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Chafee: 'Holiday' tree, not Xmas tree

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The holidays are bringing about a battle of tradition vs. political correctness in Rhode Island, where the governor is insisting on calling the Statehouse Christmas tree a “holiday tree.”

Gov. Lincoln Chafee, a Republican turned independent, has bothered one state legislator so much that she is labeling him a “Grinch.”

Nonetheless, Chafee, a former senator, pushed back on those upset with his tree description, saying that “all those engaged in this discussion — whatever their opinion on the matter — to use their energy and enthusiasm to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow Rhode Islanders,” [according to The Associated Press](#).

The governor and the state’s first lady are scheduled to host the annual statehouse tree lighting of a 17-foot Colorado Blue Spruce on Dec. 6.

Rhode Island Rep. Doreen Costa said Wednesday she was “disturbed” when she first heard the Statehouse tree being referred to as a holiday tree.

“If it has lights and ornaments and an angel and decorations on top, it’s a Christmas tree,” the freshman legislator said on Fox.

Costa was the sponsor of a state resolution that declared that the tree in question should be called a Christmas tree, not a holiday tree. The resolution passed the state House of Representatives in January.

“He’s just ... as far as left as you can possibly be,” Costa [told Fox News Radio](#) on Tuesday. “He tries to be politically correct 24-7.”

She added, “I’m sick of being politically correct. Nobody’s been offended by calling a Christmas tree a Christmas tree. If we have a Menorah in the statehouse, what are we going to call it — a candle with sticks?”

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