

AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

2016



A N N U A L R E P O R T

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Americans United's Mission

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a nonpartisan educational and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the constitutional principle of church-state separation as the only way to ensure freedom of religion, including the right to believe or not believe, for all Americans.

Americans United, or AU, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1947, Americans United works in the courts, in Congress and state legislatures, with federal, state and local policymakers and in the arena of public opinion to uphold religious freedom. We envision an America where everyone can freely choose a faith and support it voluntarily, or follow no religious or spiritual path at all, and where the government does not promote religion over non-religion or favor one faith over another.

A Letter From Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director Of Americans United



Thanks to your support, Americans United had an extremely productive and successful 2016.

The year saw a dramatic escalation of AU's Protect Thy Neighbor (PTN) project, a special effort launched in 2015 that focuses on the importance of religious liberty. PTN, which involves all of AU's departments, reminds Americans that religious freedom is designed to be an instrument to protect individual beliefs, not a device to take away the rights of others.

2016 was a presidential election year, which meant that AU's Project Fair Play (PFP) was in full swing. Launched formally in 1996, PFP aims to muster support for the Johnson Amendment, a provision in federal law that states that tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations (including houses of worship) may not intervene in elections by endorsing or opposing candidates for public office. Polls show that the vast majority of American clergy and people support this provision, and through Project Fair Play, Americans United works to protect it.

Since its founding in 1947, Americans United has argued that the American people should have the right to support *only* the religious groups of their choosing (or support none at all). Unfortunately, we see regular efforts in state legislatures and in Congress to violate this principle by diverting taxpayer money to private (mostly religious) schools through voucher plans. AU fought these schemes in Congress, in state legislatures and in courts in 2016.

At the core of our work is the concept of freedom of conscience – the right to believe, or not, as *you* see fit and to be free from government-imposed faith. The United States was founded on this principle, but, sadly, there are some today who do not support it, and they have allies in all levels of government. By working to ensure the religious neutrality of public schools and government, AU helps safeguard this vital concept.

The year ended on a shocking note with the election of Donald Trump to the presidency. Trump aggressively courted the Religious Right during the campaign and promoted policies that threaten church-state separation. Americans United, through its growing clergy, youth and chapter networks, is well poised to play a key role in resistance efforts.

Thanks to our members and supporters, AU remained in the thick of the debate in 2016. With your continued support, we intend to stay there.

On a personal note, this will be my last annual report as I prepare to retire. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your executive director since 1992. The future of Americans United is bright, and I look forward to watching the organization continue to grow and move forward.

Barry W. Lynn
Executive Director
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

AU's Protect Thy Neighbor Project: Defending Religious Freedom

Freedom of religion is a fundamental American value that allows all of us the freedom to believe or not as we see fit. But it does not allow us to use religion as an excuse to harm or take away the rights of others.

Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more attempts to use religion to justify discrimination and to deny LGBTQ people, women, religious minorities, and others their rights. That is why, in 2015, Americans United launched our Protect Thy Neighbor (PTN) project, which has allowed us to expand our work in the state legislatures, Congress, and the courts to fight efforts that would allow religion to be used as an excuse to refuse you service, deny you health care, or threaten your safety. Every day, we stand up for equality, fairness, and religious freedom.

Through our partnerships with more than 250 organizations, our collective strength has grown exponentially, and AU is a leader in developing strategies in the fight against those who would use religion as an excuse to harm others.

In State Legislatures

Legislative proposals to misuse religious freedom as an excuse to harm others proliferated in the states in 2016. AU tracked more than 100 harmful bills at the state level. These included bills that would allow religion to be used to discriminate in hiring, adoption, health care, and government services, among other things.

One of the most dangerous sets of bills was known as First Amendment Defense Acts (FADAs). They came in many different forms, but all would have sanctioned discrimination, allowing individuals and entities to ignore laws that conflict with their religious beliefs about marriage.

In Georgia, AU's expertise and acumen were in-

strumental in helping to defeat the harmful FADA bill that would have sanctioned taxpayer-funded discrimination. And our activists added their voices. After the legislature passed the bill, Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed it. Georgia Equality, an LGBTQ advocacy group, honored AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett with its Allen Thornell Political Advancement Award, identifying Garrett as the "most responsive attorney in reviewing legislative language."

In Virginia, AU led coalition efforts to analyze the many versions of FADA considered by the legislature, drafting letters outlining legal and policy concerns to the Senate and General Assembly, and ultimately, the governor. Our grassroots were important to the effort. After the legislature passed a broad bill that would allow widespread discrimination, Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed it.

In Mississippi, the only state to enact a FADA in 2016, allies immediately filed lawsuits challenging it. AU is monitoring the cases and will file amicus briefs detailing why the law violates religious freedom.

On Capitol Hill

Americans United conducts a vigorous campaign of legislative advocacy in Washington, D.C., to ensure that religion is not used as a weapon to take away the rights of others. We work to educate lawmakers and oppose bills that threaten religious freedom – and we also support those that promote that concept.

Here are just two examples from 2016:

U.S. Rep. Steve Russell (R-Okla.) tried to sneak taxpayer-funded discrimination into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Russell's amendment would have allowed religiously affiliated organizations that get government contracts or grants to discriminate in hiring on the basis of reli-



gion. Qualified candidates could be denied government-funded jobs because they are of the “wrong” religion or don’t follow the organization’s religious teachings. AU was at the center of the work with our allies, from devising strategy to sitting at the table in meetings with key Hill offices; from designing graphics for the coalition’s digital campaign to delivering to Congress a petition with over 350,000 signatures of activists across the country opposed to the provision. Forty-two U.S. senators and 89 U.S. representatives joined us in calling on their colleagues to #RejectRussell. Congress ultimately stripped the harmful provision from the defense bill.

While fighting against harmful legislation, we also provided key leadership on the introduction of the Do No Harm Act – a bill to help to ensure religion can’t be used to trump laws that protect people, like laws prohibiting discrimination, requiring equal pay, and protecting children’s welfare. It honors two core American values: religious freedom and the promise of equal protection under the law. At the same time, this bill would ensure that the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993 will remain a vital way to protect religious exercise.

AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett spoke at a press conference given by U.S. Reps. Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-Mass.) and Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-Va.) to introduce the legislation.

In the Courts

Americans United’s legal team works to defend religious freedom by ensuring that this precious principle does not become a tool for discrimination. Highlights of our work in the courts to fight when religion is used as an excuse to discriminate from 2016 include:

AU filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Zubik v. Burwell*, a case challenging a policy under the Affordable Care Act that requires most health insurance plans to cover all FDA-approved methods of contraception with no co-pay. Dozens of religiously affiliated nonprofits that object to providing birth control coverage had challenged the policy’s religious accommodation that allows them to opt out of providing contraception coverage in their insurance plans but ensures that employees and students still get access to birth control. The non-profits claim the accommodation violates their religious freedom. AU ensured that the voices of students, faculty, and staff from religiously affiliated universities – people who would be impacted by the loss of contraceptive coverage — were heard by the Court, filing a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of nearly 250 people. AU and allies also organized a rally outside the Supreme Court that featured as speakers, AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn and an AU law clerk, Alison Tanner, who was one of the women we represented with our brief. AU also joined a digital rally held on the same day, allowing activists across the country to participate virtually. Our #HandsOffMyBC message reached over 17 million Twitter users. The case got widespread media coverage, and AU staff was featured in stories ranging from National Public Radio to *The Atlantic*, and from *Mother Jones* to *Huffington Post*.

AU Executive Director Barry Lynn addresses a rally for reproductive rights at the Supreme Court

Spotlight: For more than two years—first as an employee at Notre Dame and now as a student—our client, Ann Doe, has struggled, and failed, to get the contraceptive care that she needs and is legally entitled to receive under the Affordable Care Act policy that requires health insurance plans to cover birth control. What was supposed to be a seamless, cost-free process under the Affordable Care Act has become a source of stress, frustration, and anger. In 2016, Ann joined another student we represent to challenge Notre Dame's attempts to keep them from getting coverage for this vital part of their health care. She wants to participate in Notre Dame's case so that she can tell the court why access to insurance for contraception services is so important to her, and to explain how lack of coverage will harm her. Ann and the other student are the only women whose coverage is at risk who are participating in the cases brought by dozens of nonprofits.

In *Zubik v. Burwell*, the Supreme Court sidestepped the issue and asked the government and nonprofits that object to providing coverage to resolve the cases so women don't lose coverage. We have the opportunity and responsibility to tell Ann's story and make sure she—and other women like her who are being denied access to health care—have their voices heard.

Keith Ingram and Albert Pigg, and other same-sex couples in Alabama who ran into roadblocks when trying to get married after the Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision, are now married, thanks to AU and our allies. Roy Moore, then chief justice of Alabama's Supreme Court, and some state probate judges ignored the Supreme Court's ruling, but a federal judge put a stop to their actions in our case, *Strawser v. Strange*.

Planning a wedding should be an exciting time, yet same-sex couples have faced discrimination when trying to buy flowers or wedding cakes. In several cases, businesses have refused services to LGBTQ people, claiming religion is an excuse to ig-

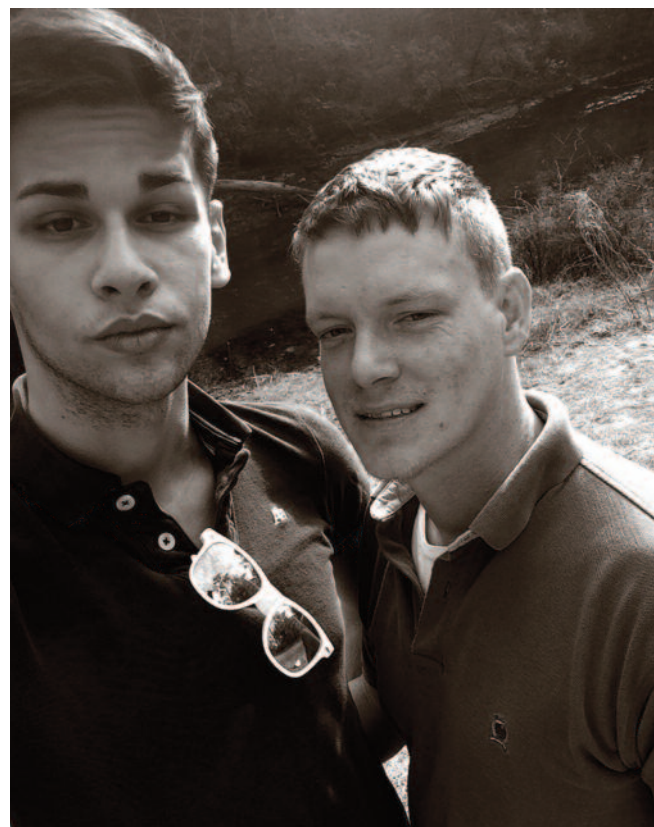
nore antidiscrimination laws. We helped stand in their way, filing important friend-of-the-court briefs in 2016 in *State of Washington v. Arlene's Flowers* and *Sweet Cakes by Melissa v. Bureau of Labor and Industries* (Oregon), arguing that these businesses could not cite religious beliefs and free-speech rights to justify discrimination against same-sex couples. In *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, the commercial bakery has asked the Supreme Court to allow discrimination under the guise of religious freedom. We filed an amicus brief in the case in 2015 and will watch it closely as the Supreme Court decides whether to take the case.

Activism and Education

AU unveiled a Legislation Tracker on PTN's website for relevant state and federal bills. The tracker provides an up-to-date look at the bills and includes the text and latest status in the legislative process, analysis of and commentary about the legislation, letters to legislators, and ways for our activists to contact their lawmakers.

AU mobilized thousands of people to engage in advocacy by contacting their state and federal representatives to protest these bills.

AU clients Albert Pigg (l) and Keith Ingram



AU's Project Fair Play: Defending Houses Of Worship From Partisan Politicking

2016 marked the 20-year anniversary of Project Fair Play: our campaign to protect, educate about, and ensure the enforcement of the Johnson Amendment, which is the federal law that safeguards the integrity and independence of houses of worship and other tax-exempt nonprofit organizations by ensuring they don't endorse or oppose political candidates. This provision also protects taxpayers, who should not be forced to subsidize the partisan election activities of these organizations.

Although the Johnson Amendment has been around for more than 60 years and has broad public support, a handful of far-right politicians and religious leaders have been seeking to weaken the law in an attempt to boost their own political power. And now, Donald Trump has joined their ranks and promised to repeal the law—a goal that was added to the official Republican Party platform for the presidential election in 2016.

The threat of repeal was made real with the introduction of several bills that would repeal or weaken the Johnson Amendment. One bill would allow tax-exempt organizations to endorse candidates as long as it was done in their regular course of business. What this means, in reality, is that a house of worship could endorse a candidate during a sermon, in a church bulletin, on its website, or in emails sent to the congregation. None of the bills to weaken or repeal the Johnson Amendment passed in 2016, but we know that these attacks will continue.

Our efforts to protect the Johnson Amendment included the following:

- AU organized 20 workshops around the country to educate faith leaders about the robust

free-speech rights they have under current law and the harm that allowing political endorsements from the pulpit could cause to churches and elections. AU training sessions occurred in Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington.

- In an effort to pre-empt Pulpit Freedom Sunday—an event hosted by Religious Right leaders to encourage pastors to break the law by endorsing or opposing candidates—AU held its own Week of Action. We were able to mobilize clergy and faith leaders nationwide to advocate for the Johnson Amendment.

- AU hosted a roundtable discussion about the Johnson Amendment for a Facebook Live discussion. The video featured AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn, Faith Organizer Bill Mefford, and Legislative Director Maggie Garrett plus two Washington, D.C.-area faith leaders: Rabbi Elizabeth Richman and the Rev. J.P. Hong.

- Each election cycle, we send letters to faith leaders from across the country and an array of denominations to educate them about the Johnson Amendment and their rights when it comes to political engagement. Because it was a presidential election year and the issue had garnered national attention, we increased the number of letters to 100,000 so we could reach even more faith leaders.

- Our Project Fair Play website (projectfair-play.org/) is a hub of resources on the Johnson Amendment, including background on the law and how it impacts nonprofit organizations and our elections; polls showing the broad support for the law; media coverage of the issue; resources for faith leaders; and opportunities for grassroots advocacy.

Private School Vouchers: Protecting Americans From Mandatory Support For Religion

AU has been fighting taxpayer funding of private religious schools since our founding. Today, we continue to ensure that public dollars fund public schools, not religious education. Donald Trump's administration will make vouchers a priority, and our work on this issue is more important than ever. We are already preparing for the battles ahead.

In Congress:

AU is the co-chair of the National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE). This coalition comprises more than 50 national education, civic, civil rights, and religious organizations that support public schools and oppose private school vouchers. NCPE opposes all efforts to divert public dollars to private and religious schools through any type of school voucher program. As co-chairs of the organization, we spearhead its efforts to coordinate member organizations, create a legislative strategy, draft messaging, organize meetings with congressional offices, and monitor and analyze the latest data and reports on private school voucher programs across the country. In 2016, we:

- Played a key role in blocking a bill that would have extended the only federal voucher program in the country: the District of Columbia voucher program. We held many meetings with key offices on Capitol Hill and worked to build opposition among members of the D.C. City Council. This was a big win because it had been a priority of House Republican leadership and demonstrates that Republicans and Democrats alike have concerns about the problems with voucher programs. Given the outcome of the presidential election, the fight over the D.C. voucher scheme will certainly continue, but we can build on this work to oppose any national voucher program proposed by the incoming Trump administration.

- Fought the Native American Education Oppor-

tunities Act, a voucher bill that would send Bureau of Indian Education funding to private schools. The Bureau of Indian Education schools are already woefully underfunded, and, as a result, students' education would suffer significantly. We met with key congressional offices, explaining the pitfalls of voucher programs, which are magnified in this proposal. The bill did not advance.

In the states:

We tracked nearly 150 state bills in 2016 that would have expanded existing voucher programs in 2016 or created new ones. In Virginia, we joined forces with the ACLU of Virginia and the state education associations to fight voucher legislation. We lobbied the legislature and the governor, and our activists weighed in. In the end, the governor vetoed the bill.

In the Courts:

Duncan v. Nevada: The Nevada Constitution guarantees that Nevadans' taxes cannot be used to fund private religious schools. AU and our allies scored a big victory when the Nevada Supreme Court halted an enormous statewide voucher program that sent taxpayer funds to religious schools. We represented several Nevadans who sought to defend the state constitutional principle, suing soon after the program was signed into law by the governor.

Ballot Initiatives:

Last November, Americans United worked to oppose three ballot initiatives in two states and one city: Oklahoma, Missouri, and Atlantic City, N.J. For each measure, we developed a tool kit for activists, joined forces with our chapters and local allies, and raised awareness through our social media and op-eds. All three ballot measures were defeated by voters.

OKLAHOMANS:

VOTE

NO
on
SQ 790

**SQ 790 Would Strip Important
Religious Freedom Protections
From The State Constitution**



This AU graphic helped educate Oklahoma voters about a dangerous ballot initiative.

Oklahoma SQ 790

Oklahomans overwhelmingly rejected SQ 790, an amendment that would have stripped the provision in the state constitution that prevents public money or property from being used to support religion and religious institutions and thus open the door to vouchers. Legislators put it on the ballot after the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that a government-sponsored Ten Commandments monument at the state capitol violated this constitutional provision. They claimed that if they could strip it from the Constitution, the Ten Commandments could be returned to the same spot, even though the monument likely would still violate the U.S. Constitution and lead to more costly legal battles. In the end, the voters saw through the false claims and rejected the measure.

Missouri Amendment 3

Missouri voters also rejected Amendment 3, the Early Childhood Health and Education Amendment. The referendum asked whether voters wanted to increase the state cigarette tax to pay for early childhood education programs. Hidden in the amendment,

was language that would have exempted the money raised by the tax from the provision in the Missouri Constitution that prohibits public funds from aiding religious institutions. That means that the cigarette tax could have funded religious schools and other religious organizations. But public dollars, of course, should not fund religious institutions and religious education. The amendment was also opposed for various other reasons by health, education, civil rights, and other groups—both progressive and conservative.

Fortunately, the voters understood the consequences of Amendment 3 and voted to keep the state's religious freedom safeguards in place.

Atlantic City Vouchers

The people of Atlantic City rejected a nonbinding referendum asking whether the city should fund a citywide private school voucher program. Supporters of the ballot initiative falsely claimed that it would help the city, which is facing a dire budget crisis, cut costs. Of course, one of the many problems with private school vouchers is that they end up costing cities more money rather than saving money.

Freedom Of Conscience: Standing Up For The Right To Believe—Or Not—As You See Fit

Freedom of conscience means that you can decide which religion to follow—if any—without government coercion or interference. Thus the government can't tax you and then use those funds to promote religion to pay for religious ministries, because we each get to decide for ourselves whether and how our money goes to support religion. Nor should the government be able to pick and choose which religion or belief is worthy of government support or singled out for disfavor and discrimination. When the government violates these rules, it's at odds with our history, traditions and common sense.

Pushing Back Against Trump's Muslim Ban

In December 2015, then-candidate Donald Trump announced that, if elected, he would bar Muslims from entering the country, "calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." He'd already proclaimed he would close down mosques and consider creating a database to register all Muslims.

Trump's notions were deeply troubling and only further stoked anti-Muslim sentiment. They were met with a strong response throughout 2016. Allies organized workshops, rallies, the *#RegisterMeFirst* digital campaign, and other events, and AU activists from across the country participated. We helped build a network of faith leaders who stood up against Trump and anti-Muslim rhetoric, encouraging them to sign a pledge in support of religious freedom.

In Congress, AU supported the Freedom of Religion (FOR) Act, which would ensure that immigrants, refugees, and international travelers would not be barred from entering the United States solely because of their religion. AU joined allies and the bill's sponsors on Capitol Hill when it was introduced and worked with activists to encourage their

legislators to sign on as co-sponsors.

Based on our non-litigation advocacy, an inmate in Rochester, N.Y., won the right to participate in Ramadan meals.

Protecting Non-Believers

At the state and local level, we continue our work to ensure that non-believers are treated equally by their government. For example:

- When Shannon Morgan wanted a personalized license plate with "8THEIST," the state of New Jersey refused. Shannon, with AU's help, was able to express her atheism and get her plate. AU reached a settlement in *Morgan v. Martinez* that ensures the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission agreed not to discriminate against future applicants who request plates that touch on issues such as religious belief, feminism, and LGBTQ rights.

- When the Pennsylvania House of Representatives gavels into session, it begins each day with an invocation, meant to unite, not divide. Yet the House's official policy is to treat non-believers as second-class citizens, denying them the opportunity to give an invocation. AU represents several Pennsylvania citizens who want to give invocations to honor shared values like justice, equality, community and diversity in *Fields v. Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives*. The House's policy is discriminatory and violates the Constitution.

Based on our non-litigation advocacy, the Thornton, Colo., City Council agreed to stop its exclusionary invocations during public meetings.

Ensuring the Government Does Not Fund or Endorse Religion

One of the fundamental principles of religious liberty is that the government should not fund or endorse religion. We advocate for this principle every day.



Acton Congregational Church
in Acton, Mass.

In the Courts:

- When the Acton, Mass., City Council decided to give money to two churches for repairs, including restoring a stained-glass window depicting Jesus, it violated local residents' religious freedom. In *Caplan v. Town of Acton*, AU is representing taxpayers who are challenging these grants.

- Representing New Jersey taxpayers, AU and our allies filed a case to block the state from giving \$11 million to a Jewish yeshiva and a Christian seminary. Taxpayers should never have to subsidize institutions like these that discriminate or that exist to teach their particular religious doctrine. In May, a New Jersey appeals court agreed that the grants violated New Jersey's constitution. In December, the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed to hear *ACLU of N.J. v. Hendricks*, likely next year.

A parent of a child who attends an Arizona public charter school was concerned about what his child was being taught in the American Government class. Lessons said that one must obey the Ten Commandments in order to be happy and that religion is necessary to maintain a government of free people, among other religious instruction. AU filed *Doe v. Heritage Academy* on behalf of this parent and a local pastor. We argued that a public school cannot promote religion or force its students to sit through religious instruction.

Non-litigation:

- In Brunswick, Ga., a public school district agreed to stop a football coach from taking his team to church and posting religious messages on a school Facebook page.
- In Burkburnett, Texas, a public school superintendent agreed to stop allowing a teacher to lead students in prayer before meals.
- In Rome, Ga., a public school agreed to stop teaching creationism in science class.

In State Legislatures:

- After a spirited debate, the Tennessee legislature adopted a bill to make the Bible the official state book. AU and our activists weighed in, and ultimately the governor vetoed the bill. He explained: "If we are recognizing the Bible as a sacred text, then we are violating the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee by designating it as the official state book."

- We urged the Idaho legislature and the governor to reject a bill that would have authorized the state's public schools to use the Bible and other religious texts in the classroom. Fortunately, the governor vetoed the bill, stating: "I have deep respect and appreciation for the Bible as religious doctrine as well as a piece of historic literature. However, allowing S1342 to become law is in direct contravention to the Idaho Constitution."

AU's Chapter Network: Defending Separation Of Church And State At The Local Level

AU's chapter network is also a crucial component of our grassroots work. In 2016, Americans United had 48 chapters nationwide, and we were happy to welcome the newly-formed Columbus, Ohio, Chapter and the Albuquerque, N.M., Chapter to our growing list of activists.

Our chapters work to equip local activists with the tools they need to protect church-state separation in their own communities. State and local lawmakers want to hear from constituents, the people they actually serve. By organizing people at the local level through chapters, Americans United maintains a presence all over the country and helps educate people from all walks of life.

AU chapters sponsored many events in 2016. Here are some highlights:

January: Executive Director Barry W. Lynn kicked off 2016 with a visit to the **Sarasota-Manatee Chapter** in Florida. The chapter hosted Lynn at the local Unitarian Universalist Church to speak about efforts by the Religious Right to twist the meaning of religious freedom. The next day, Lynn offered the same presentation at Temple Sinai.

February: The **Indiana Chapter** co-sponsored the Indiana Civic Day event with Center for Inquiry-Indiana. AU's Legislative Director Maggie Garrett was one of the speakers who spoke about certain legislators' push to redefine religious freedom through religious exemption laws that threatened church-state separation by using religion as an excuse to discriminate.

March: Lynn made a swing through North Carolina, speaking to the **East Carolina Chapter**, the

AU activists in Indiana (from left): Janet Benedict, Bill Sanders, and Kim Lanahan





AU Faith Outreach Specialist Bill Mefford speaks in Philadelphia

Raleigh/Wake County Chapter and the **Western North Carolina Chapter**. This event included Brent Walker, then-executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, who discussed how religion and state should best interact.

April: The **Atlanta Chapter**, with Georgia Unites Against Discrimination, held a rally to celebrate Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal's rejection of HB 757, a bill that would have used religion to sanction discrimination. Garret was a speaker at the rally.

May: The **Delaware Valley Chapter** in Pennsylvania/New Jersey hosted AU's Faith Outreach Director Bill Mefford for a discussion about how federal law keeps sacred spaces sacred by preventing pulpit politicking.

June: The **Columbia Chapter** of Oregon and Southwest Washington hosted Lynn in Portland to discuss church-state topics that ranged from religion in schools to the war on women's health coverage and others. The **Greater Seattle Chapter** also hosted Lynn for a similar discussion on the fight for religious freedom.

August: The **San Antonio Chapter** hosted a press event featuring interfaith religious leaders who out-

lined the dangers of pulpit politicking. During the event, speakers discussed AU's Project Fair Play, which focuses on the importance of keeping partisan politicking out of tax-exempt houses of worship.

September: The **Charleston (S.C.) Chapter** co-hosted two events with Lynn. At one of the events, Lynn spoke to College of Charleston students about religion's role in government, and in the evening, Lynn spoke about religion's role in the 2016 presidential election.

October: The **Orange County (Calif.) Chapter** hosted Mefford for workshops on pulpit politicking and the importance of the Johnson Amendment.

December: The **Sacramento Chapter** hosted Rob Boston, director of communications, who talked about how church-state separation protects freedom of conscience for all and the challenges AU will face under President-Elect Donald Trump's administration.

In addition, AU chapters sponsored informational booths at street fairs, festivals and events such as gay pride. Others took part in interfaith events designed to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Outreach And Education: Spreading The Word To The Public

Educating the public about church-state separation and the vital role it plays in protecting freedom of religion and belief for everyone has been a key part of AU's work since our founding. It remains so today in our increasingly diverse, and unfortunately divided, nation. Education about this issue helps build a more fair, equal and inclusive society.

Church & State: AU's monthly magazine, *Church & State*, is a highly visible, popular vehicle for educating AU members about church-state issues and the work of Americans United. About 35,000 copies are printed each month, and content is posted online at AU.org. In 2016, *Church & State* stories examined the ongoing efforts to restrict access to birth control, the proper role of religion in public schools, efforts to roll back legal protections for houses of worship that ensure they cannot endorse political candidates, and the Religious Right's support for Donald Trump.

Blogs: "Wall of Separation," our daily blog, is a major resource for informing our supporters of immediate threats to church-state separation and encouraging them to take action to protect religious freedom. Our blog, "The Shield," focuses on work to prevent religion from being misused as an excuse to discriminate and our Protect Thy Neighbor project.

Social Media: Facebook and Twitter are vital channels for communication, education, and encouraging

activism. We have more than 200,000 Facebook followers, and that number is growing by the day.

And nothing beats talking to chapters, members and activists in person. AU staff crisscrossed the country to speak on church-state separation issues at conferences, workshops, and events.

Spotlight: AU's work regularly makes national news, and the media often reach out to us for our opinion on church-state matters. A full list of 2016 media interviews would be too long to include, but here are some of the media outlets that featured AU content this year: CNN, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, MTV News, NPR, *Politico*, *Slate*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, Vox, *New York Daily News*, *The Washington Post*, *Forbes*, the Maddow Blog, Wonkette, The Huffington Post, Associated Press, *Mother Jones*, *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, Alternet, Sirius XM Radio, *Education Week*, Bloomberg News, *Cosmopolitan*, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *Jewish Week*, *The Wall Street Journal*, Raleigh (N.C.) *News & Observer*, Lynchburg (Va.) *News & Advance*, Charleston (S.C.) *Post & Courier*, *Birmingham News*, *The Washington Times*, Religion News Service, Oklahoma City *Daily Oklahoman*, San Antonio *Express-News*, *Kansas City Star*, *El Paso Times*, *The Hill*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the Naples (Fla.) *Daily News*.

Rob Boston, AU's director of communications, addresses a crowd in Sacramento



Where We Go From Here: AU Builds For The Future

Americans United works closely with a variety of communities, religious and secular, to build support for church-state separation. In 2016, we boosted our work with two vital communities – young people and religious leaders.

Youth Outreach

Even as we approach our 70th anniversary, Americans United is looking to the future. AU's expanded its outreach to younger generations to ensure they're engaged in supporting the wall of separation between church and state, building programs for students and young people to more effectively recruit, engage, and mobilize diverse, interfaith young people to support AU.

AU launched an essay contest as a fun yet educational challenge for high school juniors and seniors to consider church-state separation issues. The contest generated more than 150 submissions from 43 states. First place was awarded to McKenzie Hartman, a senior from Ohio. Hartman's essay on why the separation of church and state is integral to preserving religious freedom in America's pluralistic society was published in the July/August edition of AU's *Church & State* magazine, and she was awarded a \$500 scholarship. The second- and third-place winners – Trey Brown of Georgia and Madeline Glawe of Wisconsin – also received scholarships and all contest entrants received complimentary student memberships to AU.

Members of AU's Youth Advisory Council were integral to nominating young people who have advocated religious freedom and church-state separation in their communities for AU's annual David Norr Youth Activist Award. Zack Kopplin was the 2016 awardee, recognized for his campaign to repeal the Louisiana Science Education Act – a law designed

to allow public school teachers to promote creationism in the classroom. Zack was recognized at our annual meeting and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

AU expanded our internship program, giving more college students exposure to church-state separation issues while improving their professional skills. Interns also provide insight to how we talk about our issues to better communicate with young people.

One of AU's summer interns, Delaney Gold-Diamond of Chicago, initiated a new discussion series on church-state separation issues for Hillels and other Jewish student organizations. Named Hofesh!, which is Hebrew for "freedom," the project includes resources on church-state separation with emphasis on the Jewish perspective and questions to facilitate discussion.

AU unveiled its "Students for Church/State Separation" website (www.austudents.org/) in 2016.

Faith Leaders United

In 2016, Americans United launched Faith Leaders United to build and engage our network of faith leaders committed to religious freedom and church-state separation. In less than a year, AU's clergy network grew more than 30 percent. These faith leaders are mobilizing to stand up for religious freedom in their home communities, states and at the national level.

This network was instrumental in (and grew substantially as a result of) our Project Fair Play Week of Action in September to combat the Religious Right's reckless Pulpit Freedom Sunday, which prods pastors to violate the law by endorsing or opposing candidates from the pulpit. Many faith leaders participated in our nationwide clergy trainings

about the Johnson Amendment. AU corresponded with them daily throughout this week, encouraged clergy to write letters to the editor in support of the Johnson Amendment and provided worship bulletin inserts in English and Spanish to outline the importance of keeping divisive politics out of houses of worship.

Faith leaders also are joining AU to speak out against the use of religion as an excuse to harm others and about why this harms religious freedom. We are encouraging clergy to learn more about how they can resist the use of religion as a veil for discrimination, including through advocacy in their home states that allows them to add their influential voices to AU's.

Organizational Structure

Americans United represents more than 120,000 individual members and supporters in all 50 states. Our activists come from all walks of life and span the theological and philosophical spectrum. As a non-partisan organization, Americans United welcomes supporters from all political points of view.

Headquartered in the heart of Washington, D.C., Americans United's staff and day-to-day operations are overseen by its executive director, the Rev. Barry

W. Lynn. An attorney and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Lynn has led Americans United since 1992.

Americans United is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. The Board meets three times per year to deal with issues of internal governance. Members serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-election for additional terms. A larger body, the National Leadership Council, consists of activists who advise AU on issues and policy.

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Duane Davis
Director of Operations

Statement Of Financial Position September 30, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$410,720
Investments	9,292,306
Bequests Receivable	451,923
Interest Receivable	24,479
Pledges Receivable	67,500
Other Receivables	125,376
Inventory	7,683
Prepaid Expenses	71,600
Deposits	10,662
Total Current Assets	<u>10,462,249</u>

Property and Equipment

Net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>305,213</u>
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Other Assets

Cash and cash equivalents, Remainder Trust	7,277
Investments restricted for Remainder Trust	253,738
Deposits	113,100
Total Other Assets	<u>374,115</u>

Total Assets	<u>\$11,141,577</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	95,375
Accrued Expenses	294,995
Accrued Pension	1,252,223
Deferred Revenue	400
Deferred Rent	2,026
Capital Lease Obligations	20,192
Charitable Annuities Payable	167,282
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,832,493</u>

Long-Term Liabilities

Deferred Rent	48,587
Charitable Annuities Payable	686,459
Capital Lease Obligations	16,996
Remainder Trust Payable	149,208
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>901,250</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,733,743</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted	1,366,683
Unrestricted, Board designated	6,861,844
Temporarily Restricted	179,307
Total Net Assets	<u>8,407,834</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>11,141,577</u>
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Statement Of Activities Year ended September 30, 2016

REVENUES, GAINS and OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions	\$3,955,214
Bequests	1,447,256
Trust and Foundation Grants	557,981
Investment Income, Net of Expenses	396,635
Legal Settlement	75,000
Gift Annuity Income	52,539
Voices United	51,626
Other Revenue	11,026
Sales of Literature	6,000
Contributions - Chapters	5,829
Contributions - Local Churches	1,280
Realized and Unrealized Loss on Investments	(2,952)
Change in Value of Split Interest Agreement	(50,747)
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>6,506,687</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services:

Educational and Publication Division	1,600,386
Field Services Division	1,262,143
Legal Division	1,274,138
Trustee and National Advisory Council Meetings	46,784
Total Program Services	<u>4,183,451</u>

Supporting Services:

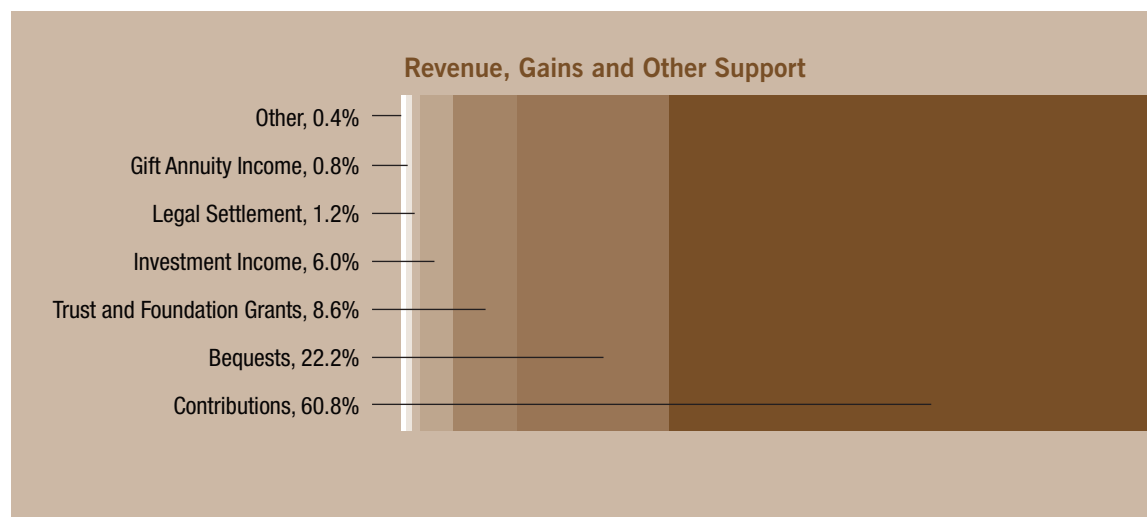
Management and General	888,900
Fundraising	1,292,580
Total Supporting Services	<u>2,181,480</u>

Total Expenses	<u>6,364,931</u>
Change in Net Assets before other items	141,756

Other Items:

Minimum Pension Liability adjustment	7,199
Change in Net Assets	148,955
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	8,258,879

Net Assets At End Of Year:	<u>\$8,407,834</u>
	Audited



AU Contributors

Guardians of Freedom

Guardians of Freedom are generous donors who contributed \$1,000 or more during the 2016 fiscal year in support of our mission.

\$100,000 or more

David Beck & Debra Robins
The Deer Creek Foundation
George Karnoutsos
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1 Guardian wishes to remain anonymous.

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 G. W. & Mary Pamela Zerba
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The following dedicated members have joined the *Jefferson Circle*, Americans United's planned giving program, by setting up charitable gift annuities, creating bequests, or by making other planned gifts during fiscal year 2016.

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Robert & Gayle Behm
Ann Bein
Howard & Dorothy Berger
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Richard Stinson
Charles & Marjorie Sumner
Diane & Stephen Uhl
Dana Vandersip
Alexander Westerfelt
Vivian L. Wood
4 members wish to remain anonymous

Madison Society

In fiscal year 2016, 1,425 households supported AU through the *Madison Society*, our monthly giving program. We thank them for their generous ongoing support.

The following foundations, funds, and trusts also provided Americans United with financial support during fiscal year 2016.

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In Memory

We honor the following dedicated members who remembered Americans United in their estate plans during fiscal year 2016. We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones they have left behind.

Roderic L. Baltz
Stillman D. Brooks
Robert Alan Buchanan
Robert L. Dietle
Stephen W. Ela
Percy M. Floyd
Bruce S. Gerstenfeld
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Roger C. Jacobson
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Susan S. Ripley
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Dr. Sally Thornton
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