“Kentucky Family Values” is a Super PAC; It is NOT The Family Foundation! (Pass this on.)

This Kentucky-based Political Action Committee’s primary “values” are to get Democrats elected . . . at all costs.

Since the 2010 Supreme Court campaign finance decision, new groups have emerged on Kentucky’s political scene. Often referred to as Super Political Action Committees (Super PACs), they influence elections by making independent campaign expenditures to support or oppose candidates.

The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance (KREF) designates Super PACs under the signature “the name of the committee/organization” with a disclaimer read: “Kentucky Family Values (KPV) spent over $2 million to influence the 2014 general election for the purpose of supporting candidates of their choice (‘Yes’ votes) and candidates they did not support (‘No’ votes).”

New Direction KY for In-State Donors.

One of those Super PACs, Kentucky Family Values (KPV), has attracted attention because of controversy surrounding its methods and naming. At issue is KPV’s logo in color and its claims to support conservative family values and espouse out-of-state big money groups that influence Kentucky elections.

While initially caught our attention was their logo and messaging was strikingly similar to that of The Family Foundation,” said Casey Darnell, policy analyst for the Family Foundation. “Many of their radio ads described the organization and their candidates as having ‘family values’ or being ‘conservative,’ but their objectives and what they purported were vastly different than what The Family Foundation stands for. Therefore, one has to wonder if they were seeking to misdirect or mislead.” (See logos above.)

Voters were misled, and during the last week of the Nov. 2014 election, The Family Foundation staff received many frustrated calls and emails. “Citizens assumed the ads they were hearing and seeing were from us. Many were upset about the positions and candidates they thought we were supporting,” said Sarah Touch, office manager. “It is ironic that Kentucky Family Values is not The Family Foundation, and furthermore, The Family Foundation does not endorse candidates.”

The Family Foundation supporters were frustrated because candidates endorsed by The Family Right to Life Association were opposed by KPV. According to reports filed with KREF, in one race alone (House District 62) KPV spent $129,078 opposing pro-life incumbent Ron Qualls (R) and supporting opponent Chuck Tackett (D).

“Clearly KPV defines family values differently than conservative traditional family values groups such as The Family Foundation,” said Matt Carter, policy analyst. “Most Kentuckians consider the sanctity of life, sanctity of marriage, religious freedom, and religious leaders in the examples of traditional family values issues.”

So just what was KPV’s goal?

According to Kentucky Colonel of WPL’s News in Louisville, Kentucky Family Values is a Democrat Super PAC “teasing Democrats back to the GOP’s attempt to take control of the House.” Investigation into their spending in the last two general elections confirms that all money KPV spent was to elect Democratic candidates and not Independent candidates.

And where did their money come from?

Despite KPV’s ad stating that voters were “tired of out-of-state big money influencing elections” and “spending millions to buy your election” and that KPV was from “Kentucky” almost all of KPV’s donations came from “out-of-state” “big money,” mostly, powerful Washington, D.C. based unions.

In both the 2012 and 2014 general elections, KPV spent over $52 million. KREF reports for the Nov. 2014 election show KPV spent more than all of the other Kentucky super PACs combined. (See chart left). All the races it targeted were Kentucky House races.

Kentucky Family Values would be more accurate if they could see they are out-of-state, big money union group trying to keep Democrats in power.

Electronic filing rules require them to report their largest three donors, yet those set up as family values conservations in order to lead Kentuckians, and Boyce O’Neal,

Facts that must not be ignored . . .

With the hope about same-sex marriage, more profound truths must not be lost for the sake of the Kentucky Counties and their citizens.

U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights - The First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” Religious liberty is the first part of this Bill of Rights. It makes clear how many of the freedoms in the amendments even though they are at first glance individually real.

The Freedom of Conscience: Even during World War II, when the ongoing existence of America was in question, the United States government never forced a consciouness objection to pull a trigger and violate his conscience. Why are we now changing our standard over same-sex marriage? The U.S. Constitution: “The Obergefell decision, same-sex marriage is elevated as a fundamental Constitutional right. As everyone knows, the word “marriage” is not even in the U.S. Constitution – but it is in the Kentucky Constitution clearly! Unfortunately, there are those who want this decision on “marriage” to trump the explicit First Amendment. This, ultimately, is all about sexual politics – NOT justice and NOT the Constitution.

The Kentucky Constitution - Bill of Rights section 5 - “Right of Religious Freedom”: “No human authority shall, in any manner, control conscience; and the freedom of conscience shall be free from restraint by any civil authority whatever.”

The Governor’s part: “Gov. Bevin reminded everyone that “the courts and the clerks would have to work out that difference.” Practically speaking, that meant that the Governor would not allow to protect or accommodate the County Clerks’ rights of conscience. Worse, it meant that he would turn clerks face-to-face with the ACLU attorneys, allowing them to sue for court costs, attorneys’ fees and “punitive damages” from the Clerk’s personal assets.

Kentucky Law: The Governor is not above the law and he must also do what the law says. Consider the Kentucky Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2013. It underscores that government employees have very significant protections from the force of government violating their religious liberty. Kentucky government by law must use the least restrictive means to accomplish any action that limits the religious liberties of its citizens and employees. The Governor must act in a way that protects the county clerks as well as override the issuance of licenses. To do, all the law does is give the issuance of the licenses and then it back and the ACLU and the Rowan County Clerk personally.

The Kentucky Constitution had already been contemplated by the Legislative Research Commission before legislatures passed the act in 2013. The LRC’s: Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimates said, in part: “Additionally, the least restrictive alternative required of the local government may be minimal, for example, in adjusting the closing times of events in a jail, or significant, for example, if it requires taking additional staff or paying overtime for other staff to do a job an employee deems to be because of religious beliefs.” The LRC’s conclusion was that there would be times when there would be “minimal” or “significant” even to protect the religious liberty of Kentucky employees.

“Which that unites us” Casey Davis, Conway County Clerk in Conway County, met with the Governor on July 9 and shared the Governor’s views with him. In his June 26 letter to all the state’s Clerk’s, the Governor concluded with this statement after telling them to issue the license. “After all, the things that unite us as a people much stronger than the things that divides us.” Casey told the Governor that the things that unite us and ‘IOWA acted in so several capacities – are the things in the First Amendment, including religious liberty. His words fell on deaf ears because the Governor simply told him, “If you can’t by your personal feelings guide and uphold the oath that you entered to, then you need to do the honorable thing and resign.”

Whose conscience is honored and whose conscience is rejected?

In the same letter of June 26, the Governor wrote: “Neither your oath nor the Supreme Court dictates what you must believe. But as elected officials, they do prescribe how we must act.”

“Clearly KPV defines family values differently than conservative traditional family values issues.”

And where did their money come from? Despite KPV’s ad stating that voters were “tired of out-of-state big money influencing elections” and “spending millions to buy your election” and that KPV was from “Kentucky” almost all of KPV’s donations came from “out-of-state” “big money,” mostly, powerful Washington, D.C. based unions.

In both the 2012 and 2014 general elections, KPV spent over $52 million. KREF reports for the Nov. 2014 election show KPV spent more than all of the other Kentucky super PACs combined. (See chart left). All the races it targeted were Kentucky House races.

Kentucky Family Values would be more accurate if they could see they are out-of-state, big money union group trying to keep Democrats in power.

Electronic filing rules require them to report their largest three donors, yet those set up as family values conservations in order to lead Kentuckians, and Boyce O’Neal,...

Do we still have a democracy? One of the future pills that must be swallowed is the fact that the Obergefell decision overturned more than 50 million voters’ decisions in 36 states to promote traditional marriage while validating the minority of voters who wanted to violate it. In Kentucky, the vote of the people was 1,222,125 to 417,097, or 74.6 percent to 25.4 percent. And what most Kentuckians do not realize is that more voters voted “Yes” to protect traditional marriage than had voted “No” to promote same-sex marriage. In Kentucky, the vote of the people was 1,222,125 to 417,097, or 74.6 percent to 25.4 percent.

Is this about Constitutional rights or the power to force into compliance?

“Clearly KPV defines family values differently than conservative traditional family values issues.”

Kentucky Family Values’ goal?

“Clearly KPV defines family values differently than conservative traditional family values issues.”

Kentucky Family Values logo

The Family Foundation logo (left) compared to the Family Foundation Values logo (right).

Was their choice deliberate?

The Family Foundation supporters were frustrated because candidates endorsed by The Family Right to Life Association were opposed by KPV. According to reports filed with KREF, in one race alone (House District 62) KPV spent $129,078 opposing pro-life incumbent Ron Qualls (R) and supporting opponent Chuck Tackett (D).

“Clearly KPV defines family values differently than conservative traditional family values groups such as The Family Foundation,” said Matt Carter, policy analyst. “Most Kentuckians consider the sanctity of life, sanctity of marriage, religious freedom, and religious leaders in the examples of traditional family values issues.”

So just what was KPV’s goal?

According to Kentucky Colonel of WLs News in Louisville, Kentucky Family Values is a Democrat Super PAC “teasing Democrats back to the GOP’s attempt to take control of the House.” Investigation into their spending in the last two general elections confirms that all money KPV spent was to elect Democratic candidates and not Independent candidates.

And where did their money come from?

Despite KPV’s ad stating that voters were “tired of out-of-state big money influencing elections” and “spending millions to buy your election” and that KPV was from “Kentucky” almost all of KPV’s donations came from “out-of-state” “big money,” mostly, powerful Washington, D.C. based unions.

In both the 2012 and 2014 general elections, KPV spent over $52 million. KREF reports for the Nov. 2014 election show KPV spent more than all of the other Kentucky super PACs combined. (See chart left). All the races it targeted were Kentucky House races.

Kentucky Family Values would be more accurate if they could see they are out-of-state, big money union group trying to keep Democrats in power.

Electronic filing rules require them to report their largest three donors, yet those set up as family values conservations in order to lead Kentuckians, and Boyce O’Neal,...

Kentucky Family Values: - Dwarfed all other PACs in receipts and expenditures. - Outspent and outraised all other Kentucky Super PACs combined. - Raised most of their money from outside Kentucky for General Election of 2014: $82,500,000 reported from out-of-state donors. $750,075,000 reported from in-state donors. - All money is spent for Democrat candidates or against Republicans. - Contents and Expenditures: Receipts: $2.5 million Expenditures: $0.5 million