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If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin.

Samuel Adams

The Supreme Court's "Non-Decision" on Marriage Has Drastic Results

According to several news reports, the Supreme Court's decision not to review any of the marriage cases sent to them by four appeals courts could actually make same-sex marriage legal in 30 states, a staggering jump from just 19 states last week. While the cases under review were from only four states (Virginia, Wisconsin, Utah, Oklahoma), the decisions that were left standing could potentially affect all the states in the 4th, 7th, and 10th circuit court regions. While supporters of gay marriage and many media outlets are claiming the Supreme Court's lack of action as a victory and a clear sign of changing public opinion and acceptance of gay marriage, conservatives are quick to point out that, according to a recent [poll](#) by Pew Forum, public support for gay marriage is actually down from 54% to 49%. Furthermore, in the majority of states where same-sex marriage is banned, the decision has been made [by the people](#) through a vote on a constitutional amendment or legislation, rather than through a decision by a single judge or panel of judges. As Ryan Anderson of the Heritage Foundation [points](#) out, "The Supreme Court left standing bad rulings from lower federal courts that usurped authority from the people by striking down good laws." He continues, "Citizens are, of course, free to redefine marriage to include same-sex relationships, but so too should citizens be free to retain the historic definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman—as citizens in a majority of states have done. Nothing less than the future of our society and the course of constitutional government in the United States are at stake." Meanwhile, just days after the Supreme Court declined to review the marriage cases, Justice Anthony Kennedy [issued](#) a stay in a 9th Circuit Court ruling from Tuesday which overturned the bans on gay marriage in Idaho and Nevada. Offering no explanation for the stay, he requested a response from the plaintiffs from the Idaho case by Thursday, and some pundits look for the entire Court to get involved before a final resolution is reached. Still pending is a decision from the 6th Circuit Court which many court watchers believe will conflict with the other appeals courts decisions by upholding traditional marriage, and thereby prompt the Supreme Court to decide to take up the issue of marriage once and for all.

Common Core Controversy Continues

Despite the efforts of Common Core advocates to gain positive momentum for the standards, the Common Core Standards continue to create controversy and draw criticism from parents, educators, and even from some supporters. This week, *Education Week* included an article which criticized the implementation of the standards, citing the lack of a pilot program as the main reason for the flaws with the standards. While the author actually supported the Common Core, he [recognized](#) that the quick adoption and implementation of the standards by so many states did not allow for a proper "testing" period to ensure the standards had been adequately prepared for success. Furthermore, teachers across the country are speaking out because teacher evaluations will be based on the student test scores from the new Common Core assessments, yet teachers have had insufficient time to prepare students fully with the new standards. To complicate matters, a Louisiana teacher was recently [reprimanded](#) for a negative Facebook post regarding the standards, adding fuel to Louisiana Governor Jindal's

case that the standards are a result of unlawful coercion by the federal government. A common point made by both those who support and oppose the standards is that a curriculum is necessary to ensure the standards are successful. While supporters claim the curriculum will aid the standards' success, those opposed [warn](#) that any curriculum designed to meet the Common Core Standards will become politicized and face the same danger of federal control that the standards are experiencing.

School District Faces Backlash for Course Review

A Colorado district school board is [drawing national criticism](#) for its recent proposal to form a committee to review the AP U.S. history curriculum. While the stated goal is to ensure [materials](#) “promote citizenship, patriotism, essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system, respect for authority and respect for individual rights,” critics are claiming that the move constitutes censorship. In protest of the proposal, hundreds of students have walked out of classes, and enough teachers called in sick or used personal days to temporarily close four schools. The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Coalition Against Censorship also weighed in, charging the board for ignoring First Amendment rights. Even the College Board expressed support for the student protests. (Interestingly, the College Board is facing its own battle regarding the revision of the AP U.S. history curriculum framework as conservatives claim that the new framework presents a “negative view” of America and distorts important parts of American history.) In light of the controversy over the proposal in the Colorado district, the school board recently adopted a new plan to include parents, students, and community members on the committee that will review curriculum.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Rally for Israel Held in Washington, D.C.](#)

[Education Savings Account - "Next Generation of School Choice"](#)

[States Mixed on NCLB Waiver Leeway](#)

[New Poll Shows Growing Appetite for Religion in Politics](#)

Jamison Coppola: Legislative Director
Maureen Van Den Berg: Policy Analyst
Legislative Office, 119 C Street SE, Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 202.547.2991 Fax: 202.547.2992