

Ten Commandments for a proper relationship between religion & politics*

For Candidates:

- 1 Thou shalt offer an explanation to the electorate about how your religious beliefs shape your views on the issues, but never justify policy only on religious beliefs.
- 2 Thou shalt discuss your views on policy and legal issues that directly affect religion and religious liberty.
- 3 Thou shalt feel free to use religious language to explain how your beliefs would affect your ability to perform in elected office.
- 4 Thou shalt feel free to discuss the role religion plays in shaping your values, character and worldview.
- 5 Thou shalt minimize the use of divisive and exclusive religious language.

For Political Campaigns and Parties:

- 6 Thou shalt not seek to organize partisan supporters in houses of worship but should respect their sacred spaces.

For Religious Groups and Leaders:

- 7 Thou shalt not use religious authority, threats or discipline to coerce the political decisions of candidates and American citizens.

For Voters:

- 8 Thou shalt not base your votes on a candidate's religious beliefs or practices.
- 9 Thou shalt not blame candidates for isolated, out of context, statements of their pastors and spiritual advisers.

For Everyone:

- 10 Thou shalt never, explicitly or implicitly, suggest that there is a religious test for holding office.

*Based on Ten Commandments by David Saperstein and revised by Brent Walker, June 1, 2008.