

# FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

August 8, 2004

The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix. FBA is on the web at <http://hrcc.exis.net>

## Marriage

"Neither the cultural problem (of [same-sex] marriage) nor its solution can be found in Washington.... Sufficiently large numbers of Americans either do not believe, or do not practice, what the Scriptures teach and cannot be made to do so through a constitutional amendment or any other law. Neither side will persuade the other of the correctness of its position, so it becomes a political power game. Perhaps if those pushing for a constitutional amendment better modeled what they preach for others, they might find more favor among secular powers. According to a survey by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life: 'The divorce ratio among members of evangelical churches is virtually the same as among non-church members; In the United States, 1 million children [have seen] their parents divorce; The majority of children in America have less than 10 minutes of significant and meaningful conversation with their parents each week. If you remove the mother, you can measure this statistic in seconds.' Conservative Christians could use an 'extreme makeover' to repair their own homes before they demand that others conform to a standard they themselves have trouble meeting." --Cal Thomas

## Four RINO's Defeated

In Kansas, a state that was recently just three votes short of passing a property tax, an income tax, and a sales tax increase, five Republicans who supported higher taxes were challenged in the primaries and four went down in flames, bit the dust, exited stage right. In Michigan, Leon Drolet, who an American for Tax Reform spokesman called "the taxpayers' best friend" won his primary with 62% of the vote against three challengers. Hummm.

John Taylor web site: [www.VirginiaInstitute.org](http://www.VirginiaInstitute.org)

## The People of Missouri Lead the Way on Marriage

Yesterday voters in Missouri voted overwhelmingly to protect marriage from activist judges by approving a state constitutional amendment by over 70 percent. Missouri is the first state to pass an amendment banning same-sex "marriage" since the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled to legalize it last fall. Citizens from all across the Show Me state have shown once again that when the people's voice is not muted by unelected judges they speak out soundly in support of marriage as it has traditionally been defined. Ed.



John Kerry decided on the new party slogan, "The Democratic Party -- love it or shove it!" Jay Leno

## Spending Like a Drunken Sailor

"Everybody complains about pork, but members of Congress keep spending because voters do not throw them out of office for doing so. The rotten system in Congress will change only when the American people change their beliefs about the proper role of government in our society. Too many members of Congress believe they can solve all economic problems, cure all social ills, and bring about worldwide peace and prosperity simply by creating new federal programs. We must reject unlimited government and reassert the constitutional rule of law if we hope to halt the spending orgy." --Rep. Ron Paul

**Comment:** My apologies to my navy buddies, but could you find time today and write to your electeds and complain loudly about the huge Federal Deficit. Ed.

## OPEN THE FLOODGATES

"President Bush yesterday(8/6/04) called on Congress to increase the number of Mexican immigrants allowed into the United States," reports the Washington Times this morning. The White House says it supports "a reasonable increase in the annual limit" of Mexican immigrants and criticizes Congress for not passing his amnesty proposal, blaming it on election-year politics.

I just do not understand the president's tin ear on this issue. We have somewhere around 8-10 MILLION illegals in this country right now...with no plan to enforce our existing immigration laws...and yet the president wants to INCREASE the number of Mexican immigrants allowed in the country? And at the same time, he doesn't understand why his conservative base isn't with him on this one?

If you'd like to try to explain it to the Bush-Cheney folks, here's their contact info:

[BushCheney04@GeorgeWBush.com](mailto:BushCheney04@GeorgeWBush.com); Phone: 703.647.2700; Fax: 703.647.2993

From <http://chuckmuth.com/newsandviews/nv.cfm>

**Comment:** I hate it that we are losing our country to an invasion of Mexicans, Chinese, Muslims, and all. We must get control of our borders, then round up and throw out the illegal aliens. We should immediately put a stop to taxpayer funding of everything from a college education to major elective surgery for illegals, all free. Write your elected today, complain loud and long. Ed.



## Education Funding

Recent political ads might make you think education is woefully under-funded, but numbers from the

Department of Education bring some much needed balance to that claim.

Department figures indicate the federal government's share of education funding is about 8 percent. That's an increase of more than a third since 1990. Eighty-three cents out of every dollar came from the state and local levels, reflecting the nation's "historic reliance on local control."

Meanwhile, the Education Department reports more than \$500 billion was spent on elementary and secondary education in the last school year. That includes money from local, state, federal and private sources, according to Tom McClusky, director of government affairs at the Family Research Council.

"Many automatically assume the answer to the problem is more federal tax dollars," McClusky said. "Yet, what we've seen over and over again, more spending certainly doesn't equal better education."

*CITIZENLINK, Aug. 6, 2004*

## **Eminent Domain Upheld VaBch Take Note**

**This Michigan case is very important for property rights and for restoring the use of eminent domain to its intended Constitutional function.**

### ***Landmark Eminent Domain Abuse Decision***

Michigan Supreme Court Halts Eminent Domain For "Economic Development" Court States Poletown Was "Erroneous"

Washington, D.C.-In a case with nationwide implications to halt the abuse of eminent domain, the Michigan Supreme Court last night reversed its infamous Poletown decision, which had allowed the condemnation of private property for so-called "economic development." In a unanimous decision, in *County of Wayne v. Hathcock*, issued at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 30, the Court decisively rejected the notion that "a private entity's pursuit of profit was a 'public use' for constitutional takings purposes simply because one entity's profit maximization contributed to the health of the general economy."

In the 1981 Poletown decision, the Michigan Supreme Court allowed the City of Detroit to bulldoze an entire neighborhood, complete with more than 1,000 residences, 600 businesses, and numerous churches, in order to give the property to General Motors for an auto plant. That case set the precedent, both in Michigan and across the country, for widespread abuse of the power of eminent domain. It sent the signal that courts would not interfere, no matter how private the purpose of the taking. But in *Hathcock*, the Court called Poletown a "radical departure from fundamental constitutional principles." "We overrule Poletown," the Court wrote, "in order to vindicate our constitution, protect the people's property rights and preserve the legitimacy of the judicial branch as the expositor, not creator, of fundamental law."

According to Dana Berliner, an attorney with the Institute for Justice, which filed a brief in the *Hathcock* case, the case has profound nationwide implications. "Poletown was the first major case allowing condemnation

of areas in the name of jobs and taxes. It is cited in every property textbook in the country. The Court literally rewrote the book with this decision," said Berliner.

The use of eminent domain for private development has become increasingly common throughout the United States. According to *Public Power, Private Gain*, authored by Berliner, there were 10,000 properties either taken or threatened with eminent domain for private parties in the U.S. between 1998 and 2002. And state supreme courts from Nevada to Connecticut have relied on the Poletown decision when upholding the condemnation of land for private parties.

"Poletown gave cities and developers an incentive to make outrageous, wildly inflated predictions of the impact of the project," explained Scott Bullock, senior attorney at the Institute for Justice. "It was the worst possible incentive. The Poletown project itself also didn't come close to living up to the promises. In all likelihood, it destroyed more jobs than it created."

"The Poletown decision gave cities the green light to take property for private parties," said Chip Mellor, president and general counsel of the Institute for Justice. "It was a terrible mistake. Now, the Michigan upreme Court has restored the rights of all Michiganders to keep their homes and businesses, even if another, politically connected private business wants them. This is a great day for property rights nationwide."

The *Hathcock* decision is available at:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Clerk/Opinions-03-04-Term/124070.pdf> From The Tuesday Morning Group, Richmond, VA.

***"We sleep soundly in our beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf." - Winston Churchill***

### **Some Phone numbers:**

**Senator Allen is 518-1674; 202-224-4024**

**Senator Warner is 441-3079; 202-224-2023**

**Cong. Ed. Schrock, 497-6859; 202-225-4215**

**Cong. Randy Forbes 547-1000, 202-225-6365**

## ***The Armed Citizen***

Three men entered the Mount Vernon Liquor store in Colton, California, and attempted to rob the store. One man jumped over the counter and approached the owner's mother, who was standing there. Fearing his mother would be shot, the owner, Mr. Lee, fired at the bandits, striking all three. Police arrived to find one of the suspects dead in the doorway. His two accomplices were apprehended and taken to a hospital for treatment. No one else in the store was injured. Despite that robbery and one the previous year, the Lees said they planned to keep the store open as they felt an obligation to their community. (*The Sun*, San Bernardino, CA, OS/25/04)

*Everyone needs some time off...I will be out of town next week and so, cannot write the FBA.  
Ed.*