

Scenario #1

Priest A is the rector of St. Swythin's in the Swamp, a parish, and a tax-exempt religious organization. Priest A is well-known in the community. Three weeks before the election, she attends a press conference at Candidate X's campaign headquarters and states that Candidate X should be re-elected. Priest A does not say she is speaking on behalf of St. Swythin's. Her endorsement is reported on the front page of the local newspaper, and she is identified in the article as the rector of St. Swythin's. Has Priest A engaged in political campaign intervention?

Scenario #2

St. Swythin's in the Swamp, a tax-exempt religious organization has a ministry that helps victims of domestic violence make a new start. The vestry prepares and finances a full page newspaper advertisement that is published in several large circulation newspapers in State M shortly before an election in which Senator Sam is a candidate for nomination as a US Senator; he is an incumbent seeking re-election. The ad states that Senate Bill 24 would aid domestic violence victims with educational and housing vouchers, but Senator Sam has opposed similar bills in the past. The ad ends with a statement "Call or write Senator Sam to tell him to vote for S. 24." Domestic violence issues have not been raised as an issue distinguishing Senator Sam from any opponent. S. 24 is scheduled for a vote in the US Senate before the election and soon after the date the ad is published in the newspapers.

Scenario #3

Priest Paul is the minister of St. Swythin's in the Swamp, a tax-exempt religious organization. The Sunday before the November election, Priest Paul invites Senate Candidate Charles to preach to his congregation during Holy Eucharist. During his remarks, Candidate Charles states, "I am asking not only for your votes, but for your enthusiasm and dedication, for your willingness to go the extra mile to get a very large turnout on Tuesday." Priest Paul invites no other candidate to address his congregation during the Senatorial campaign.

Scenario #4

St. Swythin's is a tax-exempt religious organization. It owns a historic building that has a large hall suitable for hosting dinners and receptions. For several years, St. Swythin's has made the hall available for rent to members of the public. Standard fees are set for renting the hall based on the number of people in attendance, and a number of different organizations have rented the hall. St. Swythin's rents the hall on a first come, first served basis. Candidate Candace rents St. Swythin's fellowship hall for a fundraising dinner. Candidate Candace's campaign pays the standard fee for the dinner.