

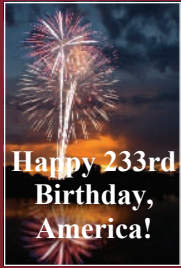
Dedicated to strengthening & preserving marriage, family, life & liberty in Wisconsin



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Founding Father and Second President, John Adams on Independence Day ~ "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews,* Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

* Shows



"Marriage is not merely a private taste or a private relation; it is an important public good."

The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially by Linda J. Waite & Maggie Gallagher

WI State Legislature Passes Anti-Life, Anti-Family Budget

The legislative travesty and tragedy commonly called the state budget is just about a done deal. While the people who will pay for this insane budget have been busy trying to provide for and spend time with their families, state elected officials have managed to make it harder for our states' families to remain strong and vibrant.

As of this writing, both the Senate and Assembly have passed this two-year budget. Three Democrats, Sen. Jim Sullivan (Wauwatosa), Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer (Manitowoc) and Rep. Peggy Krusick (Milwaukee) joined all the Republicans in voting "no." Rep. Jeff Wood (Chippewa Falls), who last summer left the Republican Party and became an Independent, joined the Democrats to get the needed votes in the Assembly.

All that remains now is to iron out some differences between the two versions and get the final votes in both houses. Then it goes to the governor. It is hard to imagine that Democrat Governor Jim Doyle will veto much in this budget. Even more unlikely is that the Democrat-controlled state legislature will attempt any override of any vetoes he does make.

The final details of this \$62-plus billion budget were once again accomplished largely behind closed caucus doors and in the dark hours of

the night. In the end, however, real Wisconsin, the average citizens of this state, will financially and in other ways pay the price of this debacle.

Among the anti-family, anti-life items the legislature passed in the budget are

- ☆ a marriage-like, statewide same-sex domestic partnership registry and some 40-50 benefits given to those who enroll in the registry—benefits that to this point have been reserved for legally married couples. This social experiment will cost taxpayers millions and is an end-run around a constitutional definition of marriage passed by nearly 60% of the voters in 2006.
- ☆ a domestic partnership definition exclusively for state employees, heterosexual or homosexual, that gives the domestic partner of those state employees taxpayer-funded health insurance.
- ☆ an expansion of the Family Planning Medicaid Waiver program to include low-income boys and men ages 15-44. This essentially allows for taxpayer-funded contraceptive drugs and devices, without parental knowledge or consent, to minor boys who make less than \$22,000 a year. The budget also continues the \$2 million per year payment to

"family planning" organizations such as Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

- ☆ a provision that trounces on constitutionally protected rights for pharmacists who for religious, moral or conscience reasons do not want to fill prescriptions for potentially abortifacient drugs.
- ☆ additional restrictions on the very successful Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the school voucher program that allows low-income students in the Milwaukee Public School district to attend a private school in the choice program.
- ☆ eliminating the GPS active tracking system for convicted sex offenders (while, ironically, creating and funding a GPS tracking program for Golden Eagles).
- ☆ Increasing taxes and fees by some \$2-3 billion.

This budget hurts real Wisconsin—the families of this state. When you weaken Wisconsin's families by such things as increased tax burdens and redefining marriage, you weaken the entire state. When the sanctity of human life and conscience rights are ignored, Wisconsin becomes a less desirable place to live. Frankly, WFC sees no winners in this budget, only losers.

Private Relationship or Public Good? by Eric Skelton, Director of Marriage & Family Ministry

In this second article of this *Case for Marriage* series, I want us to consider whether marriage is a public or private institution.

What do we mean by marriage? What do you think of when I use that term? Does marriage merely certify an existing love relationship? Is marriage fundamentally a social institution that must be socially constructed and supported? Or, is marriage a private relationship?

If you believe that marriage is essentially a private relationship, you will tend to believe, for example, that government has no business "privileging" marriage in any way.

However, if you believe marriage is a public act *and* a social institution, you see marriage as an act that changes the social



world. Marriage creates obligations, and everyone in society has a responsibility to support each marriage. Americans today increasingly speak about marriage in both ways. Sometimes we talk about it as a sacred covenant, bigger than the couple. At other times, we privatize it and agree with Hillary Clinton when

she said, "I learned a long time ago that the only two people who count in any marriage are the two who are in it."

Viewing marriage as a private affair is objectively wrong. It is wrong by God's standard and after decades of research, we see the data matches God's truth.

Marriage is a public institution that transforms men and women unlike any other relationship next to their relationship with God. I believe we are called by God who created marriage to see it as a public good and to support the individual marriages around us.

Trips and Torches ~ Musings by Julaine K. Appling, CEO

Tips for "Torch Trips"

- ★ Start with a winner! Go somewhere you know your kids will enjoy.
- ★ Let the kids help you plan the trip.
- ★ Don't try to cram too much in.
- ★ Do your homework. Have everyone do some research on the destination. Then, have a great discussion en route!

Adapted from *How To Raise an American: 1776 Fun and Easy Tools, Tips, and Activities To Help Your Child Love This Country* by Myrna Blyth & Chriss Winston, p. 186.



There's Still Time!

WFC greatly appreciates those who have already filled out and returned our 2009 PARTNER SURVEY. If you haven't participated yet, would you please take a few minutes to do that? The information is very helpful to us! If you can't find your print copy, call us toll-free at 888-378-7395, and we'll mail you another one. The survey is also available online at www.wifamilycouncil.org/Survey_09.htm.

Some Survey Results To-Date

- ★ Top 3 issues identified as most important to respondents:
Abortion
Traditional marriage protection
Homosexual Agenda
- ★ 84.9% of respondents agree or totally agree school choice program like the one in Milwaukee should be available statewide
- ★ 95% agree or totally agree that Christians should be active in politics.



In 2000, my two like-sister friends and I headed out (via car) on our "Great Western Adventure." We had a blast! Most importantly, we saw a lot of and learned a great deal about America.

We stood in mute awe at Mount Rushmore. We toured the *Queen Mary*, the one-time luxury liner turned troop transport ship, that took my father and thousands of other young men to Europe during World War II.

We gazed in wonder and in gratitude to our Creator God at the natural beauty of the Rockies, Grand Tetons, and Sierra Nevadas. July 4th fireworks at the Grand Canyon was beyond incredible! That trip increased our love for and understanding of this country in ways nothing else could have.

The same traveling threesome is headed out again. This time, we're going east (via Niagara Falls) to Boston and points north—to the roots of this experi-

ment in liberty. We are excited about seeing first-hand the places we've read and studied about for years. Call it a field trip for grown ups!



Nothing replaces these real-life visits to historical places—close to home and far away. Recently I talked with a family with two teenagers and one junior-higher. These parents have done a fabulous job of making history come alive for their children. They are purposely passing the torch of patriotism to the next generation.

They watched the movie *Gettysburg*, and then went to see the real

thing. Their mom said they went to Pigeon Forge last year, the Wisconsin Dells of Tennessee, and the kids didn't like it. They asked if they could go back to Williamsburg or Gettysburg! They regularly visit Washington, D.C. and other historic places. Such trips foster in their children a love for America and its unique, God-blessed history.

At WFC, we believe we must all intentionally raise the next generation of patriots. We must pass the torch.

Visiting and exploring historical places is one great way to do that. For other ideas (including destination suggestions), check out the updated "Passing the Torch" page on wifamilycouncil.org. Why not plan a "torch trip" this summer for some youngsters in your life?

Miscellaneous Information and Updates

Testimonials about WFC

- ★ "They accurately reflect Biblical worldviews in public; teach truth regarding cultural & social issues; motivate many to take action in contacting legislators, etc."
- ★ "I believe they are defending my Christian beliefs."
- ★ "They are willing to make right choices in protection of family issues."
- ★ "I think you are a very important voice on the radio and in print. Keep up the good work!"
- ★ "I agree with WFC & appreciate being able to go there for information I can trust. You are so friendly & helpful!"

Madison Surgery Center Update

Although the Madison Surgery Center Board voted in February to approve late mid-term abortions, no abortions have been performed at the Center to date.

Wisconsin Right to Life ran three half-page ads opposing the late mid-term abortions in the *Wisconsin State Journal* last month (accessible at www.wrtl.org). Open records requests indicate officials at the Center will violate conscience rights of employees in an emergency resulting from an abortion. There is also evidence that UW officials are worried about an economic impact on their operation because of the decision to provide these largely elective abortions.

Pro-Life Wisconsin and Vigil for Life held a peaceful prayer vigil and demonstration against the abortion center on June 17 by Meriter Hospital, one of the owners of Madison Surgery Center. We've been informed that the vigil did not go unnoticed by Meriter, where, according to the obtained records, the CEO is paying very close attention to the situation.



Every day no abortions are performed at Madison Surgery Center means a baby saved from a horrific death and its mother saved from pain and regret in the years to come. Peaceful protests continue outside the Center on a regular basis. We continue to pray and stand against this horror in our city.

Invest in WFC

Help WFC represent your values in the media, culture and government and educate Wisconsin citizens on important cultural and legislative issues **with a financial donation.**

Gifts both small and large help in significant ways. Secure online donations can be made at www.wifamilycouncil.org. Or you can mail a check to the address below. Or call toll-free 888-378-7395 to make a credit card donation via phone.

Thank you for standing with us as we together strengthen and preserve marriage, family, life & liberty in Wisconsin!

State Budget Tidbits

- ★ Net property tax levies are projected to grow 5.7% in 2009-10 and 5.3% in 2010-11.
- ★ The state's structural "deficit" in 2011-12 could exceed \$1.1 billion.
- ★ Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance estimates state spending increases of between 9.8% and 11.2% over the next 2 years.

From *Focus*, 06/16/09, No. 10, a publication of Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

WFC Can Help You Bring The Truth Project® to Your Community!

WFC is now authorized by Focus on the Family as the Wisconsin coordinator for The Truth Project® (TTP), a small group, DVD-based, biblical worldview study. As a TTP coordinator, we are certified to conduct half-day leader training events

anywhere in Wisconsin.

These 4-5 hour events prepare you to lead your own TTP small-group and also sends you out with a set of the TTP DVDs—the fastest way there is to get this life-changing material!

Call WFC toll-free—today—at 888-378-7395 for more details and to schedule a TTP leader training event in your community!

"Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?"