

2016 Year in Review: CPC had a banner year!

Dear Friend,

It's been just a few weeks since the historic 2016 election. It's taken a while for everything to sink in and for us to get our minds around all the dynamics in the election. The bottom line is that by the grace of God and with much hard work we finally flipped the Kentucky House to a conservative direction. This was one of our original goals when we started in 2012.

The Commonwealth Policy PAC engaged the 2016 election by providing 75 voter guides in nearly every state House, Senate and Congressional race. We endorsed 51 candidates and invested financially in a total of 19 state House races on behalf of the principled, conservative candidate.

We secured half page ads and reprinted these in nearly two dozen local newspapers. We printed and distributed 36,000 voter guides via volunteers and direct mail in six races. We aggressively used digital media—Facebook, Twitter and Google Adwords which resulted in hundreds of thousands of impressions in targeted districts. We also ran over 700 radio spots. The icing on the cake was our engagement on behalf of Larry Brown who challenged House Speaker Greg Stumbo in Prestonsburg. Mr. Brown is a graduate of one of our 2016 candidate training events. He believes our training helped him defeat the biggest roadblock to conservative values in Kentucky.

We've been successful in the political realm. Now we're turning our attention to leading in the policy realm and moving our media in a conservative direction. We're planning a legislative reception and briefing in January, regional events for pastors, and also a new daily radio program. Much is in the works for 2017, but we need your help. Please read on and rejoice with us. Then please prayerfully consider how you might partner with us.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Nelson

Political Success

- 31 of 41 of our endorsed* state House candidates won
 - 3 of 6 of our state Senate candidates won
 - 4 of 4 of our endorsed Congressional/U.S. Senate candidates won
- *We only endorsed candidates in races with opposition.

By the Numbers

- 7 newly elected state House candidates we trained won.
- 2 state Senate candidates we trained won.
- 14 state House races Commonwealth Policy PAC engaged and won.
- \$3,714 total number of dollars spent per winning state House race.

***This was an
incredible return
on investment!***



Richard Nelson awarding
Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton with Friend
of the Commonwealth Award
March 12, 2016

Candidate Training

Our vision from the beginning has been to raise up and train conservatives to serve in the legislature. To that end we recruited winning state House candidates and trained 70 candidates and campaign workers this year. Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, who benefitted by previous trainings, led one of the sessions, along with several other outstanding trainers. The results? We have seven newly elected state House members and two State Senate members who graduated from our training. Here's what one graduate said:

"CPC is a rare jewel in politics. Purity of motives, methods of operation and purpose characterize my experience with CPC while the people there work tirelessly for conservative, Christian views. From candidate training sessions (from which I personally benefited), to informational meetings throughout the Commonwealth, to informational radio programming, to voter guides, to a door-to-door ground game during campaign season, the CPC is a force for good. Conservative candidates and volunteers would do well to contact the CPC and seek advice and assistance. I commend the Commonwealth Policy Center and its director, Richard Nelson, for all of their efforts and with confidence recommend them to others." Jason Petrie, State Representative Elect for the 16th House District

Religious Freedom Conference

Religious freedom has been under attack in our nation in ways we've never seen. CPC hosted a state conference to address this issue. Speakers included Dr. Paul Chitwood of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Dr. David Prince of Southern Seminary and Bryan Beaman of Alliance Defending Freedom. We were also joined by special guest, Blaine Adamson, a Lexington business owner who's been on the front lines of this battle. Overall, we had over 250 in attendance.



Richard Nelson moderating a panel discussion on religious liberty at
Ashland Ave. Baptist Church in Lexington on October 2, 2016

Pastor Appreciation Event

We were honored to participate in two pastor appreciation events in the Governor's mansion. We sang, heard an inspiring message from Gov. Bevin and then prayed for him. We also honored the governor with a Friend of Religious Liberty Award. Nearly 500 pastors from across the state attended three separate events.



Governor Matt Bevin and Richard Nelson
October 19, 2016

Working with Churches

CPC representatives regularly speak to churches and provide important information about the issues of the day. A special project we launched in the summer is our 100 Pastors Initiative. We've asked pastors to pray for us and to financially partner with us. So far, 70 pastors have joined this effort! If you'd like to learn more about this, or if you'd like to request a speaker please send an email to commonwealthpolicy@gmail.com

CPC's Radio Impact

A recent Pew Research Poll shows that more than 40% of young adults get their news by listening to the radio. We're trying to reach people through radio with our three different radio features playing across Kentucky and in six other states. Our primary program is the Commonwealth Minute, a daily program focusing on current issues from a Biblical worldview. It's aired on 42 stations.

Richard hosts the weekly program *The Front Porch* in Hopkinsville which reaches much of Western Kentucky. Through radio we're impacting thousands of people and we believe the Lord is calling us to greater influence, primarily through the production of a new daily, statewide program. Details are still coming together, but would you please pray for wisdom and favor as we embark on this endeavor?

A Solid Presence in Newspaper & TV

CPC has a continual presence in the Lexington Herald-Leader, Cincinnati Enquirer and many other state papers through regular op-eds and press releases. Richard is a regular guest on numerous television and radio programs and hosted several televised forums for primary and general elections.



Richard Nelson interviewing Congressman-elect James Comer at WPBM TV-31 Studio on Sept 7, 2016

We Need Your Help

A little less than five years ago we launched with a vision to change Kentucky politics. We've recruited and trained candidates. Several now serve in our state legislature. We've influenced the conversations of the day through regular radio programming, newspaper columns and TV shows. We've provided resources and perspective to churches and elected officials. Now is the time to begin leading in a more direct way. We desire to become the "go to" organization for political leaders and media who seek a conservative perspective.

To that end, we recently hired Brandon Porter to direct our media efforts and increase content production. We're looking to him to host the new daily statewide radio program and we're developing a way to provide sound bites to local radio stations that will allow our perspective to be heard when it comes to the Commonwealth's most important issues.

We have a legislative reception planned in the Capitol the first week of January. Then later that month we plan to bring in Dr. Albert Mohler, President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, to brief our legislature. How cool is that?

As you can see, we've been diligent and we've produced good results through the Lord's blessing. This is an exciting time! Would you consider a year-end gift to help our work continue to thrive? Better yet, would you consider becoming a monthly partner? Sustained monthly giving is the best way to help us in our work. You may donate online via credit card or download the automatic bank draft. Whatever way is most convenient for you. The main thing to know is that we truly need your help to continue and grow this work. Thanks in advance for your gift!

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Please return this with your remittance.

CPC Welcomes Brandon Porter

Brandon Porter joined us in October to serve as the Media Director. He has a background in pastoral ministry and broadcasting. He will be responsible for helping churches engage in areas of public policy and will take our message to the media as well. He and his wife, Monica, live in Glasgow where they are raising their five children. Please pray for them and this new season in their lives.



2017 Wish List

- Donated office space in Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Hosts for Regional Pastor Conferences that accommodate 200+ attendees.
- Hosts for fundraising events to help connect us with potential donors.
- Churches to put us in their prayer bulletins.

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