

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

ON THE

Religious Freedom
Restoration Act

Our goals for this evening...

1. To offer a brief explanation/rationale for Faith's position on RFRA
2. To answer any questions anyone would like to pose
3. To listen to any comments, suggestions, or criticisms anyone would like to offer

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Our process for this evening...

1. Please promise to listen respectfully to everyone who speaks.
2. Please raise your hand and wait until a microphone is brought to you before you speak.
3. Please function in a way that is civil at all times.

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Our process for this evening...

4. Please plan to love everyone in the room afterwards.
5. Please keep in mind that this event is being videoed.

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1. This is the 88th key on our piano.
2. Our source of truth for 50 years has been what we believe to be the inspired Word of God.
3. We are theological descendants of Roger Williams.

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4. We condemn wrongful discrimination anywhere it is found.
5. Our community ministries are always available for everyone in our town.

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6. We believe the current conflict is due to several cultural trends:

a. Legitimate concerns by our LGBTQ friends.

**b. A lack of understanding/
appreciation for the
importance of religious
liberty for all citizens.**

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- c. A growing animus toward people of religious faith.
- d. A tendency to quickly litigate instead of trying to find legitimate compromises.

7. What is the RFRA?

State and local government cannot substantially burden the exercise of religion unless the action furthers a compelling governmental interest using the least restrictive means.


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8. How many other states have similar laws?

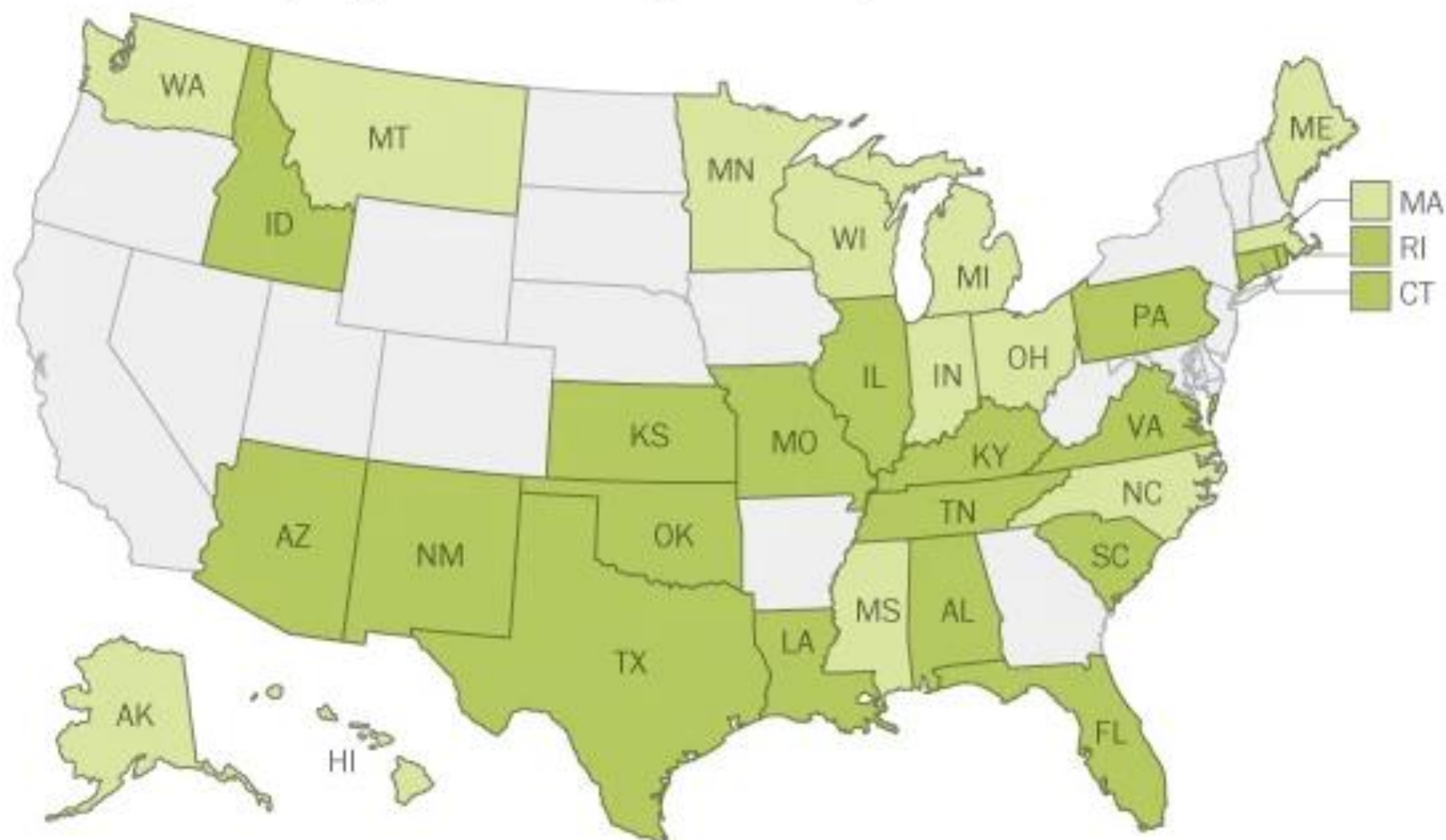
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States with heightened protections for religious exercise

Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) laws

 State RFRA laws enacted by legislation

 RFRA-like protections provided by state court decision



Source: American Religious Freedom, The Ethics and Public Policy Center

9. What is really at issue from our perspective?

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People			
Activities	Similar People	Different People	Different People
	Acceptable Activities	Acceptable Activities	Unacceptable Activities
Required?	Nothing	Tolerance	Freedom The maturity to respect one another's viewpoints and to understand that sometimes we can't do everything the other person wants

10. Options when you find yourself in the “Different people/unacceptable activities” category:

- a. When you are asking someone to do something that would violate their religious beliefs.
- b. When someone is asking you to violate your religious beliefs.

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