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Subject: Re: Secular democracy

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sat, 23 Jan 2010 17:44:03 GMT

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Anybody care to look up the figures on elected officials who are atheists or agnostics... or, for that matter, anything besides Christians or Jews? Up until only a few decades ago, even Jewish politicians would have been in for a hell of a fight trying to get elected anywhere in the US. If anybody's taken their history lessons on this side of the pond, they'll recall that John F Kennedy's religion (Catholic) was a major issue during his election. Plenty of people opposed the guy just because he wasn't a Protestant Christian.

Good luck ever putting a non-Christian of any flavor in the Oval Office. Religion is a heavy unwritten requirement to hold the office of President. Should it be? Fuck no. Yet there are enough people out there who would oppose any non-religious candidate on the grounds that he (or she, to be fair) would "destroy the moral fabric of the nation." The US doesn't have an established religion, huh? Please. We just don't have it in (Federal) writing. What do our elected officials swear on when they take office? A Bible. What do witnesses swear on before testifying in court? A Bible. Just in the past century, "In God We Trust" was put on all our currency. The Pledge of Allegiance was rewritten to include "under God." When somebody makes a public stink and asks for either to be changed back, the media reports the issue as if the way it is now is the way it has always been.

Bottom line, religious freedom in the US is marginal at best. You're free to believe what you want, but unless you believe what the majority wants you'll never be elected, and you'd better not have a problem with swearing to God either. With regards to any essential freedom, the freedom from something is just as important as the freedom to it. If the majority decides not to elect a politician on the basis of their beliefs, that is their right (which doesn't make it right that they do so, but that's a different thread). However, all too often the politicians who do get elected then go on to write policies and laws which favor one religion over another, and that simply isn't right.

Rant done. I'm outta this thread before the real flaming starts.

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