

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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June 11, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY: eoclass@irs.gov

Internal Revenue Service EO Examinations
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Re: Political campaign intervention by church in support of congressional candidate Jackson Lahmeyer

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to report illegal political campaigning by Sheridan Church, located at 7901 E 41st St., Tulsa, OK. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with 41,000 members across the country. Our purposes are to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.

According to a public statement made by Pastor Jackon Lahmeyer, yard signs for his campaign for Congress can be picked up directly at his church, Sheridan Church.¹ This statement confirms that Lahmeyer is using church facilities and resources to support and facilitate his political campaign.

Lahmeyer's statement is particularly troubling given his long history of apparent political activity through Sheridan Church.² FFRF previously alerted the IRS in 2024 after Lahmeyer hosted Tulsa mayoral candidate Brent VanNorman at the church and solicited campaign donations from congregants. Lahmeyer has openly joked about the number of IRS complaints filed against his church, remarking, "If I had a dollar for every time somebody reported my church to the IRS, I'd be a very wealthy guy."³ His latest statement suggests that he continues to view the prohibition on church electioneering as something to be mocked rather than obeyed.

FFRF is a registered 501(c)(3) and it takes this designation, along with the accompanying privileges and responsibilities, very seriously. Some organizations, like Sheridan Church, have chosen to make a mockery of their 501(c)(3) status by reaping all of the benefits of tax exemption while knowingly violating the law by openly endorsing or opposing political candidates running for public office. We would like to see the IRS take action on this issue and enforce its rules for the benefit of all taxpayers.

The Internal Revenue Code states that to retain their 501(c)(3) status an organization cannot "participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office."⁴ In this instance, Sheridan Church has

¹ <https://x.com/hemantmehta/status/2061897842491269451>.

² <https://bit.ly/4e2FpHH>.

³ <https://bit.ly/4e2FhId>.

⁴ I.R.C. Sec. 501(c)(3).

breached the responsibilities of its tax exempt status by providing institutional support and tangible benefit to a political campaign.

This situation is particularly worthy of investigation because Lahmeyer is both a candidate for federal office and a church leader with a history of endorsing candidates for office, creating an obvious risk that church resources are being improperly used to advance his candidacy.

We respectfully request that the IRS investigate the extent to which church facilities, staff, communications channels or other tax-exempt resources are being used to support Lahmeyer's campaign and ensure that it no longer receives the benefits of 501(c)(3) status and that donations made to the organization are no longer treated as tax deductible. The IRS should take appropriate action to remedy any violations of 501(c)(3) regulations that occurred or which continue to occur.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Line", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Line
Legal Counsel
Freedom From Religion Foundation