

NewsRoom

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Section: A

When tolerance is really 'zero tolerance'

When tolerance is really 'zero tolerance' In early May, President Obama announced his support for homosexual marriage, stating that talking with his daughters helped him to "evolve" on the issue. He had previously said that he opposed same-sex marriage, although even earlier he had supported it. So he was for it before he was against it, but now is for it again. If you can follow that "evolution," then maybe you can explain Obama economics, too. This is called a "flip-flop" when Republicans do it. Immediately after announcing his newly re-found support for gay marriage, the president jetted to Hollywood and Manhattan to rake in lavish amounts of campaign cash from gay activists and celebrities, who had been threatening to withhold donations for his re-election. So it is a cynical flip-flop, at that. Obama came out of the closet for gay marriage for another reason: It represents another attempt to change the subject from the economy, runaway spending and ballooning government. Like the imagined "war on women" and Bain Capital, gay marriage is a pander to liberal interest groups and an attempt to cast Republicans as intolerant, uncaring and even bigoted. Democrats are increasingly desperate to fight the culture wars, on their terms, because they cannot defend an indefensible record on jobs, the economy and government spending. Mississippi became a front of sorts in those culture wars last week. State Rep. Andy Gipson, chairman of the House Judiciary B Committee, became a target of the radical left. Gipson posted on his Facebook page his opinion that homosexual marriage is morally wrong and bad public policy. His real affront was to cite the Bible as a reason why. Gipson, who has represented parts of Rankin and Simpson counties in the Legislature since 2008, is a lawyer and an interim Baptist pastor at a Simpson County church. He accepts the Bible as true. For most Americans, and a great many Mississippians, those beliefs are unremarkable, even laudatory. But for the radical left, Gipson's beliefs are insufferable. National media outlets expressed disbelief that an elected official anywhere could be so "un-evolved." He actually received death threats. Singling out Gipson demonstrates that the left is simply looking for any means to marginalize their opponents. Why else would a state representative's stance on gay marriage (which Mississippi law already prohibits, as 29 other states do) rise to national significance? The gay rights lobby had to be trolling for any way to keep the issue alive in order to find Gipson's Facebook post. Discrediting GOP officials like Gipson is a way to discredit Mitt Romney and the whole GOP. It fits the "narrative." Thus, Gipson - one of the nicest guys I know (we worked at the same law firm briefly and crossed paths often when I worked at the secretary of state's office) - became the left's poster boy for "intolerant" conservatives. The radical left has lost election after election in their effort to redefine traditional marriage. But what they cannot win at the ballot box, they intend to win in the courts. And, by re-electing Obama, who could then appoint two or three more Supreme Court justices, they may well achieve redefinition of marriage by judicial decree. Liberal talking heads officially play nice, stating that there are "reasonable people on both sides" of the issue. But while the fawning media praise Obama's enlightened "evolution" toward gay marriage, they merely pay lip service to the conviction held by many that homosexual marriage is wrong, or at least a marked departure from a few thousand years of social order. The actual conduct of the radical left is astonishingly intolerant. Gipson is a case in point. Obama's own campaign has called out individual Romney donors as "bigoted" simply for opposing gay marriage. Others have been publicly ostracized or, like Gipson, have received threats and intimidation. Reasonable, indeed. Here, Gipson may have been the wrong target. Polite and mild-mannered, he

graduated first in his class at Mississippi College and in law school. He knows his stuff, and has no intention of backing off his sincere convictions. Good for him. Twenty years ago, when I was starting at Yale Law School, I first encountered liberal "political correctness." At the time, the idea of homosexual marriage was so beyond seriousness that I thought it could never happen. I soon came to see that "tolerance," as that term is used by liberals, really means zero tolerance for traditional, religious or conservative views. The culture warriors on the left demand unconditional surrender. **Cory T. Wilson** is an attorney who lives in Madison. His email address is cory@corywilson.ms.

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