

# Eagle Forum

*Dear Friend: This letter is crammed full of the good news about the pro-family movement. Read it and rejoice about what the movement has accomplished. BUT here is the bad news. We are in desperate need of funds for our two expensive lawsuits: the Draft Women Lawsuit (see the Nov. P.S. Report), and the ERA Time Extension lawsuit (scheduled for argument Jan. 29). Please send your most generous contribution now.*  
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November 1980

## ERA DEFEATED IN IOWA REFERENDUM

Iowa voters decisively defeated a State Equal Rights Amendment in a referendum on Nov. 4. This remarkable event may have put the nails in the coffin of ERA. Iowa has already ratified the Federal ERA and is considered to be a northern liberal pro-ERA state.

All the customary phony establishment polls predicted that, of course, ERA would pass. Just two weeks before the election, the major statewide poll predicted that ERA would pass with 59% voting yes. When the votes were counted the night of Nov. 4, 55% of Iowa voters had voted NO.

All the usual list of prominent persons endorsed ERA including Sen. John Culver (who was defeated). The Catholic Bishop of Des Moines, Maurice Dingman, issued an election-eve message supporting ERA which was distributed at all the Catholic churches, and he sponsored an ecumenical prayer service, "People of Faith for ERA", at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Nov. 2. (The only Catholics who support ERA are those who also support the ordination of women, such as Bishop Dingman.)

Bishop Dingman's use of his church position to support ERA evoked no protest from Patricia Harris, Norman Lear, or others complaining about preachers in politics.

The pro-ERAs outspent the anti-ERAs at least four or five to one. The TV stations in Des Moines refused to take anti-ERA spots. The Des Moines newspaper did accept an expensive half-page anti-ERA ad, but censored it by deleting the pictures and running only the words. In case you didn't know, that's all called "freedom of the press."

For years we have been hearing that public opinion polls all show that the American people want ERA and that their wishes are being frustrated by a handful of men in a few legislatures. Funny thing, though, every time ERA gets on the ballot, the people come out and vote NO. Iowa thus joins the other states which have defeated ERA by direct vote of the people: Florida & Nevada in 1978, New York & New Jersey in 1975, and Wisconsin in 1973.

## PRO-FAMILY MOVEMENT ELECTS REAGAN

Let there be no mistake about it -- the pro-family movement elected Gov. Reagan, and surprised all the polls and politicians in doing it. The day before the Nov. 4 election, all the media and establishment polls said: The election is too close to call; a big turnout will benefit Carter and a small turnout will benefit Reagan. Contrary to all those predictions, Reagan won in a landslide, and the big turnout benefited Reagan not Carter. Dan Rather of CBS said the next night, "we were wrong." The Harris Poll admitted that the evangelicals created the landslide.

The pro-family movement provided those majority voters whom the pollsters hadn't found before the election. Americans who were motivated by the "crossover" issues: ERA, abortion, the schools, and national defense, came out and voted for Reagan.

The pro-family movement started in 1975 when church buses rolled into Springfield, IL to STOP ERA and we have been building the coalition ever since. The liberals and the libs didn't know we existed because they would never think of looking in the churches.

Does that mean that ERA and abortion were the big issues of the presidential campaign? Not necessarily. We believe that inflation and defense were the big issues. BUT it was the moral issues such as ERA and abortion that got the new people into the political process and to the polls on election day.

The Reagan staff had practically written off the south and New York. The pro-family movement held rally after rally, meeting after meeting, in those states, and that is why they carried for Reagan. In the months before the election, Phyllis personally spoke at pro-family rallies or get-out-the-vote meetings in TX, OH, MO, IL, MS, AL, NC, NY, TN, FL, SC, IA, ID, SD, AS, IN, and OK.

The winning Republican Senate candidates also helped swell the Reagan landslide (rather than vice versa). Many Senate candidates ran far ahead of Reagan, such as Adm. Denton of AL. May God bless Ronald Reagan.

## ELECTION DOOMS ERA AND WOMEN'S LIB

The November election was a tremendous defeat for the women's lib movement in general and for the ERA in particular. Anyone who saw Eleanor Smeal and Gloria Steinem crying around on TV knows that, but here are the specifics of how the American people have rejected the ERA philosophy, tactics, and candidates.

All the critical ERA states elected a net gain of anti-ERA legislators in both Houses.

ILLINOIS: STOP ERA won a net gain of 2 seats in both the Senate and House. Republicans took control of the House, which means the Speaker will be anti-ERA instead of pro. The senior anti-ERA lady Representative, Mary Lou Kent (who years ago was the only anti-ERA lady legislator), was elected to the Senate against a pro-ERAer in a hard-fought race. Nord Swanstrom, the Rep. who had rejected the ERA bribe and testified against the woman who offered it, was targeted for defeat by the ERAers; he won easily. Anti-ERA Representatives won in at least three districts which "the powers that be" had written off and said could not be won. In one of those districts, STOP ERA defeated Harold Byers who received \$18,739 from pro-ERAers. In assessing ERA's chances now, pro-ERA Speaker Redmond said, "I've seen livelier cadavers." STOP ERA proved it's the most powerful political force in ILL.

FLORIDA: STOP ERA scored a net gain of 2 in the crucial Senate. The winning anti-ERA Senators include the powerful Dean of the Senate Dempsey Barron and a new lady Senator: Toni Jennings. ERA was clearly the issue in several hard-fought races, and STOP ERA won.

NORTH CAROLINA: STOP ERA scored a net gain of at least 2 in both Senate and House, including anti-ERA leader Rep. Mary Pegg. Also elected was the powerful anti-ERA friend, Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green.

SOUTH CAROLINA: STOP ERA scored a net gain of 4 in the Senate, including the election of Norma Russell, currently one of America's outstanding House members.

OKLAHOMA: STOP ERA scored a net gain of 2 in each House.

ERA TIME EXTENSION: The two Congressional sponsors of the unfair, crooked ERA time extension passed in 1978 were Birch Bayh in the Senate and Elizabeth Holtzman in the House. Both went down to defeat on Nov. 4. We won't have to worry about another time extension.

CHILD CARE: Comprehensive and expensive federal child care for all children has been a major goal of the women's lib movement for a decade (as became clear in the IWY in 1977). The original sponsors were Walter Mondale in the Senate and John Brademas in the House. Both went down to defeat on Nov. 4.

## ELECTION PROVES WISDOM OF PLATFORM

The tremendous victory of Ronald Reagan vindicates the good political judgment of the Platform Committee at the Republican National Convention in Detroit last summer. The Platform removed all endorsement of ERA, said it is a state (not federal) issue, and came out strongly against drafting women and for a Human Life Amendment. After this happened, the women's libbers in the Republican Party complained in the media that this was a mistake, and the radical feminists vowed revenge. The followers of Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal of NOW harassed Reagan at every campaign stop with ERA and abortion signs. The establishment polls threatened that Reagan would lose the "women's vote."

It is now clear that the people oppose ERA. Reagan could not have carried the anti-ERA states such as Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, and the south unless he had had the benefit of crossover votes from Democrats who were attracted to Reagan because of his anti-ERA and pro-life positions, and because he ran on the strong traditional, pro-family Platform.

Just suppose the Republican Platform Committee had caved in to the pro-ERA media blitz and the tantrums of Margaret Heckler, Mary Louise Smith and Helen Milliken. Then Ronald Reagan's campaign position would have been horrible. He would have been greeted with signs and hecklers that said: "Why are you against ERA when the Republican Party and its Platform are pro-ERA? Why aren't you running on the Platform?" Gov. Reagan was so fortunate that the Platform Committee saved him from that embarrassment -- and put him and his Platform on the winning side of this controversial issue. And he did get the women's vote.

ERA = DEFEAT; STOP ERA = VICTORY

This year, three women made strong bids to be elected to the U.S. Senate. The one against ERA was elected, Paula Hawkins of Florida. The two feminists who support ERA were defeated: Elizabeth Holtzman of New York and Mary Buchanan of Colorado.

The final proof that ERA is the kiss of defeat is that Mary Buchanan could easily have won her race if she had been anti-ERA. Reagan carried Colorado by a large margin, and the incumbent, Sen. Gary Hart, was a George McGovern Democrat -- and all the other Senators of that stripe went down to defeat. But the voters simply do not want to elect a woman's libber.

Yes, anti-ERA pro-life Cong. Bob Dornan won.