

VOTE NO ON SQ 790

State Question 790 (SQ 790) asks whether Article 2, Section 5, which prohibits taxpayer money from being used to support religious activity, should be stripped from the Oklahoma Constitution. Lawmakers put this question on the ballot in response to the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling that a government-sponsored Ten Commandments monument violated the State Constitution. Approving SQ 790, however, does not guarantee a different result—a Ten Commandments monument would likely still violate the U.S. Constitution. Instead, SQ 790 would remove important religious freedom protections from the Oklahoma Constitution and invite costly lawsuits.

YOU SHOULD VOTE NO BECAUSE:

- SQ 790 would strip important religious freedom protections from the Oklahoma Constitution that have served us well since the state's founding.
- SQ 790 would take the power to define religious liberty away from Oklahoma and hand it over to the federal government and the federal courts.
- SQ 790 is an extreme overreaction to the lawsuit challenging the government-sponsored Ten Commandments monument at the State Capitol. Gutting the Oklahoma Constitution's Bill of Rights in response to a court decision that's unpopular with some people is a dangerous precedent.
- SQ 790 would invite costly new lawsuits. If SQ 790 is approved and a Ten Commandments monument is put back on the State Capitol grounds, it will open the door to a new lawsuit challenging the display under the U.S. Constitution—which could again waste Oklahomans' taxes.
- SQ 790 risks creating unintended consequences. Currently, religiously affiliated organizations can and do receive taxpayer money to perform social services. But, SQ 790 could open the door to taxpayer dollars being funneled to religious institutions for all sorts of other things.
- Stripping SQ 790 from the Oklahoma Constitution could lead to new and more extreme private school voucher programs than the limited one that currently exists.
- SQ 790 would erase a part of the Oklahoma Constitution's Bill of Rights that's been in place since the state's founding. Article 2, Section 5 was carefully crafted by Native Americans, community leaders, and faith leaders who wanted to protect religion by keeping the government and politics out of it. In particular, many were concerned about government-financed schools that attempted to force Christianity on Native American children.