

When the underlying principle has been examined in the crucible of litigation, the Court has unambiguously concluded that the individual freedom of conscience protected by the First Amendment embraces the right to select any religious faith or none at all.

—Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens


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Americans United, Greater Kansas City Chapter



Americans United
for Separation of
Church and State



Greater Kansas City
Chapter



Your local defenders of religious
liberty

Americans United,

Greater Kansas City Chapter

Serving Eastern Kansas
& Western Missouri

Why Keep Church & State Separate?

It's good for religion, families, taxpayers and America.

Government-paid clergy in other countries are reluctant to criticize their governments, while religious groups in America are free to speak out on social and moral issues. Lack of competition among religious groups is one reason given for European citizens' declining interest in religion.

Church-state separation gives parents the right to make decisions about their children's religious upbringing, and it protects youngsters from religious coercion.

You are the one who should decide how much money to contribute to religious groups—and to which ones. Tax-paying citizens represent not just dominant religious groups, but also minority religious groups and atheists.

America is represented by about 2,000 faith groups and yet does not suffer the level of religious violence seen in the Middle East, Northern Ireland or the Balkans.

What is Americans United?

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has been defending religious liberty since 1947. It has fought government aid to religious schools, mandatory prayer in public schools, and the radical agenda of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, and James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

What does the Greater Kansas City Chapter do?

We monitor local violations of church-state separation. We educate local legislators, media and the public about local church-state issues. For example, we are very concerned about legislation and school board decisions attacking evolution in Kansas and Missouri.

A family's position on religious issues is a private matter. Parents have the right to decide what to tell their children about religion without government interference. Furthermore, narrow religious agendas can interfere with a good education.

Evolution is the cornerstone of modern biology.

Students who don't understand sound science, including evolution, may have a

harder time entering college.

Such students would not be able to pursue science careers. They

could not compete academically and professionally with students in other countries.

Lastly, there are economic consequences.

The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, which attracts 2,000 scientists to its annual meetings, boycotted New Orleans for their 2011 conference after Gov. Bobby Jindal signed an anti-evolution bill into law. The Louisiana Coalition for Science said the boycott was, "negative for the state's economy and national reputation." (*Church & State*, April 2009, Vol. 62, No. 4, p. 3)

The creationists won't admit it but the debate is over, and they lost.—

Robert B. Katskee, AU's assistant legal director, *US News & World Report*

Please help us defend church-state separation in our area!

When you join us, you will automatically be a member of both the local chapter and national organization. In addition, you'll get 11 issues of *Church & State* magazine. Membership costs only \$25 per year. (If you are already a member of the national organization, your membership in the Greater Kansas City Chapter is free.)

Local chapters share group tax exemption with Americans United, which has a 501 (C)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt status.

What if I'm only interested in one or two issues?

Some individuals, churches or religious groups might not agree with us on every issue. That's okay. We're still eager to work with you on whatever religious freedom concern we both share. You don't have to be a member for us to help you. Just contact us, and we'll listen.

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