

## **IS THERE A MAN IN YOUR DAUGHTER'S BATHROOM? KALAMAZOO SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY ORDINANCE**

- On December 1, 2008, an anti-discrimination ordinance was amended by Kalamazoo City Commission by a 7-0 unanimous vote, to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity.”
- After petitions were filed, the Commissioners withdrew the amended ordinance, only to pass a new amended ordinance on June 29 which will become law in ten days.
- Needed: 1,300 valid signatures of Kalamazoo City registered voters by July 29 to put this referendum on the ballot for a vote in November, in Kalamazoo City.
- This ordinance creates no new protection except for those who are transgendered and for cross-dressers, or those who practice one or more of the 30 “Orientations” originally defined by the American Psychiatric Association. State and federal laws already protect the civil rights of all citizens.
- This ordinance is simply a form of reverse discrimination against business owners, people of faith, and those who oppose such behaviors.
- The Commissioners, in the newly amended ordinance, REMOVED the bathroom exemption. The ordinance’s unclear language regarding “gender identity” suggests that one could declare himself to be of the opposite sex and use facilities like restrooms, locker rooms, and showers, which have been reserved for single-sex use. “Gender identity” makes it legal for anyone to declare himself to be any sex he chooses at any time.
- There are cases where fear of backlash litigation has made it politically incorrect to make appropriate distinction between the sexes. Alabama schools were forced to put boys and girls together in gym, health, and fitness classes.
- This means that there could be a man using your daughter's school locker room, a woman in the men's room at McDonalds, or a man in the ladies' restroom at the public library.
- Every business that contracts with the City of Kalamazoo must comply with the provisions of the ordinance or be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by the City in obtaining from other sources the work and services to be rendered or the goods and properties to be furnished.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

1. Voters should be allowed to decide, not politicians.
2. Rescinding the ordinance will stop potential violations of the privacy rights of women and children in public restrooms, locker rooms, and showers.
3. Rescinding the ordinance will protect the religious freedom of faith-based bookstores.
4. This ordinance violates the First Amendment rights of religion and free speech of those who oppose cross-dressing and homosexual behavior.