

Tables Turn on Radical Gay Agenda in Jacksonville, Fla.

Homosexuals and transgendered people won't get any "special" treatment in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Jacksonville City Council overwhelmingly rejected the controversial proposed 2012-296 "non-discrimination" ordinance.

Ordinance 296 created a new protected class and **special rights** for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and persons of any "gender identity or expression."

"This is an extraordinary victory for the people of Jacksonville who rose up and made it clear they were not going to allow some secret council of elite powerbrokers or activists from outside Jacksonville to force extreme policies upon them," says John Stemberger, president and general counsel of the Florida Family Policy Council (FFPC). "I could not be more proud of the local residents who worked so hard to create a citywide movement to defeat this disaster of an ordinance."

If passed, the measure would have created a cause of action for money damages against private citizens by gay identified and others who felt they were being treated unfairly in workplace, housing and public accommodations.

"I believe we are seeing the tables start to turn on '**gay rights**' issues when Americans see how really extreme these left-wing activists are," Stemberger says. "These are not just people who have a same sex attraction and want to be left alone to freely define themselves. This is a radical group of political operatives who want to force their aberrant views on human sexuality upon the rest of society by the mandate and penalty of law."

The FFPC marshalled tens of thousands of emails and phone calls to the Councilmen offices. The FFPC also launched radio ads, automated calls and media interviews, created coalitions and organized church leaders to educate and influence the City Council. Stemberger was in the trenches in Jacksonville several times, personally testifying before the City Council and helping concerned citizens organize against 296.

“Between the **Chick-fil-A** backlash, the recent outing of the new ‘pan-gendered’ legislator in Texas, the plummeting of JC Penny stocks after they started displaying ads with openly gay men on Father’s Day, Home Depot parading explicit sexual conduct in front of children, and now the major defeat of 296 in Florida’s largest and most progressive city,” Stemberger says, “I believe people are waking up to the truth that this is not about discrimination or fairness but about an intolerance and utter disrespect for the rights of others, namely Christians and those who believe in **traditional family values.**”