



SECULAR ACTIVISM 2014

Tom Manger

Legislative Chair, Executive Committee

ABOUT THE SCA

MISSION

To increase the visibility of and respect **for nontheistic viewpoints** in the United States, and to protect and strengthen the **secular character of our government** as the best guarantee of freedom for all.



SUPPORTING THE SCA



Voting Members

Endorsing
Organizations

Allied
Organizations

VOTING MEMBERS

- American Atheists
- American Ethical Union
- American Humanist Association
- Atheist Alliance of America
- Camp Quest
- Council for Secular Humanism
- [Freethought Society](#)
- [Freedom From Religion Foundation](#)
- [Humanist Community at Harvard](#)
- HUUmanists
- Institute for Humanist Studies
- Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers
- [Recovering From Religion](#)
- [Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science \(US\)](#)
- Secular Student Alliance
- Society for Humanistic Judaism

These are the **voting members** of the coalition.

ENDORISING MEMBERS

- ArizonaCoR
- Atheist Nexus
- Camp Quest West
- Center for Naturalism
- Foundation Beyond Belief
- United Coalition of Reason (UnitedCoR)
- Many others, mostly regional or local

New groups can sign up at SCA's website.

ALLIED MEMBERS

- Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- Military Religious Freedom Foundation

Allies agree with parts of SCA's mission, but do not fully endorse us.

STATE CHAPTERS

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (SCCA)



- State-Level Representation
- We are a 501(c)(4) (we can lobby)
- Direct Contact with Legislators and Committees

GOALS

- **Encourage**
 - **individuals** to register their email at SCA's website
 - **Individuals** to follow Facebook & Twitter accounts
 - **endorsing organizations** to register their support
 - **allied organizations** to register their support
- Provide a **united voice** regarding legislation
- Promote **conversations** about secularism
- Promote **advantages** of secular governments
- **Secular Lobby Days** – next one is Spring 2015
- **Secular Advocacy Days** – next one is Monday, 10/13

SECULAR LOBBY DAYS

- Scheduled during legislative session March – August
 - Sacramento & Home Districts
 - **Discuss specific bills**
 - Volunteers Needed
 - Training Provided
 - Talking Points Provided
 - Appointments Made for You
 - Make a Difference, Locally!
-
- Next one scheduled:
Spring 2015



SECULAR ADVOCACY DAYS

- Scheduled outside of legislative session – Sep - Dec
- Focuses on Sacramento
- Meet w/ incoming legislators
- Discuss high level issues
- Volunteers Needed
 - Training Provided
 - Talking Points Provided

- Next one scheduled:
Monday, 10/13/14



ISSUE AREAS



Health and
Safety



Education



Tax Policy



Discrimination



Government
Actions



Military



International

ISSUE AREAS

HEALTH AND SAFETY



Emergency
Contraception *

Death
with Dignity *

Faith Healing

Religious Child
Care Exemptions

Vaccination
Exemptions

Child Abuse
Reporting *

Stem Cell
Research *

Women's
Healthcare *

Substance Abuse
*

ISSUE AREAS EDUCATION



School Vouchers &
Charter Schools *

Discrimination of
Secular Student
Groups

Religious Bullying
*

Science
Curriculum *

US History
Education *

Sex Education *

Use of the Bible

Prayer in the
Classroom

Pledge of
Allegiance

ISSUE AREAS TAX POLICY



Parsonage
Exemption

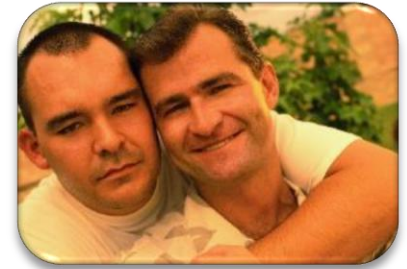
Property Tax
Exemptions

Faith-Based
Initiatives Subsidy

Religious
Organization
Financial Disclosures

Candidate
Endorsement

ISSUE AREAS DISCRIMINATION



Religious Definition
of
Civil Marriage *

Religiously-
Motivated
Job Discrimination *

Housing
Discrimination

Religious
Charity Grants *

Boy Scouts *

ISSUE AREAS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS



"In God We Trust"

National Day
of Prayer

Oaths of Office

Legislative Prayer *

Prayer Caucus

Religiously-Based
Policy *

ISSUE AREAS MILITARY



Military Chaplains

Promotion of Religion

Discrimination Against
Non-Theists

ISSUE AREAS INTERNATIONAL



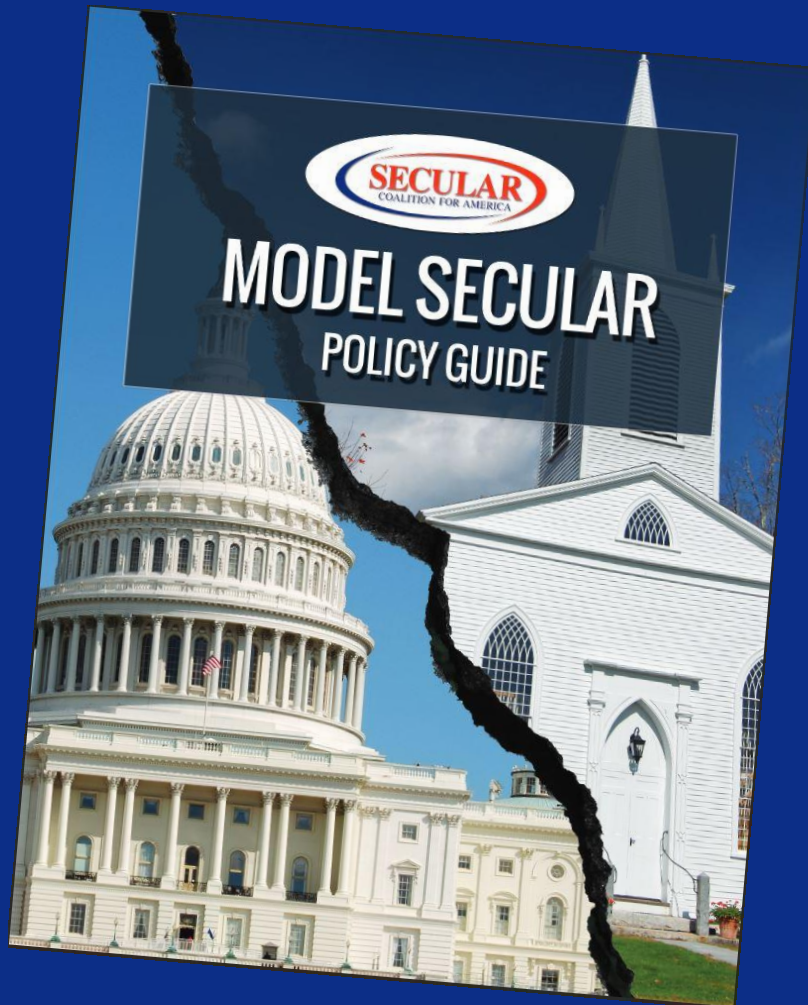
Religiously Based
International Policy

Global Gag Rule

Federal Aid to Countries that
Limit Religious Freedom

Blasphemy Laws

SCA POLICY GUIDE



Provides examples & justifications for secular legislation

RECENT LEGISLATION

CA LEGISLATION IN 2014

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Legislative session started on January 6th
- Bills have to be introduced by February 21st
- Must pass “house of origin” by May 30th
- Last day for Legislature is August 31st
- Last day for Governor action is September 30th
- SCCA Legislative Committee is tracking bills using an online monitoring & tracking tool.

CA LEGISLATION IN 2014

BALLOT MEASURES

- 1625. (13-0038) Abortion Restriction. Parental Notification and Waiting Period for Females Under 18. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. – Parallel effort to ACA 5
- 1609. (13-0030) Referendum to Reimpose Different Standards on Clinics Providing Abortion Services than on Other Primary Care Clinics. – Attempt to overturn AB980
- 1608. (13-0029) Referendum to Overturn Law Allowing Specified Licensed Medical Professionals to Perform Early Abortion Procedures. – Attempt to overturn AB154

CA LEGISLATION IN 2014

BALLOT MEASURES

- 1611. (13-0020) Constitutional Definition of a Person. Fertilized Human Eggs. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.
- 1605. (13-0014) Bible-Based Speech. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.
- Exempts speech based on biblical authority from existing constitutional and statutory restrictions applicable to all other speech, including restrictions against discrimination and hate crimes. Prohibits any compelled speech or action if it would be against the speaker's or actor's beliefs based on biblical authority. Repeals constitutional provision denying protection to acts of religious expression inconsistent with the peace or safety of the State.

2014 – OPPOSED

- AB 1934 (Alejo – D) – Corporation Sole
- AB 2421 (Nestande – R) – Corporation taxes: credit: education scholarship organizations
- AB 2422 (Nestande – R) – Corporation tax: credits
- AB 2237 – (Grove – R) – Unruh Civil Rights Act: exception: religion
- ACA 5 – (Grove – R) Abortion: parental notification
- SB 978 – (Desaulnier – D) – Rape victims: local rape victim counseling centers: notice

2014 – SUPPORTED & CHAPTERED

- SB 1306 (Leno – D) – marriage
- AB 1817 (Gomez – D) – Voter registration: high school pupils
- AB 1906 (Wilk – R) – Community college property: direct costs for use
- AB 2560 (Bonilla – D) Teacher credentialing: applications: child abuse reporting

2014 – SUPPORTED & PENDING

- AB 496 (Gordon – D) – Medicine: continuing medical education: sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression
- AB 883 (Cooley – D) – Child sexual abuse: prevention pilot program
- AB 913 (Chau – D) – Charter schools: open meetings
- AB 1432 (Gatto – D) – Mandated child abuse reporting: school employees: training
- AB 1525 (Lowenthal - D) – marriage, solemnization
- AB 1577 (Atkins – D) – Certificates of death: gender identity
- AB 1579 (Stone – D) – CalWORKS: pregnant women
- AB 2016 (Campos – D) Pupil instruction: sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention
- AB 2139 (Eggman – D) – end of life care: patient notification
- AB 2344 (Ammiano – D) - Family law: parentage
- AB 2350 (Bonilla – D) – Postsecondary Education: Equity in Higher Education Act: prevention of pregnancy discrimination

2014 – SUPPORTED & PENDING

- SB 113 (Jackson – D) – Elections: voter registration: allowing 15 year olds to pre-register
- SB 798 (De Leon – D) – Income taxes: credits: contributions to education funds
- SB 924 (Beall – D) – Damages: childhood sexual abuse: statute of limitations
- SB 926 (Beall – D) – Crimes: statute of limitation: felony sex crimes
- SB 1053 (Mitchell – D) - Health care coverage: contraceptives
- SB 1057 (Corbett – D) – Pupil curriculum: history-social science content standards
- SB 1094 (Lara – D) – Nonprofit health facilities: sale of assets: Attorney General approval
- SB 1135 (Jackson – D) – Inmates: sterilization
- SB 1161 (Beall – D) – Drug: Medi-Cal
- SB 1165 (Mitchel – D) – Pupil instruction: sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention education

2013 – SUPPORTED

Passed
Failed

- **AB154** – Expand access to 1st trimester services
- **AB868** – Gender identity training for courts
- **AB714** – \$1M spinal cord research fund (vetoed)
- **AB926** – Compensation for oocytes (vetoed)
- **AB980** – Building codes for abortion clinics
- **AB1266** – Sex-segregated school programs
- **SB113** – Allow 15 year olds to preregister to vote
- **SB131** – Damages for childhood sexual abuse
- **SB323** – Eliminate tax exemptions for non-profits that discriminate (the “Boy Scouts Bill”)
- **SR8** – In support of national Violence Against Women Act
- **SR10** – Acknowledging & supporting Roe v. Wade

2013 – OPPOSED

- **AB20** – Mandatory child abuse reporting (gutted /clergy exemption)
- **AB389** – Criminal background checks for private school employees (exempts religious schools)
- **AB673** – \$321 tax credit for school supplies (primarily benefits private school attendees / 80% religious)
- **AB917** – Lowering requirements charter school signatures (vetoed)
- **AB943** – Tax credit for education scholarship funds
- **SB284** – Tax credit for education scholarship funds (vetoed)
- **SB693** – \$500 tax credit for school supplies (primarily benefits private school attendees)
- **SCR3** – Honoring School Choice Week

Passed
Failed

2013 – NEUTRAL

- **AB182** – School bonds debt ratio (gutted)
- **ACA5** – Required parental notification of abortion for unemancipated minors

Passed
Failed

TAKING ACTION

How You can Make a Difference

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Stay Informed
- Vote in Every Election
- Subscribe to SCA Email Newsletters
- Sign Up for Email Action Alerts
- Subscribe to SCA & SCCA on Facebook, Twitter
- Donate to SCA
- Help write position papers ***
- Become an Issue Area Expert
- Volunteer w/ an SCCA Subcommittee
- Join the SCCA Executive Committee
- Attend a Secular Lobby Day
- Attend a Secular Advocacy Day
- Attend a Secular Conference

SACRAMENTO FREETHOUGHT DAY

October 12, 2014

MEET WITH OTHER SECULAR ACTIVISTS

Freethought Day

October 11, 2014



BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

JOIN AN SCCA SUBCOMMITTEE

- SCA National Alignment (co-chairs)
- Legislation Tracking
- Social Media
- Outreach and Activism
- Government Relations and Lobbying
- Marketing, Communications, and Press

- Where can you fit in & help?

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

BECOME AN ISSUE AREA EXPERT



Health and
Safety



Education



Tax Policy



Discrimination



Government
Actions



Military



International

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Sign up for alerts at
secular.org

The screenshot shows the website for the Secular Coalition for America. At the top left is the logo, which consists of the word "SECULAR" in a red oval with "COALITION FOR AMERICA" underneath. To the right of the logo is the text "SECULAR COALITION FOR AMERICA" and "Representing Secular Americans in Our Nation's Capital." On the top right, there is a search bar with the word "SEARCH" and a list of links: "Home", "Sign Up", and "Contact". Below this is a horizontal navigation menu with buttons for "ABOUT", "ISSUES", "RESOURCES", "NEWS", "ALERTS", "STATES", "EVENTS", and "DONATE". The "DONATE" button is highlighted in red.

Key Issues

The fundamentally secular nature of the United States government is one of its defining characteristics. It is the mission of the Secular Coalition for America to increase the visibility and respect for nontheist viewpoints and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all. To ensure the core freedom of and from religion are upheld, the Secular Coalition for America stands for the following:

- **Health and Safety:** *The health and safety of an individual should not be compromised by the religious beliefs of*

On the right side of the page, there is a yellow callout box with the text "Become a Secular Activist Sign up to receive updates and alerts." and a red "SUBSCRIBE" button. Below this, there are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and RSS, with the text "follow us on twitter".

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Help track legislation throughout the process

My Upcoming Hearings



- Meeting: ASM EDUCATION - State Capitol, Room 4202 @ 1:30 PM, Jan 15, 2014
 - [AB 135. \(Buchanan\) School employees: child abuse: reporting.](#)
- Meeting: ASM HUMAN SERVICES - State Capitol, Room 437 @ 1:30 PM, Jan 14, 2014
 - [AB 883. \(Cooley\) Child sexual abuse: prevention pilot program.](#)
- Meeting: ASM REVENUE AND TAXATION - State Capitol, Room 126 @ 1:30 PM, Jan 13, 2014
 - [AB 943. \(Nestande\) Corporation Tax Law: credits: K-12 education programs and scholarships.](#)
- Meeting: ASM HEALTH - State Capitol, Room 4202 @ 1:30 PM, Jan 14, 2014
 - [ACA 5. \(Grove\) Abortion: parental notification.](#)
- Meeting: SEN GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE, Jan 15, 2014
 - [SB 693. \(Correa\) Personal income tax: credits: qualified teachers.](#)
 - [SB 798. \(De León\) Income taxes: credits: contributions to education funds.](#)

Recent Changes

- [AB 135. \(Buchanan\) School employees: child abuse: reporting.](#)
- [AB 714. \(Wieckowski\) Roman Reed Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund.](#)
- [AB 883. \(Cooley\) Child sexual abuse: prevention pilot program.](#)
- [AB 917. \(Bradford\) Charter schools: authorization: petition: signatures.](#)
- [AB 943. \(Nestande\) Corporation Tax Law: credits: K-12 education programs and scholarships.](#)
- [AB 1432. \(Gatto\) School employees: child abuse: reporting.](#)
- [AB 1443. \(Skinner\) Harassment: unpaid interns.](#)
- [ACA 5. \(Grove\) Abortion: parental notification.](#)
- [SB 113. \(Jackson\) Allowing 15 year olds to pre-register](#)
- [SB 693. \(Correa\) Personal income tax: credits: qualified teachers.](#)
- [SB 798. \(De León\) Income taxes: credits: contributions to education funds.](#)
- [SCR 73. \(Mitchell\) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.](#)
- [SR 22. \(Huff\)](#)

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Help track legislation throughout the process

<input type="checkbox"/>	 AB 868	Sep 9, 2013	(Ammiano)	AB 868, (Ammiano) Courts: training programs: gender identity and...									
Assigned: tmanger1@gmail.com . Position: support.													
Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 300, Statutes of 2013.													
<input type="checkbox"/>		1st	2nd	3rd	Pass	1st	2nd	3rd	Pass	Concur	Enroll	Sign	Chap
<input type="checkbox"/>	AB 883	Jan 7, 2014	(Cooley)	AB 883, (Cooley) Child sexual abuse: prevention pilot program...									
Assigned: tmanger1@gmail.com . Position: neutral.													
Last Action: Re-referred to Com. on HUM. S.													
<input type="checkbox"/>		1st	2nd	ASM HUMAN SERVICES (January 14, 2014)									
<input type="checkbox"/>	 AB 913	Jun 27, 2013	(Chau)	AB 913, (Chau) Charter schools.									
Assigned: tmanger1@gmail.com . Position: support.													
Last Action: In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.													
<input type="checkbox"/>		1st	2nd	3rd	Pass	1st	SEN EDUCATION						
<input type="checkbox"/>	 AB 917	Jan 6, 2014	(Bradford)	AB 917, (Bradford) Charter schools: authorization: petition: sig...									
Assigned: tmanger1@gmail.com . Position: oppose.													
Last Action: Consideration of Governor's veto pending.													
<input type="checkbox"/>		1st	2nd	3rd	Pass	1st	2nd	3rd	Pass	Concur	Enroll	Veto	

TOM'S SIDE PROJECTS

How You can Make a Difference

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Identify Biased Laws Already On The Books In CA

Reverse sectarian laws that are already in place



The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "skip to content", "home", "accessibility", "FAQ", "feedback", and "login". The main header features the California State Capitol logo and the text "California LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION". A "Quick Search" box is located on the right, with a dropdown menu for "Bill Number" and a "go" button. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "Bill Information", "California Law", "My Subscriptions", and "My Favorites". The main content area is titled "California Law >> Text Search". It has two tabs: "Code Search" and "Text Search", with "Text Search" being the active tab. The "Text Search" section includes a "FIND RESULTS:" area with two search criteria: "ALL of these words or phrases:" followed by three input fields (the first contains "clergy") and "AND" connectors, and "at least ONE of these words or phrases:" followed by three empty input fields and "OR" connectors. Below this is a "SELECT CODES" section with a "SELECT/UNSELECT ALL" checkbox. There are three columns of checkboxes, each followed by a code name: California Constitution - CONS, Business and Professions Code - BPC, Civil Code - CIV, Code of Civil Procedure - CCP, Commercial Code - COM, Corporations Code - CORP, Education Code - EDC, Elections Code - ELEC, Evidence Code - EVID, Family Code - FAM, Financial Code - FIN, Fish and Game Code - FGC, Food and Agricultural Code - FAC, Government Code - GOV, Harbors and Navigation Code - HNC, Health and Safety Code - HSC, Insurance Code - INS, Labor Code - LAB, Military and Veterans Code - MVC, Penal Code - PEN, Probate Code - PROB, Public Contract Code - PCC, Public Resources Code - PRC, Public Utilities Code - PUC, Revenue and Taxation Code - RTC, Streets and Highways Code - SHC, Unemployment Insurance Code - UIC, Vehicle Code - VEH, Water Code - WAT, and Welfare and Institutions Code - WIC. At the bottom of the search area are "Search" and "Clear" buttons.

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Identify Biased Laws Already On The Books In CA

Reverse sectarian laws that are already in place

PENAL CODE - PEN

PART 4. PREVENTION OF CRIMES AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS [11006 - 14315]

(Part 4 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.)

TITLE 1. INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF CRIMES AND CRIMINALS [11006 - 11460]

(Title 1 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 1385.)

CHAPTER 2. Control of Crimes and Criminals [11150 - 11199]

(Chapter 2 added by Stats. 1953, Ch. 70.)

ARTICLE 2.5. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [11164 - 11174.3]

(Heading of Article 2.5 amended by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1444, Sec. 1.)

(d) (1) A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication is not subject to subdivision (a). For the purposes of this subdivision, "penitential communication" means a communication, intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession, made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of his

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Identify Religious Charities That Abuse The IRS Rules

Income Statement (FYE 12/2012)	
REVENUE	
Contributions	
Contributions, Gifts & Grants	\$3,181,641
Federated Campaigns	\$0
Membership Dues	\$0
Fundraising Events	\$0
Related Organizations	\$0
Government Grants	\$0
Total Contributions	\$3,181,641
Program Service Revenue	\$0
Total Primary Revenue	\$3,181,641
Other Revenue	\$527,833
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,709,474
EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	\$1,849,843
Administrative Expenses	\$792,955
Fundraising Expenses	\$745,799
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	\$3,388,597
Payments to Affiliates	\$0
Excess (or Deficit) for the year	\$320,877
Net Assets	\$31,683,957

Catholic League for Religious & Civil Rights

Secular orgs must:

- Fill out IRS Form 990
- Report donors over \$5K
- List salaries of exec staff

- A small fraction of religious organizations provide full disclosure

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Identify Religious Charities That Abuse The IRS Rules

Catholic League for Religious & Civil Rights

Compensation of Leaders (FYE 12/2012)

Compensation	% of Expenses	Paid to	Title
\$407,000	12.01%	William Donohue	President

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Address Social Issues That Lead to Religiosity

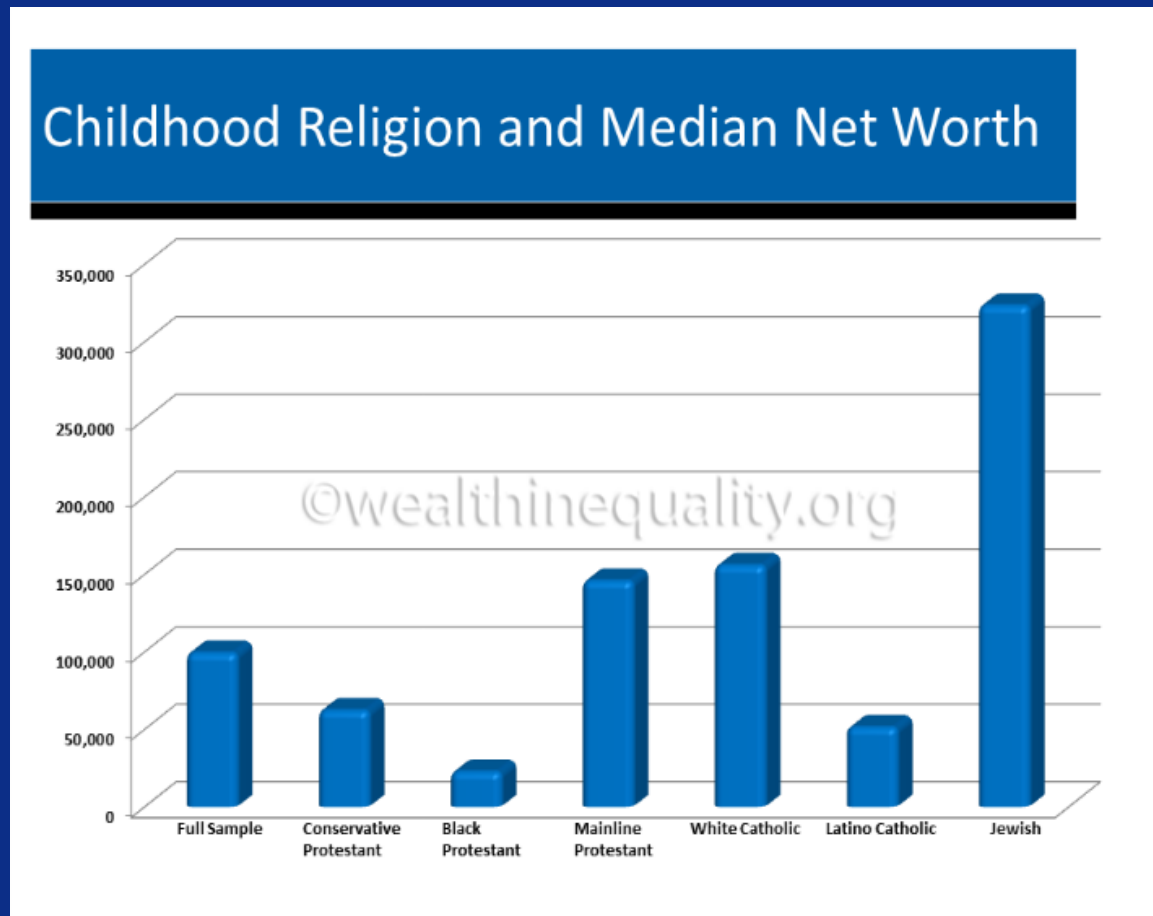
There is growing evidence linking religiosity to income inequality

Countries where there are more haves than have-nots tend to be more religious than more egalitarian societies. The U.S., for all its wealth, is also a land of vast economic inequality. America's wealth exceeds that of European countries, but this wealth is spread out as unequally as it is in Uganda or Jamaica. And it is this high level of inequality that may help explain the so-called exceptional level of religiosity.

BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Address Social Issues That Lead to Religiosity

There is growing evidence linking religiosity to income inequality



BECOME A SECULAR ACTIVIST

Address Social Issues That Lead to Religiosity

In 2015, assist BSLA to track & lobby on legislation that fits their goals for social justice

Black Skeptics Los Angeles



"We are committed to promoting the work of black skeptics, freethinkers, atheists, agnostic and secular humanists through community outreach, education, and awareness initiatives."

Home



The BSLA crew

"We take a secular humanist approach to social justice in the Los Angeles area."

WOWSlider.com

Leadership
POSITIVE OUTCOMES
Thinking outside the box
Our Mission Statement
Making a difference
Positive impact
Teamwork

WRAPPING UP

Recap, Resources, and Contact Info

RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

- Website – secular.org
- SCCA Facebook – [SecularCA](#)
- Twitter – [SecularCA](#)
- Mailing List – register at secular.org
- Email – california@secular.org
- Monthly Concall – first Saturday @ 10am

Q&A