

COMMONWEALTH POLICY

Reinforcing the Commonwealth's Founding Principles; Renewing the Commonwealth's Future Promise

Religious Liberty Conference

Religious liberty —the freedom to live in public according to your conscience is under attack like never before. Learn why it's a pillar to society, how it's under attack and what you can do to protect it.

Read more on page 3.

Candidate Endorsements

CPC has done the hard work of vetting state House and Senate candidates. We've personally interviewed candidates and compiled responses to our questionnaires. Find out which candidates will fight for your values.

Read more on page 5.

Voter Guides

CPC has produced voter guides for state House and Senate races in Kentucky. Find them online at www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org

Read more on page 4.

Making America Great Again



Say the phrase "make America great again" and it will either lead to heartfelt applause or looks of disdain followed by jeers. In either case, hundreds of thousands have attended rallies across the country to listen to a man who says he will make America great again. Hardly a soul will

admit that they don't want America to be great. More are likely to confess that restoring greatness will not come from either of the two very flawed presidential candidates.

So how do we become great again? The same way Olympic athletes win gold: they resolutely work for it. They train. They discipline their bodies. They compete with intense focus. Simone Biles didn't ask her head coach Aimee Boorman to perform her floor exercise. Nor did Michael Phelps ask his trainer to take his place in the pool. If that seems obvious, then why do we as Americans expect mere politicians to do all the heavy-lifting of making this a great place to live?

Politicians are to the citizenry what coaches are to athletes. Both are necessary to win. America will not "win gold," or find greatness for that matter if part of the team fails in its responsibility. (Remember, less than a year ago fewer than one in three Kentuckians bothered to vote in the governor's race). So each of us must ask: What can I do to make America great? What can I do to make Kentucky great? Here's where one may start: Cultivate character. Take ownership of your life and the choices you make. Guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life. Be careful with your words and be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. Live a life of gratitude.

Realize that God made you for a purpose. You are unique with gifts and abilities and talents unlike anyone else. Be careful with your time, for we are only allotted so many days on this earth. Be diligent in your work and pursue excellence. Invest in your family more carefully than you

(continued on p. 2)

invest in your retirement, for that's your real treasure. Nurture your children and love them deeply. Train them to walk in goodness, justice and mercy. Invest in your community and practice good citizenship. Minister to the needy. Care for the widows and orphans and help those who cannot help themselves. Love your neighbor as yourself and love even more the God who gave that commandment. Ok, end of sermon. But shouldn't we preach these kind of things to ourselves daily?

Nearly 200 years ago a Frenchman came to this country to try to find what made America great. In a word, he found it in her people. Americans enjoyed maximum freedom to live and work and raise families without coercion by the government. They were free to move about, exercise their religion, speak their opinions, and elect their leaders. It was these things that truly made America great.

Alexis De Tocqueville wrote in his oft-referenced book *Democracy in America* "Americans combine to... found seminaries, build churches, distribute books, and send [out] missionaries. Hospitals, prisons, and

schools take shape in that way. Finally, if they want to proclaim a truth or propagate some feeling by the encouragement of a great example, they form an association." De Tocqueville contrasted American zeal and can-do civic spirit with that of England or France where "at the head of any new undertaking...

"Invest in your family more carefully than you invest in your retirement, for that's your real treasure."

you would find the government" leading the way. But in America he found people working together, building together, ministering together. It was the people

who were in essence leading. So why settle for platitudes and wait on political promises when so much of the solution is in our hands?

America will become great when we realize that fixing it is beyond whatever any politician—president or otherwise—can do for us. Americans do not need a political savior as much as they need to take ownership in their own civic duty. America will become great again when the character of the American people becomes exceptional. And when our character becomes exceptional, we will demand that the character of our leaders be outstanding.

Richard Nelson

* Versions of this column appeared in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

BY THE NUMBERS

270 Electoral college votes needed to win the presidency.

255,709 New registered Republican voters in Kentucky since 2008.

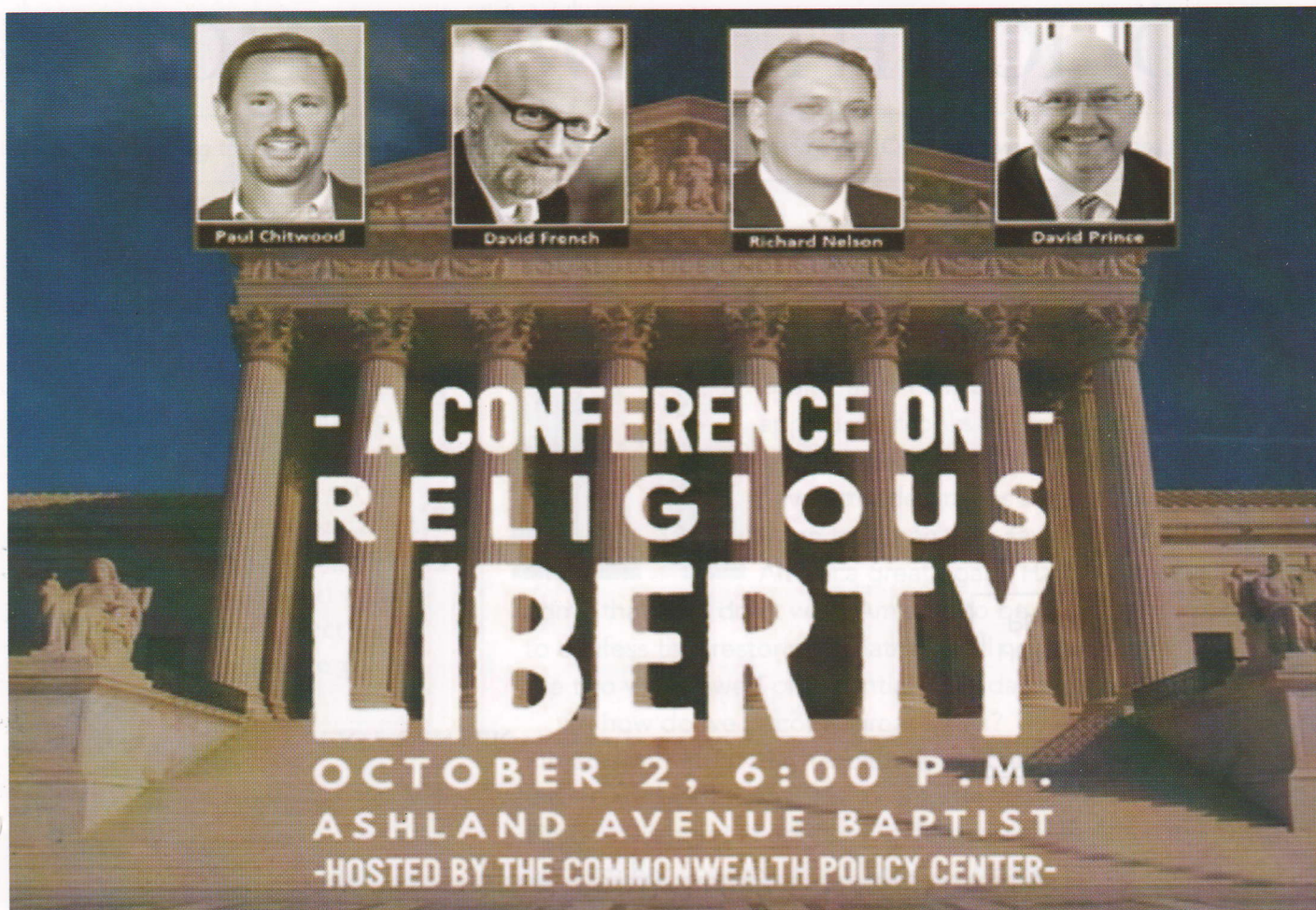
27,011 New registered Democrat voters in Kentucky since 2008.

53 Democrats **47** Republicans in the Kentucky state House.

27 Republicans **11** Democrats in the Kentucky state Senate.

7 Republicans **1** Democrat in Kentucky's Congressional delegation.

Religious Freedom Event Coming Oct. 2



Religious liberty is under attack like we've never experienced in our lifetime. Christian bakers and photographers frequently face the choice of participating in same-sex weddings or being fined. Pro-life pharmacists have been forced to dispense abortion-inducing drugs, and print shops have been coerced to produce messages for the LGBT lobby.

Come and learn about why religious liberty is a cornerstone to a free nation and what can be done to preserve it. Pastors, church leaders and all interested are invited to attend this Lexington event on October 2. There is no cost, but please register so we can plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register Today! www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org/conference.html

Do Poor Choices for President Justify Skipping the Election?

Some say they simply will not vote this election. Presidential nominees of the two major political parties are unacceptable in their eyes and as a matter of protest, they just won't vote. If you're in that category, please rethink your position. Consider that there are many other offices up for election: U.S. Senate, U.S. House, state House and Senate, state Supreme Court and city council. These are all important offices and there are many good people competing to serve. This is reason enough for you to show up at the polls on Nov. 8. There's another reason. (continued on p. 4)



If you are wary of either presidential candidate then you must care deeply about Congressional races. Here's why. Congress keeps a check on the president. They can override his executive orders and challenge his policies. The U.S. Senate confirms judges and if a president crosses the line and engages in illegal activity, the U.S. House of Representatives can file articles of impeachment.

Regarding the presidential race, keep in mind that you are not voting for the savior of this country. You're not even voting for a king. You are voting for a mere mortal—and even the best is flawed. Please remember that the president surrounds himself with many advisors and cabinet members. They will appoint thousands in executive agency positions and nominate judges to the federal bench. So ask yourself which candidate—flawed as they are—most closely lines up with your values? What does their respective party platform stand for? And what kind of people are they most likely to appoint to serve? After asking these questions, you may still find that your conscience won't allow you to vote in the presidential race. Whatever your resolve might be in that race, please go to the polls on Nov. 8 and vote for candidates engaged in other races. The nation does not depend on any one person to govern us. It depends on solid leaders serving in all levels of government, and it takes responsible citizens to vote them in.

The nation does not depend on any one person to govern us. It depends on solid leaders serving in all levels of government and it takes responsible citizens to vote them in.

Voter Guides Available Online!

The Election is Tuesday, November 8.

Pray. Then vote
your values.



Who will represent your values?



¹ Rep. Thompson claims to be pro-life and gave pro-life responses on our questionnaire but is in fact unreliable when his voice and vote are needed most. On SB 8 (2014) the ultrasound bill, he refused to vote on a procedural motion that would have revived the bill. Voted yes to SB 4 (01-28-16), the informed consent bill. Source: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/16RS/SB4.htm

² Rep. Thompson claims to be against funding for Planned Parenthood and responded accordingly on our questionnaire but is in fact unreliable when his voice and vote are needed most. On SB 7 (2016) the bill to prevent state funds from going to groups involved with abortion like Planned Parenthood, Rep. Thompson refused to vote on a procedural motion that would have revived the bill. Source: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/16RS/House_votes/24_misc_vote.pdf

³ Co-sponsored HB 279 (2013) to specify government shall not burden a person's or religious organization's freedom of religion. Source: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13ra/hb279.htm

⁴ Voted to override Governor Beshear's veto of HB 279 (03-26-13) that protects religious freedoms. Source: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13ra/hb279vote_history.pdf

⁵ Co-sponsored HB 416 (2013) (House Committee Substitute) which expanded gambling in Kentucky. It created two new lottery games and expanded casino video slot machines to horse tracks under the auspices of shoring up the state pension fund. It passed the House 52-47 (2-27-13). It was rejected by the Senate on the grounds of being unconstitutional. Source: www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13ra/hb416.htm

Incumbent



Tommy Thompson
(D-Owensboro)

House District 14

The information below was compiled by voting records and a candidate questionnaire distributed by the Commonwealth Policy Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Kentucky organization.



Matt Castlen
(R-Maceo)

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| NOT RELIABLE ¹ | Protect Human Life | YES |
| MIXED ² | Fund Planned Parenthood | NO |
| YES ³ | Protect Religious Freedom | YES |
| NO | Transgender Bathrooms | NO |
| YES ⁴ | Casino Gambling Expansion | NO |
| NO | \$3.3 Billion More Pension Debt | NO |

A VOTE FOR MATT CASTLEN IS A CONSISTENT VOTE FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, PRO-LIFE AND PRO-FAMILY VALUES.

Paid for by the Commonwealth Policy PAC, UCC. Not authorized by any candidate or campaign.



VOTE

CASTLEN

NOVEMBER 8!

YOU can help make a difference this election!

1. Take out a 1/4 or 1/2 page ad in your local newspaper to reprint our state House voter guide. 2. Canvass neighborhoods with voter guides in Bell, Daviess, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Henderson, Larue, Logan, Marion, Pike and Todd Counties. 3. Consider a donation to CPC to help underwrite these efforts. If you can help in any or all of these ways, please contact us at commonwealthpolicy@gmail.com. Thank you!

Candidate Endorsements

We take candidate endorsements seriously. Before we give a candidate our stamp of approval, we compile questionnaire responses and thoroughly research incumbent voting records. We also go the extra mile by interviewing candidates in person.

Earlier this year, CPC's political advisory committee interviewed 33 candidates in order to get to know them beyond their responses on paper. I'm pleased to tell you that overall we're impressed by the quality of the candidates and their commitment to make Kentucky a better place to live. To see a full list of endorsements and recommendations, please go to: www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org

training events that were led by elected officials we trained and helped get into office. We're excited that several of this year's graduates are running for office across the Commonwealth.



Brandon Porter

More than ever, we're producing resources that are getting noticed. Our daily radio commentary is on more than 40 stations across the state, our weekly radio program is airing in the seven largest markets, and our articles are being picked up by the state's most circulated newspapers.

By God's grace, we're working hard and seeing results. But we believe the Lord is calling us to do more and we need your help. In August, the Board of Directors voted to bring on our second full-time employee. Brandon Porter, a pastor from Glasgow with professional media experience, is planning to join our team in mid-October.

Would you give to this work so that we can increase our influence across the Commonwealth? A gift of any size is greatly appreciated. Monthly gifts are even better as they help sustain this cause. If you are

able to donate, please fill out the form on the back page. By the way, donations to help underwrite Brandon's position may be made to the Commonwealth Policy Foundation—which is tax deductible. Thanks in advance for your financial support!

| Dist. | County/Counties | Candidate | Endorsed/ Recommend |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT | | | |
| 5 | Central Kentucky | Larry VanMeter | Recommended |
| HOUSE | | | |
| 1 | Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, McCracken (part) | Steven Jack Rudy | ENDORSED |
| 2 | Graves, McCracken (part) | Richard Heath | ENDORSED |
| 3 | McCracken (part) | Joni Hogancamp | ENDORSED |
| 5 | Calloway, Trigg (part) | Kenny Imes | ENDORSED |
| 6 | Lyon, Marshall, McCracken (part) | Paula R. Robinson | ENDORSED |

Would You Invest in our Future?

We're grateful that in just four short years we're seeing the fruit of our work to turn the political tide in a direction that is favorable for maximum liberty, human flourishing and the protection of God-given rights. Earlier this year we conducted two candidate

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
HOPKINSVILLE, KY
PERMIT NO. 2713

COMMONWEALTH POLICY CENTER
P.O. BOX 5
HERNDON, KY 42236

Want to help the conservative cause in Kentucky?

Donate securely via our website or use this form.

www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Street Address: _____ City/St/Zip: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Commonwealth Policy Foundation - CPF (policy/education) *
- ☐ Commonwealth Policy Center - CPC (political education and activism)
- ☐ Commonwealth Policy PAC (100% political—helps elect conservatives)

Occupation/Employer: _____

Frequency: ☐ One-Time ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

Name on card: _____

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____ (3 digit code on back)

Signature: _____

Mail to: Commonwealth Policy Center / P.O. Box 5 / Herndon, KY 42236

* only gifts to CPF are tax-deductible