

SCOTUS takes divisive course on religious issues

by [Kelsey Dallas](#) in the [July 27, 2022](#) issue



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Earlier this year, as Republicans and Democrats clashed over Christian nationalism, religious exemption requests, and access to communion, the Supreme Court showed that it's still possible to tame the partisan tensions suffusing religious freedom debates. Its rulings in the term's first two religion cases were unanimous or nearly so, and each featured a shared vision of what the country owes to people of faith, including those on death row.

But in June, that streak of consensus came to a screeching halt. The final three rulings in faith-related cases pitted the court's conservative justices against its liberals; each ended with a 6-3 vote.

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