| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Caryl McAllister |
| **To:** | Preston Christie A |
| **Subject:** | Comments regarding Form 990 |
| **Date:** | Saturday, September 12, 2015 10:04:04 PM |

---

I understand that the IRS and the Treasury Department are asking for public comments regarding Form 990.

My comments are as follows:

Non-profits are required to report their incomes, disbursements and similar information to the IRS. Churches don't have to.

I find this preference for religious institutions abhorrent. Two major arguments against the preference for churches can be made.

First, many religious institutions act in the political arena. A case in point is the Mormon church which spent millions of dollars to defend California Proposition 8 outlawing same-sex marriages. Here a church was actively engaged in as a political action group, thus basically trying to force their religious belief on others, an action which goes against the separation of church and state. A similar argument could be made for organized religions which are against birth control and abortions.

In my view, when a religious group uses its money and clout in the political arena, that group should lose all exempt status. But at the very least, all religious groups should have to supply standard income tax statements so that it is clear where their income is spent.

Second, at least one church in Wisconsin owns business property. As I understand it, that business property doesn't have to pay income taxes and thus can offer lower prices to customers, which, in turn, opens them to a charge of unfair competition to those who do have to pay taxes. In my opinion, religious groups should not be permitted to own business property which doesn't have to pay taxes. However, at a minimum these groups should be required to supply standard income tax statements.

I request that all non-profit organizations be required to submit income tax forms and that all be treated in the same manner.

Sincerely, Caryl McAllister
P.O. Box 180317, Delafield, WI 53018