

Why a Prayer Amendment?

Why Missouri Needs to Adopt Constitutional Amendment 2 to the State Constitution?

From preschool and kindergarten through high school graduation and their commencement exercises, students are told repeatedly that they cannot pray or otherwise exercise religious expressions because they are in a government institution. Meanwhile programs such as Rally Around the Flag Pole helps to support and encourage student led Christian prayer and fellowship. Yet anything further than the most remote expressions are suppressed even though they are actually legal.

While the U.S Congress and the Missouri House and Senate chambers are all opened each and every day with Christian prayers, local city and county governments are regularly harassed and intimidated into not allowing such prayers. Organizations such as the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, as well as other such anti-Christian groups actively watch for opportunities to threaten expensive lawsuits to stop Christian prayers in public places and meetings.

Missouri's Prayer Amendment, Constitutional Amendment 2, defines the legal parameters for those who wish to utilize their First Amendment rights of free speech and religious expression outside the four walls of their homes and churches. The proposal creates no new rights, but it does clearly define the rights which most people have no idea even exist.

Most importantly, the Prayer Amendment writes these protections into the State Constitution – the People's Document.

The vast majority of situations in which religious free expression is suppressed occurs in government institutional settings such as schools and local government venues. For fear of offending someone and/or violating some imaginary separation of church and state, government institutions use our tax dollars to hire attorneys to tell citizens what not to do. As conflicts arise (due to common place ignorance of the law) individual citizens find themselves facing the overwhelming odds of government institutions and lawyers authoritatively telling them how they cannot pray.

To make matters worse, we instruct our children to respect and learn from teachers and school officials. Yet these same public employees unknowingly violate our children's religious expression rights because the top heavy administration relies on lawyers who in turn do not concern themselves with legal rights. These lawyers are paid to protect the budget and avoid court actions which threaten the bottom line. Bus drivers, teachers, study hall monitors, and everyone else live in fear that they may get into trouble by omission if they ignore 'illegal' prayers or 'prohibited' biblical references in homework assignments.

School personnel and local government officials are rarely trained in the finer points of the law. They rely on the policies and directions of others, which lead back to the lawyers focused on protecting the budget.

In the end, citizens find themselves at odds with government institutions whose policies and dictates violate the citizen's constitutional rights – but very few understand the accurate truth or have the ability or willingness to effectively address a government institution. The institution wins and more public confusion over the real facts further erodes our religious liberties.

The Prayer Amendment is officially titled “Constitutional Amendment 2” because it literally puts a clear outline of students’ and citizens’ religious expression rights into the State Constitution in a clear and effective manner. If adopted by Missouri voters, the hundreds upon hundreds of government institutional lawyers who guide their public body to violate citizen’s rights will have to face those citizens armed with clear and definitive Constitutions in their public board meetings.

What this means is that citizens will no longer have to hire an attorney to make their case for them in a negotiating room. Citizens can convincingly defend their position in any public or private meeting and the ‘powers that be’ will be at wits end to ignore the facts of the law. Students will be able to pray or express themselves, within appropriate manners, without it becoming a major conflict for the school. Teachers and other government employees will be free of fear and apprehensions created by overzealous policies. And all citizens will have direct easy access to understandable and authoritative constitutional rights once again.

Lastly, to ensure that such rights are better understood and respected, every public school in Missouri will be required to post the U.S. Bill of Rights in a legible and accessible location for all employees and student to see and reference.

Think of it this way, all employers are required to post employee rights at the workplace. This helps to prohibit employers from mistreating workers. Public schools struggle to manage many problems and issues. Posting the Bill of Rights reminds everyone how to manage issues without suppressing the constitutional rights of students.

As we look across our State, it’s clear that 95-99% of all violations of citizens’ right to pray and free expressions of religion occur not because of evil intents, but because of the systemic ignorance of the general population. The Prayer Amendment has the potential of correcting most all these offenses. It’s like a memorial established to remind everyone of an important set of facts. But not one in a singular set location for 5.9 million Missourians to go see – rather it will be in every library, referenced in every school, and available on every home computer, smart phone, tablet, and electronic gadget to come!

Missouri needs the Prayer Amendment because we need prayer. Our students need prayer. Our government leaders need prayer. Our State and Nation needs prayer. The current and common prohibitions of prayer have allowed an erosion of morals and standards in our land. It’s time we take a stand before we completely lose the rights of free religious expression. Missouri needs the prayer Amendment before it’s too late!

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