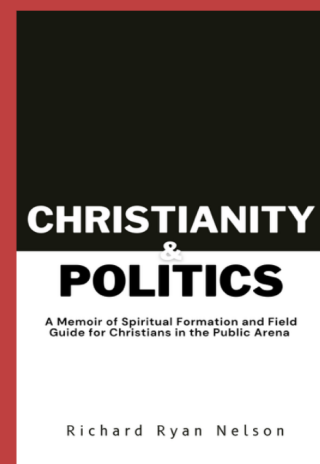


CPC Executive Director's Book Coming Soon!



Pre-Orders Available on Amazon in Mid-July

~ continued from page 1 ~

Adams, Patrick Henry, John Jay, Roger Sherman, and John Witherspoon sought to synthesize Christian principles into political and public life, however imperfectly. They attempted to balance God and government, economic pursuit and personal piety. But did they leave a legacy of happiness?

A CBS News Poll conducted earlier this year found

CPC Equipped Voters for Primary Election

CPC actively engages state elections, and the latest primary election was no different. For every competitive State House and Senate race, CPC equipped voters by providing a variety of resources. These included candidate comparison guides that were mailed, posted on social media and on our website, and digital graphics explaining which PACs and organizations were behind certain candidates. We also hosted candidate forums in the candidates' districts and online.

CPC's Impact by the Numbers:

- 55,000 Candidate Comparison Guides mailed
- Candidate Comparison Guides and Candidate Endorsement Guide Social Media Ads
 - Reached 40,987 voters
 - Ads were seen a total of 123,352 times by voters
- Four Candidate Forums Held in District
- Twelve Candidate Forums Held Online

that 76% of Americans are fairly happy or very happy. 23% are not too happy or not happy at all. The survey found that the number one factor that contributed to their personal happiness was their family life at 72%. Mental health was second at 63% and leisure and hobbies at 61%. Interestingly, when things are going well with family, 86% are happy. These numbers point to another element of our personhood—our emotional and relational health. Related to these elements is that we are spiritual beings with spiritual needs.

The Christian worldview teaches that we are made to walk with God. Yes, we live in a material physical world and are made to work, build homes, get married, raise families, participate in community. But we are also made to walk with Him. American Revolutionaries threw off encumbrances that shackled them from fulfilling what they saw as a divine mandate to live as good stewards of their lives in freedom. In our pursuit of happiness, we'd do well to consider if we're stewarding this gift of freedom. In particular, may each of us ponder if we're walking well with the Author of Freedom and satisfying ourselves in Him.

Richard Nelson is the Exec. Director of CPC.

WHO WILL REPRESENT YOUR VALUES?



Killian Timoney (R)



Thomas Jefferson (R)

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| NO ¹ | School Choice | YES |
| YES | Pro-Life | YES ² |
| YES ³ | Transgender Surgeries for Minors | NO |
| YES ³ | LGBTQ Curriculum in K-12 Public Schools | NO |
| YES ⁴ | Transgender Sports | NO |
| YES | Cut State Income Tax | YES |
| YES ⁵ | Discriminatory DEI in College | NO |

Visit www.CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org for footnotes and to learn more about CPC. Paid for by the Commonwealth Policy Center

2024 GOP Primary Election Swayed Socially Conservative

Kentucky's state legislative races took center stage in the May 21st primary, even though the presidential race was on the ballot. That's because the presidential candidates were decided earlier this year. Turnout across the state was 13 percent. It was stronger where competitive primaries were on the ballot. At the end of the night, three Republican incumbents lost their seats in different regions and for different reasons. The bigger storyline is that five conservative House Republicans were targeted by a moderate GOP political action committee fueled by big money and powerful interest groups. All prevailed in their elections.

An additional conservative picked up an open seat in Northern Kentucky. Here are a few takeaways:

Principled Conservatism Matters:

Good candidates have convictions on issues the voters care about. House District 60 incumbent State Rep. Marianne Procter, a principled conservative who fought to bring more choices in healthcare to her Northern Kentucky district, handily defeated Chris Pavese, who switched parties last year and could not articulate a conservative position. When Pavese was asked at an event where he stood on abortion and puberty blocks for minors, he failed to convincingly explain his position. Pavese ducked out of CPC's Northern Kentucky candidate forum at the last minute, which hurt his candidacy. The incumbent Procter won handily by a 76-24% margin despite being out

spent \$116,000 to \$92,000. A total of 6 strong conservative House members defeated moderate challengers. Two strong conservative Senate candidates won open seats.

Takeaway: Socially and fiscally conservative candidates won on primary election day.

Money Cannot Buy an Election:

Conservative incumbents were significantly out-raised by their moderate opponents. However, the story of the evening was that money did not win the day. In fact, far from it. Consider that House District 66 former State Rep. Ed Massey spent \$282,000 to TJ Robert's \$80,000. The more conserva-



CPC's Candidate Forum with House District 66 candidates TJ Roberts and Ed Massey.

tive Roberts, endorsed by Kentucky Right to Life and pro-school choice groups, won by a margin of 76%-24%. State Rep. Killian Timoney's total campaign support was \$310,000 while his conservative challenger Thomas Jefferson had \$47,000. The left-leaning Timoney lost by a 72% to 28% margin.

Takeaway: Money is no substitute for principled conservative candidates.

The Right Endorsements Matter: The Kentucky Chamber

of Commerce endorsed challengers to conservative incumbents. They were only successful in 11 of the 21 races (52%). When moderating candidate forums, CPC executive director Richard Nelson asked sitting incumbents why the Chamber endorsed their opponent. A couple candidates shrugged off the Chamber's endorsements because "they're not conservative." On the other hand, Kentucky Right to Life was successful in 19 of 23 of their legislative endorsements (82%).

Takeaway: The right endorsements matter in GOP primaries.

Truthful Messaging is Irreplaceable:

Truth is a precious commodity in the election space where it's easy to curate a candidate's image. It's easy to bend and distort the truth of an opponent. Candidates like Ed Massey and Killian Timoney made allegations that were false. The distortions and downright lies

came back to haunt those who peddled them. Candidates that have a record of integrity and communicate truthfully were rewarded this election. At CPC's candidate forum in Boone County, Ed Massey stated there was a rumor that TJ Roberts was on a gay dating app, a statement that Mr. Massey provided no evidence for and was quickly denied by his opponent. Furthermore, Rep. Killian Timoney's campaign ran ads stating his opponent, Thomas Jefferson, makes his money from "black lives matters protestors" and "drag shows for children." What was this

PornHub Booted from Kentucky!

CPC celebrates Pornhub's impending departure from Kentucky on July 10 in the wake of the General Assembly's passage of HB 278, which requires age verification for accessing pornographic websites.

"This is a win for the protection of Kentucky's children," said CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson. "Because of HB 278, Pornhub decided to leave the state. And to that I say good riddance. Child pornography and other abusive material will no longer be available in Kentucky from mainstream sites like Pornhub. And our children are much safer because of it."

A dozen other states have passed similar laws since 2022, with striking results. After Pornhub chose to cooperate with an age verification law in Louisiana, the site's traffic dropped by 80%. It's not unexpected that Pornhub protested by refusing to confirm age, but this is a commonsense protection of vulnerable children who should be guarded from such morally corrosive material accessed online.

HB 278, which protects minors from online pornography, was sponsored by Sen. Gex Williams (R-Verona) and signed into law by Gov. Andy Beshear on April 5 of this year.

claim based off of? Mr. Jefferson owns stocks in companies like Disney. All the while, Rep. Killian Timoney was one of the most liberal members of the Kentucky Republican House Caucus who voted against SB 150, which kept gender ideology out of public schools and protected gender dysphoric minors. He also voted against the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which kept biological males off of girls' sports teams. Much of the campaign messaging centered on those two votes. Timoney lost by a 72% to 28% margin.

Takeaway: Slanderous campaign messaging failed.

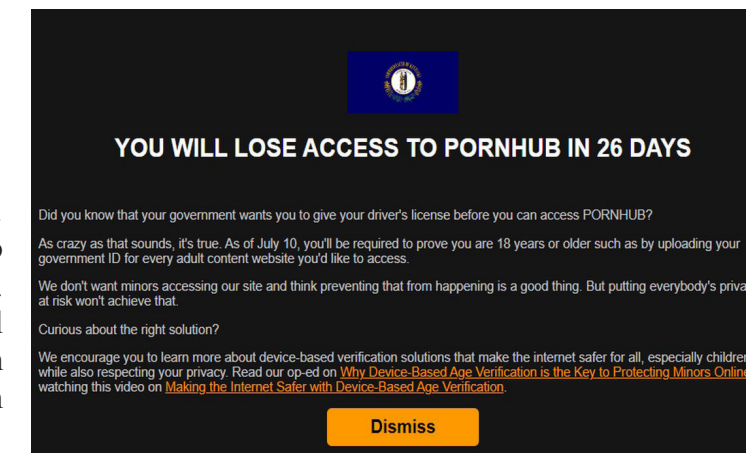
This year's primary election was encouraging for conservative candidates who stood on principle and communicated in the right way. It was a lesson to the limits of money and influential organizations that sway to the left.

Read the full article at CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org.

~ continued from page 5 ~ including the public arena. It may be difficult. We may appear to be losing.

The enemy may seem to triumph at the moment, Remember the story of Daniel thrown into the lions' den? Or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace? They all appeared to be doomed. But they were not. God was with them and delivered them from harm. We remember these heroes of the faith for their faithfulness to God. We remember them for their integrity because they wouldn't bow to idols.

The enemy of our souls would like us to focus on the lions and fiery furnaces. But the devil is deceptive. He's also a defeated enemy. As Christians and ambassadors, we must remember what appears daunting may be accomplished through Jesus. And what appears to be loss will be a gain if done for His glory. This is how we approach the public arena to a watching world. - Richard Nelson



Commonwealth Policy Center

Richard Nelson
Executive Director

Richard@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Jenny Bennett
Administrative Assistant

Jenny@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Cole Cuzick
Political Outreach Director

Cole@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Christopher Parr
Director of Research

Christopher@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Alex Richey
Director of Content & Engagement

Alex@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Freddy Higgins
Intern

Freddy@CommonwealthPolicy.org

[Facebook.com/CommonwealthPolicy](https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthPolicy)

@CPC4Kentucky

Commonwealth Policy Center

PO Box 4172

Frankfort, KY 40604

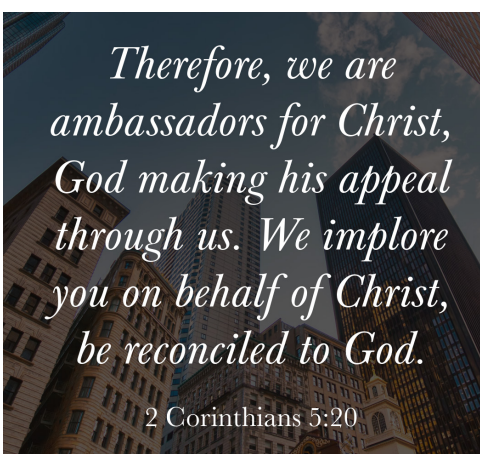
CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

I've given several talks lately on a Christian approach to politics. If you've read any of my writings or heard me speak, you know that I view current events and politics through the grid of the Bible, which teachers there's a great spiritual battle behind the headlines. This idea may be foreign to many in our increasingly secular society, but how do you account for the reality of evil which rears its ugly head on a daily basis? How do you account for good and an otherworldly response to such evil?

Ephesians 6:12 says that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." The Apostle Paul, one of the greatest enemies of Christianity prior to his conversion, wrote those words to remind the Church in Ephesus of what they were up against and how they needed to prepare for the battle they were entering. The same ancient words are just as timely for us today.

According to a RealClear Opinion Research poll (conducted between Dec. 19 and 21, 2023) 80 percent of Americans believe that Jesus is the Son of God; 85 percent believe in heaven. Only 70 percent believe in the devil and hell. If there is no devil, where does the evil come from? I'm reminded of the scene in the Wizard of Oz where Dorothy returns to the Emerald City to ask the Great Oz to take her back to Kansas. His voice booms and flames shoot from the stage as he tells her to come back tomorrow, while her dog Toto runs toward the curtain and pulls it away only to expose a man speaking into a microphone. "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain," as Dorothy and her friends look directly at him.

The Great Oz is exposed as a fraud. Satan would like us to disregard the truth claims of Jesus Christ and disregard the biblical record as a fairy tale. He'd like us to believe that he's a mythical creature unfitting for educated people in the 21st century to believe. But truth is, he is real and he's been exposed as a fraud. Colossians 2:15 says, "He (Jesus) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." Jesus did this through his sacrifice on the cross, bearing our sins, and offering resurrection through repentance and faith in him.



Those who are in Christ are called to be his ambassadors, key people who represent a leader and country. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

Do you see yourself as an ambassador for Christ? That God is making his appeal through you?

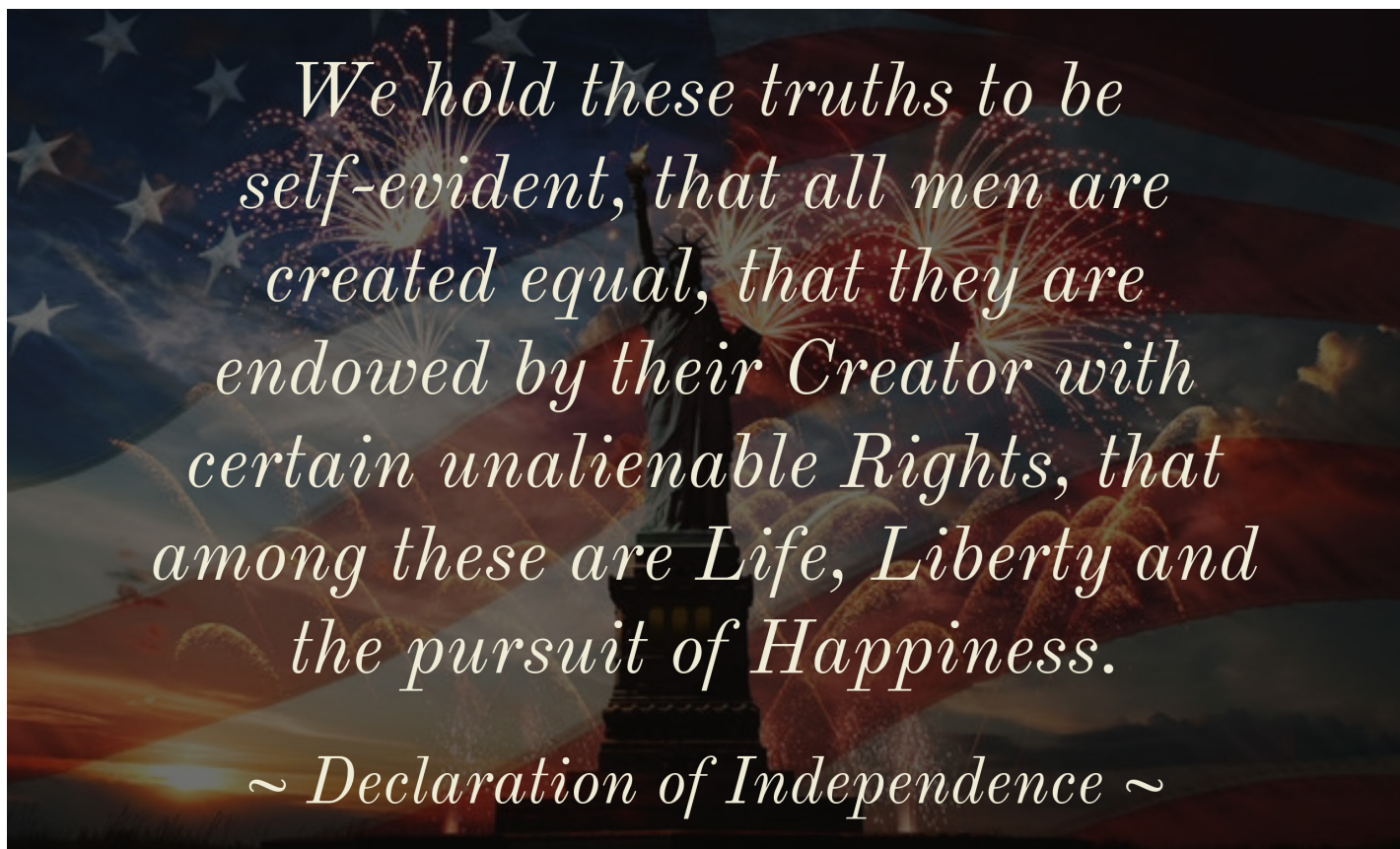
Consider a few attributes of an ambassador. They know who they represent and their high leader's priorities. They know something of the culture and language of the people they're trying to reach. They conduct themselves with wisdom in a way that's honorable to their leader and nation.

Ambassadors of Christ have high moral character and are told in Ephesians 4:31 to "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Any of these character traits would disqualify an ambassador. Ambassadors must cloth themselves properly. In the context of spiritual war, Ephesians 6:11 tells Jesus' followers to put on the "armor of God" so that you can stand against "the schemes of the devil."

Finally, followers of Christ walk in the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." There is no downside to any of these traits in any context.

Ambassadors of Christ prioritize faithfulness to Him. They do life His way. Consider that the ancient Israelites longed for Israel to be restored to its former glory. But when Jesus came during the time of Roman occupation, not as a general with a conquering army, they rejected him. They failed to see that Christ's restoration extended to all the nations. They missed their spiritual need of a Redeemer who would drive out Satan and his occupying minions, not merely the Romans.

Today, Christians are called to faithful presence in all of life, ~ continue reading on page 4 ~



COMMONWEALTH POLICY

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

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS: WHERE LIES OUR HAPPINESS?

"We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Thus begins America's founding political document penned 248 years ago by Thomas Jefferson, with notable guidance from John Adams, Ben Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. The daring political statement recognized divine truth as the wellspring of human rights. And it served as our nation's founding political charter with government "by the consent of the governed."

As we near a quarter millennia of our existence, it's worth taking stock as to how this experiment in self government is working out in relation to our perceived sense of happiness. In terms of prosperity, our Founding Fathers could never have imagined our incredible productivity and wealth creation. U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$27.36 trillion in 2023 according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Median household income, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was \$74,580 in 2022.

Many gauge personal happiness by their jobs, bank accounts, homes, leisure time, and the cars they drive. These things are

necessities, but not all Americans have enjoyed the fruits of a robust economy. For many other Americans who derive inordinate importance on the size of their bank accounts, homes, and cars, they are finding that these material things fail to provide life's deepest needs.

According to the 2024 World Happiness Report (WHR), the United States dropped eight places and now stands at 23, following the United Arab Emirates. Factors contributing to happiness include gross domestic product, freedom, life expectancy, relational and social support, and perception of corruption. The numbers vary based on demographics.

As we consider Independence Day and reflect on the patriots who appealed to economic determination, the rule of law, accompanied by cries of "no taxation without representation," let's not forget the significant numbers who were deeply religious. They saw God as the Author of their lives, the Giver of rights, and the One whom they were ultimately devoted to. They desired religious freedom, a disestablished church, and freedom of conscience that allowed them to pursue public life according to religious conviction.

Leading patriots like Samuel ~ continue reading on page 2 ~



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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

