



Oct. 23, 2012

Lois G. Lerner, Director
Exempt Organizations Division
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Ms. Lerner,

Numerous media outlets have reported recently about a marquee sign posted by the Church in the Valley in Leakey, Texas. The sign reads, "VOTE FOR THE MORMON, NOT THE MUSLIM! THE CAPITALIST, NOT THE COMMUNIST!"

Dozens, if not hundreds, of stories have appeared in the media about this sign. I am enclosing two, as well as a photo of the sign.

As ABC News reported, 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."

Miller may indeed have strong feelings about the election, but that does not give him the right to use his tax-exempt church to endorse a candidate. In fact, Miller's actions are, I believe, a clear and flagrant violation of the law.

I should note that this incident is so egregious that it was reported to my organization by dozens of people. Photos of the church sign appeared in many news stories and surfaced on social networking sites and other sites on the web.

Millions of Americans are aware that this church has openly violated the law, and many of them are asking what the IRS intends to do about it. Failure to act will only spur more houses of worship to ignore the law.

I urge you to investigate this matter and apply the laws of the land.

National Office

1301 K Street, N.W.

Suite 850, East Tower

Washington, D.C. 20005

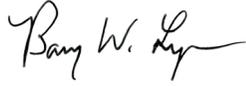
(202) 466-3234

(202) 466-2587 fax

americansunited@au.org

The Church in the Valley's address is: P.O. Box 1071, Leakey, Texas 77873.
Telephone: (830) 232-6090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry W. Lynn". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Barry W. Lynn
Executive Director