

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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July 17, 2020

Mary A. Epps  
Internal Revenue Service  
Exempt Organizations Examination Office  
1100 Commerce St.  
MC 4910 DAL  
Dallas, TX 75242

Re: Illegal Politicking by Church

Dear Ms. Epps:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to report a case of illegal campaign intervention at Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena, CA.

We are informed that Harvest Rock's Pastor Ché Ahn endorsed Major Williams as the candidate for Mayor of Pasadena from the church's pulpit. Ahn asked Williams to stand up at a service, saying, "For those who live in Pasadena, Major Williams is running for mayor in Pasadena and I love the fact that he's conservative and that I believe that he will be a great mayor so I want to give my endorsement for him."<sup>1</sup>

IRS regulations specify that 501(c)(3) organizations, which include churches and other religious organizations, are prohibited from "[participating in or intervening in]... any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." Rev. Rul. 2007-41, 2007-25 I.R.B. (June 28, 2007).

Pastor Ahn inappropriately used his position as pastor of Harvest Rock Church to intervene an election, explicitly endorsing a candidate in his capacity as a church representative.

FFRF respectfully requests that the IRS commence an immediate investigation of Harvest Rock Church. The IRS should take appropriate action to remedy this violation of 501(c)(3) regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/p/B9POYaEAGes/>

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Madeline Ziegler*

Madeline Ziegler  
Staff Attorney