

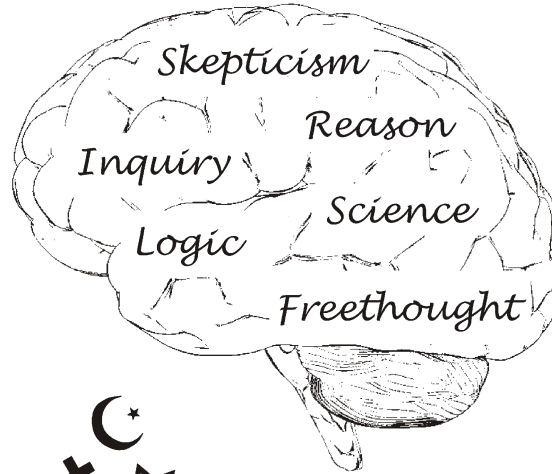
The Constitution:

The United States was first among nations to adopt a secular Constitution, the first to derive its powers from “We, the People” and the consent of the governed, rather than claiming divine authority for its leaders. The Framers of the U.S. Constitution wanted citizens to be free to support the church of their choice, **or no religion at all**. Our Constitution was purposefully written to be a godless document, whose only references to religion are exclusionary, such as that there shall be no religious test for public office. The 1st Amendment to the Bill of Rights states: “**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.**” The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution guarantees not only freedom of religion, but freedom **from** religion. The Treaty of Tripoli, signed by President John Adams in 1797, states unambiguously: “The Government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.”

Why do we call it “Freedom From Religion”?

Religions may have contributed to societies in positive ways. Unfortunately, a thorough review of history reveals that much killing and oppression of people can be traced to the aggressive efforts of religionists to impose their views on others, and to prevent others from having the right to worship in their own way or not to worship at all. We actively oppose any efforts by individuals or groups to force their beliefs on us - bypassing constitutional principles to make their religion superior to all others, or to suppress the influence of viewpoints in opposition to any or all religions.

FFFR
Freedom From Religion



*Don't Litter
Your Mind*

In Reason We Trust

For more information please visit:

www.meetup.com/FFRABQ or www.ffrf.org

FREEDOM

FROM

RELIGION

Albuquerque, NM

**STATE
U.S. CONSTITUTION
CHURCH**

KEEP CHURCH AND

STATE SEPARATE!

Who are we?

We are Freethinkers, non-religious people from all parts of New Mexico and America. We love our country and cherish the freedoms that our founders established and for which our citizens fought and continue to fight.

Freethinkers are skeptics, rationalists, secular humanists, agnostics, and atheists, who form their opinions about religion, as about any area of knowledge, on the basis of science, logic, and reason, rather than strictly on authority, tradition, religious scripture, or any unquestioned dogma. Freethinkers have generally held that, given presently-known facts, established scientific theories, and logical principles, there is insufficient evidence to support the existence of supernatural phenomena.

Freethinkers have been among the first to speak out for fair and equal treatment of all people regardless of gender, race, nationality, or personal beliefs. They were among the first to call for humane treatment of the mentally and terminally ill, abolition of capital punishment, women's rights, and for the end to slavery.

Had all people obediently and literally accepted scripture on blind faith, we would not have democracy, public education, women's rights, the pursuit of science and medicine, or the abolition of slavery.

Morality is human-made, not divinely ordained. Freethinkers judge conduct by its intent and consequences to the welfare of individuals, humankind, and the planet as a whole. Freethinkers take responsibility for their own actions, and do not blame or credit the supernatural. They believe in neither heaven nor hell. While critical of many aspects of religion, Freethinkers do not condemn religious people and do not advocate government prohibition of religions.

What is our purpose?

1. Safeguarding the constitutional principle of separation of state and church and the rights of minorities.
2. Alerting government officials and citizens to church/state violations.
3. Bringing suits for these violations when necessary.
4. Educating the public about non-belief and freethought.
5. Supporting the Freedom from Religion Foundation and its national activism, including its conventions, advertising and publications.

What are our issues?

1. Public school prayer:

Public schools exist to educate, not for government employees to proselytize. Children are an impressionable audience who should not be subjected to a private practice (praying) in a public school. Such practices are divisive and unconstitutional.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance:

Before 1954 the Pledge ended with the words "one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The phrase "under God" was inserted by Congress at the behest of the religious right. Forcing people to recite the words "under God" is discriminatory and in violation of the 1st Amendment.

3. Creationism vs. Evolution:

Creationism and Intelligent Design are religious ideologies, not scientific theories. They have no place in a science classroom, a view the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed.

4. Religious displays on government property:

These are clear 1st Amendment violations.

5. Prayers at government meetings:

Our public officials swear to uphold secular constitutions. Prayers and other religious rituals at government meetings are divisive, discriminatory, and in violation of the 1st Amendment.

6. Money:

The words "In God We Trust" (added in 1956) are another example of the intermingling of religion and government. The first coins issued by the U.S. Mint simply stated "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

Recent activities:

1. Ten billboards erected in 2009 with KOAT and KRQE news coverage.
2. Protest letters to the New Mexico Bar Association for their frequent religious themes on the cover of their monthly Bulletin.
3. Albuquerque Journal advertisement on Constitution Day stating "In Reason We Trust" to counter Hobby Lobby's "In God We Trust" ad on July 4th.
4. Confronted the Metro Detention Center for their "God Pod" favoritism.
5. Protest letters to New Mexico Attorney General concerning his support for the National Day of Prayer.
6. Monitoring City Council and County Commissions for church/state violations.
7. Monitoring "Go-Free Days" for minor violations conducted in Catholic cathedral in Las Cruces.