Legalizing Gay Marriage Could Ease Georgia Budget Woes

Gregory J. Brock

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/savannah

Recommended Citation
More jobs reported in Savannah area

The Savannah metro area — Chatham, Effingham and Bryan counties — saw an uptick of 1,700 jobs in December 2010 compared to a year earlier, according to state employment officials.

The metro area had 152,500 jobs last month, up 1.1 percent from 150,800 in December 2009.

New unemployment benefit claims were down 13.5 percent from 3,119 in December 2009 to 2,697 last month.

Statewide, Georgia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 10.2 percent in December, up two-tenths of a percentage point from a revised 10 percent in November. The rate was 10.3 percent in December 2009.

It marks the 39th consecutive month Georgia has exceeded the national unemployment rate, which is 9.4 percent.

Former S.C. ports land for sale again

PORT ROYAL, S.C. — Land in Port Royal owned by the South Carolina State Ports Authority is again on the market after a second attempt to sell the property fell through last week.

Port Royal Town Manager Van Willis says concerns about the title to smaller parcels in the site and about a marina presented from 1-4 p.m. at the Goodwill Industries, 7220 Sallie Mood Drive.

Advance registration is required; no walks-ins permitted. Call 912-254-9858 for more information or to register.

how to submit

To submit information about your business, including press releases, go to businessinsavannah.com and fill out the form. Entries may be edited. Questions? Call Managing Editor Gabe Baldwin at 912-652-0300 or e-mail gable@gabe.baldwin@ savannahnow.com.

Legalizing gay marriage could ease Georgia budget woes

As gay couples spend 20 percent more than their straight counterparts and 10 percent more on their marriages, according to PlanetOut (Semuels, 2008), Georgia is losing revenue to other states such as Massachusetts, where such marriages are legal.

As economist Gary Becker pointed out long ago, it is not only the couple who suffer but those supporting the discrimination as well (James & Miel, 2008).

California’s gain of $370 million dollars over a three-year period following legalization (Semuels, 2008) is a lot of revenue foregone in any state.

Bipartisanship with the new Congress and the new urgency of changing the political rhetoric after the murders in Arizona can be built on common issues such as gay marriage.

Log Cabin Republicans in Georgia (www.lcrga.com) are already organized to work with Democrats to stimulate the Georgia economy to full recovery without a tax increase by further limiting the role of government in the private lives of Georgia citizens.

We all know that there will come a time soon when we will look back on this current moment and wonder why gay marriage was ever an issue, why it was ever illegal in the first place.

We will also wonder why millions of dollars and hours were spent debating an issue that hurts everyone and cuts revenue during the Great Recession.

Georgia is losing tax dollars and valuable human capital as long as the discrimination remains in place.

Entrepreneurs are losing customers who not only will spend above average amounts on their weddings but also will probably add to the bill because of being able to do so legally in a “red” state.

We know from other countries and antiquity that gay marriage has been around a long time and strengthens the institution of marriage while providing children with loving couples to raise them.

Finally, Georgians should legalize marriage for all these reasons and simply because it is the right thing to do.

Gregory J. Brock is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Economic Education. He can be reached at gbrock@ georgiasouthern.edu.