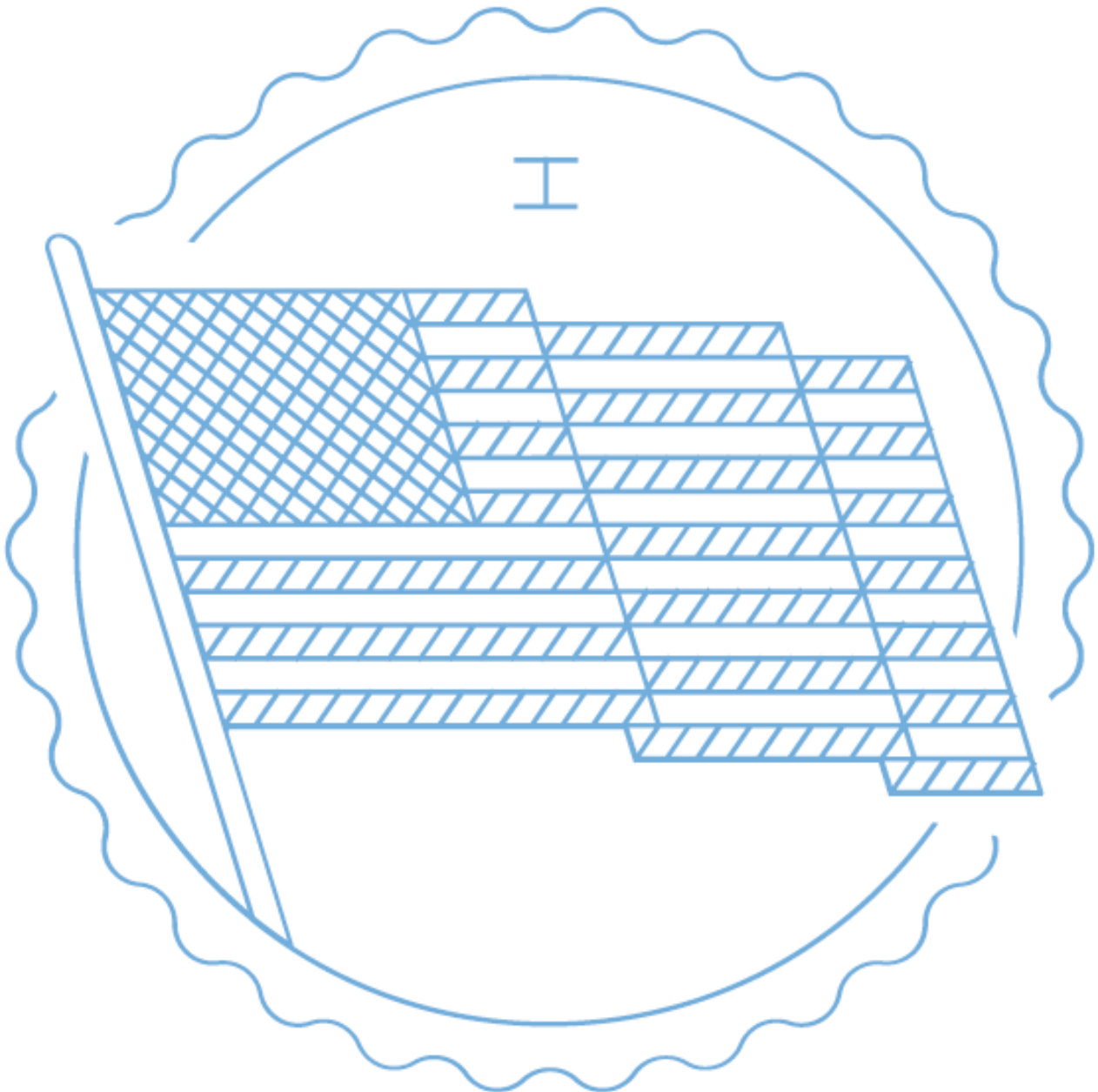


INTERACTIVE

CONSTITUTION

**MATTERS FOR
DISCUSSION**

**FIRST AMENDMENT:
ESTABLISHMENT OF
RELIGION**



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



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MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

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ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION

- Can a public school encourage students to recite a prayer at the beginning of each school day? (*Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962))
- Can a public school display the Ten Commandments in classrooms or hang a banner with a non-denominational prayer? (*Stone v. Graham*, 449 U.S. 39 (1980), *Ahlquist v. Cranston*, 840 F. Supp. 2d 507 (D.R.I. 2012))
- Can a public school teach “creationism,” the idea that humans were created by a supernatural deity, along with or instead of the theory of evolution? (*Epperson v. Arkansas*, 393 U.S. 97 (1968), *Edwards v. Aguillard*, 482 U.S. 578 (1987))
- Can the government provide vouchers that parents can use to pay for their child's education at private schools, including religious schools? (*Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, 536 U.S. 639 (2002))
- Can a town council meeting begin with an openly sectarian prayer or invocation? (*Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565 (2014))
- Can the government put up Christmas decorations on public property? (*County of Allegheny v. ACLU*, 492 U.S. 573 (1989))
- Can the government provide for religious exemptions from generally applicable laws unless there is a compelling interest in denying the exemption? (*City of Boerne v. Flores*, 521 U.S. 507 (1997) (Stevens, J., concurring))
- Does the phrase “Under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance violate the Establishment Clause? Does putting “In God We Trust” on money? (*Elk Grove Unified School Dist. v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004) (in part))
- Most states exempt churches and other religious organizations from property taxes. Does this violate the Establishment Clause? (*Walz v. Tax Commissioner of the City of New York*, 397 U.S. 664 (1970))

