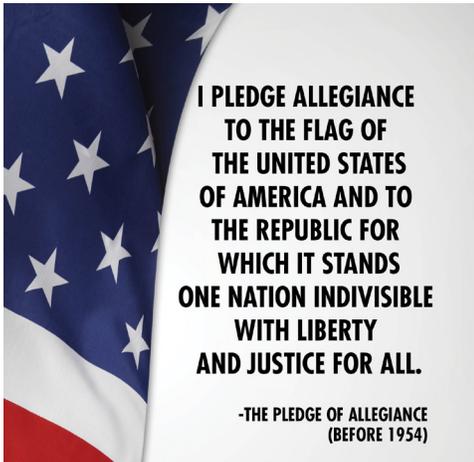


# WANT TO BE A PATRIOT? SIT OUT THE PLEDGE WITH US



The Pledge of Allegiance was changed in 1954, during what was known as the “McCarthy Era” – a time of witch-hunts, blacklisting, and paranoia about communism. It was in this atmosphere that the words “under God” were added to the Pledge, after much lobbying by politically active religious groups.

Many Americans, religious and nonreligious, object to the religious language that was added to the Pledge. Some religious people feel that it’s wrong to use God for nationalist politics. Many feel that it’s unfair to define patriotism in a way that suggests God-belief is a necessary element. What about the millions of Americans who are non-religious, not theistic, or humanist?

**These good Americans who feel the “under God” language is inappropriate are **boycotting the Pledge** until the religious language is removed.**

Those joining us in sitting out the Pledge love their country as much as you do – and they are doing what caring citizens do in a participatory democracy: working for change. Pledge Boycotters include veterans, police officers, teachers, students and people from all walks of life. They are protesting to raise awareness of an injustice that has gone on too long.

## Join us!

## BoycottThePledge.com

**NOTE:** While this boycott extends to everyplace the Pledge of Allegiance is given, it’s worth noting that public school students can’t be forced to participate in the Pledge. In the 1943 case *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, the Supreme Court ruled that mandatory participation violates the Free Speech rights of students under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This means students cannot be forced to stand or leave the room, and that they should not be harassed, questioned, disciplined, or pressured in any way for their decision to opt out. Teachers and public schools violating this right are subject to lawsuits under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, where they may be liable for damages and attorney fees.