

Policy: Freedom of Religion

Candidate: Monica Alponte
Libertarian US House, Arizona District 1

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" — First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights

FREEDOM OF RELIGION — NOT FREEDOM FROM RELIGION

The First Amendment protects the right to practice and express one's religion. The separation of church and state means government cannot establish an official religion or force religious beliefs on people. It should not be used to silence peaceful religious expression or push religion out of public life. Government must protect individual liberty, not dictate what people believe.

Respect the sovereignty of every nation without meddling in their culture or religion. We are not the world's police nor its spiritual advisor. Let each American live as they choose so long as they don't harm others; **limit government**, keep its role confined to **protecting constitutional rights**, especially the fundamental right to self-defense, free speech, freedom of religion, and respect for personal choice.

1. Freedom to Practice Any Religion—or None

Every person has the right to choose a religion, practice it, change religions, or reject religion entirely.

2. Separation of Church and State

Government must not establish an official religion or impose religious beliefs on the public.

3. Government Must Neither Aid Nor Attack Religion

Government may not use its power to promote, subsidize, favor, suppress, or persecute any religion.

4. Equal Rights Regardless of Religious Belief

People have equal rights under the law whether they are religious, belong to a minority faith, are atheist, or are agnostic.

5. Freedom of Religious Expression

People are free to express their religious beliefs peacefully through speech, worship, teaching, and personal practice.

6. No Government Coercion in Matters of Conscience

No person should be forced by government to adopt, profess, observe, or abandon a religious belief.

7. Privacy and Protection From Government Surveillance

Government may not spy on people or treat them as suspects simply because of their religion, heritage, or peaceful religious activities.

8. Religious Freedom and Freedom of Conscience

Government may not force individuals or private businesses to produce products, provide services, create messages, or participate in ceremonies that conflict with their religious beliefs.

9. Limited Government and Individual Rights

Government's role is limited to protecting individual rights, not deciding which beliefs are acceptable or dictating how people should believe.

10. Government May Not Redefine Any Religion as a Race or Ethnicity

A person's religion does not determine or establish their race, ethnicity, culture, language, or national origin, regardless of slang, labels, popular terminology, or how terms are coined. A person can be of any race and be any religion.

*The core principle under **Title VI** and **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** establishes that **race, national origin, and religion are separate, distinct legal categories protected from government and private discrimination**. Under the U.S. legal framework, federal civil rights protections maintain separate definitions for these classifications to ensure that an individual's personal theological beliefs or religious practices do not legally dictate or alter their ancestral, cultural, or biological background.*

Legal References: U.S. Department of Justice — Federal Protections Against National Origin Discrimination | Wayne State University — Laws | U.S. Department of Labor — Religion and Workplace Nondiscrimination