

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Sunday, November 09, 2025



## Top News

- **Republicans file lawsuit challenging California's redistricting measure**
- **Counting Race: How the Census Measures Identity and What Americans Think About It**
- **Catholic bishops tied to Trump's Religious Liberty Commission voice criticism of administration**
- **Israel deports two US Jews who volunteered to help Palestinians pick olives**
- **US supreme court justices express skepticism over legality of Trump tariffs**

## Republicans file lawsuit challenging California's redistricting measure

Republicans in California on Wednesday filed a federal lawsuit challenging a high-stakes redistricting measure that could help flip up to five congressional seats for Democrats.

The suit, filed by David Tangipa, a Republican assembly member, 18 California voters and the state Republican party in the US district court for the central district of California, argues that the new maps are unconstitutional because they were drawn to increase the voting power of a particular racial group. It asks the court to block the new maps from taking effect, at least temporarily.

The measure, Proposition 50, was approved by voters on Tuesday evening, in a decisive victory for Democrats. The plan temporarily gives the power to draw congressional districts to the California legislature, allowing it to adopt maps that will help Democrats pick up five seats in the US House of Representatives.

The plan is a direct response to gerrymandering in Texas, where Republicans, at the US president's behest, have carved out several new safe Republican districts in an effort led by Donald Trump to keep the House under Republican control during the last two years of his second term.

Continue Reading: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)



Prop 50 proponents in San Francisco on 3 November 2025. Photograph: San Francisco Chronicle/Hearst Newspapers/Getty Images

# Counting Race: How the Census Measures Identity and What Americans Think About It

From the very first census in 1790, the United States has measured race – but rarely in the same way or without controversy. Categories such as “free white males,” “free white females,” “all other free persons” and “slaves” were included that year, reflecting the young nation’s politics and social hierarchies. As politics, policy, migration and attitudes about racial identity changed over time, so did the categories used in later counts. That makes the census both a mirror and a snapshot of how Americans see themselves – and how the government sees them.

These categories are more than curiosities; they have real consequences for policy. Americans’ responses to census questions about race and ethnicity shape decisions that touch nearly every part of public life: from the drawing of congressional districts to the distribution of government resources and efforts to understand community differences.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

The whole number of Persons in the Territory of the United States						
Names of Counties	Slaves 1800	Free white Males				Free Males
		Under ten years of Age	Between ten and 20 years	Between 20 and 30 years	30 years and over	
Jefferson	1937	116	126	458	110	1762
Washington	1035	379	568	292	991	1403
Adams	727	273	319	177	664	991
Hamilton	3273	1335	1502	480	3091	4036
Wayne	540	201	333	198	467	664
Ross	1648	630	928	336	1403	1762
Trumbull	202	71	208	55	206	266
Amount of each Description	9362	3647	4036	1955	8644	12295

Census takers in 1800 were provided a standard questionnaire, but how they collected and organized information was up to them, as shown in this tally of Ohio residents. (U.S. Census Bureau)

## Catholic bishops tied to Trump’s Religious Liberty Commission voice criticism of administration

Two Catholic bishops who sit on or advise President Donald Trump’s Religious Liberty Commission are voicing criticism of the administration, arguing immigrants detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement should have access to religious services such as Communion.

“It is important that our Catholic detainees are able to receive pastoral care and have access to the sacraments,” Bishop Kevin Rhoades, who oversees the Fort Wayne–South Bend Diocese in Indiana, told Religion News Service in an email on Monday (Nov. 3). “Their religious liberty, part of their human dignity, needs to be respected.”

The comments from Rhoades, who serves as an adviser to the president’s Religious Liberty Commission, were in response to an RNS inquiry about a pair of religious freedom concerns emerging at an ICE detention center in Broadview, Illinois. Last week, attorneys filed a class-action lawsuit alleging widespread mistreatment of detainees at the facility, such as denial of their religious rights, citing testimony from faith leaders who have “provided religious services at Broadview for years but are now denied the ability to provide pastoral care under Defendants’ command.” At least three public efforts to offer Communion to detainees have been denied by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in recent weeks, including two Catholic-led efforts, one of which occurred this past Saturday and featured participation from Chicago Auxiliary Bishop José María García-Maldonado.



Continue Reading [religionnews.com](https://www.religionnews.com)



# Israel deports two US Jews who volunteered to help Palestinians pick olives



Foreign peace activists and volunteers help Palestinian farmers harvest their olive trees in the West Bank town of Silwad, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

Two American Jewish women who had volunteered to harvest olives in a Palestinian village in the West Bank were deported from Israel and sent back to the United States on Friday (Oct. 31) in what human rights groups say is an escalation of hostilities toward anyone who aids or advocates for Palestinians.

The Americans, a physician in her 50s and an 18-year-old high school graduate, were volunteering as part of a four-month program run by a Jewish group, Achvat Amim, or Solidarity of Nations. Last week, the group partnered with Rabbis for Human Rights in their campaign to help Palestinians under attack from Israeli settlers.

The Jewish women's deportations comes one week after 32 international volunteers — from the U.S. and Europe — were also deported from the same spot in the town of Burin, near the Palestinian city of Nablus, about 45 miles north of Jerusalem.

Israeli settlers have targeted the olive harvest in recent years, unleashing waves of violence and destruction. In Burin and other places across the West Bank, settlers have cut, bulldozed, uprooted and set olive trees on fire. The reasons have everything to do with the economic importance of olives.

Continue Reading: [religionnews.com](https://www.religionnews.com)

## US supreme court justices express skepticism over legality of Trump tariffs

The US supreme court appeared skeptical of the legal basis of the Trump administration's sweeping global tariff regime on Wednesday after justices questioned the president's authority to impose the levies.

Justices heard oral arguments on Wednesday morning on the legality of Donald Trump's tariffs, a crucial legal test of his controversial economic strategy — and power.

Even conservative justices sounded doubtful of the strength of the Trump administration's position. "The vehicle is the imposition of taxes on Americans, and that has always been a core power of Congress," said Chief Justice John Roberts.

In a series of executive orders issued earlier this year, Donald Trump cited the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, a 1977 law which in some circumstances grants the president authority to regulate or prohibit international transactions during a national emergency, as he slapped steep duties on imports into the US.

Continue Reading: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)



A person protests against tariffs outside the supreme court in Washington DC on Wednesday. Photograph: Mark Schiefelbein/AP

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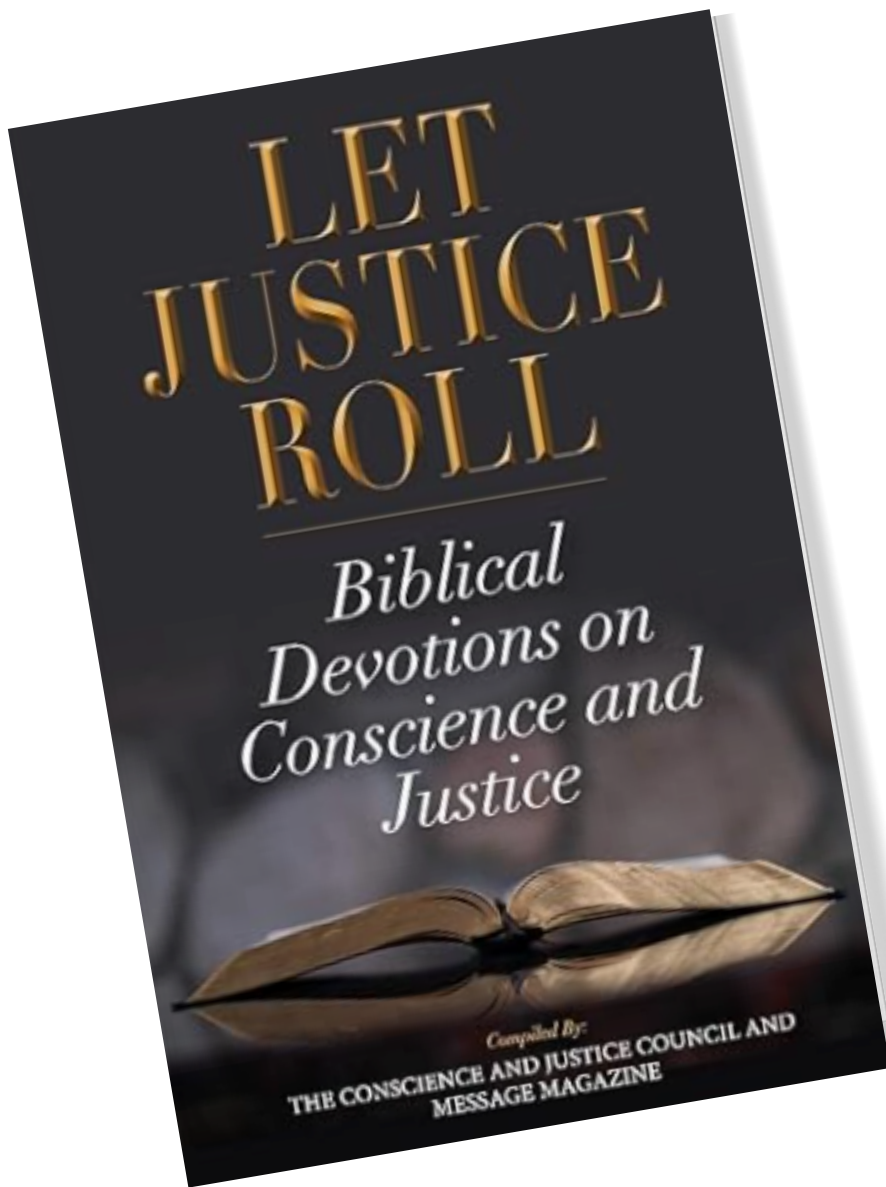
**FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 24**  
**8:00 PM EDT**  
**7:00 PM CDT**

**DID YOU  
MISS IT?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnDjWGEal4Y>

**WATCH VIDEO**





## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

Order your copy [HERE](#)



## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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