Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to preserving the constitutional principle of church-state separation as the only way to ensure religious freedom for all Americans.

*Thomas Jefferson*
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2012 was an election year that featured a lively (and sometimes abrasive and misguided) debate about the role of religion and politics in America – highlighted by claims of divine support from at least four presidential candidates. Through it all, Americans United offered a voice of reason, expertise and discernment on behalf of the constitutional principle of church-state separation.

Over the course of this year, Americans United continued a vigorous litigation program, played a major role in the defeat of one of the most insidious state referenda in modern history, strengthened its local outreach by supporting 65 chapters around the country and even sponsored 75 “Voices United” concerts to connect with new and often younger audiences.

Americans United’s legal program resulted in two major victories in federal appeals courts. In litigation in Greece, N.Y., a unanimous appellate panel held that overwhelmingly Christian prayers at town board meetings are unconstitutional because the process “virtually ensured a Christian viewpoint” and “had the effect of affiliating the town with Christianity.” A case in Elmbrook, Wisc., challenged a public school district that held its graduation exercises under a large cross in a church filled with religious iconography. The appellate court ruled 7-3 that the practice is unconstitutional and unwelcoming for community members who did not share the faith promoted by this sectarian venue.

In another well-publicized victory, AU reached a settlement with a school district near San Antonio, Texas, to stop numerous official religious practices including prayer at graduations and display of religious materials in school hallways. AU Legal Department strategy also includes sending letters to governments violating the constitutional rights of citizens in the (generally successful) hope that these disputes can be resolved without entering a courtroom.

Americans United conducts sophisticated lobbying activity (within the bounds of our tax-exempt status) in both Congress and state legislatures and with executive branch agencies across the nation. We began a concerted effort to neutralize pressure from the Religious Right and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to allow secular corporations as well as religiously affiliated schools and hospitals to opt out of insurance coverage and presented arguments in written testimony to the House of Representatives, comments to the Department of Health and Human Services and my appearance before the House Pro-Choice Caucus.

With leadership roles in both the National Coalition for Public Education and the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, we have maintained consistent and usually successful actions to prevent adoption or expansion of voucher programs that would fund primarily religious private schools and kept up a drumbeat of protest against the Obama administration’s refusal to eliminate the George W. Bush-initiated policy of allowing discriminatory hiring practices on the part of religious charities receiving government grants and contracts.

At the state level, we played a key role in organizing secular and crucially important religious opposition to a proposed initiative in Florida that would have eliminated the state constitution’s strong “no aid to religion” provision and allowed taxpayer subsidies of a vast array of religious ministries, missions and schools. To pass, the amendment would have required a 60 percent voter approval, but it did not even get majority support, and the protections remain intact. A victory for the other side in Florida would have unleashed efforts to amend constitutions in as many as 36 other states.

I am very proud of the grassroots structure that has been built by Americans United, as more and more chapters are formed and work done is more inclusive and sophisticated, with expanding community outreach. Many chapters partnered with Katherine Stewart, author of The Good News Club, an expose of public school evangelism directed at young students, to grow public awareness of the phenomenon.

AU chapters in both San Antonio and the Delaware Valley (of Pennsylvania and New Jersey) expanded previously successful day-long events to celebrate the Constitution’s guarantees of true religious freedom, to...
believe or not. Popular programs included numerous appearances by AU staff members, including myself, and screenings of powerful documentaries like “The Lord Is Not On Trial Today” (about a famous Supreme Court case about “released time” religious instruction in public schools) and “No Dinosaurs In Heaven” (an explanation of evolutionary biology).

Membership in Americans United has again begun to grow, but we are always aware of the need to attract younger members, supporters and donors. Toward that end, working with singer-songwriter Catie Curtis, we created a program called “Voices United” that put on nearly 75 concerts, at least one event in every state, over the final weekend in September. Featuring folk musicians, jazz bands and even comedians Sarah Silverman and Russell Brand, the shows introduced new audiences to the work of Americans United and built enthusiasm for using cultural events to promote social causes.

Americans United is strictly non-partisan, and we expect that other non-profits, including religious ones, will be as well. We developed Project Fair Play nearly 20 years ago to educate clergy and to report abuses of the federal tax law prohibition against intervention in political campaigns. Over those two decades there has been a marked decrease in activity like church distribution of obviously biased “voter guides,” but with the high level of religious rhetoric in the 2012 campaigns, we saw some outrageous examples of pulpit politicking. These included a sign outside a church in Florida saying “Vote for the Mormon, Not the Muslim.” Regrettably, the Obama administration’s failure to alter an obscure IRS regulation has put investigation of these complaints on hold.

All of our activities are publicized by our Communications staff, whether on popular shows like CNN’s “Anderson Cooper 360°,” mainstream outlets like National Public Radio and The New York Times or new internet-based operations like Alternet and Huffington Post. Controlling our message even more directly, we publish a daily blog, produce the award-winning monthly magazine Church & State, do a daily radio feed called “Culture Shocks” and provide regular updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

None of this could be accomplished, of course, without the generous financial support of the tens of thousands of individuals, families, foundations and companies that are our donors. They keep the lights on, allow us to hire extraordinarily talented staff (some of whom stay with us for decades), permit the development and implementation of innovative programs and keep the message of church-state separation before politicians, judges, academics, religious leaders, students and everyone else with an “ear to hear.”

And with this help, we look forward to a successful 2013 and as many more years as it takes to bring this idea to fruition in every community for every American.

Barry W. Lynn
Executive Director
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Communications: Educating People, Spreading the Message

When a fundamentalist preacher in North Carolina waded into partisan politics and extremist rhetoric in May 2012, his sermon went viral and the news media zoomed in.

Speaking in the pulpit of the Providence Road Baptist Church located a half hour outside Charlotte, the Rev. Charles Worley excoriated President Barack Obama for supporting reproductive rights and marriage equality for same-sex couples. The pastor said gays and lesbians should be quarantined behind electrified fences and allowed to die out.
As for the presidential election, Worley made it clear that congregants were to vote against Obama.

“Somebody said who you going to vote for?” Worley asked. “I ain’t going to vote for a baby-killer and a homosexual lover. You said, did you mean to say that? You better believe I did.”

Rants like Worley’s may be protected by the First Amendment’s free speech provisions, but electioneering from a tax-exempt pulpit is a violation of federal tax law.

CNN’s Anderson Cooper turned to Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn for expert analysis.

Appearing on the May 22 edition of “Anderson Cooper 360°,” Lynn condemned Worley’s hateful rhetoric and explained that misuse of tax-exempt institutions for partisan politicking is against the law.

CNN’s Anderson Cooper turned to Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn for expert analysis.

Appearing on the May 22 edition of “Anderson Cooper 360°,” Lynn condemned Worley’s hateful rhetoric and explained that misuse of tax-exempt institutions for partisan politicking is against the law.

Said Lynn, “It’s a clear violation of the tax code that says, again, without equivocation, you cannot oppose or endorse a candidate for office and retain your tax-exempt status – whether you’re a church or any other kind of charity. This isn’t even close, Anderson, to the line.”

Added Lynn, “This is not why people go to church. In fact, a new poll just a few days ago suggests that about two-thirds of Americans do not want their pastor, their priest, their rabbi to tell them who to vote for. That’s not why they’re in a sacred space on a Saturday or Sunday.”

Americans United feels strongly that education is the best way to fight for church-state separation and defend the Constitution, and appearances on programs like Anderson Cooper 360° are an excellent way to get AU’s perspective to a wide audience.

The Communications Department is tasked with spreading AU’s message – through a monthly magazine, daily blog, brochures, speeches, books, media appearances, social networking, email alerts and our website, www.au.org. Reaching out through these means not only educates the public, it also rallies people to the cause of church-state separation.

AU’s Communications team monitors all church-state developments and is always ready to offer expert comment. We also act vigorously to correct any misinformation about church-state separation spread by the Religious Right or other opponents of that vital constitutional principle.

The Communications Department also monitors – and exposes – the activities of the Religious Right. In September, a team of AU staffers attended the so-called “Values Voter Summit” in Washington, D.C., which drew 3,000 attendees to strategize about ways to increase the political power of the Religious Right in advance of the 2012 election season.

In June, AU staffers monitored Religious Right strategist Ralph Reed’s “Faith and Freedom Coalition Conference and Strategy Briefing,” which served as additional planning for anti-separationist forces in Washington.

The AU Communications Department is led by Director of Communications Joseph L. Conn. Others on the Communications team are Assistant Communications Director Robert Boston, Communications Associate Simon Brown, Communications Assistant Susan Hansen (through May) and Web Manager Maria Matveeva (through August).
2012 Education Highlights

Americans United is able to reach a wide and diverse audience through media outreach. Here is a sampling of how the Communications team spread the Americans United viewpoint in 2012:

**AU Press Releases & Media Outreach**

AU’s Communications team gets important news developments to journalists and activists across the country by issuing press releases announcing new church-state litigation, court victories, response to the Religious Right movement and church-state happenings in Congress and state legislatures. These alerts are sent directly to reporters, editors, columnists, bloggers and other media professionals throughout the country, many of whom contact AU for further information or commentary.

In 2012, Americans United issued over 60 press releases and advisories on topics such as the faith-based initiative, AU’s court victories, opposition to exemptions from the Obama administration’s birth control mandate, church electioneering and criticism of legislation that would give public funds to religious schools.

**Church & State Magazine**

*Church & State* has long been AU’s single most effective means of communicating with AU members and activists, as well as with key players in the academic, religious and political communities. Each month, print copies of the magazine are mailed to more than 33,000 households and the entire text is available on AU’s website. This year, *Church & State* covered important stories that were often overlooked by the mainstream media, including: a feature on the activities of a Texas charter school system that operates like a publicly funded religious institution; an expose on the myriad lies told by pseudo-historian and “Christian nation” advocate David Barton; a report from inside the “Values Voter Summit,” a top Religious Right strategy conference; an investigative article on aggressive sectarian groups who are attempting to commandeer the course of campaign 2012 and the inside story on AU’s big legal wins in cases that will bar high school graduations from taking place in churches.

**Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor**

AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn and other staff members often contribute opinion pieces for websites, newspapers, magazines and other publications in order to convey AU’s message in communities across the country.

In late February, USA Op-Eds carried a Barry Lynn essay defending the Obama administration’s birth control mandate and opposing efforts by sectarian lobbies to base U.S. health care policy on religious doctrine. The op-ed appeared in 34 newspapers and news sites around the country, including the *Sacramento Bee*, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Harrisburg Patriot News, Modesto Bee, Arizona Daily Sun and Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Op-eds also were produced for AU’s work against Amendment 2, a constitutional change on the Missouri ballot that would undermine church-state separation and the religious neutrality of public schools. The Communications team worked with AU allies in Florida to produce op-eds for local media opposing Amendment 8, a ballot proposition that would allow taxpayer dollars to flow to religious institutions.

For several years, Lynn has contributed essays for *The Washington Post*’s “On Faith” blog, a practice he continued in 2012. His posts this year covered topics such as the problems with the “faith-based” initiative and TV preacher Pat Robertson’s outlook on the 2012 election.
AU’s Rob Boston has written three op-eds for Alternet, the progressive online news outlet. His “5 Reasons America Is Not – And Has Never Been – a Christian Nation” was particularly popular. In addition, Boston contributed a regular column about church-state issues to The Humanist, a bimonthly publication of the American Humanist Association. AU’s Communications team also works regularly with the Field Department and chapter members to submit letters to the editor in local newspapers nationwide.

Lectures to Foreign Delegations

Members of the Americans United Communications staff are often called on to speak to delegations brought to the United States from other countries through the State Department’s International Visitors Leadership Program. On several occasions, AU’s Brown and Boston met with delegates from other nations and explained the American system of government with regard to church-state separation and freedom of religion. In 2012, delegates from China, Germany, Greece, Pakistan, Thailand and several other nations visited AU headquarters to learn about America’s strong tradition of religious freedom.

Responding to Requests from the Public and Students

Every day, Americans United receives dozens of questions and comments from the general public via phone, mail or email. The Communications Department responds to these questions with useful insight and accurate information. AU is contacted frequently by students – from the elementary school level to those pursuing law degrees or Ph.D.s – who want to know about a particular church-state issue and need to talk to an expert. The Communications staff talks to these students and provides the support they need to complete their paper or project.

2012 News Media Highlights

Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn has been one of the most visible faces of the fight for church-state separation for over 20 years and is extremely active in the media. Throughout 2012, Lynn countered false claims by the Religious Right and was quoted by national and local media outlets, supplying expert commentary on the intersection of religion, law and politics.

Print Media

In 2012, Americans United was cited more than 1,000 times in major newspapers and wire services nationwide. Lynn and other Americans United staff were quoted in wire services including the Associated Press, Religion News Service and the Associated Baptist Press. In addition, Lynn and staff were quoted in national publications including The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Inside Higher Ed, The Christian Science Monitor, Mother Jones and USA Today.


Radio and Television Appearances

AU staffers often appear on national and local television and radio programs to discuss and debate church-state issues. Notable television appearances in 2012 included MSNBC, Fox News Channel, Current TV, CNN (including Lynn’s appearance on Anderson Cooper 360°), ABC, CBS, PBS’s “Religion & Ethics Newsweekly” and Al Jazeera. Top radio appearances included NPR’s “All Things Considered,” “Morning Edition” and the “Diane Rehm Show,” as well as Fox News Radio and NBC Radio.

Rob Boston takes part in a panel discussion about the role of faith and religion in American politics on Al Jazeera - August 2012

AU’s Barry Lynn speaks out against church electioneering on CNN for Anderson Cooper 360° - May 2012
2012 News Media Highlights

*Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn has been called “the most visible face” of the church-state separationist perspective. Throughout 2012, Lynn countered false claims by the Religious Right and was quoted by national and local media outlets, supplying expert commentary on the intersection of religion, law and politics.*

Appearances On Radio And Television January – December 2012

Americans United staff members frequently appear on radio and television news and talk programs to discuss church-state developments. The following list includes many of the appearances since Jan. 1, 2012, by AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn, Director of Communications Joe Conn, Assistant Director of Communications Rob Boston, Associate Legal Director Alex Luchenitser, Senior Litigation Counsel Greg Lipper, Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach Steven Baines and Communications Associate Simon Brown.

**Television**

**February**

13 – Boston on FoxNewsLive.com, birth control regulations (Nationwide)

17 – Lynn on PBS’s “Religion & Ethics Newsweekly,” church use of public schools (Nationwide)

21 – Lynn on MSNBC’s “The Ed Show,” religion and politics (Nationwide)

24 – Lynn on MSNBC’s “The Ed Show,” religion and politics (Nationwide)

**April**

6 – Lynn on Current TV’s “Full Court Press,” religion in politics/contraception issues (Nationwide)

**May**

9 – Boston on CBN’s “700 Club,” prayer service in U.S. Capitol (Nationwide)

14 – Lynn on Current TV’s “Full Court Press,” Liberty University hosts Mitt Romney (Nationwide)

21 – Lynn on MSNBC’s “Politics Nation with Al Sharpton,” Roman Catholic bishops and birth control lawsuits (Nationwide)

22 – Lynn on CNN’s “Anderson Cooper 360°,” N.C. pastor’s election intervention (Nationwide)

23 – Lynn on CNN’s “Early Start,” N.C. pastor’s election intervention (Nationwide)

**July**

11 – Lynn on WSOC News, churches and partisan politics (Charlotte, N.C.)

**August**

29 – Boston on Al Jazeera’s “The Stream,” churches and politics (Worldwide)

**September**

17 – Lynn on MSNBC’s “The Ed Show,” Values Voter Summit (Nationwide)

AU’s Lynn discusses the 2012 Values Voter Summit on MSNBC’s The Ed Show - September 2012
October
3 – Lynn on Fox News Channel, Pulpit Freedom Sunday (Nationwide)
20 – Brown on RT, religion and politics (International; Russian Television)
24 – Baines on CCTV’s “The Heat,” religion and politics (International; Chinese Television)

November
19 – Boston on Fox News Channel’s “Happening Now,” holiday symbols flap in Calif. (Nationwide)

Radio
January
8 – Boston on NPR’s “Weekend Edition,” conservative claims of religious discrimination (Nationwide)
10 – Boston on KPSI’s “The Desert Today with Steve Kelly,” religion in politics (Palm Springs, Calif.)
26 – Lynn on WMNF’s “Radioactivity with Rob Lorei,” general church and state (Tampa, Fla.)
27 – Lynn on WGCU’s “Soundoff with Sasha,” general church and state (Ft. Myers, Fla.)

February
2 – Lynn on Premier Radio Network’s “Randi Rhodes,” the National Prayer Breakfast (Nationally syndicated)
2 – Boston on CyberstationUSA’s “Fairness Radio with Chuck and Patrick,” war-on-religion claims (Nationwide)
8 – Lynn on National Public Radio’s “Diane Rehm Show,” birth control issues (Nationwide)
9 – Lynn on Sirius Radio’s “Ed Schultz Show,” CPAC conference (Nationwide)
9 – Boston on Wisconsin Public Radio, lawsuit over graduation in church (Statewide)
10 – Lipper on KRLD’s “Scott Braddock Show,” settlement of Texas prayer case (Dallas)

March
1 – Lynn on WVLK’s “Sue Wylie Show,” Ky. governor’s prayer breakfast (Lexington, Ky.)
2 – Conn on WFPL, Ky. governor’s prayer breakfast (Louisville, Ky.)
7 – Boston on WNYM’s “Curtis Sliwa Show,” birth control mandate (New York City area)
10 – Conn on WGAU’s “True South,” Ten Commandments bill and general church-state issues (Athens, Ga.)
20 – Boston on Florida Public Radio, school prayer bill (Statewide)

April
21 – Lynn on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered,” Charles Colson’s place in history (Nationwide)

May
1 – Boston on CyberstationUSA’s “Fairness Radio with Chuck and Patrick,” churches and politics (Nationwide)
9 – Boston on WFLA’s “Morning Show,” Florida Amendment 8 (Tampa)

June
5 – Luchenitser on KTRH’s “Houston’s Morning News,” crosses at public university (Houston)
13 – Lynn on WVLK’s “Sue Wiley Show,” religious song at elementary graduation (Lexington, Ky.)
25 – Lynn on WSKD’s “TEI Radio,” intelligent design (Hartford, Conn.)

July
19 – Lynn on In Deep Radio’s “In Deep with Angie Coiro,” churches and politics (Nationwide)

August
6 – Lipper on NPR’s “Morning Edition,” Missouri prayer amendment (Nationwide)

September
21 – Lynn on WMNF’s “Radioactivity,” Florida Amendment 8 (Tampa, Fla.)
24 – Lynn on KPCC’s “Airtalk,” churches and politics (Los Angeles)
29 – Lynn on “State of Belief,” churches and politics (Nationally syndicated)

October
10 – Boston on Free Speech Radio’s “Thom Hartman Show,” Pulpit Freedom Sunday (Nationwide)
11 – Boston on WNHN’s “Attitude with Arnie Arnesen,” Pulpit Freedom Sunday (Concord, N.H.)

November
20 – Lynn on Fox Radio’s “Alan Colmes Show,” teen sentenced to attend church (Nationwide)
20 – Lynn on “In the Market with Janet Parshall,” general church and state (Nationally syndicated)

December
2 – Boston on BBC World Service’s “Newshour,” Nativity scene flap in Calif. (Worldwide)
14 – Boston on Public Radio International’s “To the Point,” religion in public life (Nationally syndicated)
19 – Lynn on “In the Market with Janet Parshall,” general church and state (Nationally syndicated)
AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn hosts a nationally syndicated daily radio talk show called “Culture Shocks.” The program is carried by stations in New York, California, Alabama, Mississippi, Michigan and other markets. It is also available everywhere via the Web.

“Culture Shocks,” which was once described as “a really engaging and unique program that falls between the shows on Air America and National Public Radio,” addresses controversial issues and hot topics based on the premise that America is in the middle of a “culture war.”

In 2012, Lynn interviewed a wide range of subjects, from blues musician Buddy Guy and Casey Anthony attorney Jose Baez to women’s rights activist Martha Burk and former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold.

Since unveiling a large-scale relaunch of AU’s website in late 2011, the site has seen a large increase in traffic. While part of this increase is due to the integration of AU blogs into the main site, there has been significant growth in traffic beyond that. The average number of monthly visitors in 2010 was 36,000, but in 2011 and 2012, AU’s site saw an average of 65,000 visitors per month. In addition, about 71 percent of these visitors return to AU.org more than once per month!

**Facebook and Social Media Networking**

Americans United is steadily adding new fans to its Facebook page, now 70,000 strong! Every day, people “like” Americans United posts more than 100 times, allowing them to share the posts with their own Facebook connections. Each post – whether it’s the blog post of the day, a chapter event, a press release or an important church-state news story featuring comment from Americans United – receives 30 comments on average and dozens of “likes.”

Other social networking sites that feature AU material include Flickr (photos), YouTube (video), Twitter (micro-blogging) and Good Reads (books).
Voices United:

Taking A Seat, Making A Stand

For the first time in its history, Americans United took on a unique and ambitious project: putting on a nationwide concert series in support of church-state separation. “Voices United for Separation of Church and State” was designed to engage performers in our work, introduce AU and our issues to new audiences and rally support for basic constitutional principles.
Ultimately, more than 100 artists participated in Voices United, which was held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 with at least one event in every state. Many of the shows, including one hosted by AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn, were at individual homes. Others took place at larger venues in major cities such as Washington, D.C., Nashville, Tenn., and Los Angeles, Calif.

The theme of the concert series was “Take A Seat, Make A Stand.” The United States is at a point in history when the very heart of church-state separation is threatened. Religious Right forces are trying to turn churches into a partisan political machine, the public school system is under attack and interest groups are seeking taxpayer dollars to fund religious schools and discriminatory social service ministries. Getting the AU message out now is critical.

“This was a wonderful event,” AU’s Lynn said. “So much hard work went into this, and then to see how well it was pulled off, it’s really a delight. I know our message reached a large audience, and I couldn’t be more pleased.”

Singer-songwriter Catie Curtis, a Boston-area performer who took the lead in producing much of Voices United, was equally happy.

“I am touched by all the work that folks did around the country to pull off these events,” she said. “Most of the hosts had no prior affiliation with AU, so we brought in a lot of new energy. We’re still getting reports from the hosts, and the most consistent themes we’re hearing are that people had a good time connecting around their shared passions for music and the issue of church-state separation.”

The events ran the musical gamut and included performances in the genres of folk, jazz, blues, rock, classical and others. Slam poetry was on the agenda, too, along with some stand-up comedy.

The shows were well attended, and several AU staffers journeyed around the country to represent the organization. Americans United Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach, the Rev. Steven C. Baines, spoke at the show in Nashville; AU Senior Litigation Counsel Gregory M. Lipper went to Montgomery, Ala.; and Development staffers Marjorie Spitz Nagrotsky and Sarah Stevenson (along with Lynn) represented AU at the show in Los Angeles.

Voices United had a finale on Oct. 1 at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles with performances by Curtis, folk singer-songwriter Mary Gauthier and comedians Russell Brand and Sarah Silverman. Silverman is an alumnus of “Saturday Night Live” whose credits include “The Sarah Silverman Program” on Comedy Central as well as more than two dozen films. Brand’s work includes the films “Forgetting Sarah Marshall,” “Get Him to the Greek” and others. Both kept the audience laughing during their 30-minute stand-up routines.

Brand told the audience that he is a real fan of Americans United’s work.

“I fully and wholeheartedly endorse this cause,” he told the crowd. “Thank you for coming and investing in something worthwhile.”
Project Fair Play:

Countering Illegal Church Electioneering

VOTE FOR THE MORMON, NOT THE MUSLIM!

These provocative words graced a church marquee sign in the small town of Leakey, Texas, in the fall of 2012.

Passers-by would have to be pretty uninformed not to get the reference. The “Muslim” was President Barack Obama, whom many Religious Right activists refuse to believe is a Christian. The Mormon was Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, Obama’s Republican Party challenger.
The sign, therefore, was a pretty brazen attempt to intervene in the November presidential election. Indeed, the church’s pastor told the local media that he felt strongly about the election.

So strongly, in fact, that he violated federal law. And Americans United felt so strongly that this was wrong that we asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate the matter.

The Texas incident was just one of several problems relating to church politicking in 2012.

Since 1996, Americans United has sponsored Project Fair Play, which puts a special focus on the issue of church electioneering. Under federal law, all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, including houses of worship, are prohibited from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office. (Issue advocacy is permitted, but candidate advocacy is not.) Project Fair Play is designed to educate Americans about this law and counter Religious Right forces that want to forge churches into a political machine.

The presidential election of 2012 generated a lot of interest among the American people. Unfortunately, it also sparked numerous examples of illegal church politicking.

Americans United worked hard to combat pulpit politicking throughout the year. AU’s main focus remained on education. We distributed special materials designed to educate religious leaders and citizens about what federal law says concerning political intervention by houses of worship and why this law should be obeyed.

AU maintains a special website, Projectfairplay.org, that contains a number of valuable resources related to church politicking. Especially helpful is a list of do’s and don’ts that explain what types of activities are permissible and which ones might raise legal issues. The site was regularly updated throughout 2012.

In cases of flagrant violations of the law, Americans United alerts the Internal Revenue Service. The following complaints were filed in 2012:

* Diocese of Peoria, Peoria, Ill., April 19, 2012: Bishop Daniel R. Jenky delivered a homily during which he compared President Obama to Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. Jenky urged listeners not to vote for anyone who holds certain views. Some months later, on the eve of the election, Americans United filed a follow-up complaint after Jenky issued a letter that he ordered read in all churches in the diocese. The missive attacked Obama and Senate Democrats and suggested that Catholics could not vote for them.

* Hager Hill Freewill Baptist Church, Hager Hill, Ky., May 21, 2012: Pastor Ronnie Spriggs gave a sermon attacking President Obama for his stand on same-sex marriage. Spriggs discussed the election and expressed his desire to see Obama “out.”

“I’m very disappointed this morning,” Spriggs told the congregation, “I’m disappointed in our country. I’m disappointed in our president. I’m going to go on record. You can say that’s political if you want to and blame me if you want to, but I heard our president say something this week that I never thought I’d ever hear a president of the United States say. Did y’all hear that? He said that he believes that gays ought to have the right to marry in the United States. That’s the president of the United States who said that. Amen. I don’t know about you folks, but I’m going on record and I don’t care who knows it. I want the guy out.”

* Providence Road Baptist Church, Maiden, N.C., May 23, 2012: Pastor Charles L. Worley delivered a sermon denouncing President Obama’s support for same-sex marriage.

During his remarks, Worley suggested quarantining gays and lesbians and allowing them to die. He then referred to “our president getting up and saying that it was all right for two women to marry or two men to marry” and added, “I was disappointed bad.” He then went on to say, “Someone said, ‘Who ya gonna vote for?’ I ain’t gonna vote for a baby killer and a homosexual lover. You said, ‘Did you mean to say that?’ You better believe I did.”

* Dove World Outreach Center, Gainesville, Fla., June 20, 2012: Pastor Terry Jones erected a gallows on church property and hung an effigy of President Obama. In addition, Jones released a video attacking Obama that includes footage of the gallows and the Obama effigy. Jones claims that this video was produced by a group he has formed called Stand Up America Now. But Dove World Outreach Center and Stand Up America Now share the same mailing address and phone number.

* Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo., Aug. 23, 2012: In a May 2012 edition of The
Pathway, the official publication of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the Convention’s Director of Public Policy, Don Hinkle, endorsed two candidates for public office in the August Republican primary – U.S. Senate candidate Todd Akin and state attorney general candidate Ed Martin.

In a column headlined “Allegiance to God, not a political party,” Hinkle wrote, “We want government leaders who are righteous and who will pass righteous laws that serve the common good and bring glory to Jehovah God who established government and is Sovereign. This is why I personally support candidates like U.S. Rep. Todd Akin, a Republican who wants to challenge Democrat Claire McCaskill for her U.S. Senate seat, and Republican Ed Martin, the St. Louis attorney who is running for state attorney general. I support them because they view many of the critical issues the same way I do and in a way that is consistent with God’s Word.”

Hinkle, who serves as editor of the publication, characterized his endorsement as “personal,” but federal tax law does not permit the employees of tax-exempt organizations to use official publications to intervene in elections.

* Church of Saint Catherine of Siena, New York, NY, Sept. 7, 2012: The church issued a bulletin dated Sept. 2, 2012, that contained a column authored by the Rev. John Farren titled “From Father Farren, O.P.” The column reprinted a letter that was issued by several former U.S. ambassadors to the Vatican calling on Catholics to vote for Mitt Romney for president.

The letter from the ambassadors contained a lengthy attack on the Obama administration and concluded, “We urge our fellow Catholics, and indeed all people of good will, to join with us in this full-hearted effort to elect Governor Mitt Romney as the next President of the United States.”

* St. Raphael Catholic Church, El Paso, Texas, Sept. 10, 2012: The church ran a notice in its bulletin dated Aug. 5 that read, “I am asking all of you to go to the polls and be united in replacing our present president with a president that will respect the Catholic Church in this country. Please pass this on to all of your Catholic friends.” Asked about the matter by an reporter for the El Paso Times, church officials did not deny the endorsement.

* Ridgway Christian Center/Praise Him Ministries, Ridgway, Colo., Sept. 19, 2012: The ministry produced a publication dated Fall 2012 that contained a photo of a series of American flags accompanied by a headline that read, “Honor God! Love your country! VOTE REPUBLICAN!”

Inside the publication, Victoria Hearst, founder and president of the ministry, wrote a long article challenging the right of the Internal Revenue Service to prohibit tax-exempt organizations from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office. The article relies heavily on material produced the ministry’s publication Defending Freedom (formerly the Alliance Defense Fund), an Arizona-based organization that every year sponsors an event called “Pulpit Freedom Sunday,” during which pastors are urged to openly violate the law by electioneering from the pulpit.


Jackson, speaking from the pulpit, told congregants, “I am going to tell you why I cannot support Barack Obama for president.” He added, “Listen to me, black Christian. You are foolish enough to vote against the God that brought you out of slavery, the God that brought you out of a civil rights thing. Just because somebody’s skin is black you’re gonna support an anti-God, anti-gospel agenda? No wonder you can’t get a job.”

In addition, during the sermon Jackson endorsed Faith Loudon, a candidate for U.S. Congress, who was in the audience at the time. Loudon reported the endorsement on her campaign website.

Jackson concluded his sermon, “We’re going to pray now. And we endorse Faith Loudon for Congress in the Fourth District of Maryland, and we do not endorse Barack Obama for president of the United States.”

The church later posted excerpts from the sermon on its website.

Prior to the election, Americans United mailed letters to more than 60,000 houses of worship nationwide, advising pastors not to intervene in partisan races.

* Church in the Valley, Leakey, Texas, Oct. 23, 2012: Numerous media outlets reported that this church’s marquee sign read, “VOTE FOR THE MORMON, NOT THE MUSLIM! THE CAPITALIST, NOT THE COMMUNIST!”

ABC News reported that the sign “was an obvious reference to President Barack Obama, who conservatives say is a secret Muslim even though he says he is a Christian and attends church with his family.” The “Mormon” reference is to Gov. Mitt Romney, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The pastor of the church, Ray Miller, told KVUE-TV in Austin that the sign was his idea. According to ABC News, Miller put up the sign because “he feels strongly about the election.”
In addition to these reports, Americans United undertook other activities to combat pulpit politicking. Prior to the election, Americans United mailed letters to more than 60,000 houses of worship nationwide, advising pastors not to intervene in partisan races.

“The First Amendment protects the right of all Americans, religious leaders included, to speak out on religious, moral and political issues,” observed the letter. “However, houses of worship and other nonprofit entities classified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code are barred from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office and may not intervene directly or indirectly in partisan campaigns.

“Any activity designed to influence the outcome of a partisan election can be construed as intervention,” continued the letter. “If the IRS determines that your house of worship has engaged in unlawful intervention, it can revoke the institution’s tax-exempt status or levy significant fines on the house of worship or its leaders.”

In a Sept. 12 press release about the letter, AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn observed, “People don’t join churches because they want to be told how to vote. Our letter reminds religious leaders about what the law requires, why it makes sense and how it could affect them.”

Continued Lynn, “Most clergy of all faiths know it’s inappropriate to use their pulpits to stump for political candidates. But there are very vocal misguided religious and political forces that constantly prod religious leaders to violate federal tax law. We urge clergy to just say no.”

Americans United also worked to counter misinformation being spread by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a Religious Right outfit founded by TV and radio preachers. That group, for example, frequently claims that tax exemption for churches is a constitutional right. In fact, the issue isn’t mentioned in the Constitution at all.

The ADF also asserts that no church has ever been sanctioned for politicking. In fact, a church in New York was stripped of its tax-exempt status after it ran newspaper ads advising people not to vote for Bill Clinton in 1992.

In addition, Americans United worked to educate pastors and others through the media. Several major media outlets did stories about pulpit politicking in 2012 that quoted Americans United. Among them were the Associated Press, Reuters, USA Today, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Nashville Tennessean, the Charleston (S.C.) Post and Courier, Deseret News (Salt Lake City), Christianity Today and CNN.

AU also reached out to smaller media outlets when houses of worship in or near their communities were reported to the IRS for violating the no-politicking law. This resulted in stories in the Ocala (Fla.) Star-Banner, El Paso Times, Mooresville (N.C.) Tribune, Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance and Paintsville (Ky.) Herald and others.
Legal Advocacy:

*Defending Religious Freedom – In And Out of Court*

For Susan Galloway and Linda Stephens, patience pays.

In May, after a five-year legal fight, Galloway and Stephens finally got what they wanted: a federal court decision against sectarian prayers before board meetings in the town of Greece, N.Y.
It’s been hard waiting for these decisions,” Galloway said. “It’s a long process. It’s tiring.”

It was also worth it. In a May 17 decision, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals explained that the town’s procedures “virtually ensured a Christian viewpoint” because nearly all of the prayers were delivered by Christian clergy. The town violated the First Amendment, the unanimous three-judge panel said, by presenting a “steady drumbeat of often specifically sectarian Christian prayers.”

Galloway, who is Jewish and was the lead plaintiff in Galloway v. Greece, began attending town board meetings frequently in 2005 because she wanted to discuss an issue related to cable-access television. Stephens, an atheist, started attending the sessions regularly in 2001 because she disapproved of some land-development plans.
Galloway said she was struck “right away” by her local government’s prayer practice, in which clergy opened the meetings with invocations. The board did not require that the prayers be inclusive or non-sectarian, and official records showed that between 1999 and June 2010, about two-thirds of the 120 recorded prayers contained references to “Jesus Christ,” “Jesus,” “Your Son” or the “Holy Spirit.”

“The prayers alienated me from the start,” Stephens said, adding that she considered them to be “just a ploy of the politicians in office to curry favor from the Christian pastors in town.”

So when the Greece policy rankled, Galloway and Stephens decided in 2007 to take their complaint straight to Town Supervisor John Auberger. Or so they thought. They ended up meeting with two other town officials who were unhelpful.

“We were basically informed, said Galloway, “You can either not listen to the prayers or you can leave the meetings.”

Dissatisfied with those options, Stephens and Galloway sought help from Americans United, which tried to settle the matter outside court. In July 2007, the AU Legal Department sent a letter urging the Town Board to stop the prayers or at least choose prayers that are nonsectarian.

Citing precedent, AU’s letter noted that the Supreme Court “has made clear that legislative prayer is permissible only if it is nonsectarian – in other words, only if it does not use language or symbols specific to one religion.”

Nonetheless, the first court to hear the case didn’t side with plaintiffs Galloway and Stephens. In an Aug. 5, 2010, decision, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York dismissed the case.

But Americans United appealed that decision and earned a very different outcome the second time.

Judge Guido Calabresi, writing for the 2nd Circuit panel, said, “We conclude that an objective, reasonable person would believe that the town's prayer practice had the effect of affiliating the town with Christianity” and that “a given legislative prayer practice, viewed in its entirety, may not advance a single religious sect.”

The judge also noted that despite Auberger’s claim that anyone was welcome to deliver a prayer, the town admitted in court “that it has not publicized to town residents that anyone may volunteer to deliver prayers or that any type of invocation would be permissible.”

Calabresi also offered advice that any government body with a prayer policy would be wise to heed: “People with the best of intentions may be tempted, in the course of giving a legislative prayer, to convey their views of religious truth, and thereby run the risk of making others feel like outsiders,” he wrote. “Even if all prayer-givers could resist this temptation, municipalities with the best of motives may still have trouble preventing the appearance of religious affiliation.”

Galloway is just one in a long list of successes that Americans United achieved in 2012.

The AU Legal Department, headed by Legal Director Ayesha N. Khan, spent 2012 working to maintain church-state separation on many fronts.

Besides litigation, AU’s legal team also engages in advocacy outside the courtroom, responding to complaints about constitutional violations in communities across the country. Many of these disputes are successfully resolved by the Legal Department through letter writing, telephone calls and, on occasion, representation of individuals in non-courtroom settings.

In addition to Khan, others on the AU legal team are Associate Legal Director Alex J. Luchenitser, Senior Litigation Counsel Gregory M. Lipper, Staff Attorney Ian S. Smith, Legal Assistant Thelma Scott, Madison Fellows Benjamin N. Hazelwood, Caitlin E. O’Connell (from August) and Brooke R. Hardy (through June), and Steven Gey Fellows Randall F. Maas (from August) and Natalie R. Shapero (through August).

2012 Litigation Highlights

In addition to litigating the Galloway case, the Americans United Legal Department worked on the following cases, either by serving as counsel or by filing friend-of-the-court briefs in suits that could set important precedents. AU’s lawsuits concern coercive religious activities in public schools, taxpayer funding of religious schools and other ministries, government-sponsored displays of religious texts and symbols, government-sponsored prayer and religious discrimination and accommodation.
Completed Litigation in 2012

» Schultz v. Medina Valley Independent School District: Medina Valley Independent School District near San Antonio, Texas, sponsored student-led Christian prayers at its high school graduations and other school events. In May 2011, Americans United filed a lawsuit on behalf of high school senior Corwyn Schultz and his family. A federal district judge ordered the school district not to include prayers in the June 2011 graduation ceremony, but that order was reversed by a higher court. The case returned to the district court, and in February 2012, it was resolved by a settlement. The agreement, which the trial court will enforce for 10 years, includes the following provisions: school district officials will not initiate, solicit or direct prayers or join students in prayers; officials will not proselytize or invite others to engage in these practices and school district officials will not display crosses, religious images, religious quotations, Bibles or religious texts or other religious icons on the walls, hallways and other areas at school.

The Schultz family was happy with the outcome. “Americans United was helpful by giving me a voice,” said Corwyn. “Without AU, I would have been brushed aside as just another complaining kid. Thanks to Americans United, when I complained to the school district, I wasn’t just someone who didn’t like what they were doing.” Added Danny Schultz, “Without AU, we would have been unable to achieve this settlement. The Schultzes are forever grateful.”

» Joyner v. Forsyth: For many years, the Forsyth County Board of Supervisors invited local clergy to deliver sectarian prayers to open board meetings. Most of the prayers were Christian, which left many community residents feeling left out and unwelcome. In March 2007, the ACLU of North Carolina challenged the board’s discriminatory prayer policy in federal court on behalf of two AU members (Americans United later joined the case at the appeal stage). In January 2010, the trial judge ruled that the prayer policy was unconstitutional and had the effect of affiliating the county government with Christianity. County officials appealed to the 4th U.S. Court of Appeals, but in July 2011, the appellate panel upheld the trial court’s decision. In January 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the county’s petition for review, bringing the matter to a successful close.

» Mullin v. Sussex County: The Sussex County (Del.) Council for years has opened its meetings with a recitation of a Protestant version of the Lord’s Prayer. In June 2011, AU filed a lawsuit on behalf of four local residents, including one Christian minister. All plaintiffs have attended council meetings in the past and were offended by the governmental body’s promotion of one religious perspective and disrespect for the diverse beliefs in the community. In May, the trial court ruled preliminarily in AU’s favor, concluding that “the Lord’s Prayer delivered at the Council meetings [is] a distinctly Christian prayer” and that “the Council’s practice of opening each meeting with a recitation of this distinctly Christian Lord’s Prayer violates the First Amendment because it constitutes government endorsement of the Christian faith.” The case then went into mediation, and in September, the Sussex County Council voted 3-2 to stop reciting the Lord’s Prayer before meetings.

» Wirtz v. City of South Bend: The South Bend (Ind.) Common Council voted to buy property for $1.2 million and donate it to St. Joseph’s High School, a Catholic school. Americans United, together with the ACLU, filed a lawsuit on behalf of local taxpayers challenging the deal. When a federal district court ruled against the proposed transfer, city officials came up with a new plan to accept bids for the property. The bidding criteria, however, favored St. Joseph’s. That arrangement was struck down in court, too. Finally, the city came up with a third proposal, under which the property would be sold for a minimum price of $545,000, and no bidder would be favored. Although the religious school obtained the building for the minimum price, the litigation produced a $545,000 benefit for the city’s taxpayers. In December 2011, city officials took the case to the 7th U.S. Court of Appeals. Americans United moved to dismiss the appeal because the case was moot, and the court agreed in February of 2012.

» Does v. Enfield Public Schools: Enfield Public Schools, near Hartford, Conn., began holding high school graduations in an evangelical Christian church in 2007. In 2010, Americans United and its allies filed a lawsuit in federal district court on behalf of students and their families, and the judge ordered that the June 2010 graduations not be held at the church. School officials appealed, but in August 2010, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the case as moot. In July 2012, the parties agreed to settle the lawsuit, and the schools will be prohibited from holding graduation ceremonies in First Cathedral Church in the future.
Ongoing Litigation in 2012

» **LaRue v. Colorado Board of Education:** In March 2011, the Douglas County (Colo.) Board of Education voted to create a “Pilot Choice Scholarship Plan” that subsidizes religious and other private schools with taxpayer dollars. The district authorized 500 students to use state, per-pupil educational funds to attend private schools. Most of the participating “Private School Partners” are religious, and these participating schools may indoctrinate children and discriminate on the basis of religion in both hiring and admissions. In June 2011, Americans United – joined by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Colorado and the law firm of Arnold & Porter – filed a lawsuit in state court challenging the plan. In August 2011, the court issued a permanent injunction prohibiting the implementation of the voucher program. In September 2011, school officials took the case to the Colorado Court of Appeals. Oral argument was heard in November 2012 with a decision expected in early 2013.

» **Pedreira v. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children:** In 2000, Americans United and the ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging state financing of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (KBHC). AU asserted that the publicly funded religious organization indoctrinates youths in sectarian beliefs. AU earned an important victory in 2009 when the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that the taxpayer plaintiffs could proceed with their case. KBHC (now renamed Sunrise Children’s Services) asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the appellate court decision, but the justices declined to do so in April 2011. The case is ongoing. In August, the district court ordered Baptist Homes to produce the names and addresses of its former employees, as well as the names and addresses of its former residents over the age of 18 who had complained about religious proselytization.

» **Does v. School District of Elmbrook:** The Elmbrook School District near Milwaukee, Wisc., held its high school graduation ceremonies in the sanctuary of an evangelical Christian church. In 2009, Americans United filed a lawsuit on behalf of nine non-Christian students, parents and graduates of the school district who felt unwelcome and extremely uncomfortable attending commencement in a sectarian setting that included a 20-foot cross and other religious imagery and literature. A federal court dismissed the case, but Americans United appealed. The full 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted AU’s request for rehearing, and in July 2012, ruled 7-3 in AU’s favor. In December, the Elmbrook school board asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

» **Hewett v. City of King, N.C.:** In 2004, the City of King (N.C.) built a veterans’ memorial in a public park. The memorial features a total of 11 flags, including the Christian flag. In July 2010, Steven Hewett, an Afghanistan veteran and Bronze Star recipient, complained to the city manager because the display favored one faith over others and effectively excluded non-Christian service personnel. The city council initially refused to take the flag down. After receiving letters from Americans United and the ACLU of North Carolina, however, council members voted to remove the flag in September 2010. In November 2010, following advice from a Religious Right legal group called the Alliance Defending Freedom, the council voted to institute a new policy intended to keep the sectarian banner in place. Designating the memorial as a “limited public forum,” the council set up a lottery system and selected 52 flag applications, one for each week of the year. As a result of the new policy, the Christian flag flew for 47 weeks in 2011 and for 47 weeks in 2012. In November 2012, Americans United filed a lawsuit in federal court on Hewett’s behalf, asking for the removal of the flag. AU also asked for the removal of a statue erected near the memorial that features a soldier kneeling before a cross and for the city to stop sponsoring Christian prayers at annual memorial ceremonies.

Friend-of-the-Court Briefs Filed in 2012

» **ACLU of Massachusetts v. Sebelius:** In 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded a multi-million-dollar contract to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for the provision of services to victims of human trafficking. The bishops’ conference entered into agreements with dozens of subcontractors to provide direct services to trafficking victims,
but it prohibited use of the federal funds to pay for abortion or contraceptive services. The ACLU brought suit against HHS in January 2009, asserting that the contract violated the Constitution by allowing the bishops to impose a religiously based restriction on the disbursement of public funds. In October 2012, Americans United, joined by the Anti-Defamation League, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, filed an amicus brief in support of the ACLU.

Meredith v. Daniels: In May 2011, the Indiana legislature enacted the Choice Scholarship Program, which awards public funds to pay tuition at private schools. The vouchers can be used for sectarian schools, and virtually all of the participating schools are religious. In July 2011, a group of Indiana taxpayers filed suit in state court, arguing that the program violated the Indiana Constitution’s prohibition on state aid to religion. In March, Americans United filed an amicus brief opposing the voucher scheme and clarifying the history behind the Indiana Constitution’s prohibition on state aid to religion.

O’Brien v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: The Department of Health and Human Services promulgated a regulation under the Affordable Care Act that requires most businesses to offer their employees no-cost contraception through insurance plans. Frank O’Brien, the Roman Catholic owner of a for-profit company that mines and processes ceramic products, challenged the regulation in federal court. When the case reached the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Americans United joined with the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Women of Reform Judaism to file a brief stating that O’Brien’s company does not qualify for exemption. “Mr. O’Brien has every right to refrain from using contraception and to attempt to persuade others to do the same,” reads the brief. “But once he enters the secular market for labor to staff his secular, for-profit corporation, he may not force his religious choices on his employees.”

A.M. ex rel. McKay v. Taconic Hills Central School District: In June 2009, a middle school student in the Taconic Hills (N.Y.) Central School District was invited to deliver remarks at the school’s graduation ceremony. When she submitted a draft for approval, school administrators notified her that she was not permitted to conclude the address with a prayer from the Bible, as she had planned to do. The student delivered the speech without the religious message, and then, in January 2010, filed suit against the school district. She argued that the prohibition on the delivery of the “Priestly Benediction” had violated her free speech. In June, Americans United filed an amicus brief siding with school officials and insisting that imposing a prayer on a captive audience of students would have violated the separation of church and state.

Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education of the City of New York: The New York City Board of Education has a policy that prohibits the use of school property for worship, partisan political events, for-profit activities, private social events, events not open to the public and events that discriminate against people on the basis of race or religion. As a result of repeated court injunctions against the religion restriction, however, the Bronx Household of Faith has held Sunday worship services, rent free, in a public middle school for approximately a decade. The issue is now before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In September 2012, Americans United submitted an amicus brief in support of the board of education. AU attorneys noted that the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts have repeatedly held that the First Amendment’s Free Exercise Clause does not give religious groups a claim to government subsidies.

Freshwater v. Mount Vernon City School District Board of Education: In 2008, the Mount Vernon (Ohio) City School District began investigating eighth-grade science teacher John Freshwater after parents complained that Freshwater had used a Tesla coil to brand a cross on the student’s arm. School officials later found evidence that Freshwater kept a Bible on his desk and a copy of the Ten Commandments on the classroom bulletin board, proselytized openly and taught creationism as part of the science curriculum. In January 2011, Freshwater was fired. After his termination was affirmed by two lower courts, Freshwater sought review by the Ohio Supreme Court. In October 2012, AU joined with the Anti-Defamation League to file an amicus brief with the court arguing that the school district was right to terminate Freshwater and preserve the religious neutrality of the classroom.

Freedom From Religion Foundation v. City of Warren: Each December, the city of Warren, Mich., places a holiday display in the atrium of its civic center. The display includes a Christmas tree, ribbons and ornaments, a “Merry Christmas” sign and various other seasonal decorations. Among the features is a Nativity scene with a small sign indicating that it is “sponsored and provided by the Warren Rotary
Club.” After the mayor of the town said that “all religions are welcome to celebrate their religious seasons with a display in city hall,” Warren resident Douglas Marshall asked to display a sign in the atrium offering Winter Solstice greetings from an atheist perspective. He received a letter from the mayor denying his request. The Freedom From Religion Foundation filed suit on Marshall’s behalf in December 2011, asserting that the city had violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments. In October, AU filed a brief with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals arguing that the city’s policy discriminates on the basis of religious belief and religious viewpoint.

» Farina v. Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections: Anthony Farina was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death for a 1992 robbery of a Taco Bell that left one employee dead. During his sentencing trial, Farina’s attorneys called the Rev. James Davis, who had counseled Farina in prison, to testify about the defendant’s reformed character and his genuine embrace of Christianity. On cross-examination, prosecutor John Tanner grilled Davis about Christian theology, focusing on verses in the Book of Romans that say those who “rebel against the authority…will bring judgment on themselves.” The prosecutor told the jury that Farina and his codefendant “had brought this judgment upon themselves.” Americans United, joined by the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Women of Reform Judaism, Interfaith Alliance Foundation, the National Council of Jewish Women, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and with the assistance of Mayer Brown, submitted an amicus brief to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in November, arguing that Tanner’s invocation of religious law was “grossly improper” and unconstitutional.

» Stormans Inc. v. Selecky: After learning of several incidents in Washington State in which pharmacists refused to fill prescriptions for birth-control pills, emergency contraception and other medications, the Washington State Board of Pharmacy adopted regulations in July 2007 requiring pharmacies to dispense lawfully prescribed drugs. Individual pharmacists, however, were allowed to have a colleague fill a prescription if they object to filling it for religious or moral reasons. Two pharmacists and a corporate pharmacy brought a lawsuit in federal court challenging the regulations, particularly as those regulations relate to the emergency contraceptive Plan B (the “morning-after pill”). In September 2012, Americans United submitted an amicus brief to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in support of the state. AU argued that the state regulations strike an appropriate balance between the religious freedom of pharmacists and the rights of their patients. “The Free-Exercise Clause of the First Amendment should [not] be used as a sword to impose the beliefs of one faith upon those who do not share the faith,” the brief said. “That curtails religious freedom instead of advancing it.”

» Atheists of Florida, Inc. v. City of Lakeland: For decades, the City of Lakeland (Fla.) has invited clergy from local congregations to deliver opening prayers at its commission meetings. From 1985 to 2010, only Christian denominations were invited to participate, and ministers often offered Christian prayers. In July 2010, Atheists of Florida filed suit against the city. In February 2012, a district court upheld all of the city’s prayer practices. In May, Americans United
filed an amicus brief with the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals arguing that these prayer practices violated the First Amendment because the meetings featured exclusively Christian clergy delivering predominantly Christian prayers.

2012 Non-Litigation Highlights

AU’s legal team sends letters regularly to government entities that have engaged in unconstitutional activity. Often, after receiving these letters, which carefully explain the law, violators cease their activities, thus successfully bringing the matter to a close without intervention by courts. Here is a sampling of AU’s non-litigation successes in 2012:

- **Arlington, Va.** A Wiccan priestess applied for a license to perform marriages in Virginia, but was denied purportedly because she did not serve a congregation with its own fixed-address building. AU wrote to the court clerk and explained that such a requirement constitutionally discriminated against Wiccans and other religious traditions that do not utilize traditional fixed-address congregations. The priestess reapplied, and the court clerk granted her application.

- **Bushnell, Fla.** The Supervisor of Elections in Bushnell made it a practice to begin election-worker training sessions with prayers. AU wrote to the supervisor and informed her that it is unconstitutional for a government employee to include a prayer as part of such a training session. The supervisor agreed to stop the invocations.

- **Albuquerque, N.M.** AU received a complaint about a Buddhist stupa that was displayed at the Petroglyph National Monument. AU asked that the shrine be moved to private property. The Department of the Interior investigated, concluded that the display of a religious structure on government land is unconstitutional and transferred the stupa to private hands.

- **Portland, Ore.** AU received a complaint regarding a program under which Multnomah County judges—as part of a joint venture between the court, the county district attorney’s office and the City of Portland—conditioned criminal offenders’ eligibility for probation on attendance of meetings with local pastors. In response to a letter from AU, the program was expanded so that offenders are now provided the opportunity to meet with a variety of individuals, including non-religious community members.

- **Poteet, Texas** A student at Poteet High School told AU that the school was planning of an official invocation and benediction prayers at an upcoming graduation ceremony. AU objected to this practice, explaining that there were numerous constitutional problems with it. The school ultimately changed the invocation and benediction to “opening remarks” and “closing remarks” and removed the requirement that those remarks be prayers.

- **Santa Monica, Calif.** When the Santa Monica City Council was deliberating whether to allow a display of Christian Nativity scenes in a public park, AU attorneys sprang into action. They wrote to the council to uphold church-state separation and debunk bad advice from Liberty Counsel, a Religious Right legal group affiliated with Jerry Falwell Jr.’s Liberty University. AU urged council members to allow equal opportunity for anyone to place a display in the park or close the forum altogether. The city took AU’s advice and decided to prohibit all displays.

- **Fayetteville, Ga.** The Fayette County Board of Education routinely opened its meetings with a prayer. AU wrote to explain that the practice raised serious constitutional concerns. Students are often present at board sessions, AU noted, and the federal courts have repeatedly held that government may not impose religion on school children. The board subsequently voted to replace the prayer with a moment of silence.

- **Minnetonka, Minn.** A Minnetonka football coach routinely led his team in prayer before games. AU wrote to public school officials to explain that teachers and other staff may not impose religious instruction or devotional activities on students. The school district agreed and put a stop to the practice.

- **Riverside, Calif.** AU received complaints about a large cross standing in a public park owned by the city of Riverside. AU wrote to officials to explain that it is unconstitutional for the government to prefer one faith over others. The city agreed to sell the property to a private buyer pursuant to a neutral bidding process at auction.

- **Fonda, N.Y.** The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors voted to give a tourism grant to a Catholic shrine to support a celebration of the canonization of that shrine’s patron saint. AU wrote a letter objecting to the plan, and the county looked for alternatives that might pass constitutional muster. One proposal would have restricted the use of the grant money to secular items. AU sent a follow-up letter explaining that giving public funds to a religious institution to support a religious event would be unconstitutional even if the money were spent on secular aspects of the celebration. The shrine ultimately declined the grant because it could not agree to the restrictions on the use of the money.
Defending Church-State Separation in the Nation’s Capital and the States

For Rabbi Merrill Shapiro, Florida’s Amendment 8 was a personal attack.

“Florida is my home,” said Shapiro, rabbi at Deltona’s Temple Shalom (and president of Americans United’s Board of Trustees). “Far from the ‘religious freedom’ measure it was made out to be, this amendment was a direct attack on religious freedom.”

AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett agreed.
“Supporters of Amendment 8 are portraying it as a minor cosmetic procedure to the state constitution,” Garrett said. “It’s not – it’s radical surgery. We need to get that message out so Floridians understand that their fundamental rights are at risk.”

So the Americans United team swung into action. First the AU Legislative Department fought the amendment during the legislative process. When that did not succeed, the Legislative crew rallied opposition to the misguided ballot measure in coordination with the AU Field and Communications departments. Dozens of AU activists across the Sunshine State joined forces with concerned clergy and allied advocacy organizations to let voters know that Amendment 8 was a deceptive scheme that would have required taxpayers to fund religion.

On Nov. 6, the hard work paid off: The so-called “religious freedom” amendment was trounced in balloting across Florida. Despite a determined campaign for it by the Religious Right and the state’s Roman Catholic bishops, Amendment 8 failed badly. Out of more than 7.6 million votes cast, the amendment drew only 44.51 percent in favor. It needed 60 percent approval in order to pass. So decisive was the defeat that out of 67 counties, just six voted to approve the amendment.

Amendment 8 would have allowed taxpayer money to flow directly to houses of worship, religious schools and other ministries. Passage would have erased the church-state separation protections currently enshrined in the Florida Constitution, thus allowing for direct funding of religious organizations and opening the door to taxpayer-funded voucher subsidies for religious schools.

That’s why Americans United and our allies worked so hard for months to defeat the measure. AU partnered with religious, educational and advocacy groups in a Vote No On 8 campaign. The coalition, which included the Florida Education Association, the Anti-Defamation League of Florida and the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, engaged in a wide array of outreach activities, which
included creation of an educational website and the airing of statewide radio ads.

Monthly conference calls were held with AU’s Florida chapters, and AU staff members traveled to Florida to speak about the measure. Flyers and other informational literature were circulated that explained why the so-called “religious freedom” amendment was dangerous and deceptive.

Back in Washington, D.C., Americans United interns spent hours contacting Florida members by phone to make sure they knew the facts about the ballot boondoggle.

Americans United also organized local clergy and helped them place op-eds and letters to the editor in newspapers statewide. AU’s Web manager worked with the Legislative Department to create a special website just for religious leaders to voice their opposition to Amendment 8.

When Amendment 8 failed, some of its supporters recycled their tired “religious discrimination” argument.

AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn said the defeat of Amendment 8 was, in fact, an important win for religious freedom.

“Religious institutions will continue to operate as they always have,” he said. “Rather than harming religious groups, the defeat of Amendment 8 will ensure that no Floridian has to financially support any belief system that he or she does not subscribe to.”

Americans United has long opposed state and federal legislation that undermines the separation of church and state. AU fought fiercely against sectarian lobbies that seek preferential government treatment in 2012 and expects that the battle will continue in the coming year.

AU’s legislative work in 2012 was led by Garrett with the help of Assistant Legislative Director Peter Kurdock, State Legislative Counselor Amanda Rolat and Legislative Assistant Emily Kreuger.

2012 Legislative Highlights

Over the past 12 months, AU’s Legislative Department lobbied on behalf of church-state issues at Congress, the federal agencies and state legislatures across the country. Here are some of AU’s notable accomplishments for 2012:

Federal Legislative Advocacy

Took a lead role in the fight over birth-control access in employee insurance plans

Public health-care policy must reflect the public interest, not any sectarian lobby’s religious agenda. In 2012, Americans United fought hard to ensure that new federal regulations assuring Americans’ access to contraceptive care were not undermined. The Religious Right and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops waged an aggressive campaign to deny birth-control coverage to employees of for-profit businesses as well as religiously affiliated institutions such as hospitals, colleges and charities.

In February, the Obama administration announced a compromise on the issue. Houses of worship would remain entirely exempt from the contraceptive mandate. Employees at other religiously affiliated institutions would receive birth-control coverage from private insurers at no cost to the religious institutions. Secular businesses and corporations would be expected to comply with the mandate.

The Religious Right and the Catholic bishops rejected the compromise, but Americans United told Congress there was no constitutional or policy justification for further expansion of the exemption or the accommodation.

In written testimony submitted Feb. 16 to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn rejected arguments by conservative activists that corporations and business enterprises have a “conscience” right to tailor health-care plans to meet their theological beliefs.

“Women – not their employers – should be allowed to make decisions about their health care and their religious beliefs,” Lynn asserted. “A woman may not share the religious beliefs of her employer or practice religion in exactly the same way her employer does. It is the woman’s right to exercise her religion freely and make her own decisions about reproductive health, even if she is employed by an organization that holds a different position on these matters.”

Lynn warned that overly broad exemptions based on religious belief could result in employees being denied vital services.

On June 19, Americans United submitted comment to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the issue. AU’s Garrett told the agency that reasonable accommodations for religious organizations are acceptable, but warned that such accommodations must not be applied too broadly or individual privacy and medical needs could be harmed.

Giving religious groups too much power over private health care decisions could subject people to unwanted clerical interference in other private matters, AU asserted. Such concerns are especially important if the institutions in question get public funding. “A worker should not be denied direct insurance coverage for contraceptives simply because the government grant funding her position is overseen by a religious organization opposed to contraceptives,” observed AU.

Opposed federal funding of private religious schools

Americans should never be taxed to support religion. That’s a fundamental constitutional principle, and a top priority of Americans United. AU serves as co-chair of the National Council for
Public Education (NCPE), a coalition of more than 50 education, civil rights and religious organizations that oppose taxpayer funding of private religious schools through vouchers, tuition tax-credits (“neo-vouchers”) or other similar mechanisms.

In 2012, Americans United and our NCPE allies monitored all federal legislation to oppose any provisions that could divert public resources to religious schools.

One such attempt to add private school vouchers to a national education measure was derailed in the U.S. House of Representatives last spring. House members were working on a series of bills to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), legislation that provides federal support for public schools. Americans United and our allies became concerned over a section of one of the bills that could have opened the door to voucher subsidies for religious and other private schools.

Americans United pointed to the Local Academic Flexible Grant, a part of the Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act (H.R. 3990), saying it could establish voucher funding. The original bill summary stated that “private or public entities could utilize these funds to support programs that will help increase student achievement, including scholarship and tutoring programs.” In the context of public education legislation, “scholarship” is often a code word for private school vouchers.

The NCPE wrote to U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-Minn.) in February and asked him to remove the voucher language from the bill. “Vouchers run counter to the very purpose of ESEA,” observed the groups. “Instead of providing equal access to high quality education or setting high standards and accountability, voucher programs have proven ineffective, lack accountability to taxpayers and deprive all students of rights provided to public school students.”

The letter noted that multiple studies of existing voucher programs have shown that students offered vouchers do not perform better in reading and math than students in public schools.

The House Education and Workforce Committee met in late February to begin marking up the legislation. The troubling sections of H.R. 3990 were amended, with language being tightened to make it clear that funds can only benefit students who remain in the public school system.

“We monitor all legislation in Congress very carefully to make sure it doesn’t undermine church-state separation,” said AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett. “I’m pleased we were able to head off this voucher proposal before it got too far.”

Americans United and our NCPE allies are also continuing efforts to end a federally funded voucher program in the District of Columbia.

Worked to curb abuses in the “faith-based” initiative

Americans United has led opposition to the White House “faith-based” initiative since it began in the 1990s. While religious charities may constitutionally partner with government, careful safeguards
must be in place to ensure that public funds do not subsidize proselytization or discrimination.

Americans United serves as chair of the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination (CARD), a coalition of over 50 religious, civil liberties, labor and advocacy organizations. This alliance monitors federal developments touching on faith-based funding and argues for effective safeguards that protects the civil rights and civil liberties of clients and employees in publicly subsidized social services.

AU and CARD allies were able to meet with White House and Department of Justice officials in 2012 to talk about this important issue. Reforms to the faith-based initiative were discussed with attorneys from the Department of Justice. In addition, a meeting was held with Cecilia Muñoz, director of the Domestic Policy Council; Joshua DuBois, executive director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and Michael Strautmanis, deputy assistant to the President and counselor for Strategic Engagement to the Senior Advisor.

AU and CARD also provided expert legal analysis to the Executive Branch on regulations that could improve the faith-based initiative. In April, an Obama administration interagency working group made a series of recommendations regarding how agencies should implement an Obama executive order dealing with this issue.

Americans United thought the report was not adequate. In response, AU and CARD wrote to 15 federal agencies and departments urging them to adopt regulations that more effectively protect Americans’ rights. The letters and accompanying legal analysis recommend that all government agencies with faith-based programs inform beneficiaries of their religious liberty rights; provide beneficiaries the right to access an alternative provider if they object to the religious character of a social service provider; uphold the constitutional command that the government may not fund “explicitly religious activities” by providing clear guidance on what constitutes such activities and honor constitutional mandates by engaging in oversight and through transparency.

State Legislative Advocacy

Supported state constitutional provisions barring tax-aid to religion

In 2012, the Alaska legislature introduced H.J.R 16, a joint resolution that would have created a ballot initiative to repeal Alaska’s no-aid provision. Dr. Lloyd Eggan, president of the Alaska Chapter of Americans United, sent a letter to the entire House Finance Committee. AU also sent out an action alert to its Alaska members. The bill returned to the Rules Committee, where it remained until the end of the legislative session. AU will monitor this bill to see if it resurfaces in 2013.

Oklahoma also attempted to repeal the state’s no-aid provision, which ultimately failed. AU sent a letter opposing HJR 1081 to House Rules Committee, where it remained until the end of the legislative session. AU will monitor this bill to see if it resurfaces in 2013.

Battled against voucher and tuition tax-credit bills in the states

One of Americans United’s top issues is opposition to vouchers and tuition tax credits, which take money away from public schools and hand it to religious schools.

In Maryland, legislators once again considered a tuition tax-credit bill, and AU worked with the Maryland Education Association to oppose it, sending a letter to lawmakers before a committee hearing on the measure. AU also coordinated an action alert for its Maryland members. These efforts succeeded when the tuition tax-credit bill did not advance past the initial hearing in 2012.
In Kansas, Vickie Sandell Stangl, president of AU’s Great Plains Chapter, submitted testimony to the House Education Budget Committee against HB 2767, a tuition tax-credit measure. That bill died in committee, too.

In Illinois, AU worked with Matthew Lowry, president of AU’s North Shore Chapter and John J. Wesser, president of the Western Suburban Chicago Chapter, to oppose HB 5755, which would have established a tax-credit benefit for individuals who contribute funds to student tuition assistance organizations. Lowry and Wesser sent a letter to the House committee considering the measure. The bill did not advance beyond committee in 2012.

In Missouri and Ohio, lawmakers also considered similar tuition tax-credit bills, but those measures never made it to a vote.

Defeated a bogus “religious freedom” amendment in North Dakota

The Religious Right and Catholic hierarchy joined forces in North Dakota to create Measure 3, a deceptive and unnecessary “religious liberty” amendment that would have exempted religious groups from laws intended to curb discrimination against women, minorities and others. It also would have opened the door to public funding of religion. AU participated in a coalition effort, headed by Planned Parenthood, to defeat this very harmful ballot measure. AU’s Legislative and Communications departments worked closely with the coalition to spread the word about the true nature of Measure 3. As a result, we were successful in defeating the measure by 64 percent to 36 percent margin.

Opposed creationism bills in multiple states

Religious Right forces want to teach fundamentalist religious concepts in public school science classes. Although the federal courts have repeatedly blocked many such schemes, the Discovery Institute and its allies have put forward new strategies to advance creationism. Creationist bills come in many forms, sometimes packaged as “academic freedom” measures, but their effect is always the same: they undermine sound science education and replace it with religiously grounded concepts.

In Oklahoma, for example, a bill was considered that would have allowed teachers to discuss the “strengths and weaknesses” of scientific theories, including evolution. The Rev. Bruce Prescott and Mike Fuller, officials of AU’s Oklahoma City Chapter, sent a letter to the entire Senate prior to the floor vote on the measure, and AU also coordinated an action alert. Thanks to hard work by AU’s chapters, the amendment was defeated.

In New Hampshire, lawmakers considered a similar measure that would have “require[d] evolution to be taught in public schools as a theory.” AU sent a letter to the House Education Committee, and the bill was later deemed inexpedient to legislate.
Grassroots Advocacy:

Making a Difference Through Outreach

When Americans United’s Minnesota Chapter formed in Minneapolis in 2012, it got right into the thick of the fight for church-state separation.

Chapter members dived head first into an effort to defeat a state constitutional amendment that would have banned civil-marriage equality for same-sex couples.
In a column for MinnPost, an online publication that covers news from around the state, Chapter Vice President Jonathan L. Eisenberg argued that the push to amend Minnesota’s Constitution to limit marriage to heterosexual couples is anchored in religious beliefs.

“The amendment is, at its core, an attempt to impose one specific religious view on all citizens,” wrote Eisenberg, an attorney. “That is not the proper role of government under our First Amendment guarantees of free exercise and non-establishment of religion.”

Working in conjunction with AU’s Field Department in Washington, D.C., Minnesota Chapter leaders organized public events, wrote opinion pieces for area newspapers and appeared on television news programs to explain the constitutional implications of denying civil rights on the basis of religious objections.

Thanks to this effort and the efforts of allies, in November Minnesota defeated the amendment, despite its strong backing from the Religious Right and the Catholic hierarchy.

AU’s Field Department is responsible for bringing together allied activists who want to join the fight to keep church and state separate, and coordinated endeavors like the one in Minnesota are one way that goal is achieved.

In 2012, AU’s Field Department was led by Field Director Beth Corbin, with assistance from Associate Field Director for Chapter Outreach David Morris and Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach Steven Baines. The department conducts grassroots organizing by offering in-person and online grassroots trainings for chapter leadership, notifying the AU activist database with activist alerts and tabling at conventions and conferences.

This year, the AU Field Department put much of its focus on defeating Florida’s Amendment 8, a so-called “religious liberty” measure that would have mandated the use of taxpayer dollars for religion. To
assist this project, the Field Department sent staff members to the state and coordinated with Florida chapter leaders who held public events, distributed flyers in their communities and organized people to be at the polls on Election Day handing out palm cards.

The efforts resulted in Amendment 8 being soundly defeated by a 55-44 percent margin, well below the 60 percent needed. Only in six of Florida’s 67 counties did a majority of voters support this serious threat to church-state separation. This incredible victory could not have been achieved without the hard work of Americans United’s members and supporters in Florida.

AU’s Field Department works with other public interest groups at the national, state and local levels to build support for church-state separation and take on challenges to First Amendment values whenever and wherever they arise.

The Field Department always looks for new and innovative ways to support existing chapters, build new chapters and increase AU’s visibility within both the secular and faith communities. It is important for AU to define itself to these groups, with a particular emphasis on increasing AU’s network of religious leaders nationwide.

2012 Chapter Highlights

In 2012, new chapters formed in Minnesota and Central Florida (Lakeland). Several other areas showed interest in forming AU chapters in future years, including Bozeman, Mont.; Ft. Myers, Fla., and Jackson, Miss., as well as activists in Puerto Rico and Colorado. AU’s current roster of 65 chapters in 34 states was extremely active throughout 2012.

Here is a sampling of the quality events put on by AU’s chapters as they seek to educate their communities on church-state separation:

- January 7: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter held an event featuring Steve Trunk, plaintiff in the Mount Soledad cross case.
- January 10: The Elkton (Md.) Chapter held a meeting in Elkton, Md.
- January 12: The Delaware Valley Chapter held a meetup in Philadelphia, Pa.
- January 14: The Delaware Valley Chapter held a meetup in Glassboro, N.J.
- January 15: The Greater Phoenix (Ariz.) Chapter held its first meeting of the year.
- January 19: The Greater Phoenix (Ariz.) Chapter held a meeting with guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Richard Groves, retired pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, who spoke on “A Case for the First Amendment.”
- January 24: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter held a meeting with guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Richard Groves, retired pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, who spoke on “A Case for the First Amendment.”
- January 30: The Sarasota-Manatee (Fla.) Chapter and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sarasota hosted an event with AU Executive Director Barry W. Lynn.
- February 1: The Northeastern Ohio Chapter co-sponsored a meeting featuring Katherine Stewart, author of The Good News Club.
- February 1: The Naples (Fla.) Chapter and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, in cooperation with Common Ground of Naples, hosted an event with Barry W. Lynn.
- February 1 & 2: The Greater Los Angeles (Calif.) Chapter hosted two events featuring Jason Torpy, president of the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers.
- February 4: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event featuring Jason Torpy, president of the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers.
- February 9: The San Diego (Calif.) Chapter participated in a counter rally at the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial.
- February 11: The Indiana Chapter and the Center for Inquiry of Indiana co-sponsored an Indiana Civic Day at which Barry W. Lynn spoke.
- February 11: The Great Plains (Kan.) Chapter held its “2nd Annual Darwin Day Party.”
- February 11: The Nashville (Tenn.) Chapter hosted a screening of the Nova movie, “Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial.”
- February 11: The Upstate South Carolina Chapter hosted a “Darwin Day” screening of “No Dinosaurs in Heaven.”
- February 12: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter held a “Darwin Day Dinner Party” with Barry W. Lynn.
- February 12: The Clay County (Fla.) Chapter held its annual meeting and screened the film “The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today.”
- February 21: The Greater Houston (Texas) Chapter held a “Celebration of the First Amendment” event.
- February 22: The Nashville (Tenn.) Chapter hosted an event with Barry W. Lynn.
February 23: The Minnesota Chapter held its chapter formation meeting.

February 28: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter held a meeting with guest speaker Jerry McLeese, who presented his vision of establishing a Free Interfaith Academy and Virtual University.

March 3: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

March 4: The San Diego (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event featuring author/activist Katherine Stewart.

March 6: The Maryland Chapter held its monthly meeting.

March 15: The Louisiana Chapter held an event with Prof. Dominique G. Homberger who spoke on “The Separate Evolution of Biology & State.”

March 15-18: The Greater Phoenix (Ariz.) Chapter hosted multiple events with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

March 16: The Rev. Steven Baines, AU assistant field director for religious outreach, exhibited at the Spring Issues Fair at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

March 22: The Illinois AU chapters held a joint event featuring author/activist Katherine Stewart.

March 22: The Minnesota Chapter held a meeting to continue organizing the new chapter.

March 29: The Delaware Valley Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

March 31: The South Pinellas County (Fla.) Chapter held its annual meeting with Barry W. Lynn as the keynote speaker.

March 31: The Upstate South Carolina Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

April 2: The Western North Carolina Chapter held a public forum with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

April 7: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event with Hans Johnson of Progressive Victory.

April 12-13: Beth Corbin tabled at the American Medical Women’s Association national conference in Miami, Fla.

April 12-13: Beth Corbin met with local activists from Miami-Dade and Fort Lauderdale interested in working with AU against Florida Amendment 8.

April 15: The Charleston, S.C., Chapter held an event featuring Barry W. Lynn.

April 19: The West Suburban Chicago (Ill.) Chapter held an event with Margo Ely, city attorney for the City of Naperville.

April 20: The Great Plains (Kansas) Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

April 20: Americans United attended the “First Civil and Religious Issues Fair” at Wooten High School in Gaithersburg, Md.

April 24: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter hosted a meeting with Katy Parker, ACLU attorney for the sectarian prayer lawsuit against the Forsyth County Commissioners.

April 26: The Minnesota Chapter hosted a meeting with guest speaker Gail Dekker.

April 28: The Oklahoma Chapter hosted its “Spring Dialogues” event.

April 28: The Clay County (Fla.) Chapter held a meeting with David Baldwin, board member of the N.E. Florida Chapter of the ACLU.

April 28: The San Antonio (Texas) Chapter hosted its second annual “First Amendment Day Celebration.”

April 29-May 2: Beth Corbin tabled at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health conference in Washington, D.C.

May 3: The San Diego (Calif.) Chapter hosted a picnic event with the Rev. Steven Baines.

May 5: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event with the Rev. Steven Baines.

May 7: The Kern County (Calif.) Chapter held an event with the Rev. Steven Baines.

May 11: The Greater Los Angeles (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event in Newbury Park with guest speaker Dr. John Suarez.
May 12: The Greater Los Angeles (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event in Studio City with Dr. John Suarez as the speaker.

May 15: The Clay County (Fla.) Chapter held an event with the Rev. Steven Baines about Amendment 8.

May 16: The Naples (Fla.) Chapter hosted an event with AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett speaking on the dangers of Amendment 8.

May 16: The Flagler County (Fla.) Chapter hosted an event with the Rev. Steven Baines about Amendment 8.

May 17: The Massachusetts Chapter held its annual meeting with author/activist Katherine Stewart as keynote speaker.

May 17: The Sarasota-Manatee (Fla.) Chapter hosted an event with the Rev. Steven Baines and Maggie Garrett about the problems with Amendment 8.

May 19: The Upstate South Carolina Chapter hosted a meeting and viewed the documentary “Kansas vs. Darwin.”

May 19: The Greater Houston Area (Texas) Chapter held its annual meeting.

May 22: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter showed “The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today.”

May 30: The Columbia (Ore. and S.W. Wash.) Chapter held an event titled “The War on Contraception.”

May 30: The Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

June 2: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter held a screening of “How to Die in Oregon,” a film that deals with end of life issues.

June 7-10: Beth Corbin tabled and spoke with some of the nation’s leading bloggers at the Netroots Nation conference in Providence, R.I.

June 10: Americans United once again participated in the D.C. Capital Pride Festival. Over 300 new Americans United activists were added during the course of the weekend festivities.

June 18-20: Beth Corbin tabled at the Take Back the American Dream conference and Barry W. Lynn took part in a workshop on the Supreme Court and challenges to religious liberty.

June 25-26: The Minnesota Chapter hosted two events featuring Katherine Stewart.

June 28-July 1: Beth Corbin presented a workshop at the National Organization for Women Conference on “Getting Catholic Bishops Off Birth Control.”

July 1: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter hosted a “Celebration of the First Amendment” at a local mosque.

July 24: The Sacramento (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

August 4: The Orange County (Calif.) Chapter hosted an event with Prof. Mahmoud Elsayess.

August 7: The Maryland Chapter held a chapter meetup.

August 9 & 10: The Greater Los Angeles (Calif.) Chapter held two events featuring attorney and author David Niose on “The Rise of Secular Americans in the U.S.”

August 11: The San Diego (Calif.) hosted an event featuring David Niose.

August 18: The Upstate South Carolina Chapter held a meeting with guest speaker Craig Stine, research associate for the Public Education Partners of Greenville County.

August 18: Field Director Beth Corbin spoke at the We Are Woman Rally in Washington, D.C.

August 20: The Columbia (Ore. And S. W. Wash.) Chapter held its monthly meetup.

September 6: Maggie Garrett participated in a “Debate on Amendment 8” sponsored by the University of Miami Law School Secular Law Society.

September 8: “The Truth About Amendment 8,” an educational forum co-sponsored by AU, was held in Coral Gables, Fla., and featured Maggie Garrett and speakers from the ACLU.

September 8: The Columbia (Ore. And S.W. Wash.) Chapter had a booth at the Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair.

September 9: The National Council of Jewish Women of South Florida sponsored an Amendment 8 and Education Rally where Maggie
Garrett talked about the problems with Amendment 8.

- September 10: The Columbia (Ore. And S.W. Wash.) Chapter held its monthly meetup.

- September 11: The Delaware Valley Chapter held a “Religious Freedom Forum.”

- September 13: The Delaware Valley Chapter held an event with Dr. Glenn Booker, a member of DVAU’s Clergy Advisory Board.

- September 13: The Oklahoma City Chapter held two events with the Rev. Steven Baines.

- September 17: The Louisiana Chapter hosted an event featuring Dr. Gaines M. Foster, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at LSU.

- September 19: The Flagler County (Fla.) Chapter held an informational event with the Rev. Steven Baines on Amendment 8.

- September 20: The Louisville (Ky.) Chapter held an event with author/activist Katherine Stewart.

- September 21-22: Beth Corbin shared information about AU at Woodhull’s Sexual Freedom Conference in Washington, D.C.

- September 21: The Great Plains (Kansas) Chapter held its annual meeting with Barry Lynn as the keynote speaker.

- September 22: The Sarasota-Manatee ( Fla.) Chapter hosted an event called “Don’t Take The Bait On 8,” which explained the problems with Amendment 8.

- September 25: The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chapter held a meeting with speaker Ann Petitjean, president of Forsyth County Association of Educators.

- September 27: The St. Louis (Mo.) Chapter held a screening of “The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today.”

- September 29: Field Department staff helped locate a venue and volunteered for the Washington, D.C., Voices United concert.

- September 29: The San Diego (Calif.) Chapter hosted a lecture by Cy Chadley.

- September 30: Beth Corbin spoke at the Voices United concert in Northern Virginia.
October 1: The Rev. Steven Baines took part in the Voices United concert in Memphis, Tenn.

October 4: The Naples ( Fla.) Chapter co-sponsored a public forum on Amendment 8.

October 6: The Orange County ( Calif.) Chapter held an event with Julie Korinke, public affairs manager for Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

October 6: The Clay County (Fla.) Chapter held a meeting on the various amendments facing Florida voters, with a special emphasis on Amendment 8.

October 7: The Indiana Chapter held an event with Sheila Seuss Kennedy, founder of the Center for Civic Literacy at IUPUI.

October 8: The Columbia ( Ore. And S.W. Wash.) Chapter held a screening of the second half of “Judgment Day-Intelligent Design on Trial.”

October 11: Beth Corbin represented AU at the Ms. Magazine “40th Anniversary Luncheon” in Washington, D.C.

October 13: The San Diego ( Calif.) Chapter tabled at “Pride at the Beach” in Oceanside.

October 15: AU National Board President and Flagler County Chapter President Rabbi Merrill Shapiro spoke in Jacksonville, Fla., on Amendment 8.

October 16: The San Antonio ( Calif.) Chapter hosted Prof. Steven Boyd.

October 16: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine, Fla., working with local AU members, hosted a public meeting with the Rev. Steven Baines on “Don’t Take the Bait on 8.”

October 17: The University Congregational Church of Orlando, Fla., working with local AU members, hosted the Rev. Steven Baines who spoke on “Don’t Take The Bait on 8.”

October 17: Stephanie Campbell, Orange County ( Calif.) Chapter President, spoke on the topic “Why We Can’t Allow the Religious Right to Ruin Our County.”

October 17: The Delaware Valley Chapter held a workshop in Jenkintown, PA on what can be done to identify and challenge stealth evangelism in local public schools.

October 20: The Winston-Salem ( N.C.) Chapter co-hosted a debate on Prop 34 at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

October 22: The San Diego ( Calif.) Chapter co-hosted a debate on Prop 34 at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

October 23: The Greater Houston Area ( Texas) Chapter co-sponsored a “Presidential Roundtable Discussion” with the San Jacinto College Honors Program and the SJC Philosophy Department.

October 25: The West Suburban Chicago ( Ill.) and North Shore ( Ill.) Chapters hosted their “2nd Annual Round Table Discussion on the US Constitution.”

October 27: The Delaware Valley Chapter held a second workshop in West Chester, Penn., on what can be done to identify and challenge stealth evangelism in local public schools.

October 27: The San Diego ( Calif.) Chapter held an event titled “Supreme Court at the Crossroads” with guest speaker Eddie Tabash.

November 10: The Greater Houston Area ( Texas) Chapter held a board meeting to begin planning events to commemorate AU’s founding.

November 11: The Greater Phoenix ( Ariz.) Chapter hosted an event with guest speaker Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

November 14: The Delaware Valley Chapter hosted an event to discuss how to debunk Religious Right myths about church-state separation.

November 14: The Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter hosted an event with keynote speaker Barry W. Lynn.

2012 Religious Outreach Highlights

Americans United’s Field Department is responsible for interacting with the faith community through various events, conferences and forums that reach out to clergy and congregants. This is especially important in light of the vital role religious voices play in conveying AU’s message. The Rev. Steven Baines, assistant field director for religious outreach, has been specifically assigned to recruit religious leaders as national ecumenical and interfaith partners.

In 2012, his outreach program included the following meetings, events, talks and conferences:

February 24: Baines represented Americans United at the annual winter retreat of the Washington Interfaith Service Community.
March 12: Americans United hosted 30 students from Calvin College who were participating in the Washington Semester Program. The students heard presentations from Baines about the ongoing religious outreach efforts.

April 3: Baines was the guest lecturer at George Mason University for the spring semester church-state forum with political science, religious studies and sociology majors.


April 21 – 22: Baines was the guest speaker/preacher for the “Capital Area Young Adult Spring Retreat” in Hagerstown, Md. He led over 50 young adults in weekend worship and workshops on the importance of religious liberty and church-state separation.

May 3: Baines was the featured speaker for an event at the controversial Mt. Soledad cross in San Diego, Calif.

May 4: Baines spoke to religious studies majors at the Disciples of Christ-affiliated Chapman University in Orange County, Calif.

May 6: Baines was the guest preacher at First Congregational Church Long Beach as part of the week-long activities highlighting Americans United opposition to the National Day of Prayer.

May 7: Baines spoke to a packed auditorium at Cal State Bakersfield at a forum sponsored by the Kern County (Calif.) AU Chapter, The Institute for Religion, Education and Public Policy and The Interfaith Student Alliance.

May 17: Baines and AU Legislative Director Maggie Garrett spoke at the Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church in Florida about Amendment 8.

June 19 – 24: Americans United exhibited at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz. Baines staffed the booth and led a workshop with staff members of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

July 2 -10: Americans United exhibited at the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, Ind.

September 12 – 15: As part of Americans United’s Project Fair Play initiative, Baines traveled to Oklahoma for three events: a clergy breakfast with the Oklahoma City Interfaith Alliance; the AU Oklahoma Chapter annual meeting and a luncheon for clergy in Norman.

September 17: Baines was one of three panel members for the second Religious Leaders Forum on Religious Liberty in America.

September 18 – 24: Baines travelled to Jacksonville, Fla., for a week-long series of events, including meetings with clergy, to discuss Amendment 8.

October 11: Baines gave remarks and represented Americans United at the Human Rights Campaign and Believe Out Loud reception for Washington, D.C. – area clergy who supported the marriage-equality efforts in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington.

October 15 – 19: Baines returned to Florida for a final push in our organizing efforts against Amendment 8. His stops included the St. Augustine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for a town-hall forum sponsored by Americans United and a town hall forum organized by the Rev. James Watkins and the University Congregational Church of Orlando.

October 24: Baines joined an AU national coalition partner, Public Religion Research Institute, for its release of the fourth annual American Values Survey at the Brookings Institute.

November 4: Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester County, N.Y., invited Baines to a debate with Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield, a Fox News contributor, on the topic, “Does God Belong in the Voting Booth?”
2012 Speaking Engagements

In addition to the public appearances mentioned elsewhere in this report, AU staffers spoke at the following events:

» February 11: Rob Boston at Washington Area Secular Humanists on the “Christian nation” myth (Silver Spring, Md.)

» February 16: Rob Boston at Simcha Hadassah on church-state separation (Gaithersburg, Md.)

» March 20: Barry Lynn at Washington University in St. Louis on religion and politics (St. Louis, Mo.)

» March 29: Barry Lynn at Eckerd College on religion and politics, (St. Petersburg, Fla.)

» April 1: Barry Lynn at Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg on religion and politics, (St. Petersburg, Fla.)

» April 28: Rob Boston at “Unite Against the War on Women” rally on birth control (Washington, D.C.)

» June 9: Rob Boston at the American Humanist Association Conference on religious freedom (New Orleans)

» June 27: Rob Boston at the Rutherford Institute on the limits of religious liberty (Charlottesville, Va.)

» July 27: Barry Lynn at Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests on religion and civil liberties (Chicago, Ill.)

» September 22: Greg Lipper at the Federal Bar Council Bench & Bar Retreat on the First Amendment (Skytop, Pa.)

» October 4: Barry Lynn at Oregon State University on general church-state issues (Corvallis, Ore.)

» October 14: Simon Brown at Temple Beth Ahabah on religion and politics (Richmond, Va.)

» October 18: Greg Lipper at William S. Sessions American Inn of Court on freedom of speech vs. church-state separation (San Antonio, Texas.)

» October 21: Rob Boston at Georgia Humanists on the “Christian Nation” myth (Roswell, Ga.)

» November 29: Rob Boston at the ACLU of Pennsylvania as part of a panel discussion on the “Year of the Bible” resolution (Harrisburg, Pa.)

» December 2: Barry Lynn at New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union on New Hampshire tax credit law (Manchester, N.H.)
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<td>Greater Naples Area Chapter</td>
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<td>NW Florida Chapter</td>
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<td>Central Savannah River Area Chapter</td>
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<td>Greater Houston Chapter</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Central Virginia/ Greater Richmond Chapter</td>
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<td>Virginia Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>South Sound Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Organizational Structure

Founded in 1947 by a distinguished group of political, religious and educational leaders, Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization that works to inform Americans about the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of religious freedom. Americans United believes that the wall separating church & state is crucial both to good government and to the vitality and integrity of religious faith.

The organization currently represents more than 120,000 individual members and supporters in all 50 states, as well as cooperating houses of worship and other religious bodies. Under Americans United’s banner, concerned citizens from many different political, philosophical and religious viewpoints have joined together to promote full religious freedom.

A 29-member staff at the national offices in Washington, D.C., conducts Americans United’s day-to-day operations. The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, an attorney and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, is our executive director.

A 15-member Board of Trustees and the National Leadership Council (NLC) governs Americans United. The Board of Trustees meets periodically through the year to make decisions about organizational governance and policy. Trustees serve for a three-year period and are eligible for re-election.

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Executive Director
Chris Colburn
Managing Director
Dianne Robinson
Executive Producer

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Director of Development
Rebecca A. Davis-Nord
Assistant Director of Development
Sarah Stevenson
Development Manager
Chelsea Collings
Development Associate

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Field Director
The Rev. Steven Baines
Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach
David Morris
Assistant Field Director for Chapter Outreach

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Director of Communications, Editor of Church & State
Robert Boston
Assistant Director of Communications, Assistant Editor of Church & State
Simon Brown
Communications Associate
Timothy Ritz
Web Manager

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Director of Legislative Affairs
Peter Kurdock
Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs
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Legal Director
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Caitlin O’Connell
Madison Fellow
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Steven Gey Fellow
Thelma Scott
Legal Assistant

Accounting Department
Michael B. Smoot
Financial Officer
Chris Bruning
Financial Assistant

Operations Department
Duane Davis
Facilities Manager

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Managing Director
Renée Collins
Receptionist (through September)

Dianne Robinson
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Duane Davis
Facilities Manager

The Rev. Steven Baines
Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach

Emily Kreuger
Legislative Assistant

Benjamin Hazelwood
Madison Fellow

Thelma Scott
Legal Assistant

Michael B. Smoot
Financial Officer
Statement of Activities
For the Year ended September 30, 2012  - Audited -

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Contributions $3,392,068
Legal Settlement 939,341
Bequests 747,573
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments 704,175
Trust and Foundation Grants 358,058
Investment Income, Net of Expenses 294,268
Special Events 94,615
Gift Annuity Income 83,481
Other Revenue 35,551
Contributions - Chapters 4,685
Local Churches 3,327
Sales 3,150
Change in Value of Split Interest Agreement (79,949)

Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support 6,580,343

Expenses

Program Services:
- Educational and Publication Division 1,804,113
- Field Services Division 883,095
- Legal Division 1,117,040
- Trustee and National Advisory Council Meetings 46,309
Total Program Services 3,850,557

Supporting Services:
- Management and General 910,516
- Fundraising 1,013,894
Total Supporting Services 1,924,410

Total Expenses 5,774,967
Change in Net Assets before other items 805,376

Other Items

Minimum Pension Liability adjustment (9,506)

Change in Net Assets 795,870

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 6,124,483
Net Assets At End Of Year $6,920,353
# Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Bequests Receivable</td>
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<td>Interest Receivable</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Deposits</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Property and Equipment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net of Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Remainder Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments restricted for Remainder Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>301,868</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,513,862</strong></td>
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</table>
# Statement of Financial Position

**As of September 30, 2012**

## Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Accrued Pension</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Annuities Payable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Deferred Rent</td>
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<td>Charitable Annuities Payable</td>
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<td>Remainder Trust Payable</td>
<td>185,211</td>
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<td><strong>Total Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>1,585,291</td>
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<td>Unrestricted, Board designated</td>
<td>5,218,405</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>116,657</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>6,920,353</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,513,862</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guardians of Freedom

Guardians of Freedom are generous donors and foundations who have committed $1,000 or more annually to support our work.

$100,000 or more
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Lawrence C. Stanback

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Robertson
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Paul & Margot Zimmerman

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*33 Patriots wish to remain
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In Memory
We honor the following dedicated members who passed away during the 2012 fiscal year and generously left a bequest to Americans United. We offer our condolences to their friends and family members.

Robert E. Baines
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Jefferson Circle
The following dedicated members have joined The Jefferson Circle, Americans United’s planned giving program, by setting up charitable gift annuities, promising bequests to AU and making other planned gifts.

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Stephen F. Uhl, Ph.D.
Lory Whitehead
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3 Jefferson Circle members wish to remain anonymous.

Madison Society
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