

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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One thing is certain: There will be (some) leadership change in the House

With a number of legislators moving on to other things and others jockeying for top positions, some changes are certain.

Many people are familiar with the changes now happening at the top levels of federal government, but some Kentuckians may not be aware of the significant changes taking place in their own state government.

“Because of last month’s election and a behind-the-scenes battle now going on among members of the State House of Representatives,” said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation, “the Kentucky General Assembly could have a very new look when legislators come back for their short legislative session at the beginning of February.”

While Senate President David Williams presides over a stable majority in the State Senate, the House of Representatives is undergoing dramatic changes. The first has to do with the departure from the House of former State Rep. Kathy Stein. Stein, who took the reins of the House Judiciary Committee two years ago, was the most liberal member of the House and one of its most vocal and combative members.

Stein decided to leave the House and run instead for the State Senate seat vacated by the equally liberal Ernesto Scorsoni, who received a judicial appointment from Gov. Steve Beshear. The departure of Stein from the House and the

vacancy she has left in the powerful Judiciary chair leaves liberals without their loudest and most powerful voice.

And Stein wasn’t the only powerful liberal

voice to leave the House. Long-time Education Committee Chairman Frank Rasche left his seat vacant after deciding to take a position within the Kentucky Department of Education. Similarly, Rob Wilkey, a representative from Scottsville, resigned to help run a private company. Wilkey left the significant Majority Whip position.

Wilkey’s departure may not be the only change in the five-person leadership team that has held power in the House for the last two years. Jody Richards, who holds the House’s most powerful post, Speaker, is being challenged by the perennially powerful Greg Stumbo.

Rep. Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown), who unseated Bob Damron (D-Nicholasville) for the position of Majority Caucus Chair, is facing a determined challenge from Damron, who is still smarting from his loss of the seat two years ago. Wilkey’s vacated Majority Whip position is also being contested.

Several of the challengers are running as a de facto ticket against the present leadership team that has been criticized for its failure to get anything substantive accomplished over the last two sessions and for failing to work more closely with the governor.

Cothran said that, while Stein’s departure



Current House Speaker Jody Richards and Rep. Greg Stumbo will vie for the Speaker post

from the House will be a definite change for the better for family issues, how the changes in House leadership will affect the family is less certain. But he is hopeful they could bring about some good things. “The

people who have been leading the House for the last two years have stymied most of our pro-family efforts, and the new bunch that is challenging them seems to be more conservative on our issues,” said Cothran.

Phone numbers for legislators

(See pages 4 & 5)

Save!!!



The Election: A national issue analysis

The family fared quite well in most of the state referenda that were decided across the nation on Nov. 4.

Political pundits have been quick to write the obituary for the conservative movement after Republicans took a drubbing in the Nov. 4 election. However, further review indicates that conservative ideas are alive and well.

For example, constitutional amendments to protect traditional marriage passed in Arizona, Florida and California by margins of 56.5 percent, 62.1 percent and 52.3 percent, respectively. In each case, marriage advocates were outspent. Florida marriage proponents, outspent by a three-to-one margin, received the biggest victory. Thirty states now protect marriage in their constitutions while 43 statutorily define marriage as between two persons of the opposite sex.

Another example of traditional or conservative values triumphing on Nov. 4 was in Arkansas. Voters there barred unmarried sexual partners, whether heterosexual or homosexual, from adopting children and becoming foster parents.

Similarly, an ordinance granting homosexuals a special “protected class” status on the basis of homosexual behavior and cross-dressing was defeated in Hamtramck, Michigan. In other jurisdictions that have adopted such ordinances, the language has been used to penalize and discriminate against Catholic Charities, the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, and other groups and individuals who refuse to endorse homosexual behavior and cross-dressing. Such ordinances have also been used to allow men who dress as women to use women’s restrooms and changing rooms in schools, in shopping centers and in other public buildings.

Gambling expansion advocates lost in three states. Sixty-two percent of Ohioans rejected casinos, and voters in Maine rejected a Las Vegas-style casino. Massachusetts voters took a step that effectively banned pari-mutuel betting. On the other hand, Arkansas passed a lottery and Maryland legalized slots. Missouri and

Colorado, which already have casinos, saw voters loosen regulations.

Pro-life advocates suffered losses at the polls. South Dakotans failed in their effort to ban abortion. Assisted suicide was legalized in Washington State. Colorado voters declined to acknowledge personhood to pre-born children and Michigan voters allowed embryonic stem-cell research. Pro-lifers were outspent in many of the states, especially by pro-abortion giant Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood sunk \$3 million to defeat Colorado’s personhood amendment which defined life as beginning at conception. If it passed it would have been their “death knell and the death knell of the entire American pro-abortion movement,” according to Judie Brown, president of American Life League. Brown was optimistic that this first-ever initiative made it as far as it did in Colorado, a state she calls “very pro-abortion.” More importantly, Brown says that Colorado’s



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

effort has sparked personhood campaigns in 16 states.

Exit polls indicated that the economy was the number one issue of concern to voters, but according to Family Research Council’s exit poll, 20 percent said that moral values were their “first or second consideration in deciding their vote.”

Values voters should not be discouraged. When Americans are given the facts, when the issues are debated on a level playing field, and when spending is equal, voters more often than not support traditional values.

The Election: An analysis for Kentucky

The Kentucky electorate made solid, pro-family decisions in this election cycle, regardless of what national trends indicated.

“There is Jackson standing like a stone wall,” were Gen. Bernard Bee’s words shouted over the din of battle when southern forces were under a coordinated assault by an overwhelming force of Union soldiers. Lt. Gen. Thomas Jackson’s brigade held its ground in the center of the battle line as others retreated in disarray. History inevitably and appropriately changed his name to “Stonewall Jackson.”

I relay this bit of American history not to emphasize “North versus South” or the thought of violent combat, but to illustrate the principle that when one group of people stands strong, it can and will inspire the rest of those on the battlefield. The tide turned that day at Bull Run and the Confederate forces rallied to win the battle, buoyed by Jackson’s stand.

On Nov. 4, Kentucky stood like a stone wall in the midst of an overwhelming tide of quite liberal forces across the nation. Kentuckians voted to retain their more conservative U.S. Senator and Senate Minority Leader, Mitch

McConnell, even though he had been heavily targeted with record-breaking expenditures from national interests working with the opposing Party.

In addition, Kentuckians secured a very pro-life, pro-marriage and pro-family Congressman for the Second Congressional District, Brett Guthrie. Guthrie, who had served in the State Senate for 10 years and left a voting record for the family that is above reproach, decided to run after Ron Lewis announced his retirement earlier in the year.

On the state level, election results were just as stalwart. Brent Housman, a pro-family Republican, won State House District 3 vacated by moderate-to-liberal Representative and Education Committee Chairman Frank Rasche, when he took a position with the State Department of Education after the 2008 session. Similarly, Wilson Stone, a pro-family Democrat, won State House District 22 vacated by House Majority Whip Rep. Rob Wilkey when he retired earlier this year. Stone and

his opponent Shawn McPherson articulated very similar “values platforms” and actually attend the same church in Scottsville.

In addition, two other open seats ended up changing Parties in the House: Democrats Martha King and Kevin Sinnette replaced retiring Republican Representatives Sheldon Baugh (16th District) and John Vincent (100th District), respectively.

In the other chamber there was only one change: In State Senate District 9, David Givens, a very pro-family Republican, replaced retiring Sen. Richie Sanders, who is regarded as more moderate. This represents, in essence, a “pickup” for family values.

Nov. 4 was just another illustration that Kentucky has a very special place in this nation – a very special role to play in these troublesome times. Kentucky poet Jesse Stuart wrote, “If the United States can be called a body, then Kentucky can be called its heart.” The entire nation saw



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

America’s “heart” on the TV screen election night – the first state to declare its pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-family stand!

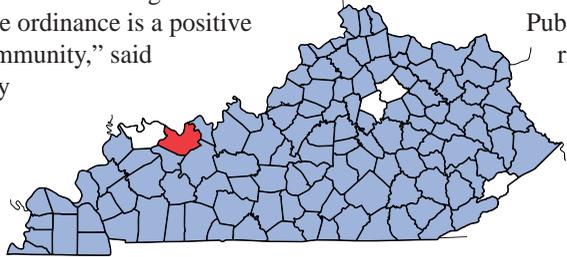
Please do not miss the spiritual import about what’s been said just because a military general and a secular poet have been quoted to illustrate the scenario – the Commonwealth indeed has “a Call” and Kentuckians – *together* – must bring it to fruition. To articulate Stuart’s thought another way – “If America is to be a ‘City on a Hill’ to the world and ‘a light to the nations,’ then Kentucky has a key role to make it so.”

Daviess County moves on sex businesses

County becomes the 116th of Kentucky's 120 counties to move forward with a family-friendly ordinance to limit excesses.

Local leaders across Kentucky concerned about the negative effects of sexually oriented businesses (SOB's) have been busy restricting them for the past four years. Now add Daviess County leaders to that list. On Dec. 18, Daviess County Fiscal Court is set to cap a lengthy process when they become the 116th Kentucky county to enact comprehensive SOB regulations.

"I think the ordinance is a positive step for the community," said Daviess County Commissioner Bruce Kunze. "The community supports it. I believe most



■ Daviess County ■ Counties with regs

people would view this as the right thing to do."

Concerned citizens lobbied the county for years, but the issue became explosive when Anthony Cobb discovered the "Meet and Greet Swingers Club" in an area just southwest of Owensboro called Friendly Village. Cobb, pastor of Wing Avenue Baptist Church and president of the Owensboro Ministerial Association, didn't think that kind of operation was a healthy addition to the community so he brought it to the attention of his fellow pastors.

"It was really scary," Cobb said. "We had people coming in from all over the country to be at the club. It was like something from the 60's or 70's." After Cobb

took a public stand against the sex club, which had a referral agreement with local hotels, he started receiving anonymous threats. That didn't deter Cobb or his fellow pastors from asking the Daviess County Fiscal Court in 2007 to start the process of passing an ordinance to restrict sexually oriented businesses.

Public efforts of the ministerial alliance and other concerned citizens, "put a damper on their business," Cobb said.

The ordinance ultimately became a joint effort with the city of Owensboro.

"The county and city usually don't work together like this," said City Commissioner Charlie Castlen. "To see them come together to do this shows the importance." Castlen, who is also mayor pro-tem of Owensboro, first became concerned about the county's vulnerability in 2004 when he learned that other communities began aggressively regulating SOB's.

Since 2004, over 100 counties have enacted similar ordinances as part of a statewide effort to make Kentucky's communities more family friendly. The Owensboro-Daviess ordinance rests on solid legal footing according to analysts. In 2006, the Kentucky Supreme

Court unanimously upheld McCracken County's SOB ordinance, which was passed in 2000. That measure has served as the primary model ordinance for other counties.

In that opinion, Justice Will Scott wrote "... that the ordinance furthers the county's substantial governmental interest in preventing and combating the negative secondary effects associated with sexually oriented businesses." Numerous studies indicate that SOB's increase crime, decrease property values, cause blight, and facilitate the spread of sexually transmitted disease. Only four counties remain without the comprehensive ordinance: Henderson, Bourbon, Letcher and Fayette.

The widespread passage of local SOB restrictions, coupled with the high court's ruling, gives momentum to family advocates who are working for a statewide public decency bill, which is expected to be introduced in the 2009 session of the General Assembly.

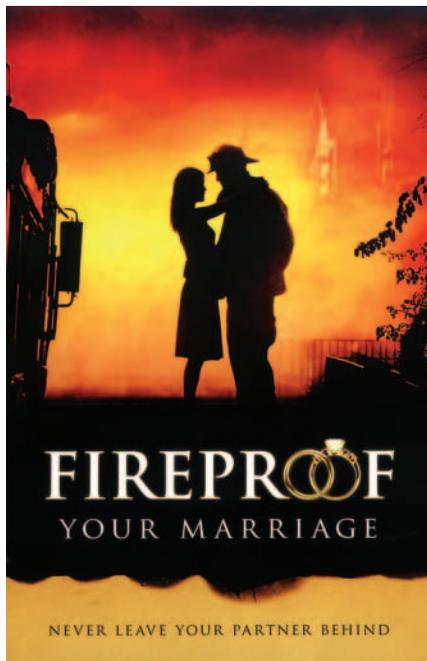
"I think the ordinance is a positive step for the community. The community supports it. I believe most people would view this as the right thing to do."

– Bruce Kunze
Daviess County Commissioner



FIREPROOF rolls on

The "marriage movie" is doing well in Kentucky . . . and across the nation.



FIREPROOF has become the #1 Inspirational Film of the year, which is no small feat. But more than that, it addressed what many regard is the #1 problem in America – unintended marriages that are falling apart at inestimable cost in human relationships, especially with children.

Opening on Sept. 26 across the nation, **FIREPROOF** stunned Hollywood by securing the second highest per screen average of patrons of any movie released in 2008 in fewer than 1000 screens. Of the films opening Sept. 26, **FIREPROOF**, ranked at 18th, is the only one still in the top 20. With a filming budget of only \$500,000, the movie, which debuted at #4 Opening Weekend, has underscored that fact that many viewers want more value-content entertainment.

The Family Foundation got behind the project after Executive Director Kent Ostrander viewed a pre-release screening in May. He was so personally moved that he and Foundation staff laid out a strategy to make assure that hundreds of pastors and their wives were able to see the film prior to its September release. All in all, ten Kentucky cities had special screenings.

"There is no way we could have seen **FIREPROOF** hit this level of success without volunteer partners like The Family Foundation," said Marc Harper, Director of Ministry Alliances for Provident Films.

The Family Foundation staff is working in hopes that the film will help engender a "Marriage Movement" in Kentucky, bringing new life to troubled marriages. (See related story on page 6.) And it may!



Help Please

With the economic concerns across the nation and the Commonwealth, gifts to The Family Foundation have dropped sharply during the last 6 weeks. Please consider a year-end gift at this time so we can move forward during the General Assembly of 2009 and beyond.

If we each give a little, we'll be fine.

Thank you for your faithful support!

The Family Foundation
P.O. Box 911111
Lexington, KY 40591

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.

Newer 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 Legislative Research Commission's web site at www.lrc.ky.gov.

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 2009 session only lasts until late March, 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."

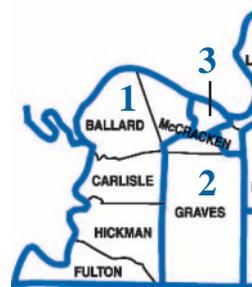
Do not use religious language when addressing a legislator. Unless he attends your church or shares your Christian convictions, he probably will not be able to relate to it.

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 2009

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Steven Rudy | 270-462-3156 (H) 270-744-8137 | 33 Ron Crimm | 502-245-2118 (H) 502-245-8905 | 65 Arnold Simpson | 859-261-6577 (H) 859-581-6521 |
| 02 Fred Nesler | 270-623-6184 (H) 270-247-8557 | 34 Mary Lou Marzian | 502-451-5032 | 66 Addia Wuchner | 859-525-6698 (H) 859-525-8211 |
| 03 Brent Housman | | 35 Jim Wayne | 502-451-8262 (H) 502-456-4856 | 67 Dennis Keene | (H) 859-441-5894 |
| 04 Mike Cherry | (H) 270-365-7801 | 36 Lonnie Napier | 859-792-2535 (H) 859-792-4860 | 68 Joe Fischer | 513-794-6442 (H) 859-781-6965 |
| 05 Melvin Henley | (H) 270-753-3855 | 37 Ron Weston | (H) 502-366-2039 | 69 Adam Koenig | (H) 859-578-9258 |
| 06 Will Coursey | (H) 270-527-4610 | 38 Tim Firkins | (H) 502-367-2981 | 70 Mike Denham | 606-564-4001 (H) 606-759-5167 |
| 07 John Arnold, Jr. | 270-333-4641 (H) 270-333-5763 | 39 Robert Damron | (H) 859-887-1744 | 71 John Will Stacy | (H) 606-743-1516 |
| 08 John Tilley | 270-886-6800 (H) 270-881-4717 | 40 Dennis Horlander | 502-447-2498 (H) 502-447-6122 | 72 Sannie Overly | 859-987-9879 |
| 09 Myron Dossett | (H) 270-475-9503 | 41 Tom Riner | (H) 502-584-3639 | | |
| 10 Eddie Ballard | 270-821-4767 (H) 270-821-6255 | 42 Reginald Meeks | 502-772-1095 | | |
| 11 David Watkins | (H) 270-826-0952 | 43 Darryl Owens | 502-584-6341 (H) 502-778-5251 | | |
| 12 Jim Gooch | 270-635-1139 (H) 270-667-7327 | 44 Joni Jenkins | (H) 502-447-4324 | | |
| 13 Jim Glenn | (H) 270-686-8760 | 45 Stan Lee | 859-252-2202 (H) 859-224-9674 | | |
| 14 Tommy Thompson | 270-926-1740 (H) 270-926-9736 | 46 Larry Clark | (H) 502-968-3546 | | |
| 15 Brent Yonts | 270-338-0816 (H) 270-338-6790 | 47 Rick Rand | 502-255-3286 (H) 502-255-3392 | | |
| 16 Martha Jane King | (H) 270-657-2707 | 48 Bob DeWeese | (H) 502-426-5565 | 73 Don Pasley | (H) 859-842-3337 |
| 17 C.B. Embry, Jr. | 270-526-6237 (H) 270-791-1879 | 49 Linda Belcher | (H) 502-957-2793 | 74 Richard Henderson | (H) 859-497-9265 |
| 18 Dwight Butler | 270-756-5931 (H) 270-756-0100 | 50 David Floyd | 502-349-6214 (H) 502-350-0986 | 75 Kelly Flood | |
| 19 Dottie Sims | (H) 270-786-3948 | 51 John "Bam" Carney | (H) 270-465-5400 | 76 Ruth Ann Palumbo | (H) 859-299-2597 |
| 20 Jody Richards | 270-781-9946 (H) 270-842-6731 | 52 Ken Upchurch | 606-340-8490 | 77 Jesse Crenshaw | 859-259-1402 (H) 859-252-6967 |
| 21 Jim DeCesare | 270-792-5779 (H) 270-843-8982 | 53 James Comer, Jr. | (H) 270-487-5585 | 78 Thomas McKee | (H) 859-234-5879 |
| 22 Wilson Stone | (H) 270-622-5054 | 54 Mike Harmon | 859-238-7792 (H) 859-854-6328 | 79 Susan Westrom | 859-266-7581 |
| 23 Johnny Bell | 270-651-7005 (H) 270-590-0110 | 55 Kent Stevens | (H) 502-839-5462 | 80 Danny R. Ford | 606-678-0051 (H) 606-256-4446 |
| 24 Jimmy Higdon | 270-692-3881 (H) 270-692-6945 | 56 Carl Rollins | (H) 859-846-4407 | 81 Harry Moberly | 859-622-4997 (H) 859-624-2781 |
| 25 Jimmie Lee | 270-765-6222 (H) 270-737-8889 | 57 Derrick Graham | (H) 502-223-1769 | 82 Charles L. Siler | 606-549-0900 |
| 26 Tim Moore | (H) 270-769-5878 | 58 Brad Montell | 502-633-7017 (H) 502-633-7533 | 83 Jeffrey Hoover | 270-343-5588 (H) 270-343-2264 |
| 27 Jeff Greer | (H) 270-422-3764 | 59 David Osborne | 502-645-2186 (H) 502-228-3201 | 84 Scott Alexander | (H) 606-436-1127 |
| 28 Charles Miller | (H) 502-937-7788 | 60 Sal Santoro | (H) 859-371-8840 | 85 Tommy Turner | (H) 606-274-5175 |
| 29 Kevin Bratcher | (H) 502-231-3311 | 61 Royce Adams | 859-824-3387 (H) 859-428-1039 | 86 Jim Stewart | (H) 606-542-5210 |
| 30 Thomas Burch | (H) 502-454-4002 | 62 Charlie Hoffman | 502-863-4807 (H) 502-863-9796 | 87 Rick Nelson | (H) 606-248-8828 |
| 31 Steven Riggs | 502-736-7000 (H) 502-499-6050 | 63 Alecia Webb-Edgington | 859-426-7322 | 88 Bill Farmer | 859-272-1425 (H) 859-272-8675 |
| 32 Scott Brinkman | 502-560-4244 (H) 502-893-8769 | 64 Tom Kerr | 859-431-2222 (H) 859-356-1344 | 89 Marie L. Rader | 606-287-3300 (H) 606-287-7303 |

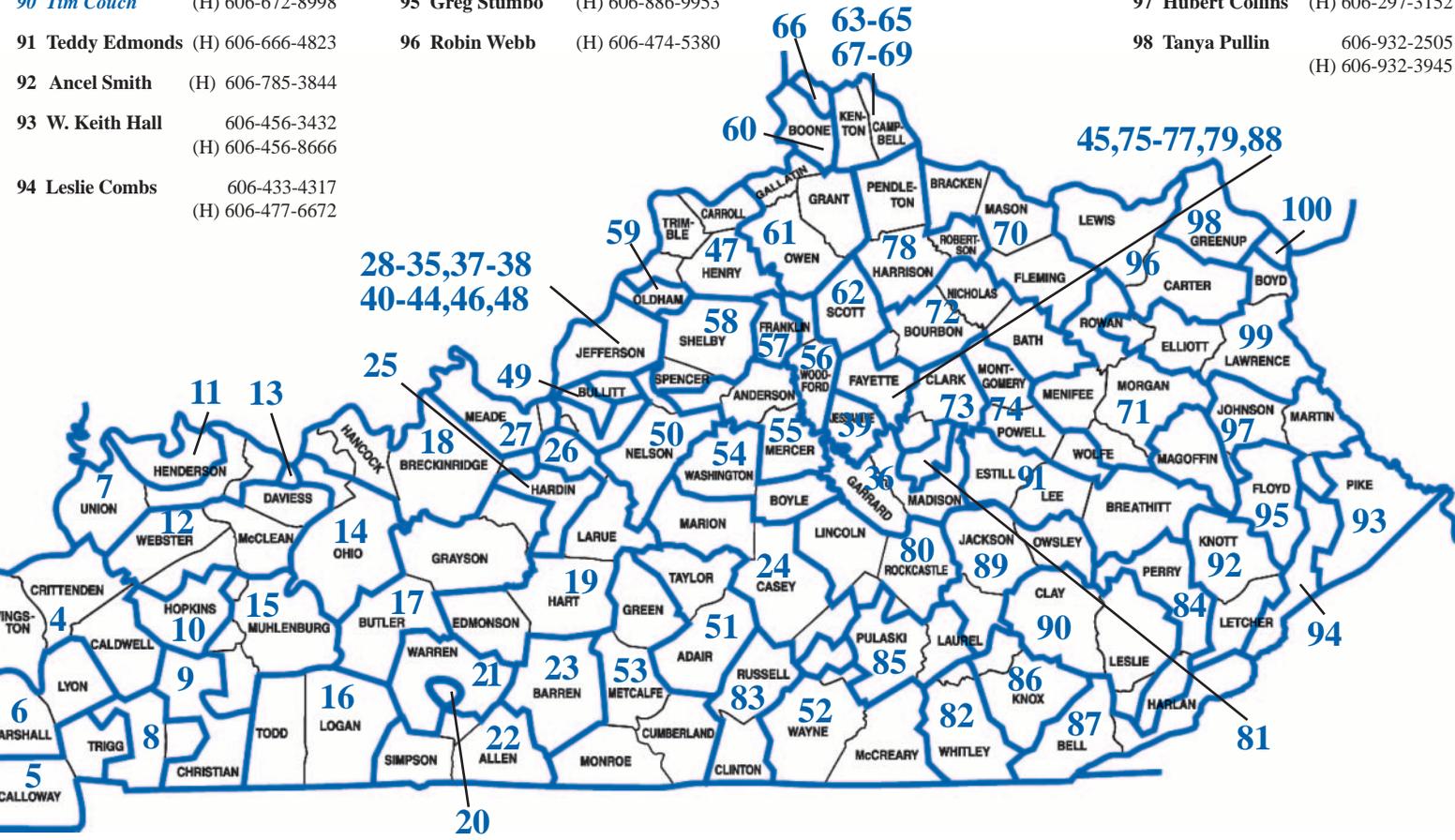


- 90 *Tim Couch* (H) 606-672-8998
- 91 *Teddy Edmonds* (H) 606-666-4823
- 92 *Ancel Smith* (H) 606-785-3844
- 93 *W. Keith Hall* 606-456-3432
(H) 606-456-8666
- 94 *Leslie Combs* 606-433-4317
(H) 606-477-6672

- 95 *Greg Stumbo* (H) 606-886-9953
- 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 *Kevin Sinnette* 606-329-9537



Democrats are in black, Roman type.

Republicans are in blue italic.

Sen. Bob Leeper (Dist 2), the Assembly's only Independent, is red.

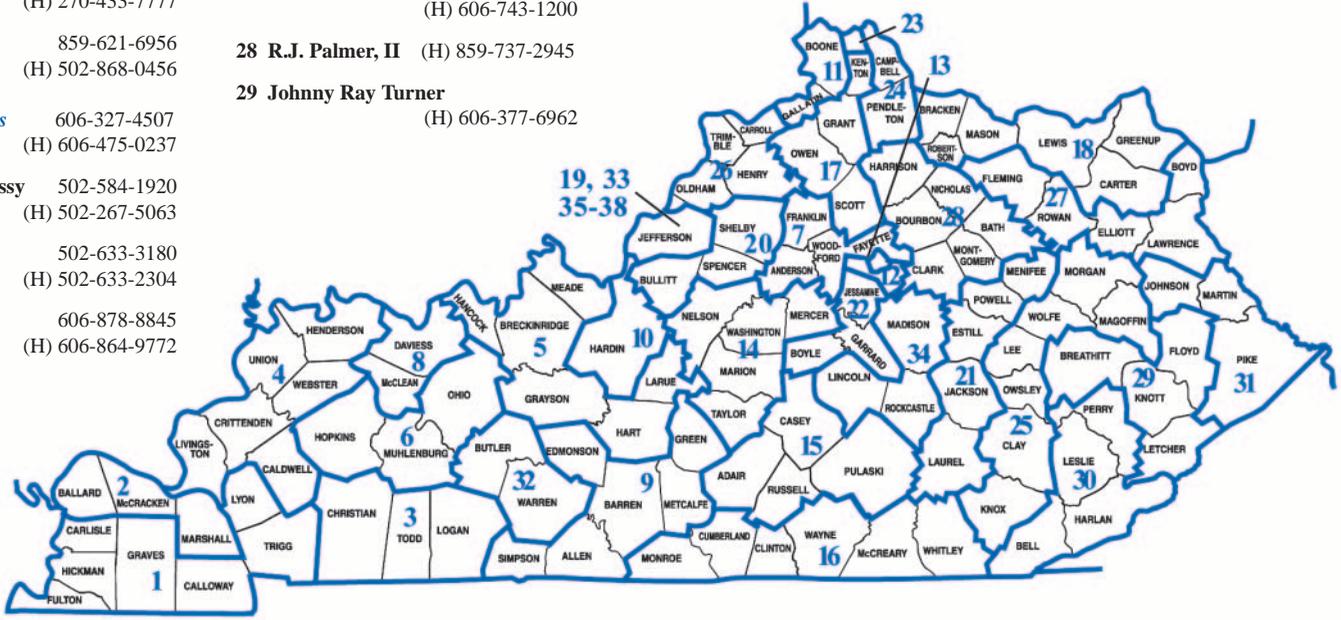
The first number listed is the Legislator's office number (if available). The second number is the home listing, designated (H).

More information on your legislators can be found at:
www.lrc.ky.gov

The Kentucky Senate 2009

- 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 *David Givens* (H) 270-932-6521
- 10 *Elizabeth Tori* (H) 270-351-1829
- 11 *John Schickel* (H) 859-384-7506
- 12 *Alice Forgy Kerr* (H) 859-223-3274
- 13 *Kathy Stein* 859-225-4269
(H) 859-252-1500
- 14 *Dan Kelly* 859-336-7723
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- 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
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(H) 502-267-5063
- 20 *Gary Tapp* 502-633-3180
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- 22 *Tom Buford* (H) 859-885-0606
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- 24 *Katie Stine* (H) 859-781-5311
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- 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 *Brandon Smith* (H) 606-436-4523
- 31 *Ray S. Jones, II* 606-432-5777
(H) 606-432-6198
- 32 *Vacant*
- 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 Denton* (H) 502-489-9058
- 37 *Perry Clark* (H) 502-366-1247
- 38 *Dan Seum* (H) 502-749-2859



Spring conference series is next step for Kentucky Marriage Movement

If Kentucky is going to have a real marriage movement, it will begin with pastors and local leaders. This is one step forward.

The Family Foundation has secured an internationally recognized speaker for the first series of seminars to help stir the “Kentucky Marriage Movement.” Ron Ball, a native of Prestonsburg and former assistant to Charles Stanley, has presented live seminars to over 7 million people in 17 countries. The series of three seminars are scheduled for late April and will occur at different sites throughout the state – one each in western, central, and eastern Kentucky.

Ball and his wife, Amy, regularly conduct “Honey-moon for Life” Marriage Weekends. Over 10,000 couples have attended these weekend seminars and learned new principles on enriching their marriages. In these seminars, Ball discusses communication, conflict resolution, sex and romance.

“We hope that by offering the seminars in various cities, more people can attend and ignite a ‘marriage movement’ in their own church or community,” said Sarah Roof, coordinator of the Kentucky Marriage Movement effort.

The Kentucky Marriage Movement website was launched late last summer and was unveiled with the pre-release screenings of the pro-marriage film *Fireproof*. “We initiated the vision of a marriage movement so that the movie would have a lasting impact on Kentucky families, not just one of short-lived, entertainment value,” said Roof. The website will serve as a touchstone to help unite church and community leaders in the effort to proactively build strong marriages and healthy families in their congregations and communities.

The Family Foundation hosted 10 screenings of *Fireproof* across the state for pastors and their wives prior to the movie’s release on Sept. 26. The movie has been highly successful in Kentucky and throughout the nation, having over \$30 million in profits and continuing to be shown in numerous theaters. (See related story on page 3).

Roof points out that Kentucky consistently ranks in the Top 10 states with the highest divorce rates, averaging approximately 20,000 divorces a year. Nearly 60 percent of these divorces involve children. Divorce and related various

Ron Ball has served as an assistant to well-respected leader Charles Stanley and has presented live seminars to over 7 million persons world-wide.



forms of family fragmentation not only have long-lasting consequences for the adults and children involved, such as social and financial, but studies have also estimated their cost to the state at \$654 million annually.

Details on the marriage seminars are still being finalized.

To assist with the seminar in your area, please call (859) 255-5400 or visit www.kentuckymarriage.org.

Alternative education task force works to evaluate state tests, curriculum

Observers point out that the current state task force has been carefully assembled to exclude critics of the system.

“As long as there has been KERA,” said Stan Cave, “there has been controversy with respect to the test.” Cave, who chairs the 2014 Committee, is helping oversee an effort to make changes to the state’s public education testing system that has been a target of criticism from its inception in the early 1990s, when the state legislature passed the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA).

Cave, a Lexington attorney who served as the governor’s chief of staff in the Fletcher administration, is one of 15 parents, teachers, professionals, and state lawmakers who are looking to propose changes to the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), which is used to grade schools on their performance. Others include The Family Foundation policy analyst Martin Cothran, State Rep. Jim DeCesare, State Sen. Gary Tapp, State Sen. Jack Westwood, Club for Growth director Andy Hightower, and Lexington businessman Warren Rogers.

Teachers and parents on the committee include Ken Dennis, a longtime Jefferson County teacher, Iona Adams, a recently retired elementary teacher from Mt. Washington, and Missy Reed of Bowling Green and Kathy Dartt from Harrodsburg, both of whom work for their local school districts.

“Kentucky educators and students have lived with some form of this test since 1992,” said Cave, “and we now have enough testing experience at our disposal to make some common sense judgments on how best to proceed to the next phase of education reform. It is important that we periodically evaluate Kentucky’s education

reform progress which is scheduled to be completed by 2014, when all Kentucky schoolchildren are to have achieved proficiency.”

The group has met several times and heard testimony about the tests, how they work, and what their strengths and weaknesses are.

In its first meeting on Nov. 18, the committee heard from former House Education Committee Chair Frank Rasche, who now works for the Kentucky Department of Education, which has formed its own task force to consider changes. Rasche spoke candidly about some of the issues his task force dealt with, but told the committee that they were only suggesting fairly minor changes, none of which addressed some of the more major problems with which parents and teachers have been concerned.

Richard Innes, an education policy analyst with the Bluegrass Institute, showed the committee data that indicated a marked level of score inflation of CATS compared to other tests that measured the performance of Kentucky students.

The committee appears headed toward making changes in three major areas: portfolios, reliability and validity of the tests, and making it more comparable to other assessments. The portfolios have been criticized for discouraging teachers from making corrections to student papers. The reliability of the test has long been an issue with CATS, which continues to show student progress at a greater clip than other more objective tests.

The committee is expected to make recommendations to lawmakers in January.

Ryan Dobson speaks at Nile banquet

Son of Dr. James Dobson is a strong proponent of organizations that meet women in their most vulnerable time of need.

Ryan Dobson, son of the well-known founder of Focus on the Family, Dr. James Dobson, was the featured speaker at The Nile's fall banquet held on Nov. 1. About 430 people attended the event for the Versailles-based women's shelter and maternity home.

Dobson's remarks were particularly poignant as he told the story about a couple, who years ago, had their first child, a daughter, but were unable to conceive the other children they had always desired. After several years of prayer, filled with broken dreams and broken hearts, they decided to look into adoption. They were unexpectedly given an almost immediate

opportunity to adopt a newborn boy whose unmarried mother had chosen to carry her child to term, contrary to the firm counsel she had received from those around her.

Dobson expressed his deep admiration for women of such courage and conviction and then expressed an even deeper personal note – the couple he had described were James and Shirley Dobson . . . and the baby boy was himself.

Dobson said he delights in encouraging organizations like The Nile because such efforts meet women so effectively at their point of need and in their time of need to support them and to enable a completely new life to come forth.



Director Charlene Williams with Ryan Dobson

The Nile offers its residents a safe place to reside – away from potential domestic abuse, poverty, emotionally charged relationships, potential malnutrition and other factors that are so detrimental during a child's development. Its motivating goal is to practically fulfill a

teaching that Jesus shared: "I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me..."

In 2001 founder and director Charlene Williams began work to make possible the opening of The Nile. "I was burdened with that Bible verse in Matthew 25 and decided to act," said Williams. "Who is more in need than an abused and deserted pregnant woman who has come to the end of her options?"

While at the Nile, residents go through a program focusing on spiritual, personal and professional growth. As a family-oriented facility, residents have thrived on the personal involvement and interaction with advisors, mentors, counselors, teachers, staff and other residents.

For more on The Nile, call (859) 873-9277 or visit www.nilebabies.org

Memorial group set to expand efforts

Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn to go county-by-county.

The Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn is expected to get a boost at the turn of the year according to Kathy Rutledge, chairman of the Memorial's Steering Committee. "2009 will be the pivotal year for the Memorial," said Rutledge. "In January we're launching a higher profile campaign to let the entire state know about the project."

The Committee has just completed a new brochure and is working on the final rendition of the DVD that will tell the story of the Memorial. January will mark the beginning of the county-by-county effort to let "all" Kentuckians know about the project and encourage them to participate in its construction. The DVD has been designed for the county-by-county process, particularly to enable volunteers to easily present the mission of the project to their own church and civic groups.

"We plan to finalize the purchase of the Frankfort site for the Memorial by the end of this month," said Rutledge, "which will allow us to focus on getting the word out to those who want to memorialize their child as well as to those who want to help with its construction."

On Oct. 12, the Committee hosted a fundraising reception in Lexington at The Signature Club of Lansdowne for Pastor Wayne B. Smith, founder of Southland Christian Church and a tireless worker for the unborn for the last 40 years. Over 200 people were in attendance.

Once completed, the Memorial will enable those who have lost an unborn child, whether by miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion, to place an inscription on the granite wall. Thus, the site will serve both those who have suffered such loss as well as all Kentuckians who seek a way to underscore the humanity of all unborn children.

To assist with this effort, call 859-255-2000 or email tffky@mis.net



Pro-lifers take stand

Nationwide effort has impact in Louisville and Lexington.

The third nationally coordinated "40 Days for Life" has concluded its fall activities and, according to campaign director David Bereit, it was the largest to date with events in over 179 cities in 47 states. This year their plan to hold peaceful 40-day prayer vigils outside abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood centers involved 76,000 volunteers.

Reports document that through the effort at least 614 unborn children were saved and eight abortion workers quit their jobs. In addition, some abortion clinics reduced their hours, some canceled a day's worth of appointments and at least one clinic in California closed its doors for good.

In Kentucky, vigils were held where the state's last two remaining abortion facilities exist: Lexington and Louisville. An estimated 1,280 people took part and at least 15 women are known to have chosen life.

"After passing our 40 Days group, one young couple with a small baby in their arms sought help from the pregnancy help center across the street from the abortion clinic, then drove to the clinic and went in very briefly," said Sarah Rougeux, the Lexington coordinator. "We learned later that they went in to cancel their abortion appointment."

Similarly, Louisville 40 Days coordinator, Jenny Hutchinson, shared a story about a 17-year-old girl whose mother had taken her to the abortion clinic three times only to have the daughter waiver. On the third trip, the girl was approached by a sidewalk counselor who took her to see her own ultrasound at a nearby pregnancy care center. Though she had believed "she had no option but abortion," she quickly reversed her opinion after seeing her child.

The next 40 Days for Life effort is scheduled to begin Feb. 25.

For more, visit www.40daysforlife.com



OPINION: Perhaps we need to change our national motto.

Trust government, not God?

In 2006, the Kentucky General Assembly organized the state Office of Homeland Security. The legislation authorizing this office stated a “dependence on Almighty God as being vital to the security of the Commonwealth.” Now, a group of atheists is suing the state of Kentucky to overturn the law, focusing on the part that requires the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to mention that God is the ultimate guarantor of our safety.

The group, American Atheists, are seeking monetary damage because they claim that references to God in the law have caused them to suffer sleep disorders and “mental pain and anguish,” proving once again that atheists are just not as sturdy as they used to be.

But it isn't just atheists with weak constitutions who

are upset; there are a few self-professed Christians who apparently think that when it comes to safety from terrorism, government bureaucrats ought to trust in themselves rather than God.

Tom Eblen at the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, who touts his own religious credentials, expressed his anger over the law: “I’m furious that tens of thousands of dollars of public money is likely to be



Martin Cothran is senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

spent litigating this obviously unconstitutional attempt to require government to do the work of churches, synagogues and mosques.”

Now first of all, it will be news to a lot of people that churches, synagogues, and mosques are the only places in which God can be acknowledged. In fact, millions of people and lots of institutions, many

of which are outside places of worship, do it every day.

Secondly, why is it that some of the same people who think it is really silly to acknowledge reliance on God in the state’s Homeland Security office that very few people will see, don’t seem to be bothered by the fact that we acknowledge it on the nation’s coined money that we all carry around in our pockets? Or does Eblen, a

But it isn't just atheists with weak constitutions who are upset; there are a few self-professed Christians who apparently think that when it comes to safety from terrorism, government bureaucrats ought to trust in themselves rather than God.

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professed Christian, go along with the atheists on this one too?

The comparison of these two issues is not immaterial when it comes to the constitutionality of the law, since the “In God we trust” motto has already been litigated. In *Aronow v. United States* the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1970 that it was constitutional. He might also check *O’Hair v. Blumenthal*, as well as the more recent *Studler v. Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles*, in which an Indiana Appeals Court last month upheld the constitutionality of Indiana’s “In God we trust” license plates.

Not that courts can’t get it wrong, but anyone who says the court did reach the wrong verdict will have to explain what a state law generically acknowledging God has to do with Congress establishing a religion, a provision that Eblen references, but without noticing that it has nothing to do with a) Congress or b) establishing a religion.

If some enterprising person does want to take this up, he might also provide some explanation of the explicitly religious provisions in many state laws to which no one gave a second thought at the time the Bill of Rights was passed.

And, finally, Eblen claims that the law is bad because of the money it will cost to defend it. How much will it cost to defend this law? Nothing. Zero. Nada.

There is no evidence that the Attorney General’s office will spend any more money now that they have to defend this law than they would have if the law had never been passed. They’re not going to hire any more lawyers to do it, and it is extremely unlikely they’re going to work extra hours.

This is government, remember?

In fact, this legal challenge might just give these people something useful to do. The last thing we want is a bunch of government lawyers with too much time on their hands.

**Go ahead . . .
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