

March 2010

Dear Family Council Friend,

It appears that we will have a record number of candidates file to run for office this year. During the week-long filing period, I spent quite a bit of time at the State Capitol. Every day, I returned to the office with stories—some of them humorous, some that were sobering, and others that would make you mad. I decided to compile those stories into a fun little publication called *The View from Here*. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

## **The View From Here**

*Political Observations, Stories, and Humor by Jerry Cox*

### **Bill Halter Changes the Political Landscape**

Ever see one of those stories where some poor guy accidentally drives his car through a storefront because he got the gas pedal confused with the brake. That's how Arkansas' political world felt the day Bill Halter announced he would be running for the U.S. Senate. Things were going pretty smoothly for Democrats until Bill Halter decided to shake things up. The day he announced his intentions to vacate the Lieutenant Governor's office to run against Blanche Lincoln for U.S. Senate there was both rejoicing and weeping throughout the land. Mixed with a little tongue-in-cheek humor, here's how he shook things up.

- Senator Blanche Lincoln: Weeping. Now she will have to campaign hard and spend a big portion of her political war chest to defeat Halter in the Democratic Primary.
- Republicans Running for the U.S. Senate: Rejoicing. They're hoping that Halter will mortally wound Lincoln, or vice versa, in a bloody primary, making one of them easy to defeat in November—unless the Republicans mortally wound one another in their own primary election bloodbath.
- Senator Shane Broadway: Rejoicing. Now he gets to run for Lieutenant Governor and if he wins this time, he can make a run for Governor in 4 years against Attorney General Dustin McDaniel.
- Mark Darr (Republican and Rogers businessman running for Lieutenant Governor): Weeping. He expected to run against an incumbent Lt. Gov. Halter. Now he has to face Senator Shane Broadway, who never met a TV camera he didn't like.
- Attorney General Dustin McDaniel: Weeping. If Broadway becomes Lt. Gov. look for him to make McDaniel's run for Governor in 2014 a lot tougher.
- Bill Halter: Rejoicing. MoveOn.org (George Soros) has raised over \$1 million to help Halter get started running for the U.S. Senate.
- Andrew Demillo (Writer for Associated Press): Weeping. Halter's announcement that he was running for the Senate came so early in the morning that Demillo had to write the AP story in his pajamas.
- Halter's Old Football Coach: Rejoicing. He gets to star in more of Halter's TV ads.
- Kroger: Rejoicing. That grocery store where Halter worked as a kid gets more free advertising.

### **Jim Keet Keeps Governor Mike Beebe Out of Political Mischief**

There's nothing like having a worthy challenger to keep an incumbent politician focused on his own future. Imagine holding elected office for over 25 years and having only one contested race—thus is the charmed political life of Governor Mike Beebe. It appeared that the charm might be working once again until former State Senator and Little Rock businessman, Jim Keet decided to run for Governor as a Republican against Beebe. Keet is well-connected in the business community and should be able to raise enough money to

get Beebe's attention. In the past, Governors who run unopposed have been free to apply their political influence toward helping their favorite candidates. Now that Keet is challenging Beebe, maybe we will see less political meddling on the part of the Governor and more attention on his own political matters.

### **Hair Raising Experiences**

I ran into my friend Debi Steppach at Jim Keet's campaign kickoff. She asked me if I was putting any coloring on my hair. I told her no and proceeded to ask her the same question she had just asked me. She and the other ladies there let me know very quickly that there is a double standard when it comes to questions about hair color. It seems that what is good for the gander isn't good for the goose. The next day, I had the privilege of videotaping an interview with Senator Joyce Elliott, candidate for Second District Congress. Joyce and I attended college together at Southern State College in Magnolia, back in—well, let's just say a few years ago. When I mentioned that fact to some of the other folks in the room, Joyce joked and said, Yea, back then, one of us had a fro. We never told them which one of us that was, but I can tell you that my hairdo back then looked a lot like a helmet. I did fail to tell them that Joyce was the one with all the pictures in the yearbook, while I was relegated to the back pages in the class section.

### **God Gives Senator Randy Laverty a New Lease on Life**

My friend, Senator Randy Laverty of Jasper is a new man since receiving a liver transplant last summer. He credits the faith of his wife and God's intervention for his recovery. Last summer things looked pretty bleak. Randy told me that he was preparing to die until the faith of his wife kicked in. The two of them prayed together and in a little over a day, at 12:15 a.m., their phone rang with the news that a donor organ had been secured. After making the drive from Jasper, Randy found himself at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock being prepped for surgery at 4 a.m. About four hours later he had a new liver and a new lease on life. Eight months later he is about 100 pounds thinner with a big smile on his face.

### **Does Bill Halter Believe Methodists and Baptists are Special Interest Groups?**

I've been asked about Lieutenant Governor Bill Halter's recent comments stating that it was "special interest groups" that opposed his state-run lotteries amendment. His comments were made within the context of his claim that passing the lottery amendment required him to stand up to special interest groups who opposed the lottery. I would like to know which special interest groups he had to stand up to. Was it the Methodist Church? They opposed the lottery. Was it the Baptists? They opposed it. Or was it the Church of Christ? They opposed it too. Maybe he is talking about us, Family Council. But even we hardly fit the definition of a special interest group. After all, a special interest group is one that stands to gain personally from some activity. Those of us who opposed the lottery had nothing personal to gain except the satisfaction of protecting the poor from state-run gambling. We would have been better off financially not to have opposed it. If caring about the poor, the children, and families is a special interest, I guess we're guilty as charged. On the other hand, the AFLCIO, a "special interest" labor union was a chief proponent of the lottery. The Lieutenant Governor stood proudly on the Capitol steps and embraced their help during the campaign. That's not to mention the "special interest" companies making huge financial profits printing tickets and helping run the lottery. By the way, let's not forget that our \$324,000 a year lottery director and both of his \$225,000 a year lieutenants were all formerly employed by the lottery in South Carolina. It looks like they took "special interest" in fattening their own personal bank accounts by being among the highest-paid lottery officials in the nation. I wish the Lieutenant Governor and our lawmakers would stand up to them.

I know we say it every election year, "This is the most critical election of our lifetime." Well, this one probably is. Can you think of one more significant? Other than possibly 1980, the year Ronald Reagan was elected, I can't think of one. The other day, I wrote a letter to some of our financial supporters. I decided what I said in that letter was worth repeating. If you've already read it, please skip on down to the other parts of this letter. If you haven't read some of my thoughts and read about what we are planning to do this year. Here is what I wrote a few days ago.

A while back, I told my fifteen-year-old son that the current crop of leaders in Washington may be the most incompetent group of people to ever run the Government. Riding a wave of hope, Barack Obama promised us change we could believe in. A year after he took office, here is how it looks.

He and his allies in Congress have squandered billions of our tax dollars on "bailouts" while our economy flounders and the national debt explodes. Ignoring the will of the people, the President and Congress

seem as determined as ever to force us to swallow our own bitter dose of healthcare reform. He and his friends have disregarded human life by lifting the ban on government-funded stem-cell research on live human embryos. They are rushing headlong toward allowing homosexuals to openly serve in the military, by repealing the “don’t ask don’t tell” policy. Recently, Congress took the first step toward silencing anyone who criticizes homosexuality when they passed “hate-crimes” legislation.

They’ve sat on their hands while over twelve million illegal immigrants walk our streets. Last June, just down the street from my house in Little Rock, an Islamic terrorist gunned down two American soldiers in the name of Allah. It took the President two days to issue a statement of “limp” concern over the first successful terror attack in the U.S. since 9/11. It took only 5 hours for him to condemn the killing of a Kansas abortion doctor. What this administration is doing is bad, and what they believe is down-right frightening.

We don’t have to stand by and let them ruin our nation. Change for the better is within our grasp if we will reach out, take hold of it, and do something! Let me tell you what we’re doing and how you can help.

**Distributing Half a Million Voter’s Guides:** We are going to help the voters of Arkansas make wise choices regarding who they send to Washington. For the first time in over 20 years, a U.S. Senate seat and four U.S. House seats are literally up for grabs in Arkansas. Arkansas is a red (conservative) state, but our representatives in Congress don’t always vote conservatively. This will change when people vote for candidates who reflect their conservative values. For twenty years, we’ve produced Arkansas’ top voter’s guide, and this year we’re making it a lot better. We’re expanding our online edition to include voting records of incumbents. Our brand new “CandidateVoice” addition will feature video interviews with federal candidates answering questions about issues like abortion, healthcare, and illegal immigration. Where else will you get this kind of valuable information?

**Defending Act One (The Arkansas Adoption and Foster Care Act) Against a Lawsuit by the ACLU:** You and I worked too hard to let the ACLU and their New York lawyers steal the great victory won in 2008. Fifty-seven percent of Arkansas voters decided to protect adoptive and foster children by passing Act One. The ACLU couldn’t defeat us at the polls, so they’re trying to strike down this good law in court. Our staff attorney, Martha Adcock, and her assistant, Sarah Bean, are working alongside the Alliance Defense Fund and the Arkansas Attorney General’s office to defeat this effort by the ACLU. Please pray that God will give us victory when we go to court on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We’ve already spent hundreds of man-hours and thousands of dollars defending Act One, but it is worth every bit of it. This case will likely go all the way to the Arkansas Supreme Court. We need funding to carry this work through to completion, and we are counting on you and our other friends across the state to help us.

**Ensuring that Parents Can Exercise Their Right to Home School:** In 2009, Rep. David Cook introduced a bill in the Arkansas Legislature that infringed on the rights of parents to home school. With the help of dedicated home schoolers across the state, this bill was stopped. Now the Arkansas Legislature is conducting a series of meetings to study home schooling and explore possible changes in the home school law. One meeting has been held with more to come. The only way to ensure that home schoolers are treated fairly is for us to speak up at every meeting, and that’s exactly what we intend to do. The Education Alliance is a division of Family Council, and its success is vital to home schooling. Every dollar you give to Family Council helps the Education Alliance and vice versa.

**A Voice of Reason on the News and In the Newspaper:** Aren’t you glad when a sensible, well-reasoned voice counters the liberal view in the news? We are pleased to be a strong, conservative voice in Arkansas. When the “free-thinkers” (atheists) filed suit and attacked the nativity on the grounds of the state capitol, we spoke up. Now that the lottery has gotten out of hand, more and more of our predictions about it have come true, and people know it. Time and time again, we’ve exposed the myths of liberalism and lifted up truths that are based on the Scriptures. Your support empowers us to proclaim God’s truth to people who need His light.

**Serving You and Keeping You Informed:** If you need our help, you can call on us. For 20 years, we’ve been here for you. Even if you don’t call, we’re helping you just the same by defeating bills that would have hurt you and your family; passing laws that may someday protect your unborn grandchildren; enacting laws that make the state find better homes for foster and adoptive children; and ensuring that marriage will always be the union of a man and a woman. Update letters, e-mail alerts, helpful websites, online videos, live-streaming of meetings, and daily blogs are there for you and the people of Arkansas, free of charge.

## Two of Seven State Supreme Court Positions Up for Grabs

**Order Voter's Guides Today!**

**Family Council Needs Your Financial Support**

Our staff, Martha Adcock, Melissa Savary, Jill Wait, David Cox, Tara Bond, Josh Mesker, Sarah Bean, Lauren Sivewright, and I are all here for you—every day. Whether we are lobbying the Arkansas Legislature, producing voter's guides, conducting media interviews, or providing advice over the phone, our work all flows into the mission of promoting, protecting, and strengthening traditional family values.

As you reflect on the important work we do for you and the people of Arkansas, I ask that you consider making a generous donation to help us. **If possible, please consider a tax-deductible gift to help us at this time.** If you have been blessed with the ability to give more, please do so. If you need to give less, please know that I always appreciate any gift you can give. No gift is too small. I am grateful for your support, your kind words, and your prayers.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox  
President

# Family Council Voter's Guide 2010

*ArkansasVotersGuide.com*

May 18<sup>th</sup> Primary Elections

November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election

**Bad politicians are sent to Little Rock and Washington, D.C. by good people who don't vote.**

**But simply voting isn't enough. Each of us has a responsibility to vote wisely. Knowing where each candidate stands on social, moral, and economic issues is vital to voting wisely. This is why the Family Council Voter's Guide is so important.**

For 20 years, Family Council has been Arkansas' leading source of non-partisan candidate information. By surveying where candidates stand on social, moral, and economic issues, we provide voters with a unique view of which candidates share their values. We publish the results of those surveys in our voter's guide. Most people want to know if a candidate is pro-life or pro-choice. They want to know if a candidate is for or against same-sex marriage. They want to know where the candidate stands on health care reform, taxes, immigration, gun control, and a number of other issues. The Family Council voter's guide provides those answers.

In addition to voting wisely, you need to help your fellow church members, friends, neighbors, and family vote wisely as well. Many of your friends who share your values are still voting based on political party, name recognition, or the candidate's appearance or speaking ability. Too many voters have no idea where candidates stand on the major social and moral issues of our day. By helping your friends and fellow church members see the truth about where candidates stand on the issues, you can make a big difference.

## Family Council Voter's Guides: 2010

**1. Printed Voter's Guides for Distribution in Churches and Elsewhere:** There's just something about the printed word on paper. You can pass it around, photocopy it, carry it in your pocket or purse, or post it on a bulletin board. For 20 years, our printed voter's guide has been the mainstay of our voter's guide effort. This year, we look forward to distributing half a million of these guides in churches and elsewhere across the state. Order your guides for your church today!

**2. ArkansasVotersGuide.com:** *Your online source of candidate information.* Beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>, our expanded voter's guide will be just a few clicks away at ArkansasVotersGuide.com. In addition to basic information about where candidates stand on issues like abortion, homosexuality, taxes, and illegal immigration, our online guide provides much more:

- Voting records of incumbent candidates.
- Expanded candidate comments section with more information about where candidates stand on issues.
- Summaries of ballot proposals.
- Information about judicial candidates running for the Arkansas Supreme Court.
- Free look-up features: Just type in your mailing address to see which state and federal candidates will appear on your ballot.
- State and federal party platforms for Democrats, Republicans, and Green Party.
- Video interviews of candidates vying for federal office. Watch our new online video voter's guide featuring face-to-face interviews with the candidates on the issues.

# The Elections of 2010: How You Can Change Things for the Better

The elections this year present great opportunities. In Arkansas, we have the opportunity to vote on one U.S. Senate seat, every U.S. House seat, every Arkansas House seat, a big portion of the Arkansas Senate, two Arkansas Supreme Court positions, and state-wide offices ranging from Governor and Lt. Governor, all the way down to Land Commissioner.

Opportunities are wonderful, but we have to take advantage if them while we can. Here is how you can take advantage of this pivotal election year.

## **Persuade the leaders of your church to help the members of your church learn more about the candidates running for office.**

- Order Family Council voter's guides for distribution in your church.
- Promote the Family Council Voters guide by making announcements to your congregation including announcements from the pulpit and in your church bulletin or other printed material.
- Promote ArkansasVotersGuide.com, our expanded online voter's guide that will provide more information than the printed guide.

## **Promote ArkansasVotersGuide.com to everyone on your e-mail and Facebook list.**

- E-mail the link to ArkansasVotersGuide.com to everyone on your personal e-mail list.
- Talk about ArkansasVotersGuide.com to your friends.
- If you are part of any social networking sites like Facebook, promote ArkansasVotersGuide.com to your friends there as well.

## **Reach your entire community by raising money to place the voter's guide in your local newspaper.**

- Get the price of a half-page ad in your local newspaper.
- Raise tax-deductible donations to Family Council to cover the cost of placing the voter's guide in your local paper.
- Family Council will supply your newspaper with a high-quality half-page voter's guide ready for them to print.

## **Order Family Council voter's guides and give them away.**

- Pass them out at civic clubs like Lions, Rotary, and others.
- Give them to your fellow workers.
- Get permission to pass them out at community events like festivals, gun shows, and other gatherings.
- Pass them out at campaign gatherings when candidates draw a crowd in your community.

## **Use the information in the voter's guide for your blog, Facebook, or twitter.**

- Create a Facebook page or group linking people to our online guide.
- Blog about what you learn from reading the voter's guide and link people to our online guide.
- Send twitter updates using information from the voter's guide and link people to our online guide.

## **Four Other Great Ways to Use the Family Council Voters Guide**

- Encourage your friends to read the Democratic and Republican party platforms in our online guide.
- Type in your address and see which state and federal candidates will appear on your ballot.
- Check out voting records of incumbent candidates featured in our online guide.
- Learn more about judicial candidates running for Arkansas Supreme Court.

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## **Order Form: Family Council Voters Guide *ArkansasVotersGuide.com***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ (No shipping to P.O. boxes)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church or organization where guides will be distributed \_\_\_\_\_

Please Send Me \_\_\_\_\_ (number of guides) for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Primary Elections.

Please Send Me \_\_\_\_\_ (number of guides) for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the work of Family Council.

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