

## Glenda Wiles

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**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:44 AM  
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**Cc:** Glenda Wiles; Ravalli County Commissioners Office; berrynash@gmail.com; loppenheimmsw@gmail.com; medintelnet@aol.com  
**Subject:** Public Display Story

I have copied you on this correspondence. This is not a controversial aspect of law. It is well settled and Ravalli County should enact a statute consistent with this settled area of constitutional law... but, we'll see. This is NOT an issue particular to any group... that's the whole point. Everyone gets the same treatment. If you will notice, yesterday, there was a prayer before the White House Cabinet meeting BUT it was secular; anyone can pray... or not. Prayer, per se, is NOT constitutionally offensive in any way.

What is offensive is when the prayer (see First Amendment) tends to support or endorse) a particular sect or religion: establishment clause: ie- In Jesus' name... etc... "Under Allah"... etc. mentioning a *particular* deity, entity, belief system:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_Amendment\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution)

There is another way around this, also seen in formal governmental convocations.... multiplicity.... have two or three religious leaders, but not one... Rabbi, Priest, Imam, is common. Presidential inaugurations use this. The person being inaugurated may select the bible, or not. The inauguration is PERSONAL to the inductee; thus NOT a State action. Some day we may see a Torah or Quran... or another work used.... or nothing. "Under G-d," again is a neutral term... not a particular G-d... In G-d we Trust. Thus, there is NO support for any particular sect or religion. Another, but getting close to the line, is one religion opens, another closes the ceremony...

I was very pleased to see that the Commissioners are proceeding on this matter with great wisdom and of course, the public notice and comment opportunity will be well attended. I am confident that Ravalli County will adopt a model statute.

Best Holiday wishes to all,

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