

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

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FFRF's Spring / Summer 2023 Appeal Democracy needs you and so does FFRF

Dear Freethinker,

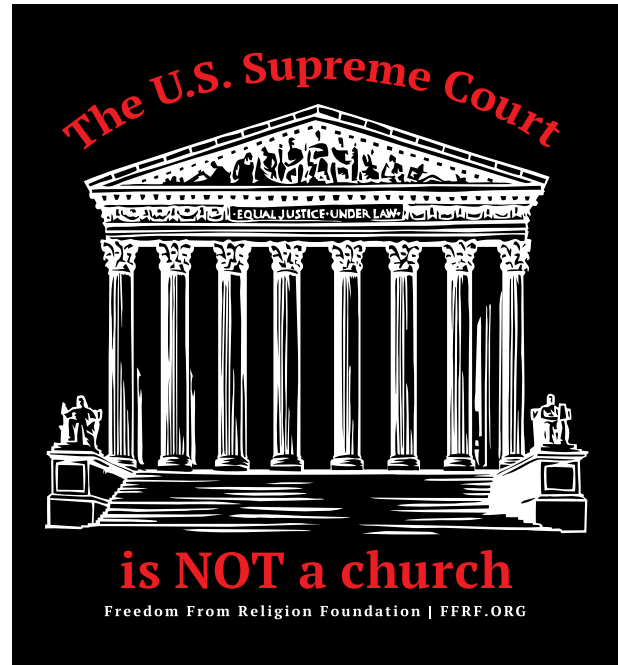
We know you're as dismayed as we are to see the narrow religious ideology of the few being imposed upon the rest of us. A religiously extreme Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and now state after state is banning reproductive rights. LGBTQ rights are under hysterical attack. A flood of state legislation is siphoning tax dollars from the symbol of our democracy — our public schools, which exist to *educate* — in order to fund religious schools, which exist to *indoctrinate*.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation was founded in the late 1970s after we became alarmed at the ascendancy of evangelist Jerry Falwell and others claiming America is a “Christian nation.” For almost five decades, FFRF, with your help, has forthrightly challenged that Big Lie. But for more than half a century, theocrats have been fomenting their “culture war.” Unfortunately, their zealous efforts are paying off and our secular republic is endangered.

FFRF's motto, “Freedom depends on freethinkers,” has never seemed more imperative. We're freethinkers so we don't believe in salvation . . . but it is becoming increasingly clear that FFRF'ers and other secular Americans are playing a vital role in “saving” our U.S. republic. Secular Americans outnumber the white Christian nationalists trying to upend our constitutional democracy, and if we speak up and mobilize, We the People can “secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” Nobody is going to save us but ourselves.

If this sounds like hyperbole, the data below should confirm *your* importance *and* the importance of FFRF's work to promote freethought and the separation of state and church. Here's the data (visit ffrf.us/data for links to the cited studies):

The Nones are rising. New stats from the Cooperative Election Survey show 36 percent of adults and half of Generation Z (born after 1996) profess no religion. There are more atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particulars” than Roman Catholics or Southern Baptists or any other sect. About 22 percent of voters in the 2022 midterms were “Nones.” Unaffiliated voters supported abortion rights “by staggering percentages” and made the difference in key races, according to Associated Press' definitive AP VoteCast survey of 94,000 voters nationwide.



Over, please

But Christian nationalists are ruling. White evangelicals (most of whom accept Christian nationalist precepts) are at most 15 percent of the population. Yet they're disproportionately commandeering state legislatures and public debate, and are blocking the humanistic, rational social policy our nation needs to confront pressing challenges.

Here's more recent data from Public Religion Research Institute documenting the face-off between U.S. seculars and Christian nationalists:

- The Nones are the largest group to emphatically reject "Christian nation" lies. Nearly two-thirds of white evangelical Protestants embrace some forms of Christian nationalism.
- The Nones are the largest group in support of marriage equality, while white Christian evangelicals are the largest group in opposition.
- The Nones overwhelmingly support abortion rights, and are the largest such group by religious identification. In contrast, 71 percent of white Christian evangelicals believe abortion should be illegal in most or all cases.

Atheists and agnostics, who comprise about a third of the religiously unaffiliated, are even more committed than the Nones on these issues. To quote academic researcher Ryan Burge, we freethinkers "punch way above our weight."

We're asking you to help FFRF keep punching above our collective weight. Because our secular form of government is at stake.

This spring we request your practical assistance with these campaigns:

- **Thomas Paine Memorial.** Paine represents the best ideals in freethought, humanistic governance and democracy. Yet as the author of *The Age of Reason*, he's the Forgotten Founder. A Paine monument in D.C. will help erase the awful images from Jan. 6 and stand as a symbol of what is truly great about our country. Rep. Jamie Raskin's bill to erect a Paine monument, introduced last spring, passed into law in less than a year, in part thanks to FFRF's lobbying! We want to raise funds so the Paine statue can be erected by July 4, 2026 — the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Select "Paine" on the enclosed donation card or online dropdown, to ensure your contribution is passed on to the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to cover extensive fees required in the detailed federal process.
- **Educate Congress/State Legislatures.** Up to 88 percent of members of Congress identify as Christian, with only one or two openly nonreligious. No wonder our nation is in trouble! Politicians need educating about the secular values of us Nones.
- **Legal Fund.** We're most worried about voucher bills and laws. FFRF is challenging direct aid to religious schools in South Carolina. We're fighting Ten Commandments monuments on Capitol grounds, preaching in public schools and more. Please shore up our Legal Fund.

We're proud that FFRF, a 501(c)(3) educational charity, has received Charity Navigator's 4-star rating for more than a decade. Other ways to give include the Combined Federal Campaign, your company's matching gifts, or naming FFRF in your estate plans. Under the IRS charitable rollover provision, if you're 70½ or older, you may give up to \$100,000 to FFRF directly from your IRA account, and deduct that gift from taxable income.

Please use the handy enclosed donation slip and return envelope, or go to ffrf.us/donate.



Dan Barker & Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents

P.S. We hope you'll enjoy putting the enclosed (removable) decal on your window, laptop, filing cabinet or car. It educates! Your donation remains deductible for income-tax purposes.