

# EMPIRE STATE

## FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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### FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Who would have thought we would be debating the definition of marriage, government takeover of not only the health industry, but also the auto industry, the banking industry, and whatever else they can “capture.” The present administration in Washington D.C. has demonstrated naiveté or just plain ignorance concerning foreign and domestic policy. New York’s government seems to be just as incompetent. It’s time for real leadership. It’s time for the Church to pray like it all depends on God, become educated on the issues, and get off our comfortable couches and get involved in this “government of the people.” The Bible tells us that “Where the righteous rule the people rejoice” It just doesn’t make sense to expect ungodly people to lead us in godly ways. We must vote in leaders who will rule in the “Fear of God,” leaders who understand that they will be held accountable for their decisions, if not in this life, then in the next. That’s precisely why in the state charters of the original colonies it was clearly stipulated that one of the qualifications for holding public office was a belief in God, the Holy Scriptures and in the system of eternal rewards and punishment. Our founders understood men could not be trusted to rule honestly and wisely unless they believed that God was watching them even when people were not. In this nation it is the responsibility of the citizens to choose godly leaders. Our mission is to help you, and the community of faith to succeed in that mission. If there’s any specific way we can help you or if you have any questions or concerns feel free to call or email us

### LET THE REVOLUTION BEGIN

Let The Conservative Revolution begin in New York’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. For the last 50 years American culture has been steadily and incrementally drifting to the left without significant challenge because no one believed – except for a few prophetic voices on the fringes- that we could really lose our liberty. Now the liberal establishment has overreached their ability to keep the silent majority silent. The radical socialist agenda being advanced by the present administration has awakened the American working class. It has been provoked to action as evidenced by the Tea Party movement, town hall attendance, and a resurgence of Conservatism. In fact, it’s time to see the beginning of a Conservative revolution, and there is no better place to let it begin than in New York’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District race where both the Republican and Democrat candidates are liberals. Only the Conservative candidate holds to Biblical values on the abortion, traditional marriage and on other issues that are fundamental to American values. People of faith have a real opportunity to send a clear message to the establishment political parties that we will not

compromise on Biblical values for political expediency. Hopefully, we will see the same outcome in the Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races.

We must stand for life, for traditional marriage and smaller government. Forget about winning the mushy middle. We must move the middle to the right. After all, it’s not a political decision; it’s a Biblical mandate: *“The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.”* (Ecclesiastes 10:2 NIV) Let this congressional race be the shot heard around the world signaling the return of our “One Nation Under God.” It’s not time to be apologetic for our strong Christian roots. It’s time to say it loud. Be sure to call all your friends and relatives in the upstate New York area covered by the 23<sup>rd</sup> district and tell them what’s at stake, and encourage them to get to the polls. It’s not just about their district. It’s about the future of a nation, a new revolution to restore liberty and the primacy of our Constitution. It’s about the beginning of a new revolution. Let it begin here, in New York, in the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## REPORT FROM NEW YORKERS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS

Governor Paterson is still pushing for Senate vote on same-sex marriage (potentially in a special session within a few weeks). Paterson told a group of reporters that the Senate Coup left "a number of unfinished issues" and that "I don't see any reason not to address them."

The Governor met with legislative leaders this week to discuss the budget. They agreed to his plan to cut \$500 million from state agencies, but signaled that they would fight cuts to schools (\$480 million) and health care (\$500 million). It now appears unlikely that the New York State Legislature will return before the election (November 3).

The State has a real problem with collecting taxes on sales of cigarettes on the Indian reservations. The topic was brought up at the legislative Leaders meeting this week, and the Governor indicated that he had sent a letter to federal prosecutors for a "threat assessment." The last time New York State tried to force the Indians to pay taxes, it resulted in tire fires and the blocking of state roads

## CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK

Thanksgiving week, November 22-28th will mark the annual observance of American Christian Heritage Week, a time for pastors, teachers and other leaders to teach the next generation about our history, and about the fact that

*"The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His Apostles...This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government."* -Noah Webster, History of the United States, 1832 public school textbook

We encourage everyone in a position to lead others to make opportunities to teach the truth. Preach it from the pulpit, discuss it in your small groups, invite friends to come to your home and show DVDs. If you need resources you can go to [www.achw.org](http://www.achw.org), or [www.wallbuilders.com](http://www.wallbuilders.com).

*"For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; "*  
-Psalm 78:5-7

## PUTTING THE BRAKES ON PAY HIKES FOR NEW PLATES

County clerks have launched a series of petition drives to protest the newest financial toll facing New Yorkers: a requirement that, starting in April, motorists must buy new \$25 license plates when their vehicle registrations come

"I've got close to 2,000 signatures already," said Rensselaer County's Frank Merola, one of a growing handful of county clerks offering paper or online petitions protesting the mandated license plates and their attendant cost. "Not a customer up here thinks they need to replace the plates," said Merola, who echoed several other clerks in describing state license and registration fees as "cash cows" for the state. Drivers licenses, good for eight years, are also rising this year to \$64.50, up from \$50. And a two-year registration for a car is going up from an average \$44 to \$55.

## NEW YORKERS MOVING TO FLORIDA

The Empire Center for New York State Policy has a new report out today which details the ongoing population drain in New York, especially upstate. While New York shares with California the distinction of being the only state to lose more than 1 million people since 2000, the Empire State actually saw some net gain thanks to the continuing influx of immigrants, largely settling in New York City. Most of those leaving head to the warmer, and more tax-friendly states down South with Florida being the biggest draw by a good margin.

Go to [www.empirecenter.org](http://www.empirecenter.org) for the report. Here are some of the highlights:

The annual net loss of New Yorkers to other states has ranged from a high of nearly 250,000 people in 2005 to a low of 126,000 last year, when moves nationwide slowed down sharply along with the economy. California was the only other state to lose more than a million residents to out-migration during the 2000-2008 period.

[www.timesunion.com](http://www.timesunion.com)

*...let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine tidings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high and answered with blessing no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace. -Abraham Lincoln, Thanksgiving Proclamation 1863*