

Johnson Amendment Recess Literature Drop-Off's

The Johnson Amendment is a federal law that prohibits tax-exempt organizations, including houses of worship, from endorsing or opposing candidates. This provision protects the integrity of houses of worship and non-profit organizations and prevents them from being used as tools of political candidates and those seeking political power. Even so, President Trump has vowed to “get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment,” and some Members of Congress have introduced legislation to do just that.

There is a tremendous need to educate Members of Congress and their staffs about what the Johnson Amendment is and why it is important to keep it. Therefore, communities across the United States are visiting the offices of their elected Representatives and Senators to drop-off literature that will educate the office staff and to send the message to elected members of Congress that their constituents care about this issue and do not want to see any repeal or weakening of the current law.

Here is how it works:

- 1) Select a day during the July 4 recess (July 3-7) that works with your schedule.
- 2) Invite a friend or two to go with you. Groups of two or more always convey a greater sense of strength.
- 3) Look up the office locations of your Representative and both of your Senators. It is important to visit all three if at all possible.
- 4) Print the faith letter for each office you visit – it will help educate your elected officials. See <https://www.faith-voices.org/>.
- 5) Call the office before you arrive to make sure staff members are there.
- 6) When you arrive be sure to let staff members know that you are a constituent and why you're there. Here is a sample script you can use:

“Hi my name is _____, and I am a member of _____ (list group or faith community you are with, and then allow your friends to introduce yourself and share what groups or house of worship they are affiliated with).

As constituents, we wanted to drop off some important educational materials on the Johnson Amendment for Representative/Senator _____ and his/her staff. The Johnson Amendment is a federal law that prohibits tax-exempt organizations, including houses of worship, from endorsing or opposing candidates. This provision protects the integrity of houses of worship and non-profit organizations and prevents them from being used as tools of political candidates and those seeking political power.

If Representative/Senator _____ or his/her staff have any questions they can contact me at _____ (give all your pertinent information or simply leave a card). Thank you for your time.

- 7) Tell us about your visits! Email us to let us know how it went and if there was any conversation. Tweet a picture of your group outside the office. Tag us, @umcjustice and use the hashtags #UMC and #CommunityNotCandidates!



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