

*"Restoring religious liberties to the people of North Dakota"*  
**Religious Liberty Restoration Amendment**

*Questions and Answers for Pastors*

**What should I do?**

1. If possible, find a church coordinator to handle most of the tasks. The coordinator would be responsible for finding petition circulators, setting up tables, instructing the circulators, and other such tasks.
2. Preferably choose two of these weekends to collect signatures:
  - May 23rd
  - June 6<sup>th</sup>
  - June 13th
  - June 20<sup>th</sup> (Note: petitions must be mailed by July 23)
3. Consider mentioning the importance of our religious liberties in your sermon.
4. Use a prepared announcement to share the details of the signature gathering.
5. Keep the message positive. The purpose of the petition process is to gather signatures to place the initiative on the November ballot. The purpose of the initiative is to restore the religious liberties provided by the Founding Fathers.

**Given we have a federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, do we need a state provision?**

Yes. The US Supreme Court ruled that the federal RFRA does not apply to the states, and state residents are vulnerable absent their state passing its own act.

**Where can I find information?**

[www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org)

The North Dakota Family Alliance will post issue information as well as easy to understand instructions regarding the petition process. Various informational documents will be posted, including: 1) petition download 2) petition instructions, Q & A 3) clergy instructions, Q & A 4) petition gathering process, graphic flow chart 5) instruction for church coordinators 6) one page issue overview summary

**Are there legal restrictions on this kind of political activity?**

No. The restrictions on political activities by churches apply only to activities supporting or opposing a *candidate* for political office or a *political party*. There are no restrictions on activities in support of or opposition to a ballot initiative.

**Should the church/clergy be involved in such “political activity?”**

The body of Christ, the people of the church are residents of this state North Dakota, and are citizens of this great country we call ‘America’; their voices should not be stifled inside the church, or outside. The Church teaches that we have a moral obligation to participate in the political process

**How many signatures are needed to qualify for the November ballot?**

25,688.

**Can I pass on the petition to other churches and organizations?**

Yes. However, each copy of the petition must remain with the assigned circulator. It would be better, therefore, to give the organization a new copy of the petition and have that organization assign a circulator.