



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Could it really be that 40 years have passed since I signed on as a founding director of a bold new organization called Negative Population Growth?

The answer is "YES!" And thanks to the support of hundreds of thousands of members and supporters during the past four decades, NPG stands today as one of the nation's premier organizations dedicated to pursuing responsible population and immigration policies.

It is hard to look at today's U.S. Population Clock as it ticks closer to 313 million people and pat ourselves on the back for a job well done through the years. But think if we didn't exist. You have to realize that in 1972 we were at a point in our nation's history where "growth at any cost" was the dominant philosophy and putting the brakes on our social extravagance was not much of a concern to the vast majority of Americans. Thankfully, the advent of the first Earth Day in 1971 encouraged many people to think about the destructive, greedy and self-indulgent path our nation was on. As the decades have progressed NPG can definitely take some credit for making people change their lifestyles to ensure that future generations of Americans are not doomed to live, work and raise a family in a nation with declining living standards.

In digging through some of NPG's earlier publications in preparation for our 40th Anniversary, I've been reminded that while shaping future population trends is not an exact science, and trying to change them is still a phenomenal task, we simply cannot sit back and accept the dire consequences. In the

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REVENGE POLITICS IN ARIZONA

The political climate has been seething in Arizona ever since that state's lawmakers and governor stood together a few years ago to enact some of the nation's strongest laws related to immigration enforcement. The Obama Administration condemned the state's actions and acted almost immediately to take the state to court on the basis that the elected leaders went too far. Yet, when the 2010 elections came around, the people stood with their elected leaders and Governor Jan Brewer and others coasted to re-election.

However, the immigration controversy, sparked by Arizona's deep interest to put citizens' rights ahead of accommodating hordes of illegal aliens, introduced a new element of revenge politics designed to strike fear in the hearts of any and all elected leaders who push back against the agenda of the open-border lobby, operating under the banner of Citizens for a Better Arizona.

Last month, Senate President Russell Pearce, who has worked hard in recent years to crack down on illegals in Arizona and who has been a tireless advocate for tighter border security, went down in defeat after pro-illegal groups put together a massive, multi-million dollar campaign targeted strictly to keep him from being re-elected.

Fresh from that victory, Citizens for a Better Arizona has now announced that they plan to form a "citizens posse" to take down Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio in November of 2012. Arpaio has earned a national reputation for his no-nonsense

enforcement of federal immigration laws and has gone head-to-head with the Obama Administration in dealing with illegals rounded up in his county.



Sheriff Arpaio is serving his fifth four-year term and is not eager for a major challenge – but he is far better prepared than Senator Pearce. He told *The Washington Times* in November that he is eager to explain to the voters his "rationale for what I'm doing" and has already raised \$6 million for his re-election campaign. That's a huge sum for a sheriff contest. In his last election, Sheriff Arpaio received 55% of the vote.

Still to be decided is whether or not Citizens for a Better Arizona will put their weight behind an effort to recall Governor Jan Brewer who won re-election in 2010 with 54% of the vote. That effort would require a massive statewide effort obtaining 432,000 signatures to get the recall on the ballot.

Is Arizona's "revenge politics" a foreshadowing of what is to come nationwide against political leaders who stand firm on demanding strong immigration laws? We can't let that happen! Please make sure that your elected leaders on both the state and federal level understand that you will back them 100% in all efforts to bring illegal immigration under control and enact strong immigration laws.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (Continued from page 1)

Spring of 1979, *Family Weekly*, a magazine which arrived in millions of American homes as a supplement to the Sunday newspaper, carried a column called "Ask Them Yourself" wherein a reader from Odessa, TX posed the question, "Has the fear of overpopulation passed?" The magazine asked NPG to provide an answer and printed my reply which read:

"The population explosion, the most destructive force the world has ever known, is alive and well. Reports of its demise have been grossly exaggerated. If we date its birth from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution some 200 years ago, it is most likely in robust and vigorous middle age, with old age and decrepitude 100 years or more in the future. With more than 4.2 billion people now, the world is already dangerously overpopulated. World population is still growing at about two percent a year, a rate about 1,000 times greater than the rate of population growth for 99.99 percent of human history. At the present rate of increase the world will add another billion in the next 11 years."

That statement is now 32 years old and world population just passed the 7 billion mark this past November, but the message rings as true as ever. We cannot let our population numbers build at such an alarming rate! Indeed, if world population policies are left as they are, global population is expected to reach 8 billion by 2025.

Throughout the 40 years I've headed up this proud organization I have had the opportunity to join with countless dedicated individuals who have worked to advance limits on population growth in concert with championing environmental action. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and former Governor Dick Lamm of Colorado definitely head the list.

Today, while we very much applaud the elected leaders on the national, state and local level who are in the forefront of the battle against illegal immigration, we definitely need many more of their peers to work with NPG to advance our goals.

Sadly, even at a time when our nation's policymakers must face the realities of massive debt, critical energy problems, deteriorating infrastructure, and potential water shortages – all population-driven problems – they still ignore the critical need to look to the future. They refuse to act now to radically change our population and immigration policies to ensure that today's destructive economic and demographic currents don't continue to spin out of control and bring down our nation. With our nation on a path to absorb an additional 125 million more people in the next 40 years, it is crucial that we force them to address this looming crisis now. As a nation, America has been strengthened time and time again by our leaders and citizens assuming responsibility, not by escaping it. We need to get back to that mindset.

Without question, limiting immigration – both legal and illegal – remains our greatest challenge and must remain NPG's priority focus in the years ahead. Current projections show that a large majority of our future population growth will be immigration-driven and we must do all in our power to keep waves of new immigrants from overwhelming our country. If we are going to pass along the best of America to our children and grandchildren, it is vital that we continue to work together to meet this goal.

As we launch our 40th year I want to extend special thanks to a number of key people whose decades-long commitment to NPG has been instrumental to our success. These include Lindsey Grant, David Simcox, Professors Albert Bartlett and Leon Bouvier, and my longtime assistant, Theresa Mickendrow.

Finally, we are all indebted to NPG Executive Vice President Craig Lewis who is extremely diligent in his job and with his staff keeps NPG's daily operations on track and moving forward.

2012 can be another great year for NPG. Let's all work to make it so!

WE'VE GOT A MAJOR JOB TO DO....

When NPG mailed out more than 7,000 questionnaires to state legislators in all 50 states we definitely expected to learn a lot from the answers that continue to come back.

However, we are somewhat shocked to find that a majority of our nation's state leaders hold the view that they have little or no role to play in reducing future population growth.

Our biggest dismay stems from the responses to the question that asked: What is your personal philosophy when it comes to population growth in your jurisdiction? Among the five options we provided for a response, the answers thus far have broken down as follows:

- Population growth should be stopped – 4%
- Population growth should be limited – 11%
- Population growth should be restricted through zoning and land-use controls – 26%
- Population growth is inevitable and cannot be stopped – 27%
- Government has no authority to control population growth – 32%

Such answers only underscore the tremendous challenge we face. We must persuade our fellow citizens to put pressure on their state legislators to start paying attention to this critical issue which impacts so many aspects of our daily lives, has profound consequences for future generations and will truly dictate the fate of our nation.

To date, we have only received a portion of what would represent a definitive sampling of legislators and we expect many more completed surveys to arrive in the coming weeks. A full final compilation of the results of the survey, which contains 37 questions on population and immigration issues, will be published on our website, www.npg.org, in the coming months.

NPG'S 40th ANNIVERSARY MULTI-MEDIA CONTEST FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS

If you know of a talented high school or college student who is interested in competing for some valuable scholarship money, please bring this article to their attention.

In recent years, NPG has made a special effort to take the message of the need for a smaller, truly sustainable, U.S. population to today's students. For the past five years, thousands of high school and college students throughout the nation have participated in our annual NPG Scholarship Contest and it is incredible to see how today's generation is so concerned about shaping a livable future. In 2008, we sponsored an NPG National Poster Contest for students in the 5th through 12th grades. The artwork submitted by hundreds of students was exemplary. It was quite a challenge to select the winners.

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary this year we are going to build on these past efforts in reaching out to students with our Multi-Media Contest that will have three key components:

Scholarship Essay Contest: High school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be presented with the following challenge:

Without critical changes, U.S. population growth will reach 438 million people in less than 40 years. Explain how this projected growth will negatively affect the United States socially, economically and environmentally. Submissions must be between 500 and 700 words.

A total of six scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 will be awarded. Text from the winning essays will be used in print advertisements, newsletter stories, the *NPG Journal* and other outreach projects as well as being posted on NPG's website and Facebook page.

Student Poster Contest: Building on the success of our 2008 effort, high school students will be asked to:

Submit a multi-color poster designed to display the negative consequences of allowing U.S. population to grow to an unsustainable level of 438 million people.

The theme for this contest is intentionally designed to pair with the essay contest to give NPG a wide pool of material for advertising and other initiatives. A total of six scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 will be awarded for the best posters.

Video Contest: New this year is an invitation to film and video production students at the college level (as well as college-bound high school seniors) to:

Create a one to three minute video that strongly conveys the negative effects of permitting population growth in the United States to grow to an unsustainable level of 438 million people in the next 40 years.

A total of six scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 will be awarded to winners of the video competition and winning entries will appear on NPG's website and Facebook page, linked to our email-based *NPG Journal*, and posted to popular websites such as *YouTube* where they will gain widespread distribution.

Information and additional details about all three of these exciting programs will be posted on NPG's website in January with all submissions due on various dates in April.

NPG's 2012 AGENDA

Each year as we set forth our NPG agenda we do so knowing that we are working to create population policies not only for the next twelve months but also for the next few decades and generations to come.

For our 40th Anniversary we have created an agenda which carries forward many of our time-honored programs, expands our interaction with our members, and seeks to forge new avenues whereby we can continue to get the message about the destructive nature of overpopulation to millions more Americans and enlist their help in working to halt and eventually reverse today's soaring population numbers. Throughout 2012 we will use your NPG membership dues and special contributions to help finance the following projects:

Continue to publish and distribute our *Population Perspectives* newsletter and web-based *NPG Journal* and create a new booklet titled *The Best of NPG* that will contain a compendium of facts and excerpts from past NPG publications and arm members and friends with valuable information to help advance our mission;

Fund an NPG 40th Anniversary National Population/Immigration Survey which will go to 50,000 citizens nationwide;

Expand our media campaign and regular advertising beyond *E-Magazine*, *The Utne Reader*, *The Washington Times National Weekly* and other select publications, including taking ads in college newspapers;

Continue to provide teachers nationwide with NPG's educational materials including our full-color wall poster and *2012 Population Fact Sheet* which is constantly updated with important population-related facts and figures;

Enlarge our website at www.npg.org and make it more interactive. This effort will be further enhanced once we post the essays, posters and videos that result from our multi-media contest;

Provide a link on our website where members can designate an individual student or community or school library to receive our *NPG Student Packet*;

Recruit more citizens to serve as NPG members, supporters and activists, to strengthen our ability to fight wrong-headed immigration-driven population growth;

Print and mail hundreds of thousands of *National U.S. Voter Public Opinion Surveys* and *National Petitions on Immigration and Population Issues*, the results of which are delivered directly to Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill; and

Finance crucial population research by top experts on key issues and distribute our NPG Forum Papers to the academic and government communities.

Please remember that NPG receives no government funding. The majority of our operations are funded directly by the tax-deductible contributions from NPG members. If you have yet to renew your 2012 membership, please do so today!

REFORMING TODAY'S IMMIGRATION LAWS

"Let's go back to square one. The purpose of immigration laws and policies is not to be either humane or inhumane to illegal immigrants. The purpose of immigration laws and policies is to serve the national interest of this country.

There is no inherent right to come live in the United States, in disregard of whether the American people want you here. Nor does the passage of time confer any right retroactively."

Thomas Sowell, National Columnist

NUMBER OF THE WEEK: 4.5 BILLION

The Wall Street Journal reports that, according to the U.S. Commerce and Energy Departments, 4.5 billion additional cars, buses and trucks would be on the world's roads if every country had the same number of vehicles per capita as the U.S. Numbers show that there are presently 248 million vehicles registered in the U.S., or 809 for every 1,000 people. The *WSJ* notes that "China currently has 46 vehicles per thousand people, about what the U.S. had in 1917. India, with 14 vehicles per thousand, is where the U.S. was in 1913." There are presently about one billion vehicles in the world – a number that's already too high and must be reversed.

THE \$4.2 BILLION DOLLAR TAX LOOPHOLE FOR ILLEGALS

At a time when the twin forces of ever-increasing spending and massive trillion dollar deficits have become a top concern in our nation, more members of Congress are proposing common sense fixes to save billions when and where we can. Earlier this year, Congressman Sam Johnson (R-TX) introduced H.R. 1956, the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act.

The aim of this legislation is to close the loophole in America's tax laws whereby millions of illegal immigrants are applying for – and receiving – a popular \$1,000 tax credit. The money is available to parents who owe no taxes but can receive cash back from the government for their children through the tax code simply by obtaining an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number from the IRS. In a recent op-ed in *The Washington Examiner*, Congressman Johnson cited a new report by the Treasury Department which "shows that in 2010, the government's award of \$4.2 billion through the credit to illegal immigrants was up from \$924 million in 2005." He also cited the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration who concluded that the tax credit provides "an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside and work in the United States without authorization, which contradicts federal law and policy to remove such incentives."

NPG strongly urges all members to contact their members of Congress to request that they join Congressman Johnson in sponsoring H.R. 1956 and work to see it become law.

NEXT OBAMA TARGET... UTAH

Add Utah to the list of states which have earned the wrath of the Obama Administration's Justice Department.

In late November, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that his agency has filed a lawsuit challenging Utah's immigration enforcement law based on the premise that it usurps federal authority and could lead to the harassment and detention of American citizens and authorized visitors.

Utah Governor Gary Herbert put his signature on the new law last March. It requires people to prove their citizenship if they are arrested for serious crimes. Like other laws recently passed by state legislators across the country, it also gives police discretion to check citizenship on traffic infractions and other lesser offenses.

This latest action comes on the heels of similar federal lawsuits being carried out against Arizona, South Carolina and Alabama. The Justice Department is still reviewing laws passed this year in both Georgia and Indiana. Many state governors protest that with tens of thousands of illegals presently residing within their borders and putting a severe strain on state budgets, their states must take action in getting tough in enforcing federal immigration laws. Their actions are dictated by the failure of the Department of Homeland Security to do the job assigned to them.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY...

As a special way to celebrate our 40th Anniversary we are making a plea to members and friends to please consider putting NPG in your will. Your legacy gift will ensure that we can continue to fulfill our mission for many decades to come. If you are interested in including a gift for NPG in your estate please use the enclosed card to send for a complimentary copy of the 24-page booklet entitled *Making Your Will: What You Should Know Before You See Your Lawyer*.



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AT WWW.NPG.ORG!**

Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

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