

Strengthening & preserving marriage, family, life & liberty



Family News Connection

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2010

Legislation Quick-Look

☆AB 458: The "Unhealthy Youth Act" is now law, but the legal ramifications for schools trying to exercise their options remain unclear. WFA's looking into legal options and alternatives.

☆AB 653/SB 460: The State Senate passed the Expedited Partner Therapy bill, that allows physicians to prescribe drugs for sexually transmitted diseases without examining the individual he/she is prescribing the drug for, or even knowing the person's name. The Assembly could take up the bill for a full vote at any time.

☆AB 751/SB 549: The Assembly held a public hearing on the National Popular Vote bill, but the Senate has yet to do so. We've not seen any recent movement on the bill but we know several key Democrats don't support it.

☆SJR 62: The Senate Health Insurance Committee has yet to hold a public hearing on Sen. Leibham's Health Care Freedom Amendment. It looks like SJR 62 is stalled for now.

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WI's Health Care Freedom Amendment

Several Wisconsin legislators have introduced a constitutional amendment to preserve and protect our right to make our own decisions regarding health care services and health care insurance coverage. Sign our petition urging state legislators to support Sen. Joe Leibham and Rep. Robin Vos' Health Care Freedom Amendment (SJR 62) and urge others to join you! Go to wifamilyaction.org and click on *Current Issues*.

There's Nothing Popular About It

Mid-February, a number of Democrats and a few Republicans introduced a bill, AB 751, that would create a national popular vote for the U.S. presidency, essentially undermining the Electoral College.

AB 751 is part of a national effort to disenfranchise voters. Lobbyists from NationalPopularVote.com (NPV) have been lobbying for this bill in our State Capitol for over six months. Now it appears that the authors intended to rush this through before the end of the session. Just two days after AB 751 was introduced, the Assembly Elections Committee held a public hearing on the bill. That's fast-tracking!

The Electoral College, an election process created by the Founding Fathers and established in our Constitution, was a brilliant compromise between states with large populations and those with small populations. Each state is awarded a number of electoral votes for president based on state population and state sovereignty. States determine how to award their electoral votes. Wisconsin, like most states, awards its electoral votes to the candidate who wins the state's popular vote.

This bill signs Wisconsin onto an interstate compact with other states, pledging that our state's electoral

votes will go to the presidential candidate who wins, not the Wisconsin popular vote, but the national popular vote.

Fast-tracking a bill that would make seismic changes in our presidential election process is reprehensible. The Electoral College is a constitutional provision, and we have a procedure for amending the



Constitution. The reason NPV wants to avoid an amendment is because all previous attempts to amend the Electoral College have failed.

They failed because the Electoral College is a good system. It upholds state sovereignty and the balance of power between states and the federal government. It has helped maintain the stability of the transfer of power in the U.S. for all of our history.

Wisconsin Family Action took immediate action when we learned of the bill, alerting Wisconsin citi-

zens via email and radio. We're circulating a petition that reached almost 1,000 signatures in less than 48 hours, and continues to grow. We're encouraging concerned citizens to contact their legislators and urge them to oppose the bill.

So far, the response and the effect have been incredible. We heard from staffers that legislators' offices were taking dozens of calls on AB 751, and within days, all three Republican co-sponsors on the bill had withdrawn their names and their support.

Thank you for holding your elected officials accountable and for your efforts to contact them and weigh in on AB 751! ***Your involvement is the key to influencing legislators. To sign the petition, visit wifamilyaction.org and click on "Current Issues." Click on "Take Action" to email your State Representative.***

But we can't stop at contacting elected officials. We need to change *who* our elected officials are if we intend to stop such measures as this dangerous AB 751. We need to elect people whose worldview respects freedom and our form of government. ***For more information, see p. 2, [Elections—What You Can \(and Should\) Do.](#)***

A Must-Read for Dating Couples ~by Eric Skelton, Director of Marriage & Family Ministry

I'd like to share an excellent resource with you; David Gudgel's book *Before You Live Together*. If you want to give young people a life-saving resource, you should consider this book. Written for singles and dating or cohabiting couples, the book presents some stark realities derived from a wealth of cohabitation studies, as well as a thoughtful, biblical case for marriage.

In the first part of the book, Gudgel presents the case that cohabitation doesn't compare to marriage—on any level. He explains the

alarming cohabitation trends and statistics that most young folks have probably never heard. More importantly, however, the book outlines the physical, emotional and spiritual dangers of cohabitation.



Gudgel's analysis of cohabitation statistics and trends lays the groundwork for the remainder of the

book.

After presenting the social science "facts," Gudgel carefully and lovingly presents God's Truth on marriage. He educates and equips the reader in the spiritual truths of marriage and false alternatives.

Gudgel balances a persuasive, encouraging tone with speaking the truth directly to the reader. His purpose is to convince the reader of the pitfalls of cohabitation and the blessings and benefits of marriage, but he doesn't browbeat. Through gentle instruction, guidance and teaching, Gudgel points the reader to the Truth.

In the last chapter, Gudgel paints a wonderful picture of the beauty of a wedding when a couple follows God's plan. They know it, their family and friends know it, and together everyone gets to celebrate the marriage. I highly recommend this book for all dating couples.

In Search of Good Candidates ~Musings by Julaine K. Appling, President

The Truth Project® and TrueU®

★ True U: Wisconsin Family Council has copies available of "Does God Exist?," the first volume of True U, an apologetics DVD program designed specifically for high school juniors/seniors. Copies are available from WFC for a suggested donation of \$29.99 each (includes shipping & handling). Discount for orders of 5 or more copies. Email WFC or call 888-378-7395.



★ The Truth Project: Call WFC toll-free today at 888-378-7395 to learn how you can schedule a TTP leader training event in your church!



2010 Elections: Quick Look

We have 1 more primary election and 2 general elections left in Wisconsin this year. The Spring General Election is for non-partisan offices (e.g., county board, mayor, etc.) and the Fall Election is for partisan offices (e.g., governor, legislators, etc). All dates are Tuesdays.

- ★ April 6—Spring General
- ★ Sept. 14—Fall Primary
- ★ Nov. 2— Fall General

Visit our election central website, yourwisconsinvote.org closer to the elections for voter information, voter guides (Fall Primary and Fall General) and general election information.



Voting is incredibly important, but elections are about much more than the votes we cast.

Getting good people elected to office, at all levels, is hard work—and voting is just the culmination of all that work and, quite frankly, represents our minimum involvement.

As voters with the opportunity and responsibility to choose from among us individuals to rule over us, elections are both scary and exciting. The scary part is knowing whether the candidates we support will accurately represent our views, rights and values and will do so with integrity, determination and courage. The exciting part is the opportunity to help good candidates win.

Good candidates come in all shapes and sizes, from all sorts of backgrounds, from all walks of life. Good candidates aren't all that easy to find. However, good candidates do share important characteristics.

The criteria for determining a good candidate don't exactly fit what we

might consider the typical "politician" stereotype. We're looking for statesmen and stateswomen, individuals who know what's really important and want to make a difference.

We believe the following are important characteristics of good candidates:

1. **Character:** does the candidate have a reputation for being trustworthy, of being a person of his word?
2. **Integrity:** does the candidate abide by moral and ethical standards that are consistent with your values?
3. **Leader:** will the candidate take a firm stand and provide leadership on the issues that are important to you? Just voting right is not enough.
4. **Consensus builder:** does the candidate possess the persuasive abilities and personality to win over colleagues? Being prickly and difficult to work with is not helpful as an



elected official. You can't pass legislation unless you get a majority to vote with you.

5. **Courage:** does the candidate have the moral courage to take an unpopular but morally upright position and hold to it?

6. **Perseverance:** does the candidate have the commitment and foresight to run again if he/she loses this time?

7. **Articulate:** is the candidate an effective communicator, both in writing and in speaking?

8. **Worldview:** on what set of beliefs and values does the candidate operate? Are they consistent with a Christian worldview?

9. **Winner:** is the candidate running to win, and is he/she willing to do what it takes (ethically) to win? Each of us has a responsibility to help elect good candidates. As Christians, it's really part of our stewardship of the blessings we have in America.

Elections—What You Can (and Should) Do

Tuesday, April 6 is the Spring General Election. Because this is a non-partisan election, you may see an Appeals Court or Circuit Court, village or town board, city council, county board, school board, mayoral, or various other elected, municipal races, and perhaps a referendum on your ballot.

This is a crucial election for you, your family, your church and your local community. Every election has consequences, but local government has the biggest impact on our lives.

For example, school boards determine district policies and agendas—and the disciplines and values instilled in your community's children. A village board or city council sets the tone for a community—whether or not it is business-friendly, respectful of 1st Amendment rights, welcoming of Christian churches, schools and activities, taxpayer



friendly, tolerant of sexually-oriented business and a host of other things.

In every judicial race the stakes are high. We have a great advantage in Wisconsin in that we elect all of our judges. In our current political climate, courts are now the final battlegrounds for some of the most important issues facing our churches, families and communities.

Three Appeals Court seats are up for election April 6; District I, District II and District IV, as well as over 40 Circuit Court seats. Based on the county you live in, you may see a judicial race on your ballot.

We know the April 6 election will be an important one, **but voting is not enough.** You can get involved right now by helping the candidate of your choice with his/her campaign. Because it is typically difficult to find information about local candidates,

you might need to **call a few candidates and ask some questions** to find out if you can support them.

Once you've established that **relationship**, you can offer to **help out** with one or two campaign projects.

You can **deliver signs**, make **phone calls**, or commit to **talk to a dozen friends** about your candidate and **ask those friends to spread the word.** Offer to **hold a meet and greet** for the candidate.

For **more information and ideas** on how to find out who is running in your community and what you can do to help, visit our election website, yourwisconsinvote.org and click on the "Voter Information" tab.

Your values, freedoms, family, church and community are well worth the effort. We have the incredible opportunity to play a role in this election and protect the people and freedoms that matter to us. Sitting back after the election is over and moaning about who was elected doesn't do any good. Get involved!

"Healthy Youth Act" Update

Gov. Doyle signed AB 458, the "Unhealthy Youth Act" into law on Feb. 24. Because the new law makes drastic changes to former law and undermines local control, it comes as no surprise that at least one school district is looking to get around the bill. The West Allis district obtained a legal opinion from the WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) indicating they can continue their 2-track option, a comprehensive sex ed class and an elective abstinence-only class. The bill's authors claim that is illegal and DPI is waffling. WFA is looking into the situation and will update school districts and concerned citizens when we have answers from state and legal experts.

Make the Dream a Reality!

We invite you to partner with WFA this year as we together seek to make the *Imagine* dream a "family-friendly," amazing reality in Wisconsin.

We are seeking "Family Champions" who will pledge \$20-\$50 a month in 2010. This year will be action-packed, and you can play a major role in that action. Pledge today! Fill out and return the enclosed response slip, or visit wifamilyaction.org and click on "Contribute." Thank you for helping to make the dream a reality!