

Viewpoints

Sunday Square Off: Attorney-general candidates Mark Brnovich and Felecia Rotellini. 12 News, 8 a.m. Sunday

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Institution of marriage stronger now

Horne won't appeal; same-sex couples can create lasting, legal unions

Attorney General Tom Horne will not appeal a federal court's decision declaring Arizona's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

And so, we will soon find out if the institution of marriage can withstand the flood of loving couples who wish to formalize their relationship and avail themselves of all the legal protections heterosexual couples have long taken for granted.

We expect it will do just fine. It hasn't suffered in any of the 30 other states where gays and lesbians now unite in matrimony.

Oh, there will be those who lash out at judges who uphold constitutional prin-

ciples over popular passions. There will be those who insist that "God still ordains marriage to only be the union of one man and one woman," as Center for Arizona Policy President Cathi Herrod did Friday morning in an e-mail blast that promises to "redouble our efforts to rebuild a culture of marriage."

They are free to do so. Churches can continue to decide who they will marry. That is their constitutional right.

But in Arizona, a large number of couples already marry outside of the church, with a nondenominational pastor or no clergy at all.

Marriage is not solely a religious rite. In our secular society, it is a civil institution that bestows legal rights and responsibilities.

Married couples can direct the upbringing of their children, rather than having to decide which one will be listed as the parent. They can own community property. A spouse can see the other in



DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC
Appealing a federal judge's decision allowing same-sex marriage would be "an exercise in futility" and waste taxpayers' money, Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne says.

the hospital or have a say in medical care without being turned away as an unrelated person.

At last, committed same-sex couples in Arizona will have these basic civil

rights. Horne called this one correctly. Appealing would be futile and a waste of taxpayer money, he said.

"The first duty of the attorney general is to be a good lawyer," he said Friday morning. "The probability of the 9th Circuit reversing (Friday's) district-court decision is zero. The probability of the Supreme Court accepting review of the 9th Circuit ruling is also zero."

The inevitable has arrived in Arizona.

It is a day to celebrate. The history of the United States is one of expanding rights, of bringing more and more people under the protection of a Constitution dedicated to securing "the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

Those blessings were secured today for same-sex couples in Arizona. And with a judge's decree, the institution of marriage became stronger.

OPINIONS.AZCENTRAL.COM

Given turnover, program's money would be better spent on teachers

"Non-profit can help fill state's teachers gap" (Opinions, Monday):

Rep. Heather Carter and Phil Francis, former CEO of PetSmart, claim Teach for America is a smart investment showing tangible returns.

TFA requires a two-year sign-on. But the *Washington Post* reported that more than 50 percent leave after the two years and more than 80 percent after three. Can the authors tell us how this program provides any acceptable level of return on investment?

I suggest they focus their efforts on providing the funding necessary for appropriate salary levels for our teachers, which will in turn help to reduce turnover and vacancies. The public does "understand these issues" and have told our representatives in its voter-approved Proposition 301 how to do your jobs. It's about time for you to act on our wishes.

— Mike Jarecki, Mesa

ANOTHER VIEW MIKE LUCKOVICH



Changing Redskins name may set a bad precedent across society

The problem with your demand that the Washington Redskins change their name is that it perpetuates political correctness and that "everyone has a right to feel offended."

Have you thought about the precedent this will set? Vikings were brutal, vicious people. Norwegians certainly should expect the Minnesota team to change their name.

San Diego has a war memorial on a hill in La Jolla that has a cross on it. An atheist lawyer for years has been beside himself, having to drive the freeway knowing that cross is up there. This is so silly it defies credulity.

I'm embarrassed and offended by the charlatan currently residing in the

White House. What is *The Republic* going to do for me?
My God, get a grip people.

— Scott Anderson, Green Valley

Gas price is down, U.S. economy is up, so where's Obama's credit?

When gasoline was nearly \$4 a gallon, "Obama Was To Blame!"

With all the border problems! (and they're there), "Obama is To Blame," although we had 9,846 Border Patrol Agents in '03 and 18,611 in '14.

Jobs and the economy have improved since 2008 and the U.S. is ahead of the world in recovery. Isn't there some applause?

— Trish McBurnett, Flagstaff

Student has right idea in making education fun and interesting

Regarding "From a student: Fix our schools so we are excited to learn every day" (Opinions, Saturday):

Letter writer Rachel Berman is a wise young lady. Learning should be fun and interesting. All students want to have fun, all have experiences and interests. Important ingredients for learning.

Educators need to talk to students. They have ideas how to make learning fun, interesting and challenging. It is their education. They need to be actively involved in planning and executing their learning experiences.

Rachel, keep fighting for your beliefs and your education!

— Richard Thomas, Surprise

Latinos will start as Democrats then switch to being Republican

Republicans needn't worry long term about the Democratic Party gaining huge numbers of voters due to Latino immigrants. Their basic values are Republican.

They are single-issue voters. The only reason they're Democrats now is to get here and become citizens. Once that is accomplished, they will become Republicans because of their traditional emphasis on more basic issues such as family values, abortion, individual responsibility and patriotism.

So be patient, Republicans. In a few years, those Latino Democrats will be strong Republicans.

— Dan Wilkinson, Gilbert

WEEKLY MAILBAG

Of 413 total letters this week ...

63 letters

The gubernatorial campaign, including our endorsement of Doug Ducey.

25 letters

Same-sex marriage; the Washington Redskins.

24 (tie): Ebola; political advertising.

20: Other candidates.

14: Common Core.

Join the conversation

We want to hear from you. Comment on letters, columns and editorials online or via e-mail.

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» opinions@arizona-republic.com

Del Casino

Continued from Page F4

ly on the Internet for much of his or her basic research. An open and accessible Internet is, after all, a space where students — not just as consumers of knowledge, but also as producers — will exchange content across an ever-growing set of information databases.

However, just as those in higher education accelerate action to expand online education, the debate about net neutrality — the idea that broadband and Internet service providers should provide open access to all legal online content equally and without interference — has intensified.

For those of us in higher education, what's at risk is the very access the administration is demanding. This is why organizations such as the Association of Research Libraries, the American Library Association and EDUCAUSE have expressed great concern over *Verizon vs. FCC*, which ruled ISPs could block particular content or charge higher rates to corporations or consumers for faster delivery.

And therein lie many concerns and questions for higher education.

How can universities provide affordable, quality education if the flows of information start to work at different speeds on the Internet? Or if corporations choose to simply not deliver certain content? Can we really provide access to online content efficaciously if diverse students do not have equal access to the

Internet? This brings to light broader concerns tied to the administration's larger goals, including expanding access to historically underserved populations. These populations tend to have much less access to Internet resources already, begging the question "does the future of net neutrality have a differential effect on those the administration hopes to most directly serve?" The question of how to manage the future of online education in relation to the concerns over Internet accessibility must be brought into direct conversation.

We should also take seriously the "net neutrality principles" that a group of 11 higher-education associations has produced. These principles provide a framework that will help us provide quality and accessible educational op-

portunities to a much wider constituency of eager college students.

Many higher-education institutions have already invested billions of dollars to expand access to a much wider population. The response has been incredible as institutions that are historically based on the delivery of face-to-face education rethink their mission and their social obligation. We should build on this momentum and consider what the consequences of no net neutrality are for the future of affordable and accessible online higher education.

It will be hard to undo the changes once they are in place.

Vincent J. Del Casino Jr. is vice provost for Digital Learning and Student Engagement at the University of Arizona.



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