

Take Heart: CWA Wins Victories in 2006 Elections

CWA State Leaders Push Marriage Amendments to Victory on Election Day

There is no doubt that in the aftermath of Election Day 2006 many Americans continue to focus on the change in our national government and the new direction that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will take Congress over the next few years.

Forgotten is what happened in the states on Election Day. It is true that, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Democrat statehouse victories paralleled the party's coup in the U.S.

Congress. With this liberal turn, we will face anti-family legislation in the states.

Marriage is a clear winner in recent elections

Seven out of eight marriage amendments passed, due in no small part to the efforts of your Concerned Women for America (CWA) state leaders.

In Virginia, where the marriage amendment passed with some measure of difficulty, CWA of Virginia State Director Patricia Phillips worked tirelessly; making sure Virginians who cared about the future of marriage had their yard signs, talking points and brochures. In addition, she made sure newspapers statewide had well-placed



CWA's Virginia state leader Patricia Phillips helped lead the charge to victory for the Virginia Marriage Amendment. There are now 27 state marriage amendments on the books, and CWA is working for more.

ads touting the benefits of marriage between one man and one woman. Without her effort, and the effort of so many pro-family activists, this amendment would have been defeated.

Another state which passed a Marriage Amendment was South Dakota. Our State Director Linda Schauer had to divide her time between the marriage amendment, which narrowly won, and the Planned Parenthood Abortion Ban Repeal, which was a narrow loss for pro-lifers. In addition, CWA Founder and Chairman Beverly LaHaye recorded messages in support of the marriage amendment that played on Christian radio statewide.

Add these two victories for marriage to wins in Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin, and we now have 27 states that protect marriage with a state constitutional amendment.

While marriage won the day, liberals are narrowing the gap

The other side was very active in the fight to redefine marriage this time around. The political climate and misleading campaign tactics may account for the narrow margin of victory seen in some states. The Arizona marriage amendment, for example, was the only one that went down in defeat – by a razor thin 51 to 49 percent margin. Opponents wrongly claimed it would restrict rights enjoyed by all unmarried people.

When all is said and done, marriage has won the day 27 out of 28 times over the past few years. It's clear where

Americans stand on this issue.

In Missouri, while there wasn't a marriage amendment on the ballot, there was a cloning and destructive embryonic stem cell amendment. The deceptive language of this amendment actually grants the authority to clone embryos in order to destroy them in the name of science. Despite campaigning by popular actor Michael J. Fox, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, pro-lifers narrowed the gap by 20% in the closing weeks. They focused on its deception and how harmful it would be, especially to women.

With no time to celebrate past victories, CWA leaders prepare for future battles

Liberals captured control of one or both legislative chambers in eight states, including the New Hampshire House (with Democrats in charge for the first time since 1922). Democrats will now control both legislative chambers in 23 states. That's up from 19 states and is more than they have held since 1994. Republicans will control both chambers in 16 state legislatures, down from 20. Ten statehouses will be split between the parties, including a dead-even tie in the Oklahoma Senate. The Nebraska legislature is non-partisan.

What does this mean for pro-family, pro-life citizens for the next two years? We can only speculate, but you can be sure that radical homosexuals, abortion activists and other anti-family forces will demand votes on their agenda in

exchange for the efforts they put forth in this last election.

We are only beginning to see the direction that these new liberal legislatures will be taking in 2007. Homosexual activists in Oregon are convinced they have the votes necessary to win a so-called civil union registry, marriage by another name. In Michigan, just days after the election, Governor Jennifer Granholm (D) indicated publicly that she intends to pass legislation that will increase funding for destructive embryonic stem cell research and allow scientists to harvest embryos in order to destroy them for experimentation. A final example comes from New Jersey where pro-abortion activists are pressing the new legislature to craft legislation to repeal the parental notification law in that state.

Whatever happens, pro-family, pro-life advocates will have to keep a watchful eye on their legislatures and let their voices be heard on important issues that affect the family in the coming years. CWA will continue to provide pro-family legislators with positive legislation that protects marriage and the sanctity of life. Our staff will also continue to keep you informed on both national and state issues, and you can become involved by joining a local prayer-action chapter. To find out more, go to www.cwfa.org and find your state under "CWA in My State" on the left hand navigation bar.

By Mike Mears, Director of State Legislative Relations ■

Prayer

PRAYER

- CWA was extremely disheartened at the failure of Congress to pass the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. Please pray that the hearts and minds of our leaders will be changed and that their hearts would soften toward the plight of the innocents and any future versions of this bill.

Praise

PRaise

- Although the elections didn't turn out as some had hoped, we can still - *and should still* - praise the Lord. We are a democracy, and America, this grand experiment, will continue to be of the people, by the people and for the people. God is sovereign, and we are reminded in the Book of Daniel that He sets up rulers and also removes them. Despite the agenda of the liberal left, God's plan for this nation will be accomplished. Praise His name!

Action

ACTION

- Call your Congressmen - especially if they're newly elected - and let them know that you'll be praying for them and the decisions they make during their time in office. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121, or <http://capwiz.com/cwfa/dbq/officials/>