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November 20th, 2006

Kerry and Mitt: Prez decision in early '07

Posted by Kimberly Atkins at 9:04 am

Both Bay State presidential hopefuls, Gov. Mitt Romney and Sen. John Kerry, said they will announce whether they are officially jumping into the race sometime after the holiday season.

Yesterday Kerry told Fox News Sunday's Chris Wallace that it was time to move on from discussions about the senator's botched joke. When Wallace asked if the joke hurt his presidential chances, Kerry said: "The voters will decide that in the future. I believe the voters want to see leadership. And I'm proud of the leadership that I've offered."

On his timeline for deciding whether to run for president, Kerry said: "My decision would be somewhere around the turn of the year, beginning of the year."

Friday, Romney also said he would make his decision after the holidays.

Some high profile names have already made steps toward formally throwing their hats into the presidential ring, including former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Arizona Sen. John McCain, who each formed an exploratory committee last week.

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November 20th, 2006

Romney's remarks

Posted by Kimberly Atkins at 8:36 am

Here is the full text of Gov. Mitt Romney's comments at yesterday's rally on the State House steps, where he vowed to petition a single justice of the state Supreme Judicial Court to put a proposed amendment to ban gay marriage on the ballot in 2008. Earlier this month, lawmakers blocked the move. Standing with gay marriage opponents, Romney said yesterday:

It's quite an interesting view I get from those windows.

All I have to do is glance this way to see the stream of tourists. They come in duck boats, trolleys, and as foot pilgrims.

They're not here for the beauty. They're here for the history.

For this was the place where an astounding idea was born. It revolutionized America, it revolutionized the world.

The idea was this: our nation would be guided by the voice of the people.

This nation would trust the voice of the people rather than the wisdom of a king, or anyone else.

The idea was embodied in the first Constitution, written by John Adams, here in Massachusetts. It established how the voice of the people would be heard - through elections and votes, petitions and initiatives, representatives and senators.

Lincoln said that as elected leaders, we promise to follow the law, to follow the Constitution. He called this "America's political religion."

Last week, 109 legislators decided to reject the law, abandon the Constitution, and violate their oath of office.

For the Constitution plainly states that when a qualified petition is placed before them, the legislature "shall" vote. It does not say may vote, or vote if its procedures permit a vote, or vote if there are enough of the members in attendance. It says "shall" vote.

A decision not to vote is a decision to usurp the Constitution, to abandon democracy and substitute a form of what this nation's founders called tyranny, that is, the imposition of the will of those in power, on the people.

As I listened to the debate in the legislative session last week, I was struck by the irony, and the hypocrisy. Legislators so energized to protect the newly discovered gay right to marry had no compunction about trammeling the long established, constitutional right of the people to vote.

The issue now before us is not whether same sex couples should marry. The issue before us today is whether 109 legislators will follow the Constitution.

Tomorrow, I will send these 109 a copy of the Constitution and of their oath of office.

And this week, we will file an action before the courts, calling upon the judiciary to protect the constitutional rights of our citizens.

Let us not see this state, which first established constitutional democracy, become the first to abandon it.

BLOGGER



Reporter and lawyer **Kimberly Atkins** keeps watch on Gov. Mitt Romney's quest for the White House, the candidates who want his corner office, and politicos under the golden dome at the Herald's State House bureau.

From City Hall to Beacon Hill and beyond, Kimberly will have her eyes on Bay State pols and politics throughout the election season. If you have a hot political tip or just

want to sound off, send an e-mail to katkins@bostonherald.com.

Additional contributors may include CNC managing editor Joe Dwinell, city desk editor Emma Ratliff and online managing editor Bill Burke.

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