

Public Religious Displays

WHEREAS, Public recognition of the gifts and benefits bestowed on our nation by the one God in whom we trust is a fitting display of the love of citizens for this nation blessed by God; and,

WHEREAS, Celebration of the many faith traditions, that build up that character of citizens necessary for the proper exercise of their duties in society, is an important aspect of the common good, and;

WHEREAS, The first Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" and section 18 of the Wisconsin Constitution reads "... nor shall ... any preference be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship", including the freedom not worship at all; and,

WHEREAS, The ninth and tenth Amendments to the Constitution reserve unenumerated rights and powers to the various states and to the people; and,

WHEREAS, Privately funded displays celebrating faith traditions on suitably designated public lands and in suitably designated areas of public buildings are consistent with the provisions of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, and Wisconsin Supreme Court decisions regarding the use of public property for privately-financed religious purposes; and,

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Supreme Court has carefully defined the scope of "contemporary community standards" that would protect the public from displays of obscene or other objectionable displays posing as celebrations of faith traditions; now, therefor, be it

RESOLVED, That the Outagamie County Republican Party, in Caucus assembled, supports state-wide legislation affirming the right of citizen groups to establish celebratory displays of religious themes, on suitably-designated public lands and buildings, at private expense, and within reasonable parameters established by the governing body; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Outagamie County Republican Party, in Caucus assembled, believes that the rights to such celebratory displays should not be infringed, excepting where well-established "contemporary community standards" must be enforced to ensure the public order; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Outagamie County Republican Party, in Caucus assembled, upholds the rights of citizen groups to be free from fear of unreasonable actions at law by opponents to the faith traditions of the sponsors of such celebratory displays.