

SECULAR COALITION FOR ARIZONA

EXTEND YOUR LEGACY

Naming the Secular Coalition for Arizona as a beneficiary in your will or estate plans allows you to continue supporting secular public policy beyond your lifetime and immortalizes your commitment to the constitutional separation of church and state.

Leaving a legacy gift in your name will support the Secular Coalition's vital work for years to come.



ARIZONA'S VOICE FOR SECULAR GOVERNMENT

WWW.SECULARAZ.ORG

STRENGTHENING YOUR IMPACT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..

- First Amendment, Bill of Rights, Constitution of the United States

Since the passage of the Bill of Rights in 1791, we've made slow—yet steady—progress toward an ideal: The individual right to practice religion and the prohibition of governmental coercion to obey laws or observe practices as dictated by religious ideology. Unfortunately, this progress has long been opposed by those with vested interests in using the power of government to force the observance of religious beliefs, and those who support the diversion of tax revenue to support religious practices and institutions. This continuing resistance to full enforcement of the First Amendment has resulted in a far-reaching loss of rights, wealth, and even lives.

Religiously inspired laws touch the most important aspects of our lives, from health and safety, to education, to the collection and application of taxes:

- **Health and Safety.** No decisions are more personal and critical than those affecting our health and safety... and no governmental actions are more harmful than those that deny access to basic health services and evidence-based practices. But that's exactly what many religiously inspired laws do; Arizona's legislature has passed laws denying women's reproductive health care and prohibiting legal actions against providers that don't dispense complete—or even accurate—evidence-based healthcare information.

Our legislature has empowered employers to deny health care benefits to employees based on personal religious beliefs. And religiously inspired legal restrictions on the use of stem cells have led to defunding of crucial research that's vital for a range of health issues, from Alzheimer's to heart disease.

- **Education.** Religion-based dogma has infused school curricula, displacing sound, evidence-based scientific information on topics such as the origins of the universe, evolution, climate change, and sex education. Distinct religious bias has even infiltrated the teaching of American history, which widely perpetuates harmful stereotypes of immigrants and minorities.

Tax credits or vouchers support many charter schools, which are permitted to base curricula on religious beliefs and are not required to meet the same safety compliance and oversight requirements as public schools. In Arizona, the per-student subsidy provided to charter schools far exceeds that paid for public schools, which must comply with strict safety codes and standards.

- **Tax Policy.** Tax exemptions and parsonage provisions provide tax-payer-funded subsidies to religious individuals and institutions. These exemptions are frequently abused when extended to church-owned, for-profit businesses.

Tax dollars are allocated to faith-based initiatives that provide social services with little (or no) oversight to ensure that services are not distributed in a discriminatory fashion or that employment isn't restricted to those adhering to the faiths of associated religious institutions. These are but a few of the many ways in which religion distorts the free and fair allocation of public funds and services to residents of our state.

We're grateful for your support. Know that your gift will make a lasting and significant difference as we continue to pursue secular government in Arizona.



OUR WORK

Since our founding in 2010, the Secular Coalition for Arizona (Secular AZ) has served as the country's only professionally staffed organization that advocates full-time for secular public policies at the state level. Secular AZ has steadily increased our impact to include in-person, mainstream media, and social media public outreach, as well as legal advocacy. Our website, www.secularaz.org, provides details of our on-going advocacy activities.

We develop important relationships in the Arizona legislature and educate lawmakers on the importance of secular public policies, in order to safeguard the constitutional freedoms envisioned by our founders. By leveraging a small professional staff, an active Board of Directors, a motivated volunteer force, and a growing list of legislative and advocacy allies, we have derailed or mitigated legislation that would erode our freedoms, while helping to enact legislation to expand equality and freedom for *all* Arizonans.

None of this would be possible without the confidence and financial support of the individuals and groups that have partnered with us to provide critical funding in sufficient amounts to hire and retain the dedicated professionals who complete our mission-critical work. Our supporters provide the crucial ingredient that makes our victories possible.

We are proud of our accomplishments – and grateful for your bequests and contributions to this vital cause.



CONFIDENTIAL BEQUEST INTENTION FORM

I have made a provision for the Secular Coalition for Arizona in my estate plans to defend the separation of church and state and promote public policy free from religious influence. My bequest is revocable and my estate plans may change.

- I have named the Secular Coalition for Arizona as a beneficiary of my:
 Will/Living Trust Retirement Plan Life Insurance Policy Charitable Trust
- My bequest is in the specific amount of: \$ _____
or
My bequest is stated as a percentage and is worth approximately \$ _____
(Please provide your best good-faith estimate of the value of your bequest based on the approximate current value of your assets.)
- My bequest to the Secular Coalition for Arizona depends on a contingency, such as the prior death of a spouse, partner or child.
 My spouse/partner has done the same. The Secular Coalition for Arizona will receive a gift upon the death of the second-to-die.
- I added this bequest to my will or trust, or updated my beneficiary designation forms to include a gift to the Secular Coalition for Arizona on (approximate date): _____

Name(s) (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

May we have a copy of the relevant pages of your will or trust, or beneficiary designation forms, if available? Kindly return those pages with this form to:

Secular Coalition for Arizona
PO Box 19258
Phoenix, AZ 85005