

# CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XX No. 4

July/August 2011

## The **VOTE KENTUCKY** voter registration effort challenges everyone to do their part

*Only 10.4 percent of Kentucky's registered voters participated in the Spring Primary. With a little effort, that figure could quadruple.*

With the tremendous differences in policy that are being expressed in Washington and Frankfort in these recent months, it is a wonder that more people are not out voting their consciences and giving guidance to their elected officials. This fact was particularly underscored by the poor turnout in the 2011 Spring Primary where only 10.4 percent of Kentucky's registered voters actually exercised their right to vote. The *Vote Kentucky!* voter registration drive is one way to combat lethargy and apathy that is manifesting itself across Kentucky. Its purpose is simply to challenge every Kentuckian of voting age to put their hands on the wheel of government by voting.

The Family Foundation, with its *Vote Kentucky!* project is asking citizens, organizations and churches to hold voter registration drives between now and Oct. 9. Everyone who is registered by Oct. 10 is eligible to vote on Nov. 8.

"These are critical days in our nation's history," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "It's crucially important that we have everyone lifting their voices toward Frankfort in the Nov. 8 state executive branch elections."

The Family Foundation is offering at no cost a simple "voter registration kit" with contents that can be copied and used by anyone to get people registered across the

state. Because the kit has nonpartisan guidelines and instructions, it can be used by nonprofits and churches alike, both of which must refrain from partisan politics.

**"With our Forefathers pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to secure our right to vote, it doesn't seem like too much to ask someone of our generation to take the time to vote."**

— Kent Ostrander  
*The Family Foundation*

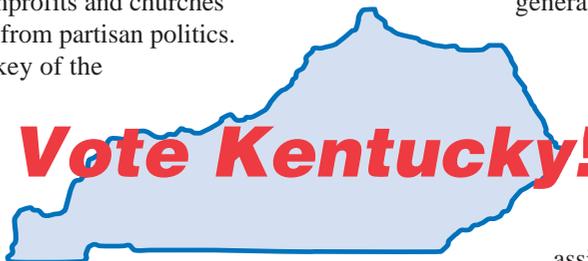
"The key of the project's success will be the willingness of citizens

to step forward and serve their friends," said Ostrander. "With our Forefathers pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to secure our right to vote, it doesn't

seem like too much to ask someone of our generation to take the time to vote."

Interested persons can call The Family Foundation at (859)255-5400 to request the free kit or they can email their request to [tffky@mis.net](mailto:tffky@mis.net) along with their mailing address. To assist The Foundation's efforts to blanket the state, Ostrander requests

everyone to mention which organization or church they plan to serve. He underscores that because Oct. 10 is the last day to turn in completed forms to the local County Clerk, the month of September is the best time to hold a registration drive.



***YOU really can make a difference!***

If you want our simple and easy to use "kit" to help you register citizens in your church or organization, call us or send us an email requesting it. It is extremely simple to use. It is free. It follows the Secretary of State's guidelines and it meets all IRS standards for churches and nonprofits.

Be sure to give us your mailing address and tell us what church/group you will be registering when you contact us.

Contact us: [tffky@mis.net](mailto:tffky@mis.net) or (859) 255-5400

# Courageous (the movie) challenges fathers

Spiritually-enriching movies have begun to flourish in America. *Courageous* is another powerful film from Sherwood Pictures.

Just when fatherhood and parental responsibility appear to be at an all-time low, Sherwood Pictures (the maker of *Fireproof*) comes along with another

inspirational movie to challenge the status quo. *Courageous* is a story of four police officers who put their lives on the line in rough city streets but do not know how to stand in the gap for their own children. The tagline for the movie is “Honor begins at home.”

That zinger could not be more fitting for a post-modern culture where

fatherhood is disparaged and marginalized by media elites.

According to the movie’s website, *Courageous* is “filled with action-packed police drama,” and “moviegoers will once again find themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children.”

Last fall, *USA Today* movie reviewer Cathy

Lynn Grossman explored the recent surge of faith-based films that are going mainstream. Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, explained why. “Every movie has an agenda,” Catt told Grossman as he referred to James Cameron’s *Avatar*, which had an underlying eco-spirituality theme. “Clearly, (he) had a spiritual agenda there, and he’s out to reach his audience. So are we. We have lost this culture, and we have to fight back. Our way is to show the living Gospel in a secular environment. People will see it and see themselves.”

Critics say the film’s overt Christianity just preaches to the choir. Director and co-writer Alex Kendrick agrees. “Are we preaching to the choir? Sure, but the choir



## Kentucky cities scheduled for the opening:

Ashland  
Bowling Green  
Corbin  
Elizabethtown  
Florence

Hazard  
Lexington (2)  
London  
Louisville (2)  
Nicholasville

Okolona  
Owensboro  
Paducah  
Somerset  
Wilders

For more, go to: <http://www.courageousthemovie.com>

needs it if they are not singing on key.” Kendrick and his brother, Stephen, are both associate pastors at Sherwood Baptist Church and see movie-making as a ministry and opportunity to speak to real struggles facing people today. Catt agrees.

“Movies are the stained-glass win-

dows of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the place to tell the Gospel story to people who may not read a Bible. Hollywood sells entertainment to make a profit,” Catt said. “We make entertainment to change lives.”

*Courageous* is set to open in 17 Kentucky theaters on Sept. 30.

## Plates raise \$40K for PCCs

“CHOOSE LIFE” license effort successful in fourth year.

FOR the fourth time in as many years, the official Kentucky “CHOOSE LIFE” license plate project has generated sizeable funds for Kentucky’s pregnancy care centers, this year to \$40,316.23. The specialty plates have been on sale through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for four years and by all accounts have proven to be a great success.

The big winners in the “CHOOSE LIFE” license plate project have always been the Kentucky women who are caught in an untimely pregnancy and who do not feel that they have life-giving options. Since 100 percent of the money generated by the plates goes to the local pregnancy care centers (PCCs) that dot the state, it is the women in need that experience the most meaningful impact from the funds given.

Currently in Kentucky there are 47 pregnancy care center offices that range significantly in staff and budget, yet each is committed to the well-being of the mother in need and the health of her child. Two additional centers are currently being planned for underserved regions of the state.

Go ahead, get one for your car and drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town.



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.

## NOTICE for South Central Kentucky:

### Family and Friends Rally for Christ

Sat. Aug. 27 at 4:30 PM  
The Arena in Corbin, KY  
For more, call 859-255-5400

Speakers include: Jimmy Greene, Pastors Randy Steely, & Billy Carpenter and Kent Ostrander

# Obama is now the poster boy of the gay lobby

*Based on his efforts, the foundational principles of religious liberty and the sanctity of marriage are falling by the wayside.*

In early June, the Obama Administration unveiled a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) website causing alarm amongst mild-mannered citizens offended by sexual activism originating in a place historically known for its dignity. But the site was the least of worries for conservatives. Two pages on the website list President Obama's accomplishments for the LGBT community in little over three years. Today, open homosexuality is permitted in the military, homosexual acceptance has been pushed in the public schools, and federal law has been commandeered to give homosexuals special protected status. Not bad for a president whom many gay activists did not think would accomplish much for their cause.

Obama, now the most gay-friendly president in U.S. history, is quoted at the top of the website: "We've got a lot of hard work that we still have to do, but we can already point to extraordinary progress that we've made on behalf of Americans who are gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender." After so many accomplishments, conservatives wonder what more there is to achieve.

Obama declared June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. Two years earlier, he issued a resolution to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the violent Stonewall riots where homosexuals fought police and vandalized the Greenwich Village section of New York City. San Francisco blogger and gay activist Michael Petrilis said, "I am happy that the President is honoring the angry drag queens and poor folks who threw bricks through a window to get me liberation . . . and launch the modern gay movement."

Many American citizens are concerned that the president is pushing sexual politics beyond decency. On April 30, he hosted a transgendered conference at the White House where participants reportedly advocated for cross-dressing rights and demanded federal subsidies for sex change operations. Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, attended the closed-door, highly secretive meeting. "This is the first president who has allowed trans people – really allowed LGBT people – to bring forward problems and then advocate for them," Keisling said. "In the Bush administration, we couldn't even do that. They wouldn't even listen to us." Before the meeting with Obama, Keisling told the *Washington Blade* that the president should implement security clearances and quotas for cross-dressers.

Americans who espouse traditional values are troubled by the developments. "The president should be a role model for public decency and morality that builds up family and culture," said Richard Nelson, policy analyst for The Family Foundation. "He shouldn't be a cheerleader and activist for those who have serious sexual dysfunction in their lives. Cross dressers need hope and help, not a program or law that says 'what you are doing is okay and we're going to give you the government's stamp of approval.'"

Groups like Family Research Council warn that as homosexual and transgendered rights are protected by law, religious liberty will be infringed. They point to the recent closure of the adoption and foster care services of Catholic Charities of Rockford after Illinois legalized civil unions. The organization was forced to close its doors in May rather than violate its belief that children should not be placed with homosexual adults.

New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington D.C. also serve as examples of how religious liberty is lost where homosexuality is protected by law. In 2007, a Methodist organization in New Jersey lost its tax-exempt status for one of its properties after refusing to allow a lesbian couple to get married there. In 2008, a New Mexico couple who owned a photography studio was fined \$6600 by the New Mexico Human Rights Commission after they refused to do a shoot of a lesbian couple's commitment ceremony. And last year, Catholic Charities of Washington D.C. shut down its foster care and public adoption program after gay marriage was legalized.

While religious freedom erodes in the wake of pro-homosexual policies, the main-

**"I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration."**

*– President Barack Obama*



stream media continues to marginalize those who disagree with the lifestyle. Congressman and presidential candidate Michele Bachmann (R-MN) is being harshly criticized for a speech in 2004 to an educational leadership conference when she said that homosexuality is wrong. "We need to have profound compassion for the people who are dealing with the very real issue of sexual dysfunction in their life, and sexual identity disorders. This is a very real issue. It's not funny, it's sad," Bachmann said.

Those are the same views that landed her husband, Marcus, and his counseling practice in trouble. His character has been brutalized by the media for simply utilizing reparative therapy which reaches out to homosexuals who want to change their orientation.

Critics lament the unfair way big media treats conservatives on this issue. "Isn't it strange that the media praises a president who holds a transgender conference and entertains the notion that Americans should pay for sex-change operations while they disdain a presidential contender like Bachmann who believes that homosexuality and cross dressing is abnormal?" Nelson said. "I think the people are better judges, and they'll have their say at the polls in 15 months."

## A Three-Year Timeline of Major Decisions

**June 17, 2009** - Obama announces that he will grant marriage benefits to partners of federal employees in defiance of DOMA.

**June 17, 2009** - Kevin Jennings is appointed by Obama to be assistant deputy secretary of education in charge of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Jennings founded GLSEN, the largest gay rights organization, whose goal was to get gay and lesbian student groups into schools.

**Oct. 28, 2009** - Obama signs "Hate Crimes Bill," which elevates sexual orientation to special protected class in terms of federal criminal law.

**Dec. 22, 2010** - Obama signs law repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). Open homosexuality is now allowed in the military and is no longer a dischargeable offense.

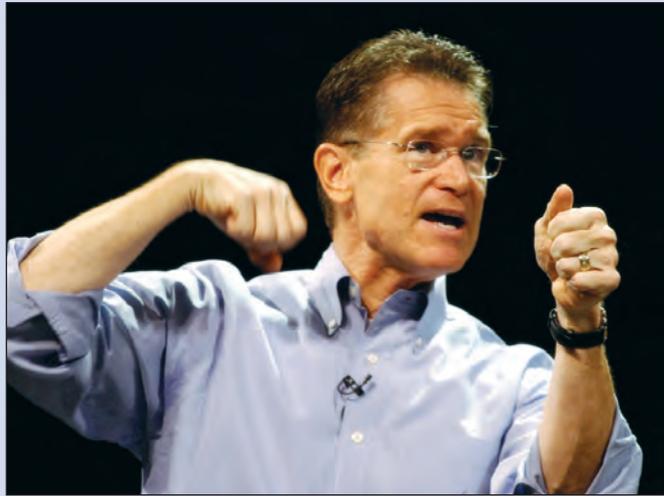
**Jan. 5, 2010** - Amanda Simpson becomes first openly transgender presidential appointee in the federal government at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

**Feb. 23, 2011** - Obama orders the Justice Department to not defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court. Conservatives say the president violated his oath to uphold and defend the constitution and the laws of the U.S.

**April 13, 2011** - Chief of Navy Chaplains, Admiral Michael Tidd, issues memo ordering chaplains to accommodate homosexual marriage on U.S. naval bases in states that have legalized gay marriage (order rescinded on May 11 after public outcry against the measure).

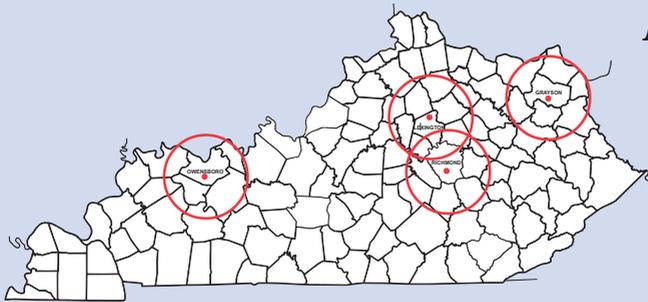
**April 30, 2011** - Obama becomes first president to host a meeting at the White House to focus on "transgender" issues.

**July 19, 2011** - Obama goes on record to support the Respect for Marriage Act (HR 3567), which would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.



# Love &

# Respect



*National ministry coming to four Kentucky cities this Fall:*

- Owensboro on Sept. 9-10; ● Richmond on Sept. 23-24;
- Grayson on Oct. 21-22 & ● Lexington on Nov. 11-12

**For more information call (859)255-5400  
or go to [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org)**

## Kentucky Marriage Movement launches four Love and Respect video conferences

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

Staff of The Family Foundation are pleased to continue their work to create a grassroots movement in Kentucky FOR marriage with a nationally-recognized marriage ministry headed by Emerson and Sarah Eggerich – *Love and Respect*. Four video conferences are planned for this Fall and their purpose is twofold: 1) Strengthen the marriages of those who attend; and 2) Help prepare those who desire to serve their church and community with marriage ministry.

“Our goal is to help couples be *intentional* with their marriage,” said Greg Williams, Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation. “We *intentionally* take care of our automobiles, our gardens and our children, but we often let our marriages slide, which sometimes leads to painful and unnecessary consequences.”

Kentucky, consistently in the “Top Ten Worst States for Divorce,” is a perfect realm for marriage ministry, not just because of its obvious need, but also because of its firm foundation in the Bible belt. Christian teaching on marriage is generally well-received in

Kentucky, if not readily followed. *Love and Respect* has developed an excellent reputation for its Biblical insights into the mystery of marriage.

The registration costs of the conferences have been reduced to assure maximum participation and sign up can be done online at \$15 per individual, \$25 per couple or \$20 per couple for special, sponsoring churches.\* Each attendee receives a manual and is welcome to participate in all Friday night through mid-Saturday sessions.

(\*For more, call 859-255-5400 or visit [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org).)

“This conference is not exclusively designed for so-called ‘troubled marriages,’” said Williams. “All marriages need a ‘tune-up’ periodically and generally speaking, most are probably due for one.”

The Eggerichs’ book, *Love and Respect*, has sold over 1.3 million copies.

**To involve your church or group of friends, or to get promotional materials, call (859) 255-5400**

# Marriage and Sex: Why all the fuss?

Chuck Colson, in a recent *Break Point* commentary, made an excellent correlation that bears further discussion. He stated that the real issue behind the attacks on marriage (cohabitation, divorce, same-sex marriage) is rooted in a much deeper and pervasive agenda—sexual liberalism. Colson quotes Manhattan Declaration co-author and Princeton prof, Robbie George, on the related vote in New York, “It advanced ‘the cause of loosening norms of sexual ethics.’”

The devaluing of marriage didn’t begin with the current attacks. It began with Sigmund Freud, Margaret Sanger (racist, eugenicist Planned Parenthood founder) and found its full potential in the junk science of Alfred Kinsey. His goal—“sex with no moral judgments” or “free sex”—is well-documented thanks to Dr. Judith Reisman and is at the core of the pain and brokenness experienced in many of today’s relationships and marriages.

Despite the exposure of Kinsey as a fraud, and his

‘science’ as failed, our schools, laws, media, and many churches adhere to these immoral ‘findings’ as the basis for the social mores regarding sexuality, cohabitation and gender, as well as many of our laws regarding age of consent, abortion, sexual ‘rights’/crimes, and yes, marriage and divorce.

The evidence, and voice of the people, has compellingly supported marriage in 31 states where the vote has been properly placed in their hands. The only states or jurisdictions altering marriage have done so through judicial diktat and/or legislative “sleight of hand” and backdoor deals.

So, what are the results of morals and laws “anchored” to the “free sex” agenda—pornography, promiscuity and cohabitation becoming ever more “normal,” meteoric rise in STDs, abortions and a “no-fault” divorce rate of nearly 50% (higher in Kentucky which is in the Top 10 States for Divorce in the US)? This has led to broken homes, increased poverty and crime rates, educational decline and unfulfilled

**[Chuck Colson] stated that the real issue behind the attacks on marriage (cohabitation, divorce, same-sex marriage) is rooted in a much deeper and pervasive agenda—sexual liberalism.**

relationships in two-plus generations searching to find who they are and real love.

In preparation for the recent

National Day of Prayer event in Frankfort, this thought kept coming to my mind, “Why is the Church so upset with the current attacks on marriage when they are simply the natural, and unnatural, progression of all we have excused and/or ignored for several decades?”

The benefits of marriage are endless!

- Better father/child relationships
- Children less likely to divorce or become unwed parents
- Married couples seem to build more wealth than singles/cohabiting couples
- Sharply lower risks of infant mortality
- Longer life expectancies
- Better health, lower injury, illness and disability rates
- Reduced risks of criminal activity or being a crime victim
- Lower risk of domestic violence
- Reduced premarital sex/unwed childbearing
- Less poverty/welfare
- Spouses have lower rates of depression
- Deterrent effect on alcohol/substance abuse
- Lowest suicide rates – adults and children
- Lower health care costs (net effect)
- Much lower abortion rates
- Safer homes – much lower rates of child abuse
- Less absenteeism – work and school

All these positive effects of marriage, and now the newest study on divorce clearly shows that early premarital sexual activity leads to higher divorce rates! Nevertheless, the “free sex” agenda continues nearly unabated, from its educational foundations and support to the moral/legal degradation with personal, relational and social destruction in its wake!

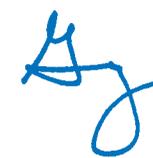
Where are our legislators, our leaders, and most importantly, the Church upholding the Truth about relationships, sexuality and Marriage? It’s time to stand together. Join us in a Marriage Movement across Kentucky for the sake of our youth, our homes, our communities and our Commonwealth!



**Greg Williams is the Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation**

## The benefits of marriage are endless! Here are just a few . . .

- Better father/child relationships
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# Racing Commission approves “Instant Racing”

*But the story is far more intriguing than a simple headline because the legality of their decision is going before the Court of Appeals.*

On July 14, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission approved an application allowing “Instant Racing” machines to be placed at Kentucky Downs in Franklin even though the legality of the gaming scheme still rests with the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Though other tracks were less bold, nothing would stop the Racing Commission.

A quick glance at the history of the case reveals striking “irregularities” that are bewildering for the person who simply trusts in “the process” to find justice. Here is a *partial* list:

1) The court case began as a one-sided case when the Racing Commission, the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet and the eight Kentucky horse racing tracks literally sued themselves. Though this rare procedure can be done in *civil cases* for clarity regarding a critically pending point of law, they were asking the court if they would be *criminally* liable if they brought such video gambling machines into the state. *A civil case?*

2) To bring this special court case, they pleaded to the court that the need for

the machines was “immediate,” yet for seven months they deferred repeatedly a simple hearing by a legislative committee that could have decided their question with a simple vote. *Immediate?*

3) Then, they finally allowed that committee to vote on the issue on May 10, but only when two anti-gambling legislators were unable to attend the hearing. The vote was four *against* the new gambling regulations and one *for* the new regulations. Because the rules of the committee required five “no” votes to kill such proposals, they were “passed.” *How did they know two anti-gambling representatives were not going to attend the hearing?*

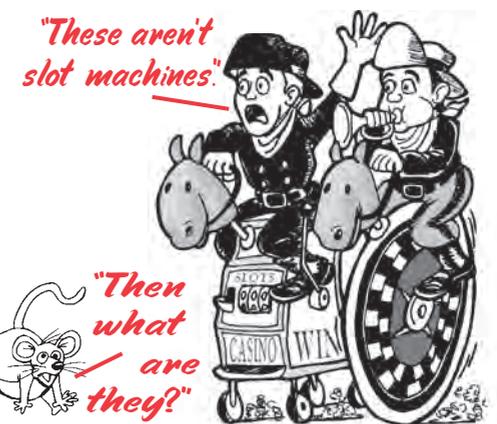
4) When The Family Foundation petitioned to enter the case so the other side of the issue was at least presented, they were allowed to become a party but were told by the judge they could not do “discovery.” Entering a court case and not being allowed to ask questions is like a father telling his children that they can go swimming but “just don’t get wet.” *What is a court case other*

*than a mutual “asking of questions” to get to the bottom of the issues at hand?*

5) When the judge ruled in favor of the Racing Commission and tracks on Dec. 29, he did not even mention the statute in question when the suit was initiated. In other words, they sued to be sure they would not violate a particular statute yet the judge never referenced the statute – in essence he just said, “Okay.” *Was the real question truly examined?*

6) When The Family Foundation asked for records of communication between the race tracks and the government agencies, the agencies denied the request claiming that they were protecting records because they had “common interest” with the tracks. *Since when does a government agency “have a common interest” with the gambling industry?*

7) When The Family Foundation asked for assistance from the Attorney General regarding their request for information, the request was denied because the Attorney General had a “conflict of interest.” *Why*



*does he now have a conflict of interest when he did not have one last year when he wrote a favorable (but questionable) opinion for the race tracks?*

8) The five video games approved *as* “Instant Racing” by the Racing Commission on July 14 include “Crusin’ for Cash,” “Sir Willie’s Treasure Quest,” “Cash Carnival,” “Wild West Willie’s Lucky Draw” and “Yukon Willie’s Gold Rush.” *These are horse races?*

## Why expanded gambling must be opposed

*Many think that it’s only about “religion,” but even a quick glance reveals the profound policy and moral complications it brings.*

Though most proponents of slot machines think that those who oppose expanded gambling do so on strictly religious grounds, the policy aspects of the issue are far more clear. Listed are the four *policy reasons* why The Family Foundation has worked against government-authorized casino gambling. It is important to note that ALL of these reflect the basic premise that any government should *protect* its people, not encourage them to become losers so that it (and its closest friends) can profit.

### #1 The Family is targeted.

Only Moms and Dads (and a few singles) *can* gamble. All other tax revenue generating entities like businesses and corporations cannot. This leaves families alone being targeted to balance the entire state budget (and lose all the money casino advocates call “revenue”).

### #2 Businesses will lose.

Even common sense tells us that taking hundreds of millions of dollars from Kentucky citizens means hundreds of millions that they cannot spend on furniture, automobiles, school supplies, and groceries. Small businesses, in particular, suffer. *DO NOT BELIEVE* those who say casinos “energize the economy.” A casino acts as a vacuum, gathering consumer dollars into its winnings.

### #3 Government will be corrupted.

With the casino industry handling as much money as is in the state’s annual General Fund (and *50 percent more*), it will *own* the legislature – even just through legal contributions, much less the illegal ones that always follow. What does that mean? Who knows! But it is clear that Nevada’s “casino-controlled” legislature chose to legalize prostitution for those

**Reality is this: On the two most important issues of our time – the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage – the gambling industry has chosen the wrong side every time.**

pushing “good times.”

### #4 “The Vulnerable” are destroyed.

Not all people who gamble are vulnerable, but those who are spiral down and take others with them in the consequences of their addiction: family stress, child neglect, child abuse, spouse neglect, spouse abuse, separation, divorce, bankruptcy, embezzlement, imprisonment, depression, suicide. Without doubt, the greatest victims are the children — they will carry

the scars for life.

### The Bigger Problem

But besides these four policy reasons is the greater implication of what the gambling industry believes and what effect it will have on the culture once it is established and entrenched. Sadly, the various manipulations in the “Instant Racing” court case (*see related article above*) and the all the deceptions and power-politics in their failed legislative efforts are illustrative of their lack of a moral plumb line — it is *all* about the money. And all of these things have happened *before* they have the money flowing to buy more influence.

It is important to note that Nevada legislature has legalized prostitution. Is that because everyday legislators were wanting to create “good jobs for women”? Or was it the monied power-brokers wanting something else that supposedly “Happens in Vegas and stays in Vegas”?

There are 13 abortion clinics in Las Vegas alone. There are only two in all of Kentucky. Reality is this: On the two most important issues of our time – the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage – the gambling industry chooses the wrong side every time.

# Mayor Fischer decrees “Partner Benefits”

The old line that you “can’t legislate morality” is now patently false, as displayed by Mayor Greg Fischer’s obedience to the liberal agenda. The question is whose morality will be legislated.

On Friday, July 15, Mayor Fischer signed into law an executive order granting domestic partner benefits for all Metro City employees.

With one stroke of his pen, Mayor Fischer decreed that all citizens of Louisville are now required to subsidize the private sexual activities and living arrangements of unmarried and same-sex households. By giving the city’s stamp of approval on such behavior, Mayor Fischer is institutionalizing standards of relationships that have long been considered out-of-step with American family values.

According to the executive order, which will take effect July 1, 2012, persons living with a Louisville City employee will be extended medical, dental, and vision benefits. The recipient must be unmarried, over 18, and ineligible for Medicare. The persons must also be financially interdependent and reside

together for a period of nine months.

Critics of the measures are routinely accused of being discriminatory. Opposition to this measure has nothing to do with being discriminatory, but is instead based upon different understandings of good public policy. Mayor Fischer’s actions are untimely and imprudent. In a time of drastic economic downturn when

cities across America are cutting costs, the city of Louisville now decides—in the midst of its own tight budget—that adding an

additional financial burden of \$400,000 on the city’s budget is appropriate. And worse, Fischer sanctioned the order without establishing whether the funds will be sufficiently present when enacted in 2012 – an unfunded mandate.

Mayor Fischer’s actions—whether intentionally or unintentionally—display an outright contempt for the sanctity of

traditional marriage. By incentivizing persons not to marry, Mayor Fischer undermines the very institution responsible for the stability of our society—the family. Studies continue to demonstrate that children raised in homes where a married mother and father are present demonstrate higher levels of emotional stability. Mayor Fischer’s actions assure that a higher incidence of homes without a married mother and father will occur.

The measure is accompanied with troubling conclusions and questions. Because persons no longer need to be married to receive benefits, the program is subject to abuse and fraud by those wishing to take advantage of the system. And why is it that Mayor Fischer wishes

to expand health benefits for members of households that have no relation by blood, marriage, or adoption, but live-in relatives cannot be recipients? Does that fit any good definition of “fairness?”

Open debate is the precursor to vibrant democracy. In this decision by Mayor Fischer, there was no public debate. Unilateral action may be popular for a



**Andrew Walker is the Louisville policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

small majority of recipients, but it is not the way to create sound public policy. In his role, Mayor Fischer is granted the right to issue executive orders. No one debates the legality of the order. Rather, honest concern for all Louisvillians would have left this open to public debate and a vote by the city council. Instead, the citizens of Louisville now carry the burden of obeying an ill-conceived public policy measure that is against the conscience of most Louisvillians.

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**Because persons no longer need to be married to receive benefits, the program is subject to abuse and fraud by those wishing to take advantage of the system.**

## The Details: Louisville to provide “benefits”

*With his unilateral stroke of a pen, Louisville Mayor Fischer authorized hundreds of thousands of dollars to unmarried persons.*

On July 15, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer issued domestic partner benefits for all Metro City employees by executive order. The measure grants health insurance benefits to cohabiting or same-sex partners of city employees.

Mayor Fischer issued his order without public debate on the policy, which will take effect on July 1, 2012 and cost the city of Louisville an additional \$400,000. Fischer delayed making the measure effective immediately since the additional \$400,000 was not factored into the current budget. With the city’s budget tight as it is, critics insist that

**“The message I want to send is that we value all people. The big picture here is that any type of progressive organization needs to have a domestic-partner plan. I don’t want anything to impede or restrain us from attracting the best employees.”**



– Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer

Fischer has created an unfunded mandate in a harsh economic climate.

His response to the critics was simply, “It’s the right thing to do.”

According to the *Courier-Journal*, the city’s Human Resources Department anticipates 300-400 people will apply for the benefits. The recipient must be unmarried, over 18, and ineligible for Medicare. Persons eligible must be financially interdependent and reside together for a period of nine months. Those opposed to the measure accuse Fischer of undermining traditional marriage by incentivizing persons not to marry and giving the city’s stamp of approval to same-sex households.

Opinion: If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck . . .

# Instant Racing is a sham

A law that would allow gambling on racing of dead horses was approved by a state legislative committee in May when, in the only vote ever taken by elected lawmakers on the issue, one legislator voted in favor of the measure and four voted against it. The law began its journey through the approval process when horse racing tracks and the Beshear administration sued no one and cleared its final hurdle on its way to implementation in June when another legislative committee decided to do nothing.

Welcome to democracy casino-style.

“Instant Racing” involves gambling on what are essentially slot machines that play videos of old horse races. The game has now, at least until courts rule on the issue, been approved for implementation in a process that can only be described as bizarre. The arguments for it are equally bizarre.

Instant Racing has been controversial because of questions about its legality under statute and under Kentucky’s Constitution. Only pari-mutual gambling on horse races is allowed in the state, but Instant Racing does not involve real horse racing nor is it pari-mutuel.

In order to make its case, the Beshear administration, in league with wealthy race track interests which have financially supported him, has argued that watching videos of horse races, which in many cases, feature horses long dead, is the same thing as watching an actual horse race. When faced with questions about its curious reasoning, administration lawyers in the Revenue Department responded that such races can be considered “live” races because they are live “in the minds of the viewers.”

No word yet as to whether the Revenue Department will accept that same reasoning by taxpayers, who, in their minds, might not think they owe taxes.

The arguments for Instant Racing being pari-mutuel are no better. Pari-mutuel



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

wagering involves wagers betting against each other on the same race or group of races. The wagers are pooled from which there is a payout to the winner. Instant Racing is different, since patrons bet alone.

There is no common race, no group of races, no common wagers. Instead, there is only a video slot machine which patrons feed money.

Even proponents had so much concern that they filed a lawsuit against no one seeking to have the game unilaterally declared legal. Sound strange?

It is.

But arguments have never played a terribly large role in the debates over expanded gambling in Kentucky. Rather, money and the political power that comes with it have been the preferred way for expanded gambling advocates of trying to get their way. The result has been a distortion of the democratic process in the state.

The Beshear campaign was helped to power by hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from gambling interests. It was also assisted by \$2.2 million in gambling donations to a 527 organization that supported him. One million dollars came from one donor alone: Bill Yung, a casino magnate who recently lost his New Jersey license and is being sued by investors.

Reporters discovered in the 2008 legislative session that Yung had visited the Capitol in Frankfort according to a Capitol sign-in log which mysteriously disappeared. After investigative reports by several

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**But arguments have never played a terribly large role in the debates over expanded gambling in Kentucky. Rather, money and the political power that comes with it have been the preferred way for expanded gambling advocates of trying to get their way.**

newspapers, the log just as mysteriously turned up again.

In addition to large amounts of money being dumped into local legislative races, wealthy race tracks like Churchill Downs have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in an army of high priced lobbyists pushing their agenda. Churchill Downs stands to gain millions from such legislation—millions it wants to add to the piles of cash it already possesses. The track has been hugely profitable, and estimates by Reuters of its CEO’s annual compensation package have ranged as high as \$6 million.

In 2010, legislative leaders in the State House engaged in a legal form of vote buying by giving out earmarks to those legislators who would vote for their slots bill. Legislators were offered money for school buildings back home if they would vote for the bill which became known as the “Slots for Tots” bill. Even then the legislation just squeaked by, dying in a Senate committee.

Now the advocates of expanded gambling have finally met with success—but only by almost completely avoiding the scrutiny of elected lawmakers. They have used the regulation process, which was

meant to be used to implement laws passed by lawmakers. But loopholes in the process have been exploited by the Beshear administration to push through a law that has had only one vote in the General Assembly: a committee vote of 4-to-1 against.

One track has now been approved to install Instant Racing machines, but the issue is still in the courts. Only time will tell if the high priced attorneys the state and the tracks have hired to make their arguments will ultimately prevail.

**Critical events are happening this Fall. If we don't already have your email address, kindly email to us so we can update you quickly.**

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