

COMMONWEALTH POLICY

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

VICTORIES BEHIND, CHALLENGES AHEAD



A snowy scene from Cumberland Gap National Park.

Kentuckians owe Daniel Boone a debt of gratitude for his determination in laying the foundation for the settlement of Kentucky in the mid-1770s. It was Boone's drive and determination that helped the pioneer overcome perilous challenges. Just as Boone and his fellow pioneers weathered the storms they faced, we must overcome challenges to grasp the opportunities that lie ahead.

Drive and determination are still needed in Kentucky as the door of opportunity is open. As 2017 comes to an end, we'll remember it as a year when conservative fiscal and social policies were put into place to fortify the health of the Commonwealth for generations to come.

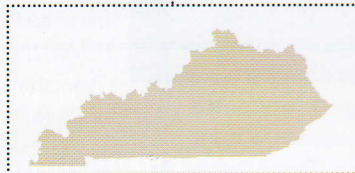
CPC is grateful for the role we've played. We've been in Frankfort working with legislators, we've worked

alongside concerned citizens in every corner of the Commonwealth, we've served churches by helping them navigate a sometimes hostile culture, and we've engaged readers and listeners on a multitude of media platforms.

In this issue, we want to say thank you. We're grateful for those that make this work possible. Without your partnership, the work of CPC would be nothing more than a good idea.

This year we've crossed the Commonwealth time and again. We can tell you there are good things happening in every corner of our beautiful state.

We know there are challenges ahead, but we believe shoring up the foundational pillars of life, marriage, religious liberty and fiscal integrity is worth our drive and determination. Let's continue to press on in 2018.



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The Commonwealth Policy Center is a non-profit public policy group helping Kentuckians value life, protect natural marriage, defend religious liberty, and promote fiscal integrity.

Learn more about our work at CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

CPC Hosts Important Statewide Conference



Dr. Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family speaks at *How to Love Your LGBT Neighbor without Losing Your Convictions* event at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Since same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015, the volume of the debate over LGBT issues has risen significantly. In 2017 alone, CPC has been involved in three of the larger communities in Kentucky dealing with public policy issues connected to sexual orientation and gender identity laws.

Not only are public policies affected by this issue, but so are families, churches, and business owners. At CPC we're receiving

more and more requests for information and clarification on these issues on the personal and public policy levels.

At our recent conference, Dr. Glenn Stanton from Focus on the Family presented from his book *How to Love Your LGBT Neighbor*, Andrew Walker of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission helped attendees understand transgenderism as he provided highlights from his book *God and the Transgender Debate* and Richard Nelson spoke about the personal impact dealing with LGBT public policy

issues across the Commonwealth has had on him.

Stephanie Matthews, Community Partnership Coordinator at Christian Family Radio in Bowling Green, attended the event. After hearing the presentations and panel discussion, she said, "I feel more equipped and inspired to walk boldly into this topic and into the lives of people who identify as LGBT as a result of attending CPC's event."

The conference traveled the Commonwealth making stops at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green and Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. An abridged version of the conference was presented to students at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and Boyce College in Louisville.

Ben Simpson, Campus Pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church's South Campus, said, "I'm thankful the leadership of the Commonwealth Policy Center loves the church and the LGBT community enough to wade into this highly contested topic. We were reminded that to show biblical love to LGBT neighbors we must live in the tension of building genuine friendships with them based on the dignity of all human beings and the kindness of Christ while at the same time calling them to turn from their sexual sin to live in Jesus."

If you were unable to attend one of the conferences, the presentations from each of the speakers are available at KentuckyTV.org.

Three Challenges for Marriage Today

by Brandon Porter

Recently, we asked Dr. Glenn Stanton, Director of Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family, three questions concerning the challenges the institution of marriage is facing today.

How is marriage challenged when we think of it as a private institution?

Marriage is typically being thought of as a private institution, when it is really meant to be a public institution. When we see marriage break down in communities, the government has to come in to fill that gap. The problem is that government can't be a husband to a wife or a father to a child. When marriage breaks down in a society, it forces government to try to do something that it can't do.

Human sexuality is very consequential. Marriage is to regulate sexuality in society. It is in the context of a covenant marriage the man and the woman can enjoy the sexual union while he supports, protects and provides for her, and any subsequent children, and she provides encouragement and support to him.



How is marriage challenged when we don't see any differences between a man and a woman?

Marriage is the bringing together and the completing of humanity. It says that a woman compliments and brings out the masculinity of the man and the man does that for the feminine aspect of the woman. We are pro-creative creatures that are meant to live together. There's something special that happens when man and woman come together in marriage that helps to complete man and woman.

In a mysterious way, when we think of Adam we understand that there were things

about him that don't make sense until God creates woman. This is more than sexual in nature, though, this helps the man and woman understand the drives and essences that God created in them. **How is marriage challenged when couples try to be successful without help from others?**

Isolation is an attack on marriage that causes married couples to believe they're the only couple struggling with a specific issue. The best remedy for this is for a couple to have friends that are married and the best place to find these friends is within the community of Christ. In the church we find people that have already faced the struggles we're facing and they can come alongside to help a couple walk through life.

Imagine the impact of a church could have not only on themselves, but on the community if more mature couples were to make themselves available to younger couples. This would go a long way to not only saving individual marriages, but strengthening the institution of marriage in the community.

A Letter to Friends - Looking Back at 2017

As 2017 comes to a close its time to assess our impact. But how do you do that? Is it the number of laws we helped pass? The number of hosted events? Or the number of people we've reached through newspaper columns, radio and television appearances?

Yes to all the above. Here are some highlights. We testified on behalf of two pro-life bills that eventually passed into law. We were in the pages of the USA Today and several other major publications. We're on over 50 radio stations every day with our commentaries. Two other longer format weekly radio shows are heard on stations from Paducah to Ashland.

We've also interviewed top leaders like Gov. Matt Bevin, Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, and Con. James Comer. We've produced educational videos for churches and civic groups. And we've advised leaders on important policy issues.

We hosted a legislative briefing with Dr. Albert Mohler & Gov. Bevin in the Governor's mansion and held a three-day statewide conference on Loving our LGBT Neighbors with Focus on the Family and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. We successfully defeated proposed sexual orientation laws that threaten religious liberty in Georgetown, Shelbyville, and Bowling Green. And we've represented conservative principles in lively public radio debates on current issues. In all respects, 2017 was an impactful year for CPC.

I recently spoke to the Owensboro Right to Life Annual Banquet where I got to share the story about gathering together with a group of pastors and business leaders to pray that a solid candidate would step up to run for the state legislature. The next meeting saw three candidates show up! Two of the three campaigned on pro-life issues and got elected. Both were at the banquet and we all got to celebrate positive pro-life laws we all worked for earlier this year!

Our work is making a difference and you have been an integral part of it. We've been blessed to have so many opportunities and to see good fruit come from our labor. Our hope is that through our perseverance we will continue to impact the Commonwealth for the better by raising up principled leaders and moving the needle of conversation in a much more conservative direction. But we need your help.

We've been working hard for five years

and you've seen the results. Now we're asking you to consider partnering with us financially. We've effectively represented

conservative values in the political and public policy realms.

Would you please consider supporting us? We especially could use help with monthly support to cover day to day operations, putting gas in the car and keeping the lights on. There are three of us on staff and we all have families. We've invested our lives in making the Commonwealth a better place. Will you invest with us to make it even better? Look what we've accomplished in five short years. Just imagine what we can do together over the next five?

Thank you!

Richard Nelson



Dr. Albert Mohler and Richard Nelson at the CPC Legislative Forum at the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort is one of our highlights of 2017.

Pray as though
everything depended on
God. Work as though
everything depended on
you.

- Augustine of Hippo

Friend^{of} the Commonwealth

We're helping conservative candidates get into office,
providing clear perspective to the media,
and working with churches across Kentucky.

Would you help us by being a
Friend of the Commonwealth?

Regularly pray for us by name
Partner by giving \$25 per month

CommonwealthFriend.org
Lyn@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Is Expanded Gambling Worth the Risk?

by Brandon Porter

Being a state that is closely tied to the horse racing industry, it's not a surprise that expanded gambling is frequently discussed in Kentucky. Even more, it's no surprise this issue comes up when the woes of Kentucky's economy are mentioned. Keeping those things in mind, there are a few questions we should ask.

Would expanded gambling improve the work ethic of Kentuckians?

The prosperity of the Commonwealth is built on the hard work and ingenuity of previous generations. It's the only way the Commonwealth will be shared with the generations to come. The Apostle Paul said if anyone is unwilling to work, he shouldn't be allowed to eat. The allurements of easy riches doesn't promote the valuable principle of hard work.

Would expanded gambling promote false hope to Kentuckians?

When you think of a skilled trade, what comes to mind? A vocational school would

never teach the trade of learning to pick lottery numbers or how to play a slot machine. Hopefully, students go to school to learn a skill or trade with the understanding that they will use this ability to provide for themselves and others. Gambling is built on the hope that the next coin, the next ticket, the next race, or the next pull of the lever will pay huge dividends.

Should the state government partner with an institution that could contribute to addiction?

Race tracks and casinos are usually established through state sponsored incentives. This is different than an industry that is regulated by state government, because it is the state government partnering with a business that could cause harm to citizens.

Did you know the National Center for Responsible Gaming estimates 1.2 million Americans struggling with gambling ad-



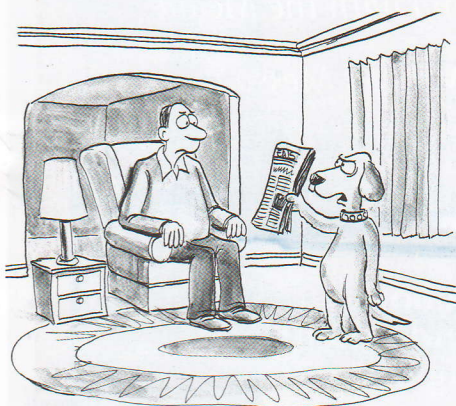
dictions annually? Compare that to the 600,000 people that the Center for Disease Control say die from cancer each year. This means there are twice as many families affected by gambling addiction than by cancer. Whether we hear about them or not, gambling addictions are prevalent in the United States.

There are rebuttals to each of these questions. Yes, expanded gaming is legal in states that border Kentucky. Yes, there might be tax revenue generated by expanded gambling sites. But is it worth the risk to the overall health of Kentucky in this generation and for the ones to come?

Praying for Political Leaders

If you've ever been a part of leading a group, you know that leadership is challenging. While elected leaders are fallible, citizens should take full advantage of opportunities to pray for and encourage those that govern us.

Government is an institution created by God and the Bible says it was put in place to punish those that do evil and praise those



"I'll only give you the paper if you promise not to let the news upset you."

that do good. (1 Peter 2:14)

During the holiday season, conversation often turns to resolutions for a New Year. Why not make praying for your elected officials one of your resolutions for 2018? Please consider praying in one of these ways:

1. Pray elected leaders would be morally pure.
2. Pray elected leaders would have courage to stand for truth.
3. Pray elected leaders would find ways to defend the weak.
4. Pray elected leaders would implement and stick to sound fiscal policy.
5. Pray God would raise up new leaders that will stand for sound principles.

Perhaps you could pray one of these principles each day of the week. Let's join together to make our home a Commonwealth.

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CPC Candidate Training Set for January

Have you ever thought about running for office? Or helping on a political campaign? It seems like a daunting task, but consider there's too much at stake not to consider political involvement. It's time for down to earth, common sense conservative Kentuckians to stand in the gap in the political arena.

This was the case for Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton who was asked to run for office. Hampton was resistant to the idea at first, but ended up attending two training events and eventually ran for the State House in Bowling Green. Even though she came up short, her courageous run against the longest serving Speaker of the House put her on the radar of Matt Bevin who asked her to run on the ticket with him as Lt. Governor.

Hampton is grateful for the training she received in CPC's Candidate Training events, "The Commonwealth Policy Center is a strong voice for Kentucky's conservative values. Their outstanding Candidate Training Course helped me organize my

state house campaign, assist other candidates, and successfully step up to a large scale gubernatorial campaign. I highly recommend this course to all conservatives who are considering running for public service positions.

Not everyone is called to run for state House or even Lt. Governor, but there are thousands of elected positions in Kentucky. Offices range from city council, county magistrate, school board and local judgeships to state and Congressional offices. "We need good people, principled people to run for every office," said CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson. "This will take some courage and sacrifice, but there's too much at stake to not engage."

One of the goals of CPC is to help equip conservatives to run winning races. The events provide a "toolkit and a roadmap" as to the basics of campaigning. Training topics include messaging, media relations, fundraising, campaigning, and get out the vote, among others.

CPC has trained nearly 300 candidates



Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton and Richard Nelson in the studios of WNKJ in Hopkinsville.

and has held multiple training events in locations across Kentucky. Graduates have made it into all levels of government from city council and the Kentucky Court of Appeals to the Lt. Governor's office. The next training will be on Saturday, January 27, at the Frankfort Country Club in Frankfort.

CPC Candidate Training Event

Saturday, January 27, 2018 - 7:30am EST

*All Sessions Led by
Top Speakers and Trainers*

Assembling Your Candidacy

Working with the Media

Fundraising

GOTV's and Messaging

Running a Winning Campaign

**Frankfort Country Club
101 Duntreath St. - Frankfort, KY 40601
Registration \$100 (includes materials and lunch)
Register at CommonwealthTraining.org
*Limited Seating!***

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Merry Christmas from the Commonwealth Policy Center!

May the holiday season be
filled with joy and thanksgiving
as we remember all that we
have been given.

