

~ continued from page 1 ~

According to the Federal Reserve, the annualized cost of servicing the debt was \$726 billion in July 2023. This is 14% of total federal spending, and as debt accumulates, interest increasingly consumes federal spending. Either the economy must significantly grow to increase revenue, taxes must increase, or services must be cut.

Foreign Trade: Goods made in America are more expensive, and government should take action to make sure that we are not a dumping ground for cheap products from China. Currently our international trade deficit is \$70 billion. This hurts U.S. manufacturers, and it's why many union members supported Trump.

Gender Ideology: The Biden administration's elevation of transgender identity over rights of females to private spaces and sports in public schools is symbolic of Democratic political reordering of a healthy society.

It's not just a political talking point. When biological males like Blaire Fleming of San Jose State are allowed to compete against women, it endangers their safety. It also threatens the integrity of women's sports. Republican candidates are winning on this issue viewed as common sense by a majority of voters.

Legacy Media: Mainstream media outlets have marginalized conservative voices and misrepresented important issues. Consider that, as they report news stories on gender dysphoria, they call it "gender-affirming care," which does anything but care for those struggling with what was once considered mental illness."Reproductive rights" have nothing to do with reproduction. Cracking down on illegal immigration has been reported as "anti-immigrant." Too many legacy media journalists have become democratic public relations allies. Their left leaning political bias and failure to treat

conservatives fairly on important issues, has pushed center-right aligned voters to other media outlets.

Many media members found themselves in shock when Trump won on November 5, just as they did in 2016. For the reasons listed above, they shouldn't. Many Americans are demanding a new direction for our nation. At Gallup's latest measure, 4 out of 5 Americans think we're on the wrong path. Legacy media would recognize this if they paid attention to the concerns of American voters, who have put these issues and Donald Trump's perceived ability to fix them above character concerns. As a friend of CPC shared recently, "When your house is on fire, you don't care who the fireman is. You just want the fire put out." That is why Donald Trump won.

Richard Nelson is the Founder & Executive Director of CPC.

JCPS Diversity, Equity, and Poverty Department Fosters Division in District

Recently, the Chief Equity Officer for Jefferson County Public Schools, Dr. John Marshall, made a post on the social media platform X which warned black students that they should not expect fair treatment from most white people. He said, "Regardless of the rooms, meetings, classes, etc., you're in, know THE MAJORITY of whites could care less about you & have no issues harming you."

It's unconscionable that Marshall would dedicate his career to promoting division among the students and teachers of Jefferson County. Public schools are supposed to unify. But statements like this— informed by DEI ideology—do the opposite. What does this statement say to his white peers on staff at JCPS? Marshall is paid \$200,000 per year. It adds insult to injury that public tax dollars are being used to divide.

Marshall is not the only JCPS employee dedicated to spreading DEI-fueled division through the district. CPC is investigating Marshall's Diversity, Equity, and Poverty Department and found that the district spends millions of dollars each year on DEI programs in every public school in Louisville. Their 2024 budget was over \$6 million. The DEP Department also promotes LGBT ideology, which is what the state legislature restricted in 2023.

Under the direction of the DEP Department, every school is required to have a Racial Equity Committee which produces a Racial Equity Plan every year. For example, Barret Traditional Middle

School's 2024-25 REP forecasts the wide implementation of so-called "equitable grading." The goal is to modify grades based on external characteristics. Treating students differently based on their ethnicity neither reflects how they're performing nor equips them for a better future.

The DEP Department also spends valuable time and funds producing DEI resources. Envision Equity is a monthly magazine which highlights DEI initiatives around the district.



John Marshall D. Ed. @jdm1906

Follow

A few young(er) Black professionals & students called me this morning & asked, "What's a strategy moving forward?" My response, "REGARDLESS of the rooms, meetings, classes, etc., you're in, know THE MAJORITY of whites could care less about you & have no issues harming you or yours."

Dr. John Marshall's Post on X.

Articles in the November 2024 "Rainbow Edition" both endorse the Biden Administration's Title IX regulations—which undermined protections for biological females in public schools—and criticize the Kentucky General Assembly for "targeting transgender students" in two bills: Senate Bill 150 and Senate Bill 5. One article suggests ways in which JCPS employees can creatively follow these laws while undermining legislators' intentions by still promoting LGBT ideology among students.

Since so much time is spent promoting radical ideology, less time is spent teaching subjects that parents expect their kids to learn. As a result, students in Louisville public schools are failing. Over 75% of JCPS students are less than

proficient in reading and math. The district suffers from a shortage of certified teachers. It's no wonder that state legislators in Frankfort have proposed breaking up JCPS into smaller districts to create more accountability.

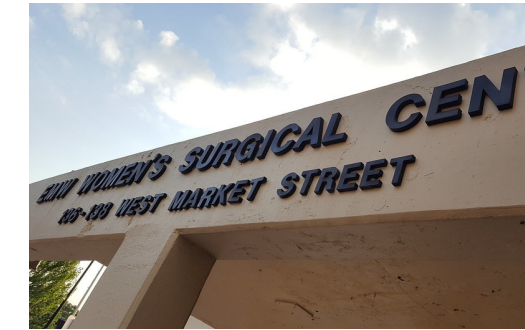
Public schools which treat students differently based on external characteristics are foreign to the American ideal. Our nation was not founded on identity politics. It was founded on the ideal that all men are created equal with dignity and value. Our system of government judges men and women by the content of their character, not their skin color. DEI undermines this American ideal, dividing us based on externals.

DEI also undermines American meritocracy. Progress is defined by accomplishment and achievement, not biased leadership which forces certain outcomes based on external characteristics. While the DEP Department claims to fight racism, it actually fosters it. Consider this hypothetical: if white students began to underperform minorities, would the DEP Department give them special treatment?

In light of Marshall's inflammatory post, it is time to expel JCPS' DEP Department. Its work undermines the mission of public schools, and the ugly fruit is evident. The state legislature should implement a course correction for JCPS when it convenes in seven short weeks if the school board ignores calls to discipline Marshall.

Christopher Parr is the Director of Research at CPC.

ACLU Files Lawsuit Opposing Kentucky Abortion Ban



The former EMW Abortion Clinic, which closed in 2022, has been sold and will be demolished to make way for a new hotel, according to a latest report from WDRB. This is a result of Kentucky's strong pro-life laws. This latest development is good news, and is a sign that

Kentucky's laws prioritize and protect life in our Commonwealth.

At the same time, the ACLU recently filed a lawsuit to overturn Kentucky's legal protections for the unborn. As it is, unborn human life is protected by Kentucky law, with the only abortion exception to save the life of the mother. The ACLU claims that Kentucky's abortion ban violates a woman's right to privacy. But is the taking of another human life a right?

CPC opposed this lawsuit in a press release, where we said, "The plaintiff fails to justify a right to abortion. Emotional burden to continue a pregnancy does not trump the right of an unborn child's life. CPC is calling on Kentucky's legal officers and judiciary to uphold the hard-fought legal protections for the unborn in the Commonwealth."



Endorsement Success

90%

of CPC-endorsed candidates with opponents won in the general election (45/50)

Election Resources

76

voter guides created for State House & Senate Races

26

candidate forums hosted

CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

Reaching Voters

63k

voter guides mailed

100k

voters reached through Facebook ads

86%

of races w/ Facebook ads won in general election

Commonwealth Policy Center

Richard Nelson

Executive Director

Richard@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Jenny Bennett

Executive Administrator

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

Jacob Ogan

Intern

Jacob@CommonwealthPolicy.org

Facebook.com/CommonwealthPolicy



[@CPC4Kentucky](https://www.instagram.com/CPC4Kentucky)



[Commonwealth Policy Center](https://www.youtube.com/CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org)



[CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org](https://www.CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org)

2024: Banner Year for CPC, Conservatives

What a year 2024 has been! CPC is concluding one of its most productive years, largely because of a fantastic and growing staff. In fact, we had to move into new office space because we've outgrown the old. My new book *Christianity and Politics* has been a hit. When it was released on Amazon on September 1, it was ranked #27, just above Bernie Sanders! I've spoken to over a dozen groups about principles I share in my book. CPC's three major conferences: "An Evening with Dr. Albert Mohler," "Towards a Better Bluegrass" (economics conference), and our candidate training were all well attended.

Our two day candidate training helped several attendees reach higher office, including State House, State Senate, and District Judge. *The Commonwealth Matters* program was picked up by two television stations. And *The Commonwealth Minute* is carried by 49 radio stations. We are blessed to have such significant platforms to help Kentuckians with principled perspective. Earlier in the year, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* recognized CPC as one of the most influential groups in Frankfort. In a word, we've been blessed to have such significant influence.

However, as I write, the topic Leftists and legacy media journalists are fixated on is whether or not a biological male who identifies as female should be allowed to use women's restrooms in the U.S. Capitol. Think about that for a minute. Democrats just lost an election, largely because of their far left, out of touch policies. And they're going to focus on whether or not a biological man should be able to use a women's restroom? This is the kind of nonsense that voters had enough of and, in part, led to Republican majorities serving in both Houses of Congress and the White House.

Democrats are regrouping after a crushing defeat at the ballot box. Even as they reject male and female identity as objectively true, they're trying to figure out who they are as a political party. My hope is that they would focus on the things that bind us together as Americans – freedom, opportunity, and securing our inalienable rights. They would do well to avoid radical ideologies that have no basis in reality. May we see them make a course correction and work for policies that lead to opportunity and flourishing for everyone.

Part of our task at the Commonwealth Policy Center is to expose bad ideas and reject bad policies. But we realize that—if we're going to change the culture—it takes casting a vision for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Ever since day one, we began with a vision of raising up and helping to elect conservative leadership. This has led to significant protections for religious freedom, legal protections for the unborn, and economic growth. As you can see, CPC is positively shaping Kentucky's political and public policy realm. Our goal is to preserve a culture for our children and grandchildren and glorify God as we do so. Please keep us in prayer as we press on to another productive year in 2025. And if you are able, please consider sending a year-end gift today. Thanks in advance for your prayers and financial support. And May God bless you with a wonderful 2025!

Yours in Christ,



Richard Nelson
Founder / Executive Director



CPC Staff, from left to right: Cole Cuzick, Jacob Ogan, Freddy Higgins, Richard Nelson, Christopher Parr, Alex Richey, and Jenny Bennett.

COMMONWEALTH POLICY
PO BOX 4172
FRANKFORT, KY 40604-4172



COMMONWEALTH POLICY

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

VOTER ANGER, DEMOCRATIC POLICY PRIORITIES TIPPED ELECTION TO TRUMP

On Wednesday morning after the 2024 election, many mainstream media members found themselves in shock when former president Donald Trump won, just as they did in 2016. Voter anger over the direction of the country and tone-deaf Democratic policy priorities played into a Trump victory. Serious character flaws, legal woes, and unrepresentational conduct appeared to be secondary concerns for many voters. Here are a few issues that played into giving Trump a second term.

Illegal Immigration:

According to a U.S. House Judiciary report released on August 5, "In three-and-a-half years, the Biden-Harris Administration has released more than 5.4 million illegal aliens into the United States, with an additional at least 1.9 million known 'gotaways' escaping into the country." The Biden-Harris administration's failure to protect our southern border and regulate who enters the country has appalled many Americans, and it was one of the compelling issues that drove concerned voters to the polls.

Economy: Various polls said that economy was the number one issue for voters this election. According to a Pew survey conducted in September, about "eight-in-ten registered voters (81%) say the economy will be

very important to their vote in the 2024 presidential election." According to a Gallup poll in September, 52% of voters say they feel worse off today than four years ago. This did not bode well for Democrat presidential candidate Kamala Harris, who hadn't effectively made a case as to how her policies would differ from President Biden's.

Inflation: America is facing an inflation crisis comparable to the late 1970's under Democratic president Jimmy Carter. Inflation spiked at 8% in 2022, compared to 13.5% in 1980. Inflation has since decreased to just over 3% this year, still higher than the Federal Reserve's target. Wages

haven't kept up with inflation, which means purchasing power and ability to pay for basic cost of living have decreased. When American voters feel a pinch in their pocket books, they're more likely to vote for the political party out of the White House. This boded well for former President Trump.

Federal Debt: The federal government has a spending problem. In February 2022, the U.S. federal government debt surpassed \$30 trillion. In two years, an additional \$5 trillion was added to the federal debt, bringing the total to nearly \$36 trillion.

~ continue reading on page 2 ~



President-Elect Donald J. Trump.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Voter Anger, Democratic Policy Priorities Tipped Election to Trump
pages 1-2

CPC Equipped Voters for General Election
page 2

JCPS Diversity Fosters Division in District
page 3

ACLU Files Lawsuit Opposing Kentucky Abortion Ban
page 4

2024: Banner Year for CPC, Conservatives
page 5

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

COMMONWEALTH
★★POLICY CENTER★★
COMMONWEALTHPOLICYCENTER.ORG