



News



Mandatory government funding of religious schools? The dominoes are falling.

By a 5-4 conservative majority, the Supreme Court [struck down a Montana law](#) that withheld state aid to religious schools. The [decision in *Espinoza v. Montana*](#) opens the door for lawsuits against similar laws in other states, as well as more broad taxpayer funding for religious education.

“The Supreme Court decision in *Espinoza v. Montana* illustrates the height of judicial activism and the length to which this politicized court will go to enshrine their religious philosophy into the law,” writes Secular AZ Legal Director Dianne Post in her [opinion on the ruling](#).

Post's analysis points out that the Supreme Court went out of its way to take up this issue despite there being no controversy or case to consider **"because the Supreme Court is laying the groundwork to force states to fund religious schools."**

This ruling clearly illustrates how there are no small fights in maintaining secular government—this most recent ruling was made possible by numerous smaller, popular decisions like [2017's Trinity Lutheran "parking lot" case](#).

Secular AZ is on the ground all year long, fighting on local secular issues before they can become the basis for sweeping national decisions like *Espinoza v. Montana*. And we need your help to keep it up.

How can you help? [Chip in to Secular AZ during our Secular Star Virtual Celebrations this Tuesday and Thursday.](#)



This Tuesday and Thursday: Celebrate and Support Secular Stars

Every year, Secular AZ honors our amazing **Secular Stars**—the Arizona lawmakers that fight with us to keep church and state separate—at our Happy Hour events in Phoenix and Tucson.

We can't meet in person, but we still want to honor these legislative champions, enjoy a cocktail, and have some inspiring conversation.

[Please join us on July 7 OR July 9 \(or both!\) for our first Secular Star Virtual Celebration!](#)

We'll hear from our Secular Star lawmakers, get an insider's update on this year's session from our lobbyist Tory Roberg, and catch up with one another.

2020 Secular Stars:

[Senator Andrea Dalessandro \(LD-2\)](#)
[Representative Charlene Fernandez \(LD-4\)](#)
[Representative Randall Friese \(LD-9\)](#)
[Senator Juan Mendez \(LD-26\)*](#)
[Representative Pam Powers Hannley \(LD-9\)](#)
[Senator Martin Quezada \(LD-29\)](#)
[Senator Rebecca Rios \(LD-27\)](#)
[Representative Athena Salman \(LD-26\)*](#)
[Senator Victoria Steele \(LD-9\)](#)
[Representative Raquel Terán \(LD-30\)](#)

*Secular Super Star (highest 2020 Secular Score in respective chamber)
All Secular Stars have been invited to join us for these online events.

Register now for the July 7th celebration!

Register now for the July 9th celebration!

Want to *really* show your support? Become a Secular Star Sponsor by making a gift of \$100 or more ahead of the event!

Your support helps us keep fighting to keep Arizona secular! A suggested gift of \$100 makes you into a Secular Star Sponsor... we'll feature your support on our social media and at the event, and send you a special gift – your choice of a Secular AZ sticker or wristband!

[Click here to become a sponsor!](#)

Also Coming Up



Secular Speaker Series: Sen. Juan Mendez & Rep. Athena Salman

Saturday 7/18 2:00 - 3:00:

Join us for a conversation with Secular Superstars Senator Juan Mendez and Representative Athena Salman, who received the highest scores on our 2020 Secular Scorecard! Hear about the issues that are most important to them and how they handle Christian Nationalism and Project Blitz at the Arizona State Capitol. Bring your questions, it is sure to be an interesting conversation!

Registration required on Zoom [here](#), or watch live on our [Facebook page](#).

[Donate](#)

[Membership](#)

