



FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

April 1, 2008

The 2008 General Assembly Is Now History!

The 100 Representatives and 50 State Senators have wrapped up their work at the State House for the 2008 General Assembly. This was the **28th Legislative Session** that Advance America has been at the State House working on behalf of the families and churches of Indiana.

REPEALING PROPERTY TAXES

Even though we were not able to get the legislature to vote to Repeal Property Taxes, thanks to the work of Advance America and the **thousands of citizens** who joined with us, homeowners will see some relief in 2008. Here are the comments from **Representative Dave Cheatham** and **Senator Brent Waltz** about our work on this issue:

"There is no question that the efforts of Eric Miller and Advance America helped bring about the passage of immediate relief for homeowners in 2008. Their efforts will help pave the way for a Constitutional Amendment to Repeal Property Taxes in the future."

-Representative Dave Cheatham

"I'd like to thank Eric Miller and Advance America for their work on the property tax crisis this year. Without their efforts little or nothing would have been accomplished in the 2008 session. I look forward to working with Eric and Advance America in the future to bring about the complete Repeal of Property Taxes."

-Senator Brent Waltz

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Advance America will continue to lead the effort in Indiana to **Repeal Property Taxes** so homeowners, farmers and businesses can finally own their own home, farm and business!

TAXATION OF CHURCHES

House Bill 1281 dealt with the taxation of churches and other entities classified as non-profit organizations. **Advance America opposes the taxation of churches.** In the bill's original version, the government would have been given the authority to decide what is "worship." House Bill 1281 could have led to the taxation of churches around Indiana. The bill died in Committee but will no doubt come back next year.

SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS AND CROSS DRESSERS STOPPED

Fortunately, House Bill 1076 did not pass the Legislature creating **special protection for homosexuals and cross dressers.** This bill would have established a very dangerous precedent because it would create two classes of victims and punish someone more because of their alleged thoughts. The bill represented a step in the wrong direction with regard to free speech. Would the next step have been to prohibit speech that someone views as hateful? For example will legislation be introduced in the future to **prohibit pastors** from speaking out against the homosexual lifestyle?

VICTORY FOR CHURCHES

Advance America continues to be the leading voice at the State House for churches. House Bill 1288 was written so broadly that **pastors** and other church staff, as well as individuals working at **Crisis Pregnancy Centers** and **rescue missions** could have been required to

be **certified** by the state. The state of Indiana should **not** be certifying or licensing pastors and these other individuals. I'm grateful for the help of Representative Summers and Representative Hinkle who worked with us to amend the bill to **maintain the present freedom** churches, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, and rescue missions and other similar organizations now have.

PROTECTION OF MARRIAGE

Advance America will continue to help lead the effort to pass a **Constitutional Amendment to protect marriage** between one man and one woman, and to prohibit courts from granting same sex civil unions. The citizens of Indiana will not be able to vote on this Constitutional Amendment in November because Speaker of the House Pat Bauer prevented the full House of Representatives from voting on the Amendment. **The Amendment will be reintroduced next year.**

PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 3 is commonly called "**The Pharmacists' Conscience Clause.**" If SB 3 had become law, a pharmacist would not be required to dispense an abortion drug or one that would cause death by assisted suicide. The bill passed the Senate 30-18 but died in the House of Representatives under the control of Speaker Pat Bauer.

Senate Bill 146 dealt with **informed consent for abortion** and stated that before a woman can obtain an abortion she is to receive information about when life begins and that the unborn baby may feel pain when the abortion occurs. The bill passed the Senate 39-9 but died in the House of Representatives under the control of Speaker Pat Bauer.

Senate Bill 187 dealt with **fetal development curriculum.** The bill required school corporations to provide information to students about the development of an unborn baby. SB

187 passed the Senate by a vote of 36-11 but died in the House of Representatives under the control of Speaker Pat Bauer.

GAMBLING

The State of Indiana doesn't need to expand gambling. House Bill 1153 will permit bars and taverns to have pull tabs. The bill passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Daniels.

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Every child in Indiana in elementary, middle and high school should have the opportunity to get a first class, world class education. In order to accomplish this Indiana needs to have mechanisms in place to assist parents such as an **educational tax credit** or **opportunity scholarship.** Unfortunately no legislation passed this year supporting parental choice in education. Advance America will continue to support **parental choice in education** because it will benefit all of the children and families of Indiana.

ADVANCE AMERICA

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family** and **pro-tax reform** organization founded in 1980. Advance America is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any candidate or any political party. Advance America is **dedicated** to giving Hoosiers information about what is going on in their state government and what they can do to make a difference on those issues of importance to them and their family. For more information go to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.

TEXT OF BILLS AVAILABLE

The complete text of a bill or resolution can be accessed at:
<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.

"8 in '08" Effort

Join Advance America's "8 in'08" Effort today! Your contribution will help us continue to be your eyes, ears, and voice at the State House in 2008. For Just **\$8/month** for the next **12 months** or a **one-time** contribution of **\$96** you will be a partner with Advance America as we continue in the battle for your family and your freedoms. To show our appreciation to those who sign up right away we will send you an outstanding book by Dr. David Gibbs, "*One Nation Under God – 10 Things Every Christian Should Know About the Founding of America.*" You will also receive the Voters Voice Newsletter during 2008, a Voting Record on the 2008 General Assembly, a Voter Guide for the 2008 November Election and special updates and urgent alerts during 2008. Follow this link to make a **secure** contribution; www.advanceamerica.com/donate.htm or individuals can mail their contribution to Advance America at 101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 660; Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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Please let us know about any response you receive from your legislator. You can find out who your legislators are and get their email address by going to www.AdvanceAmerica.com or by calling us at (800)448-VOTE (8683).