

May 2010

Dear Friends,

President Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury, William E. Simon, is credited with saying "*Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote.*" I might also add that bad politicians are sent to Washington not only by good people who don't vote, but by good people who vote foolishly.

Noah Webster, a name synonymous with dictionaries since 1828, said it this way:

"When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this Duty; if the citizens neglect their Duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the Laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizen will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine Commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the Laws. Intriguing men can never safely be trusted."

Dr. Del Tackett does a great job of explaining Webster's comments:

Notice that Noah lists the consequences of electing "bad" men to public office:

1. They will corrupt government;
2. They will make laws, not for the general welfare, but for "selfish or local purposes";
3. They will appoint other corrupt men to execute their laws;
4. They will squander the citizens' taxes upon those who are unworthy;
5. They will violate the citizens' rights.

Notice, also, where he points the finger—not to the bad rulers, but to those who foolishly neglected the "Divine Commands" and voted them into office (or sat back and let them obtain office). I found it interesting that he closes with a comment about "intriguing men." His insight is fascinating. The focus shouldn't be on how "intriguing" someone is, but whether their character will lead them to rule rightly—in the "fear of God".

Here is Your Free 2010 Primary Election Voter's Guide

What better way for you to start your journey toward electing qualified candidates than by reading about them in the Family Council Voter's Guide? Enclosed is the finest Primary Election Voter's Guide we've ever produced. A record number of candidates (72%) completed our survey, and are featured in this guide. In addition to all U.S. Senate and U.S. House races, it features all races for the Arkansas Legislature, races for statewide office, and races for the Arkansas Supreme Court. Please note that unopposed candidates in the May primary are not featured in the guide.

- Use this guide to help determine which candidates you want to vote for.
- Order copies of this guide for people in your church, Sunday School class, or other group.
- Go to: www.ArkansasVotersGuide.com to see which ones will appear on your ballot.
- Spread the word about this Voter's Guide by sharing it with your friends.
- Send a generous tax-deductible donation to help print and distribute these voter's guides.

Act One Lawsuit to be Appealed to Arkansas Supreme Court

Pulaski County Circuit Judge, Chris Piazza struck down Act One, the Arkansas Adoption and Foster Care Act, on April 16th. With one stroke of his pen, he overrode the votes of over half a million Arkansans. He put children in harms way by catering to the wishes of adults rather than protecting child welfare. He gave the ACLU the victory they couldn't win at the polls in a fair election. Not only is Judge Piazza's ruling wrong from a moral point of view, but it is unsound from a legal and constitutional point of view as well. Here is why his ruling is constitutionally unsound, and here is why we are appealing this case to the Arkansas Supreme Court:

Since the welfare of children comes first, there is no fundamental right to adopt a child or be a foster parent. Both are statutory-created privileges, not fundamental rights. Judge Piazza ruled that Act One violates the privacy of cohabiting adults, and that it discriminates against homosexuals by "targeting a politically unpopular group." He is wrong because he ignores the fact that children who are wards of the state have rights also. Historically, adoption and foster care laws have been written to protect the rights of children—the right to a home that provides them with the greatest chance of success. Judge Piazza's ruling ignores this fact. Following his line of reasoning, almost none of our current adoption or foster care laws could stand, since they all exclude some segment of society from being able to adopt or serve as a foster parent. For example, current Arkansas law prevents the placement of foster children in homes where cigarettes are smoked. Individuals above a certain age are also excluded from adopting a child. And the list goes on.

Judge Piazza could have upheld the right of the people of Arkansas to pass a law, but he chose to side with the ACLU. Judge Piazza could have ruled to protect the welfare of children, but he sided with gay and straight adults who cohabit. Our final option is to appeal this case to the Arkansas Supreme Court, and that is what we, along with the Attorney General and the Alliance Defense Fund, are doing.

I believe the team of lawyers defending Act One defeated the ACLU in every area—except in the mind of Judge Piazza. We out-worked the ACLU. We out-litigated them. Our findings were more compelling, and our witnesses were better. While it is discouraging to lose after winning in every way, we have great hope that the Arkansas Supreme Court will rule in favor of the adoptive and foster children in Arkansas.

Family Council Needs Your Financial Support

We've been so busy defending Act One and producing this year's Voter's Guide that we've not taken time to raise the money necessary to do this work. Our bank account is beginning to show it. This is why I am asking you to consider a generous, tax-deductible gift to help us continue our defense of the Arkansas Adoption and Foster Care Act, and help us distribute Voter's Guides for the upcoming May 18th election.

If possible, please consider a generous tax-deductible gift of \$50 to help us. If you have been blessed with the ability to give more, please do so. If you can't give that much, please give any gift you can give at this time. Large or small, I deeply appreciate any gift you can give.

Please let me know if we can do anything for you. May God richly bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox
President

P.S. Noon on May 12th is the deadline for ordering voter's guides for the May 18th Primary. Call (501) 375-7000. Also, please remember that it is your faithful financial support that enables us to serve you and the people of Arkansas. I have provided a return envelope for your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you soon.