

# Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

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## Must We Sit on the Sidelines?

Washington State continues to be a bellwether state for good—and for evil

*Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize, and sailed through bloody seas?* -Isaac Watts

In the political realm, 1994 was a game-changing year. After decades of one-sided Democrat Party control, the November General Elections flipped the United States Congress and a majority of state legislatures from Democrat to Republican control. But, nowhere was the surprise political tsunami more dramatic than in our own Evergreen State.

In congressional house races, local voters exchanged a 7-2 Democrat majority for a 2-7 Democrat minority! The same was true in our state legislative races as Republicans took command in both the House and Senate for the first time in many years.

For these, and other reasons, nationally-recognized political forecasters figured that Washington State is a “bellwether state,” and have monitored voting trends in the Pacific Northwest ever since.

We, too, could see that Washington State was home to many cutting-edge social and economic movements of our day, and said so in our April 2000 newsletter titled *On Endangered Civil Liberties*. Addressing some of our observations and growing concerns, we wrote:

“There is much evidence to indicate that our state is becoming the business and cultural nerve center of the nation. It is no secret that world leaders, international bankers, and Hollywood’s elite are frequent visitors at the mansion in Medina—home of Bill Gates, the world’s richest man.

Besides Microsoft, Washington State is also the world headquarters for other major Fortune 500 players like Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, and Starbucks. Toss in agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and *voilà*, financial markets from London to Tokyo say, “God bless you,” every time we sneeze.

Unfortunately, our state is also gaining recognition in other ways. In January, National Abortion Rights Action League president Kate Michelman, admitted that the pro-choice movement is bogged down virtually everywhere except the Evergreen State. The average grade NARAL recently assigned to all states was a D-plus. Washington State, however, received an A-, ranking it the number one abortion-friendly state in the nation.

Another shameful secret revealed - the University of Washington is a world-class consumer of “fresh” baby parts, reminiscent of the horrific medical experiments in Nazi death camps.

Recently, Jordan Lawrence, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund in Fairfax, Virginia, told me that a number of Christian legal organizations around the country believe that Washington State is shaping up to be THE battleground for many of the moral and religious issues of our day.

Lawrence is concerned, however, that the battle will be quickly over unless Christians in our state wake up—and show up.”<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Lawrence, was so right! Even before he expressed his sentiments, Vancouver, Olympia, and Seattle, had become three-of-the-first-five cities in the nation to adopt special employment “protections” for homosexual personnel. Not long afterwards, Washington again raced ahead of the pack when Gov. Locke extended so-called “partner” benefits to state employees willing to “come out of the closet.”

In the years following the “Republican Revolution of 1994,” voters promoted their Attorneys General, Christine Gregoire to the Office of Governor, where she wielded a big stick on behalf of tribal gaming interests, the homosexual lobby, and the abortion industry. She is perhaps most noted for a lawsuit (still in progress) against the pro-life Storman family, Olympia area grocery and pharmacy owners who have refused at a very high cost, to dispense the so-called “morning-after” abortifacient *Plan B*.

While a conservative one-vote edge in the state senate has until recently been sufficient to table further pro-abortion measures from gaining traction, that ended with the recent November special election to fill a vacant senate seat, previously occupied by a Republican solon. With Democrats now fully in command of all branches of state government, pro-life views are persona non-grata. No-less-than four radical pro-abortion bills are currently being considered in Olympia. At this point, they are considered “unstoppable.”

Concerning the Democrat-held office of Attorneys General, it’s likewise full steam ahead for Bob Ferguson, who when not combatting Donald Trump on sanctuary cities and other issues outside his job description, continues to lose sleep over Barronelle Stutzman, owner of Arlene’s Flowers in Richland. Due to her moral and religious beliefs, Ms. Stutzman has politely declined to provide floral services for homosexual weddings. Arguably, Ferguson finds no place in post-modern America for the “free exercise of religion.”

Even more perplexing, are a slate of ill-conceived measures that have been approved by VOTERS, including:

**ABORTION ON DEMAND:** Ratified by “the people,” not once, but on three separate occasions. Washington State is distinct in that it is the only state to have legalized abortion by statewide ballot.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE:** Voters made Washington State the second state in the U.S. to sanction suicide.

**RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:** In 2012, Washington and Colorado *voters* made their respective states first to welcome the recreational use of marijuana—one year after local voters also approved the deregulation of hard liquor and increased statewide sales outlets from 329-to-1,400. Surprising, however, is that *cannabis* is already generating some 1.2 billion in annual sales revenues—about double that for liquor sales.

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE:** Also in 2012, *voters* in Washington State ratified legislation signed into law by Gov. Christine Gregoire granting marriage rights to homosexual partners.

Since these are front-burner topics in Olympia, we wonder if the local church is offering any guidance? Are these topics not found in the *Word* which is suitable for “reproof, correction and instruction...” (2Tim 3:16)?

It is encouraging that many supporters (including church leaders) are responding to our calls to come to our State Capitol to pray for and with our elected officials. We’re now thinking it’s time to launch a similar offensive in Seattle. We would start with City and County officials. Want to talk?

*Sure, I must fight if I would reign; increase my courage, Lord; I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word.*      --Isaac Watts, “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”

*Rick Forcier*

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<sup>1</sup> Forcier, Rick, “On Endangered Civil Liberties,” *christiancoalition.us*, April, 2000