



In God We Trust ~ America, Inc.

**Our Mission:
To Promote Patriotism
By Encouraging Elected Officials to Legally Display Our National Motto
"In God We Trust"
In Every City, County and State Chamber in America**

Dear Honorable Elected Officials:

The United States of America has much to celebrate. The freedoms we prize were won through enormous pain and sacrifice and are perpetuated through tremendous courage and vision. On July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress signed a revolutionary document, the Declaration of Independence. They knew that they were putting themselves in danger of the hangman's noose. Perhaps they would not have taken this risk if not for a statement included in the Declaration's last line, "...with a firm reliance on divine Providence ..." or, in modern terms, **"In God We Trust."**

Following the Declaration, ample evidence was given, during the War for Independence, the Constitutional Convention, and afterward, that America's success was due to "Divine Providence." In recognition of this fact, 180 years later, **on July 30, 1956, "In God We Trust" was adopted by Congress as the National Motto of the United States of America.** Following in these important footsteps, in 2002, the City Council in Bakersfield, California, voted **"Yes"** to proudly and prominently display the national motto, **"In God We Trust,"** in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Soon after, all eleven cities in the County of Kern, as well as other California Cities, voted to do the same.

In 2004, we initiated an organization named ***In God We Trust ~ America, Inc.*** and attained 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Its sole mission is to promote patriotism by encouraging elected officials across America to **"Vote Yes"** to display **"In God We Trust"** in their respective municipalities.

This inspiring email packet is being sent city-by-city across America and a growing number of Elected officials are **"Voting Yes"** to display our National Motto in their Chambers. The First Amendment of The Bill of Rights protects our right to "Display" our Motto; therefore, this patriotic movement is on strong legal ground. **I am delighted to say that to date, there have been NO legal challenges, because there is nothing to challenge!** In fact, on March 12, 2010, America won a great victory for patriotism! The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued two rulings regarding the national motto and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Court found that neither the motto nor the pledge violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Rulings like this provide all patriots the drive to keep working to preserve the values our nation was founded upon.

On February 15, 2011, the County of Kern in California, became the first County in the Nation where the County government along with all its cities have "Voted Yes" to display "In God We Trust" in their Chambers.

Will You Join Us?

We urge you to place this issue on your agenda for a positive outcome.

****Please let us know when your council votes "Yes" to display "In God We Trust" in your Chamber****

We want to make sure the name of your municipality receives the national recognition it deserves by being added to the growing list of **"Yes Vote Cities and Counties across America."** In addition, we will be adding a photo of your display along with the names and pictures of your elected officials to our website at: www.ingodwetrust-america.org

Below, additional documents have been added that will be helpful and enlighten you.

1. The 1st is a letter from Pacific Justice Institute, a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, CA that defends religious liberty issues. It explains in detail that the right to display our national motto in public places is clearly constitutional. (Please refer to the concluding paragraph.)
2. The 2nd document included is a **"Sample Resolution"** which is being used by many municipalities when they **"Vote Yes"** to display **"In God We Trust."**
3. **Look below to see the growing list of "Yes Vote Cities & Counties Across America," who have already voted "Yes" to display our National Motto "In God We Trust," in their chambers.**

If you have questions or if I can help in anyway, I welcome you to contact me personally:
Home/Office: (661) 834-4943, or Jacquie@libertystar.net

May God Bless America and may America's trust always be in God!

Jacquie Sullivan
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In God We Trust ~ America, Inc. A non-profit 501c3 educational corporation ID# 2624857

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**PACIFIC JUSTICE
INSTITUTE**

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Chief Counsel

Jacquie Sullivan
Founder/President
In God We Trust -- America, Inc.
Bakersfield, California

Re: "In God We Trust" Displays

Dear Ms. Sullivan,

It has come to our attention that your organization is promoting displays throughout the nation commemorating the national motto, "In God We Trust." We are writing to offer our perspective on this important issue, and also to offer our representation at no charge should any government entities which approve the displays encounter any legal opposition.

By way of introduction, Pacific Justice Institute is a nonprofit organization which specializes in defending religious liberty, including our nation's religious heritage. PJI is currently an intervener/defendant which, alongside the U.S. Department of Justice, is providing the legal defense in *Newdow v. Lefevre*, a lawsuit challenging the inclusion of the national motto on our nation's currency.

As you may have heard, the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously agreed with our position that the motto is constitutional. In its decision filed March 11, 2010, the Ninth Circuit explained that displaying such a venerable reminder of our national heritage and identity as the national motto is unquestionably constitutional.

The Ninth Circuit's ruling follows every other court and judge in the nation that has considered the national motto, including the following:

- *Lambeth v. Bd. of Comm'rs of Davidson County*, 407 F.3d 266 (4th Cir. 2005), held a county board's decision to authorize inscription of "In God We Trust" on facade of county government center did not constitute a violation of the Establishment Clause.
- *Schmidt v. Cline*, 127 F.Supp.2d 1169 (D. Kan. 2000), held constitutional the placement in a county building of posters bearing the motto. The court relied on a previous Tenth Circuit decision finding that the motto has a secular purpose akin to Justice O'Connor's well-known references to "ceremonial deism".
- *Myers v. Loudoun County School Bd.*, 251 F. Supp. 2d 1262 (E.D. Va. 2003), upheld as constitutional a school's implementation of a state statute requiring schools to post the national motto in every public school building.

- Numerous Supreme Court decisions and opinions of individual justices have pointed to the national motto as an example of constitutionality, *see, e.g. Wooley v. Maynard*, 430 U.S. 705, 717, n.15 (1977); *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 693 (1984); *County of Allegheny v. ACLU*, 492 U.S. 573, 602-3 (1989); *Stone v. Graham*, 449 U.S. 39, 45 (1980) (Rehnquist, J., concurring); *School Dist. of Abington Twp. v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203, 303 (1963) (Brennan, J. concurring); *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, 818 (1983) (Brennan, J. dissenting); *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 322-323 (2000) (Rehnquist, C.J. dissenting); *Van Orden v. Perry*, 125 S.Ct. 2854, 2879 (2005) (Stevens, J. dissenting); *McCreary County v. ACLU*, 125 S.Ct. 2722, 2750 (2005) (Scalia, J. dissenting).

As the foregoing cases attest, numerous legal authorities at all levels of the federal judiciary and throughout the country support displaying the national motto in a public setting.

In conclusion, the Pacific Justice Institute would like to commend your organization for promoting the national motto, and to assure you that under applicable case law, such recognitions are clearly constitutional. Should any government entity receive legal threats from those who oppose even innocuous acknowledgements of religion in public life, the Pacific Justice Institute would be honored to defend them at no charge in state or federal court. To take advantage of this offer, or if you have any other questions about this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Pacific Justice Institute at either (916) 857-6900 (Northern California office), (510) 834-7232 (Bay Area Office), (714) 796-7150 (Southern California office), or via our website at www.pji.org.

Sincerely,



Matthew B. McReynolds
Staff Attorney
PACIFIC JUSTICE INSTITUTE

The History of the National Motto “In God We Trust”

- In September of 1814, during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key composed the poem *The Star Spangled Banner*, of which the last line of the second and final stanza is, “and this be our Motto, in God be our Trust.”
- In 1861, Chief Justice Chase of the Supreme Court wrote the following in a letter to the director of the U.S. Mint: “No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins.”
- In 1866, Congress enacted legislation authorizing the inscription of the phrase “In God We Trust” to be placed on certain coins.
- In 1931, Congress passed the act officially designating the composition of the words and music of the *The Star Spangled Banner* as our National Anthem.
- In 1954, during the Dwight D. Eisenhower Administration, Congress approved the words “Under God” to be added to our Pledge of Allegiance. In our pledge, the United States is described as “One Nation under God.”
- In 1955, Congress mandated the inscription of “In God We Trust” on all coins and paper currency.
- In 1956, during the Eisenhower Administration, Congress and the Supreme Court voted in favor of declaring “In God We Trust” as the national motto of the United States.
- The United States Code itself contains religious references. For example, Congress has directed the President to “...set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.”
- Our National Motto, “In God We Trust,” is prominently engraved on the wall above the Speaker’s dais in the Chamber of the House of Representatives and is reproduced on every coin minted and every dollar printed by the Federal Government.
- Our Judicial Branch acknowledges the central role of religion in our society. All federal courts open sessions requesting that “God save the United States and this honorable Court.”
- The Ten Commandments are posted in the U.S. Supreme Court Chambers directly above the bench where the nine Supreme Court Justices sit.



(sample resolution)

City of _____

IN GOD WE TRUST

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF _____, in _____ COUNTY, STATE of _____, SUPPORTING THE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" IN THE _____ COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN A PROMINENT LOCATION ABOVE THE SEAL.

WHEREAS, "In God We Trust" became the United States national motto on July 30, 1956, shortly after our nation led the world through the trauma of World War II and

WHEREAS, the words have been used on U.S. currency since 1864; and

WHEREAS, the same inspiring slogan is engraved above the entrance to the Senate Chamber as well as above the Speaker's dais in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in both war and peace, these words have been a profound source of strength and guidance to many generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to display this patriotic motto in the Council Chambers as a way to solemnize public occasions and express confidence in our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of _____ does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of _____ (and State), does hereby determine that the historic and patriotic words of our national motto, "In God We Trust," shall be permanently and prominently displayed in the _____ Council Chambers at City Hall.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of _____, _____ (State), held on the ___ day of _____, _____(year).

Add names and signatures of Mayor and Councilmembers.

Beautiful “In God We Trust” Displays



Bay, Arkansas



Breckenridge, Texas



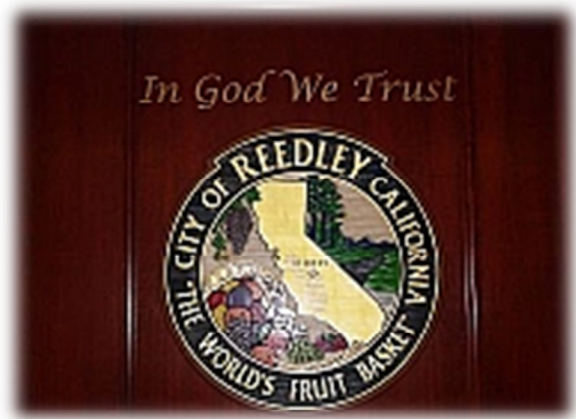
Avoca, Arkansas



Chouteau, Oklahoma



San Clemente, California



Reedley, California