

Exclusive: GOP Presidential Candidate Daniel Gilbert on Gay Marriage

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Gilbert Shares His Views on Gay Marriage, Teen Birth Control and Morality in Politics

BBSNews Exclusive 2007-09-22 -- By Michael Hess. North Carolina businessman Daniel Gilbert had 12 votes in the South Carolina "Palmetto Family Council" straw poll edging out U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., with ten; Hugh Cort, an Alabama doctor, with seven, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani with five according to the South Carolina political Web site campaignsandelections.com.

In another poll at Newsday that he may have been glad to lose in, the question was asked "Which was the most fevered lunge for self-promotion?" Gilbert was edged out in a poll with a paltry few voters who voted the other two politicians, Vice President Dick Cheney and Democratic Representative Dennis Kucinich, as being last weeks more politically self-centered. Gilbert was included due to his call for removing Congressman Kucinich from serving in Congress for "giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

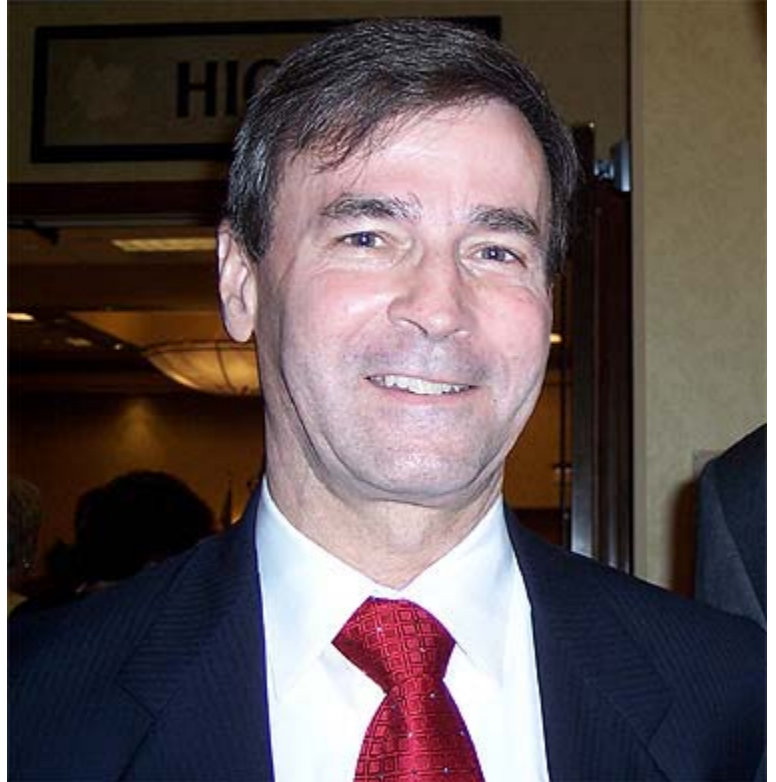
Daniel Gilbert, born in 1946 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina is a 2008 Republican candidate running to be president of the United States. He grew up on a North Carolina farm, went to Vietnam, has a daughter and a son and he is a North Carolina businessman today. He is what some consider a "fringe" candidate. To us, we believe that he represents what the grassroots of the GOP really believes. Just like many of the GOP "base" that provides solid support for Republican "values" candidates, Gilbert clearly states his objection to equal marriage rights, and he bases his objection on his religious beliefs.

He says he is for the US Constitution, but he wants it changed to ensure that gays do not have equal marriage rights. The First Amendment would also have to be changed of course to allow for his (and the GOP's) religious objection to equal marriage rights for gays.

Gilbert does make clear however that he would see both Senator Larry Craig and Senator David Vitter resign from the Senate due to their behavior, with Craig caught in an airport sting reputedly seeking naughty gay sex; and Vitter showing up on the DC Madam's list as well as apparently seeing a hooker on a regular basis in New Orleans, at least until he found out that said hooker's real name Wendy, was the same as his wife's name.

Republican presidential candidate Daniel Gilbert, a firmly right-wing unapologetic believer in the sanctity of life, and no equal marriage rights for gays, he supports the US War on Iraq, he states that Israel "won" Palestine in 1967 and that they can do what they want with it; that the United States can pretty much ignore what the United Nations has to say, and he would repeal NAFTA and the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) [if it gets ratified by the US Senate], we should only bomb Iran as a most drastic last option and every last illegal immigrant should be run out of the United States. For good measure he adds that "anchor babies" and how they fit in with the US Constitution should be looked at, he is just so adorably Republican that he, no doubt, has no idea how denigrating the term "[anchor baby](#)" really is.

BBSNews was thrilled to get a wide-ranging and lengthy taped telephone interview with Daniel Gilbert where he weighs in with a freshness and a message emanating from the conservative base that most Americans will never see from a "top tier" presidential candidate. As a matter of fact, most if not all of the political "consultants" (spin-meisters) would hold this BBSNews series of three articles featuring real and not canned responses from candidate Gilbert up as a prime example of what not to answer in an interview. In fact, a frank and open interview is impossible to get from the candidates most likely to be elected president of the



Republican Presidential candidate for 2008, Daniel Gilbert from Asheville, North Carolina.

Image Credit: Daniel Gilbert.

United States, isn't that a shame?

In this first of three unvarnished segments, we present Daniel Gilbert's views on teenage birth control, gay marriage, and family values as applied to serving politicians who violate those core Family Values. In the second segment on Monday, we will present Mr. Gilbert's views on Iraq, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as his position on Iran. And in the third and final segment on Tuesday, we will present Daniel Gilbert's views on NAFTA, and the hot button issue everyone has an opinion on, illegal immigration in the United States. The following transcription from tape is only edited for brevity:

Daniel Gilbert on Traditional Family Values

BBSNews: On family values Mr. Gilbert, do you approve of any type of birth control if so what kinds, where should they be available and to who?

Daniel Gilbert: I don't think a presidential candidate should be getting involved in what type of birth control there is, I am against abortion. I am pro-life.

BBSNews: Would you prevent teenagers from getting birth control?

Daniel Gilbert: No, because there are circumstances beyond a presidents' control, in that situation there are some medical reasons that some females need birth control. I don't approve of it, but I don't think it's the federal governments' responsibility to stop that.

BBSNews: Sir, do you believe that all civil marriages, including those performed by a magistrate in North Carolina, should be outlawed and marriages should only be performed by Christian clergy or did you have some other idea on what types of marriages should be allowed to occur with state government approval?

Daniel Gilbert: A marriage is basically a Judaeo Christian ceremony and its been around for thousands of years. But there is a government reason for having somebody marry and that's because of divorce and responsibility and care giving and things like that. But just because somebody doesn't believe in Judaeo Christian marriage that should not prevent them from getting married and getting a license.

BBSNews: In effect then, religion really from the states perspective, and the perspective of civil marriage, religion really doesn't enter into it, that's someones personal choice?

Daniel Gilbert: As long as it's one man and one woman.

BBSNews: And in that same vein, do you believe that being gay is a choice? If so, on what evidence would you base that assumption?

Daniel Gilbert: I am not a scientist, I don't know whether or not it's a choice or a lifestyle or if it's genetic. I just don't have an answer because I'm not scientific in nature.

BBSNews: Based on that then, what would be the reason for denying gay people the right to a civil marriage?

Daniel Gilbert: I like to expand on things or exaggerate things when I'm trying to make a decision on things. Would that [gay marriage] allow procreation of life and the answer is no. So it's something that is not normal. Now if there is a genetic factor OK, or if it's a choice factor, that's OK. I'm not one to seek that lifestyle and I would be tolerant of people who are, but that is not to say I would accept that lifestyle.

BBSNews: ... People don't wake up in the morning and believe that they [decide to], I think I'll be gay today so based on many peoples assumption, ... it is not a choice to be gay. Why should there be a Constitutional amendment that actually enshrines discrimination into the Constitution against gays just to prevent them from being married under civil law?

Daniel Gilbert: That's not discrimination. Marriage is between one man and one woman period.

BBSNews: But how, by what criteria did you decide that? It was assumed up until 19 ...

Daniel Gilbert: Judaeo Christian institution.

BBSNews: ... If religion does not have anything to do with a civil marriage then how can it be written into the Constitution that we should discriminate or the nation should discriminate against gay people becoming married under a civil marriage?

Daniel Gilbert: ... Marriage is a Judaeo Christian institution.

BBSNews: But you are attaching the religious aspect to it again though.

Daniel Gilbert: Why would gays want to be involved or be listed under marriage which is a Judaeo Christian thing why wouldn't they want to be...

BBSNews: There are many Christian and Jewish gay people.

Daniel Gilbert: Possibly. That is something that I do not condone.

BBSNews: There is many of them that are members of the church and even clergy in certain churches, so it's not "possible", it's a fact of life. There are many gay clergy members and many gay church members ...

Daniel Gilbert: That does not mean it's right, and it certainly doesn't mean it's normal.

BBSNews: ... Then this leads to the question that [do] you believe being gay is simply not normal?

Daniel Gilbert: ... It's not normal in that you can't procreate life, that's not what God intended, for two men to be married, or two women to be married.

BBSNews: So you believe that procreation is absolutely necessary to marriage?

Daniel Gilbert: No, it's not, but life cannot go on as we know it, we would all die out in one generation if we didn't have procreation.

BBSNews: ... If a woman or man for whatever reason is born sterile or cannot have children should they be prevented from being married because they can't procreate?

Daniel Gilbert: No, they have the opportunity [to marry]. At birth you don't know whether someone is going to be sterile or not you don't know what type of accident might happen between the time they are born or the time they get to puberty.

BBSNews: Therein lies the assumption of many in medical science and the [American Psychological Association](#) that there is not a choice in being gay, [that] one is born gay, so you are making the point that if you are born a certain way that is it OK for you to be married even though you can't have children and procreate, but if you are born gay, you feel that it should be enshrined in the Constitution to discriminate against this single class of people because they can't procreate?

Daniel Gilbert: Wait, you are saying that you are born gay. I don't know for a fact that is true, but it may be a choice as I said earlier, I'm not a scientist, I don't know.

BBSNews: Then the only your only basis of your support of the constitutional marriage amendment is a religious assumption.

Daniel Gilbert: Right.

BBSNews: Doesn't that contradiction ... the Constitution?

Daniel Gilbert: No, it doesn't prevent two people from loving each other but it does maintain the sanctity of marriage, one man and one woman.

BBSNews: In the end, isn't that religious discrimination enshrined in the Constitution? Wouldn't that turn the First Amendment on its head?

Daniel Gilbert: I don't think ... I think it's pretty clear. Marriage is for one man and one woman.

BBSNews: And you are basing that assumption simply on Christian values?

Daniel Gilbert: Christian values and the facts that the body in itself, if everyone was gay, it would cease to exist in one generation.

BBSNews: But people don't just decide to become gay, and there has always been a certain number of the population that is gay, there is not going to be ... people are not going to run out, we don't think, tomorrow morning and all become gay. And certainly in Massachusetts when gay marriage became legal, there wasn't a rush for everybody to convert and say we are going to become gay and in fact on that vein what has happened in Massachusetts with gay marriage there has been more than 6000 of them so far and even a couple of divorces. What has happened from that experience to show you that there is some horrible thing that is going to befall the country because there has been thousands of legal gay marriages in the state of Massachusetts?

Daniel Gilbert: Because somebody does something wherever it is, Massachusetts or Utah or wherever, I say Utah because of bigamy, [just] because somebody does something does not make it right and that does not make it a marriage and marriage is one man and one woman.

BBSNews: When you support the Marriage Amendment you would in effect be supporting the nullifying of those thousands of gay marriages. Do you believe that is a right thing? You don't believe that that's discriminating against those folks that legally [have] gone down in their state, under their state laws, and they have gotten married and then the Marriage Amendment you support would strip them of their marriage?

Daniel Gilbert: Yep.

BBSNews: You believe that should happen?

Daniel Gilbert: Yes, I do.

BBSNews: ... Let's turn away from the gay issue if we could, but still stay with the family values. Do you feel that all elected officials should be held to the same standard of moral conduct and do you believe that both Senator Larry Craig (Republican from Idaho. Scandal: Airport bathroom sting) and Senator David Vitter (Republican from Louisiana, Scandal: Hooker named Wendy) should resign for their moral failings or would you chart another course?

Daniel Gilbert: I think they ought to resign and it's hard to... morals move because of culture; ethics would be a better word to use because ethics sorta stay still, but yes, everybody ought to be held to the same moral standards.

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This is the first of three exclusive BBSNews articles containing a lengthy taped telephone interview with Republican presidential candidate Daniel Gilbert, a North Carolina businessman. His campaign Web site is wethepeopleforpresident.com. The first article is about Traditional Family Values, the second is about the US War on Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Iran and NAFTA, and the third is about Gilbert's position on the thorny issue of illegal immigration.