

Amendment 4 would remove from Tennessee's Constitution the prohibition on any "minister of the Gospel or priest of any denomination . . . serving in either House of the Legislature."

I will vote for the amendment for these reasons.

1. Prohibiting a member of the clergy from serving in the state legislature is *not required* to prevent "an establishment of religion." *Requiring* that members of the legislature be clergy members would come closer to an establishment of religion than simply *allowing* a member of clergy to serve.
2. Allowing a member of the clergy is *not required* for the sake of the free exercise of religion. Thinking this way conflates rights that come from God (rights of conscience respecting God and worship) with political rights that come from the citizenry. (Note: As to the later, even a monarch, to be just in the administration his or her office, had to ensure that natural rights and all political rights granted are extended to all citizens)
3. While the God-ordained offices of the magistrate (here a legislator) and clergy are distinct and each has its own jurisdiction from God, I believe that:
 - a. Drawing a legal line that separates the clergy from civil government is in the nature of a dualism and compartmentalization between the "spiritual" and the "secular," and
 - b. Voters can decide if a candidate understands the distinction between these two offices and can vote out of office some they elect who forgets that distinction.