



**The Washington Flyer
September 9, 2022**

“The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves. . . . All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.”
George Washington, Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, RI, August 18, 1790

AACS National Legislative Conference Next Week

The AACS will be hosting our annual National Legislative Conference next week in Washington, D.C. Due to the conference, we will not be sending out *The Washington Flyer*. We appreciate your prayers for the conference details, the attendees, and our contacts with elected and government officials.

AACS Joins Amicus Brief in Religious Liberty Case

The AACS has joined four other Christian educational organizations in an [amicus brief](#) submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the religious liberty of Yeshiva University in the case *Yeshiva University v. YU Pride Alliance*. The case began when an LGBT student group filed suit after the school denied the students’ application to start an official Yeshiva Pride Alliance club. Located in New York City, Yeshiva University is an orthodox Jewish institution, [self-described](#) as “the world’s premier Torah-based institution of higher education,” with intense programs of religious study “designed to form students in the Jewish faith.” However, a New York trial court ruled a permanent injunction against the school, saying that the city’s Human Rights Law requires the school to recognize officially the Pride Alliance club. Yeshiva filed an [emergency application](#) with the Supreme Court, requesting relief from the permanent injunction, arguing that it violates the school’s First Amendment rights.

The AACS joined the Association of Classical Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Association for Biblical Higher Education, and the International Alliance for Christian Education in submitting a friend-of-the-court brief to the Supreme Court, arguing that the High Court should protect the First Amendment rights of the school and grant the emergency application to ensure it is not forced by the government to recognize officially a club that goes against its religious beliefs and teaching. As the amicus brief explains, the associations filing the brief “seek to promote biblical community, scholarship, and training. But they face threats from those who disagree with their religious views on issues like marriage, sexuality, and gender. They vigorously advocate for the right of religious educational institutions to operate free from government intrusion, consistent with First Amendment guarantees.” ADF Senior Counsel John Bursch, who served as counsel for the amicus brief, [stated](#), “No court should force a religious organization to undermine its own faith and mission. If an activist group can use the courts to force Yeshiva University to sponsor an official club on campus that undermines the school’s own religious beliefs, there’s no telling what can happen to other religious organizations in America who rightly wish to be free from such coercion.”

Texas State Board of Education Halts Revision of Social Studies Textbooks

The Texas State Board of Education narrowly voted 8-7 against a revamped version of the state’s social studies standards that included troubling teachings on history and traditional American values. The process will be delayed until 2025, when the fifteen-member board will again consider revisions to the standards. The board also voted unanimously against including Critical Race Theory teachings in the program, heeding the vocal concerns of parents in Texas who have pushed back in the past two years against the surge of racist teachings in their communities. [Proposed changes](#) to the curriculum included adopting a critical view of history by teaching from the perspective of racial groups like Asian Americans and Native Americans and that highlight the LGBT movement. The board also considered using a book about George Floyd’s murder (described as “brutal and race-driven”) to teach second-grade students about Juneteenth. Republican state representatives in the Texas Freedom Caucus criticized the proposal as violating recently passed state laws that prohibit teaching that America is systemically racist or requiring teaching that 1619 was the true founding of America according to the New York Times’ [1619 Project](#). Mary Elizabeth Castle, Senior Policy Advisor at Texas Values, [stated](#) in response, “Today’s vote to stop the radical ‘woke’ takeover of the Social Studies TEKS [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills] is a victory for parents and kids in Texas. Now, the State Board of Education has time to get it right and consider better TEKS that will continue to teach about patriotic historical values and Judeo-Christian heritage in American and Texas History.”

Florida Parents Choose Conservative Education Leaders

School board elections have become a touchpoint in the battle over the future of America’s children as more parents become aware of the radical gender and racial ideologies being taught in public schools across the country. The battle intensified in Florida recently as a concerted effort by parents’ rights groups resulted in [flipping](#) five county school boards from liberal to conservative control. The newly elected school board members include April Carney, who unseated teachers’ union-endorsed incumbent Elizabeth Anderson in Duval County, and Monica Colucci, who defeated a 24-year incumbent in heavily populated Miami-Dade County. Amy Pritchett, a leader in her local [Moms for Liberty](#) chapter, narrowly beat an incumbent by 337 votes, showing the importance of voting in these often overlooked but consequential local elections. Sarasota County elected two new conservative members and reelected a conservative incumbent, flipping the county to a conservative majority. Many of the candidates were [endorsed](#) by the [1776 Project PAC](#), a group that works at the school board level to restore American history teaching, and by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who has vocally opposed teaching radical gender ideology and Critical Race Theory in schools. Governor DeSantis praised the victories in these counties, stating, “Florida has led with purpose and conviction that our school system is about education, not indoctrination.” The victories show the importance of parents’ getting involved in local politics and actively shaping education policies and institutions.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Promise to America’s Children](#)

[Students’ Math, Reading Scores During COVID-19 Pandemic Saw Steepest Decline in Decades](#)

[When “Accommodate” Means “Discriminate”](#)