After all, anyone viewing recent events in the House will have noticed one obvious difference between pro-casino Democrats in the House and organized crime: House Democrats are clearly *not* organized.

The Kentucky CITIZEN

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but most observers think the infighting between different pro-casino factions has doomed the legislation. In light of all this, what might be the next step for groups like the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), which has been pushing

casino legislation? Since things are not going its way, is there a chance it might become more aggressive?

In their last attempt to impress lawmakers, they organized their members for a day at the capitol. KEEP members arrived in riding

gear and other horse paraphernalia, with their shiny trucks and horse trailers. Look for the next KEEP rally to feature long dark sedans carrying men wearing trench coats and wielding violin cases.

Of course, casino advocates will bristle at comparisons to the Godfather. And they may have a case. After all, anyone viewing recent events in the House will have noticed one obvious

difference between pro-casino Democrats in the House and organized crime: House Democrats are clearly *not* organized.

Still, there are a few things they're going to have to explain. One of them is the day Beshear chose to officially launch casino legislation: February 14.

St. Valentines Day.

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