

Youngstown Vindicator: Tax dollars for renovation of Ohio church schools blasted.

The [Vindicator article](#) identifies some of the players in the campaign to torpedo public school districts. The spokesperson for the Ohio Senate is credited with a quote that indicates that the opponents of the voucher scheme are the “left” that vilify parents who send their students to a school of their choice. The lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher scheme is not a politically partisan issue. Folks in both parties—Democrat and Republican--and Independents oppose voucher schemes. For the record, the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding/Vouchers Hurt Ohio (VHO) highly respects those who choose to pay tuition to private school for their children. The matter in question is that private school tuition is being subsidized with taxpayer money. On November 5, voters in 3 states overwhelmingly turned down voucher issues on statewide ballots. Throughout the nation, state lawmakers force vouchers on taxpayers in spite of opposition from a significant majority of citizens.

The Center for Christian Virtue spokesperson says in the article, “And so for us, getting kids out of the public education system, getting them into church schools—that means starting more church schools—is huge.” Wow, “getting kids out of the public education system” is their stated mission.

So, it appears that the Center for Christian Virtue organization is in the forefront of the campaign to secure tax funds for private parochial school facilities. Possibly the church groups that support the Center for Christian Virtue do not have enough personal conviction to support their own faith. They want taxpayers to support their faith.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a political organization that is in multiple respects out of sync with the message of Christ. Jesus did not cozy up to King Herod or Pontius Pilate or the Roman Emperor. HIS Kingdom is not of this world. HE did not lobby for government support or try to control government. HE seems to have respected the role of civil government, paid taxes to Rome and admonished HIS followers to submit to government authority insofar as their faith permitted.

Religious institutions and government have separate roles. The first amendment to the U.S. Constitution says it best: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Mixing politics with religion is a dangerous road to travel.