

Constitution established thick wall between church, state

By: Arnie Arnesen – July 8, 2013

The Cato Institute's Jason Bedrick reminds us in his July 4 Monitor column that "Your money is not the government's."

Sure, Jason, and the roads are not yours, and the clean water coming out of your tap is not yours, and the state parks are not yours, and the police are not yours, and the firefighters are not yours, and we could go on for pages.

Your money, taxed or charged through fees by your public officials, who have been hired by your vote, funds collective public goods as permitted by the New Hampshire Constitution, which among other things established a thick wall between church and state. Nothing stops you from using your money for other purposes, but the tough medicine of living in a community is that we made a democratic decision to come together to fund things that serve the public interest.

Jason, if you want to fund a madrassa, a yeshiva, a bible school, knock yourself out – but do it directly and not with clever language used to divert funds we have designated for the public sphere. I hear they don't tax you much in Haiti; sounds like a great place to pay for everything you need, including, infrastructure, religious schools, safety, sewage . . . au revoir.

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