



# HOW TO PLACE THE NATIONAL MOTTO IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Do you want to help restore faith in your town? One way you can live out your faith is by ensuring our national motto is displayed in courthouses, public schools, and government buildings. This simple guide can help give you steps on how to put up a national motto display in your town.

NOTE: This document does not constitute legal advice.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

Anytime you are interacting with government officials and decision-makers, it is important that you conduct yourself in a respectful, professional manner and that you adhere to the necessary procedures and protocols. As representatives of our respective faith groups, treating people with the utmost respect is essential. Likewise, understanding and following the necessary procedures and protocols—such as deadlines, required forms, or fees—is crucial to your success.

Lastly, this is merely a high-level guide based on what is common. But we know that every situation is unique. If you have additional questions or need support, reach out to us at [FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org](mailto:FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org).

## STEP 1: RESEARCH WHAT IS REQUIRED IN YOUR STATE OR COUNTY

- Is there a local law already passed governing the display of the national motto? If yes, ensure compliance.
- What kind of display do you want to put up? Do you want to put up posters or signs in the schools? Work with law enforcement and have decals placed on vehicles? Or get a plaque or poster in a city hall or county court house? We recommend keeping it simple with just the National Motto: "In God We Trust"
- Will you need to pay an application fee associated with putting up the display?
- Will you need to fundraise to put up the display? Consider partnering with a church, religious organization or local civic group to sponsor the display.
- Who do you need to get approval from? It could be from a county board of commissioners, the county sheriff, or another leader. For displays on city property, it may be the mayor, the city council or a special committee that is charged with making the decision.
- Are there any size or type restrictions on the type of display?

- Will you donate the display or will the city pay for it? If you plan to donate, be sure to make that known upfront.
- Who will install the display?
- Do you need to help pass a resolution to get a display up? You can find sample resolution language to share with city leaders [HERE](#).
- Who will create the display? If you are looking for a high-quality “In God We Trust” poster, you can get them [HERE](#). There are online vendors or local craftsmen who can make a specific type of display as well.

## STEP 2: REQUEST THE DISPLAY

- Ensure you have all necessary forms, documentation, fees and other requirements prepared.
- Ensure you address your request to the proper recipients, paying special attention to titles and spelling.
- Ensure your request conforms to all legal and administrative requirements.
- Submit your request in a professional manner.

## STEP 3: RESTORE FAITH AND INSTALL YOUR DISPLAY

- Enjoy your hard work by taking pictures of your display and share them with us at [FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org](mailto:FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org)!
- Document your journey by maintaining detailed notes and taking photos/videos so that you or future generations may continue the practice for many years to come.

**We are here to support the process and answer your questions along the way, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org](mailto:FaithBlazers@firstliberty.org).**

### FOOTNOTE:

First Liberty Institute provides general guidance to assist in putting up “In God We Trust” displays. This document does not create an attorney-client relationship, and it is not to be used as a substitute for legal advice from a licensed attorney. Because the law is constantly changing and each organization’s policies and documents are unique, First Liberty Institute and its attorneys do not warrant, either expressly or impliedly, that the law, cases, statutes, and rules discussed or cited in this guide have not been changed, amended, reversed, or revised. If you have a legal question or need legal advice, please contact an attorney. First Liberty Institute’s attorneys may be contacted by requesting legal assistance at [FirstLiberty.org](http://FirstLiberty.org).

