



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

INSIDE:

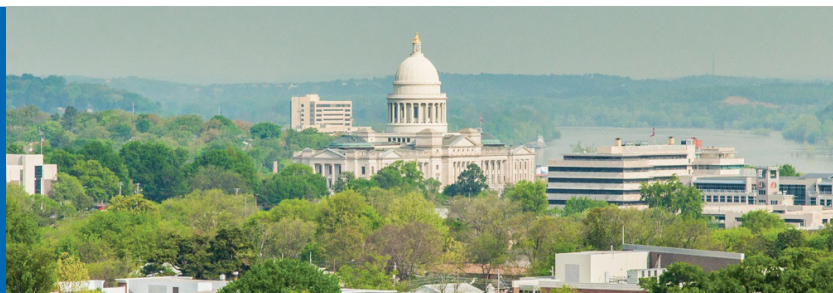
—
**The Best Way to
Oppose Abortion**

—
**Term Limits
Amendment
Certified for Ballot**

—
**Policy Points:
Unpacking the
Proposed Casino
Amendment**

—
**Pre-Order Copies of
the Arkansas Voter's
Guides**

—
& MORE



**SEPTEMBER 2018
UPDATE LETTER**

DEAR FRIENDS,

“Jerry, turn the TV on!”

That’s what Family Council Staff Attorney Martha Adcock shouted when I picked up the phone at home on July 16, 1996. As the television flickered to life, my family and I saw footage of then-Governor Jim Guy Tucker standing in front of the Capitol Building while news reporters talked about his impending resignation. Gov. Tucker had been convicted of fraud and conspiracy in the infamous Whitewater scandal, and he planned to resign from the Governor’s Office in order to focus on appealing his conviction.

I jumped in my car and made a beeline for downtown. Everything about Governor Tucker’s planned resignation had changed, and the situation at the Capitol Building was going sideways. At the last second, Governor Tucker changed his mind. He rescinded his resignation, and his staff hastily announced he would take an extended leave of absence instead of quitting his elected office completely.

Hundreds of legislators, staff members, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and onlookers had gathered to witness state history as a sitting governor resigned amid scandal and a Lt. Governor was sworn in as Governor of Arkansas. When it became clear Governor Tucker wouldn’t be resigning, that crowd turned into a mob. I watched as outraged legislators—Republicans and Democrats both—stormed the halls of the Capitol Building, demanding the governor’s resignation. The state Attorney General—a Democrat—filed a petition in state court to have Mr. Tucker removed from office based on his criminal conviction.

When it became clear Governor Tucker would be impeached if he did not resign, he relented. He tendered his resignation from office that evening. Shortly thereafter, my friend Mike Huckabee was sworn in as Governor of Arkansas. In the middle of this political firestorm, Mr. Huckabee called for “calm and courage.” I knew Mr. Huckabee well before he became Governor—back when most folks just called him “Mike.” In 1992, Mike lost a U.S. Senate bid against incumbent Sen. Dale Bumpers. However, the Lt. Governor’s Office became open, and Mike won a special election for it the following year. Not very many people thought too much of it at the time, but that special election—coupled with Jim Guy Tucker’s resignation less than three years later—catapulted Mike Huckabee from a Baptist church’s pulpit in Arkadelphia to the Governor’s Office in Little Rock. Moreover, Arkansas voters passed a constitutional amendment instituting term limits in 1992, and that forced a lot of state legislators—some of whom were very liberal and had been in office for decades—out of politics during Gov. Huckabee’s ten-year tenure. Talk about change!

In 1991 no one would have predicted the changes that were coming, but by 1995 the political landscape in Arkansas was completely different. By 2001 it had changed even more. I won’t say I’ve seen it all, but in 30 years of lobbying, I’ve seen a lot. I’ve seen legendary statesmen come and go. I’ve seen conservative, Christian lawmakers corrupted by lust for money and power, and I’ve seen legislators with a reputation of showing up drunk at committee meetings find Jesus. One of the challenges everyone faces at the Capitol is rolling with the punches and understanding the political climate. It’s always changing, and you never know where you’ll be this time next year. But one thing that can never change is our commitment to biblical truth. Family Council is constantly on the lookout for new ways to share timeless principles in an ever-changing environment. And now let me tell you a little more about how you’re helping us do that—and about what we have planned for the coming months.

414 S. Pulaski St., Suite 2 • Little Rock, AR 72201 • 501-375-7000 • info@familycouncil.org



Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: THE BEST WAY TO OPPOSE ABORTION

Since 1984, I've seen a lot of different tactics and strategies employed in the struggle to end abortion. I've seen pro-lifers wave massive posters of bloody, aborted babies at passersby on the streets and sidewalks. I've seen abortion facilities vandalized and their doors chained shut. I've seen women screamed at as they walked into abortion clinics. If I thought any of these tactics would end abortion, I might support them. However, most people confronted with a screaming protester or the image of an aborted baby simply turn away, and folks who vandalize abortion clinics end up sitting in a jail cell while abortionists play the part of the victim and go right back to killing unborn children. There is a better way to oppose abortion. This month pro-life Arkansans will gather to pray outside abortion clinics as part of the semi-annual 40 Days for Life campaign. 40 Days for Life started just fourteen years ago, but its impact has been

tremendous. Every spring and fall, pro-lifers spend 40 days praying abortion will end, and every year we hear stories of clinics closed, lives saved, and abortionists converted. Pro-life laws are important, and we need judges that affirm the sanctity of human life, but I am increasingly convinced the best way everyday people can end abortion is through godly prayer. Keep reading this letter to learn more about 40 Days for Life.

Term Limits Amendment Certified for Ballot

On August 3, Secretary of State Mark Martin certified petition signatures from a citizen's group for term limits. The measure is slated for the November 2018 General Election ballot as Issue 3. In a letter last March, I said that the term limits amendment being proposed for the ballot this November would put Arkansas' term limits law back to the way things were prior to the passage of a law that extended legislative terms in 2014. I wrote that letter when my understanding of the current proposed term limits amendment was incomplete. Here is what I have learned about the proposed term limits amendment.

This year's term limits amendment differs from the term limits law that was in place from 1992 to 2014 in the following ways:

1. Similar to the old term limits law, it lets people serve 6 years in the Arkansas House or 8 years in the Arkansas Senate. It differs from the old law, because it limits a person's total years of service in the legislature to no more than 10 years. This means that a person could serve 6 years in the House and 4 years in the Senate. They could serve 8 years in the Senate and 2 years in the House. They could serve any combination that totaled 10 years or less.
2. The amendment also adds a provision prohibiting the legislature from doing what they did in 2014, which was to propose legislation giving themselves more years in office. Under the new amendment, the legislature is prohibited from making any changes to the term limits amendment or referring any changes to a vote of the people. The people would still be able to circulate petitions and place any change or repeal of the term limits amendment on the ballot.

In 2014, the Arkansas Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment extending the total number of years they could serve to 16 years, with the possibility of serving all of that time in one house. That same amendment contained ethics provisions designed to prohibit gifts from lobbyists, and it established processes for setting lawmakers' salaries. The measure was widely criticized, because many voters did not understand the nature of the amendment based on its popular name that appeared on the ballot. It was listed on the ballot as "The Arkansas Elected Officials Ethics, Transparency, and Financial Reform Amendment of 2014." Many voters did not know that the measure increased the number of terms lawmakers could serve or that it would affect lawmakers' salaries. The 2014 measure passed with

This year's proposed term limits amendment does not affect lawmaker's salaries or the provisions regarding gifts to lawmakers.

53% of the vote. This year's proposed term limits amendment does not affect lawmaker's salaries or the provisions regarding gifts to lawmakers.

After proposed ballot measures are certified by the Secretary of State, they can be challenged in court for deficiencies in the ballot title or improper gathering of signatures. If enough deficiencies are found, the Arkansas Supreme Court could order the measure removed from the ballot or issue an order that votes on the measure not be counted. As of this writing, no challenges have been filed in court.

Do This to Help End Abortion

This September pro-life Arkansans will gather for peaceful prayer outside abortion facilities.

The prayer vigils are part of the 40 Days for Life campaign. All across the country, Americans will join together praying that abortion will end.

40 Days for Life will begin on September 26, and it will last until November 4. Volunteers will take turns praying outside abortion facilities from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM throughout the day. Leaders are looking for churches who will each recruit enough volunteers to cover one or more days during the 40 days. Typically, a volunteer will pray for only one hour outside the abortion facility, so it takes at least 12 volunteers to cover an entire day. These gatherings are not rallies or protests. They are peaceful assemblies for prayer and reflection—and they work. Every year we hear stories from other states of abortion clinics shut down and abor-



tion workers coming to Christ in the wake of a 40 Days for Life prayer campaign. We want Arkansas to be next.

This is your opportunity to help us end abortion, and all you have to do is pray. People in central Arkansas can learn more about 40 Days for Life by contacting Toni Blackwell at 501-650-2993 or 40DaysForLifeLittleRock@gmail.com. In Northwest Arkansas, you can learn more about 40 Days for Life by contacting Sheila Pursell at 469-231-1959 or 40DaysNWA@gmail.com.



POLICY POINTS: UNPACKING THE PROPOSED CASINO AMENDMENT

By David Cox

Groups are circulating petitions to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot authorizing four casinos in Arkansas. As of this writing they are still collecting petition signatures, but we expect the casino amendment to make the ballot this November. Family Council has consistently opposed gambling in Arkansas for more than 20 years, and this amendment is no exception. With that in mind, here is what you need to know about the proposed casino amendment that you will likely see when you head to the polls in a couple of months.

- **Four Casinos:** The amendment converts the racetracks in Hot Springs and West Memphis into full casinos. Up until now the tracks have offered horse or greyhound racing as well as "electronic games of skill" that look and function more or less like casino games. The amendment also authorizes a casino in or near Pine Bluff in Jefferson County and a casino in or near Russellville in Pope County. Altogether, Arkansas will have four casinos under this amendment.
- **Sports Betting and Other Gambling:** The amendment lets casinos engage in any kind of gambling, including cards, dice, electronic devices, and sports betting. The

U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on sports betting means the casinos would be free to take bets on any ballgame or sporting event, from Razorback football games to the World Series. Because the amendment specifically authorizes sports betting, there's nothing the Arkansas Legislature can do to regulate or stop it.

- **Alcohol 24/7:** The amendment says casinos can operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and they can sell or give away alcohol any time they want. Casinos don't have to abide by the rules of dry counties or other state laws about the times and days that alcohol can be sold or given away.
- **No Money Earmarked for Roads:** Early drafts of this amendment said the casinos would pay taxes to fund improvements to state highways. That provision eventually was dropped from the amendment. Most of the casino tax money will go to city and county officials and state lawmakers, who will spend it as they see fit.
- **Indian Gaming:** The Quapaw Tribe that operates casinos in Oklahoma has spent the past several months courting people in Pine Bluff and discussing plans to open a casino there if the amendment passes, and the Cherokee Tribe has said it wants to operate the casino in Russellville. The amendment says anyone wishing to operate casinos in these counties must have experience operating casinos elsewhere and must be able to pay up to \$250,000 in license fees upfront. The Quapaw and Cherokee tribes fit those criteria neatly.

That isn't all the amendment does, but those are some of its key components and problems. Look for more information about the casino amendment between now and November.

Panel Authorizes Five Marijuana Farms in Arkansas

The state's Medical Marijuana Commission has awarded licenses to grow marijuana to Natural State Medicinals Cultivation of Jefferson County; BOLD Team of Woodruff County; Natural State Wellness Enterprises of Jackson County; Osage Creek Cultivation of Carroll County; and Delta Medical Cannabis Company of Jackson County. The Arkansas Constitution lets cities and counties vote to prohibit marijuana farms and stores by circulating petitions to place the issue on the ballot. If you want to learn more about how your county can prohibit marijuana farms and stores, contact our office at (501) 375-7000.

Pre-Order Copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guides

Since 1990, Family Council has produced the state's leading nonpartisan voter's guide. We survey the candidates on a wide variety of issues, and we publish their survey response in print and online. Because our guide doesn't favor one candidate over another, churches can distribute it to their members. If you are on our mailing list, you will get a free copy of the Arkansas Voter's Guide later this fall. If you would like to order additional copies to share with others, fill out the enclosed form or call us at (501) 375-7000.



BRING YOUR BIBLE TO SCHOOL THIS OCTOBER

Bring Your Bible to School Day is coming up on October 4, 2018. Last year nearly half a million students participated in Bring Your Bible to School Day nationwide; all they had to do was bring a copy of God's Word to school. Bring Your Bible to School Day is sponsored by Focus on the Family, and it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate religious freedom and the value of scripture. To learn more, go to BringYourBible.org.

Commissioner of Education Reminds Schools Not to Block Prayer

In August state Commissioner of Education Johnny Key sent a memo to public schools reminding them that they cannot stop students from praying at school. Courts and federal law both say public school students can pray, read the Bible, and discuss their faith as long as they don't disrupt the classroom. The memo is a welcome reminder that students don't shed their religious liberties at the schoolhouse doors.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In just a few days we plan to distribute thousands of copies of the 2018 Arkansas Voter's Guide ahead of the elections in November. The new pro-life foundation I am starting just held its first board meeting, and we are in the process of working with state officials and experts from around the country to secure federal funding that we can pass along to pregnancy resource centers. This funding will save lives and provide women with real options besides abortion. We are already working on legislation for the 2019 legislative session. We are gearing up to oppose efforts to expand casino gambling in Arkansas, and we are working hard to support home schooling. Your friendship and financial support are essential to our work. That's why I hope you will send us a generous, tax-deductible gift right now, if you are able. Your gift will let us keep taking a stand for traditional family values in Arkansas.

Thank you for standing with us! I cannot tell you just how much it means to me to have you working alongside us to make Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Please let me know if there is ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. The semi-annual 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is coming up in just a few days. A proposed constitutional amendment instituting stricter term limits for state legislators has been certified for the November ballot. We are preparing to print and ship tens of thousands of voter's guides ahead of the election. A lot is happening in Arkansas, and your support means everything right now. Thank you for standing with us!