

Council on American-Islamic Relations-Newsletter

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CAIR POLL: U.S. MUSLIM VOTERS DIVERSE, INTEGRATED, POLITICALLY ACTIVE

The Council on American Islamic Relations has recently released the results of a survey indicating that Muslim voters are religiously diverse, well integrated in American society, politically active, and lean toward the Democratic Party.

The survey, sponsored by the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), asked 1000 registered Muslim voters about their demographic profiles, political views and levels of social integration. Respondents were randomly drawn from a pool of some 400,000 registered Muslim voters. The survey, conducted by [Genesis Research Associates](#), has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

The full results of CAIR's survey may be viewed at: http://www.cair.com/pdf/American_Muslim_Voter_Survey_2006.pdf

SEE: CAIR Rep Discusses Poll Results on C-SPAN's 'Washington Journal' <http://video.c-span.org/15days/wj102406.rm> (Start Time: 36:30)

American Muslim Voter Characteristics:

- **Young:** About 47 percent are ages 35-54. Another 20 percent are ages 25-34.
- **Highly Educated Professionals:** Sixty-two percent have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About half are professionals.

- **Middle Class:** Forty-three percent have a household income of \$50,000 or higher.
- **Family Oriented:** Seventy-eight percent are married. Eighty-three percent have one or more children.
- **Religiously Diverse:** Thirty-one percent attend a mosque on a weekly basis. Sixteen percent attend a mosque once or twice a month. Twenty-seven percent said they seldom or never attend a mosque. Most respondents said they consider themselves "just Muslims," avoiding distinctions between Sunni or Shia. Thirty-six percent said they are Sunni and 12 percent said they are Shia. Less than half of one percent said they are "Salafi," while two percent said they are "Sufi."
- **Well Integrated in American Society:** Eighty-nine percent said they vote regularly. Eighty-six percent said they celebrate the Fourth of July. Sixty-four percent said they fly the U.S. flag. Forty-two percent said they volunteer for institutions serving the public, compared to 29 percent of all Americans in 2005.

Democratic or Independent Voters: There is no clear majority in party membership. Forty-two percent said they consider themselves members of the Democratic Party. Seventeen percent said they are Republican and 28 percent said they do not belong to any party..

PEARLS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH)

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Should you wish to act, ponder well the consequences. If good, carry on; if not, desist." Ibn al-Mubarak.

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Practice Humility until no one oppresses or belittles another." Muslim

CAIR-PHILLY- VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

On November 7th 2006, Philadelphia area Muslims have a historic opportunity to truly make a difference in their lives and the lives of their loved ones by doing a simple task which only 60% of the eligible American population participates in: voting. By contrast, 89% of those American Muslim voters polled by CAIR say they vote regularly.

This simple and elegant means of voicing our concern, happi-



ness and disgust is what makes this process so special. By participating in the electoral process the American Muslim community can show those in office- and those who seek it- that this community needs to be heard, recognized and empathized with.

Take time in your communities to generate get out the vote campaigns- and make sure to take the time to vote yourself.

**CAIR-PHILLY HOLDS SEMINAR:
"CAIR-PHILLY, THE PAST YEAR AND THE PATH FORWARD"**

During the Holy month of Ramadan CAIR-Philadelphia was invited to a community in Levittown PA to present our accomplishments of the past year.

Board members Kareem Afzal and Ribhi Shawar presented to an audience of approximately 100 women and men some of CAIR-Philly's major accomplishments over the past year. Some of the highlights were:

- Highlighting CAIR's visions of becoming a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding by enhancing the understanding about Islam and Muslims; promoting justice and empowering the American Muslim community.
- Discussion about our locally developed 10 part class, "Understanding Islam and Muslims throughout history."

- Discussion of how CAIR-Philly has become THE go to source of information for all forms of media.

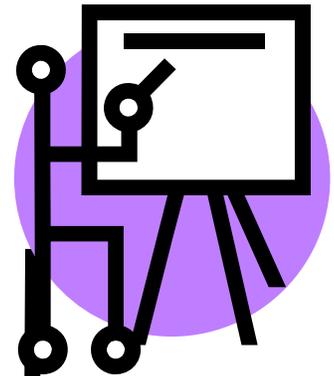
- CAIR-Philly's promotion of 4 Sharing Ramadan events in local Masjid

- CAIR-Philly's "Explore the life of Muhammed(SAW) campaign

- CAIR-Philly's proactive defense of the American Muslim Community

- CAIR-Philly's review of 7 civil rights seminars in various communities

To have CAIR-Philly conduct a seminar in your community please contact our office at cairphilly@cairphilly.org



TAKING THE FUN OUT OF HALLOWEEN BY ALIYA Z. KHABIR

Four years ago this November, Sister Foolana reverted back to Islam by taking Shahadah. She knew she was doing the right thing for her then 3-year-old son when she refused Christmas gifts and did not allow the celebration in her home. But it was not until the next year, when the pagan holiday of Halloween occurred did she realize she had a serious problem on her hands. Her son threw a code red temper tantrum in a supermarket when she refused to buy him a Halloween costume. She had been living as a Muslim and practicing Islam for about a year, and she never once thought about her son's reaction to the discontinuance of such a

holiday in her home.

Often Muslim children (particularly children under age 8) feel that they are missing something when it comes to Halloween. For Muslim children attending public schools, Halloween can be a confusing time especially with school costume parties and trick or treat goodie bags distributed by teachers and parents.

Here are a few tips on how to explain to your children why Muslims do not celebrate Halloween:

Be Honest:

The best policy is honesty. Explain to your child that Muslims do not celebrate holidays not prescribed by the Sunnah. Explain that Halloween is an observance developed by pagans

Use Technology:

Use the Internet and various search engines including but not limited to Google.com and Ask.com to research the history of Halloween as a pagan observance.

Use Islamic References: Refer to the Qu'ran and Hadiths.

Do Not Substitute: Some parents just purchase candy

"It is clear from our survey that American Muslim voters defy simplistic labeling and maintain an independent streak that should be taken into account by any candidate for public office," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad

CAIR-AMERICAN MUSLIM VOTER VIEWS ON ISSUES:

- Eighty-four percent said **Muslims should emphasize more strongly the values they share with Christians and Jews.**
- Eighty-two percent said **terrorist attacks harm American Muslims.**
- Seventy-seven percent said **Muslims worship the same God as Christians and Jews.**
- Sixty-nine percent believe a **just resolution to the Palestinian cause** would improve America's standing in the Muslim world.
- Sixty-six percent support

working toward **normalization of relations with Iran.**

- Fifty-five percent are afraid that the **war on terror has become a war on Islam.**
- Only 12 percent believe the **war in Iraq** was a worthwhile effort, and just 10 percent support the **use of the military to spread democracy** in other countries.

"It is clear from our survey that American Muslim voters defy simplistic labeling and maintain an independent streak that should be taken into ac-

count by any candidate for public office," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad.

Awad said CAIR's survey also indicated that Muslim voters are concentrated in 12 states: California, 20 percent; Illinois, 8.9 percent; New York, 8.6 percent; Texas, 7 percent; New Jersey, 6.8 percent; Michigan, 6.7 percent; Florida, 6.4 percent; Virginia, 6.3 percent; Maryland, 3.1 percent; Ohio, 3 percent; Pennsylvania, 2.9 percent; and Minnesota, 2.8 percent.

MUSLIMS ON THE AIRWAVES!!!!

Time:
Every Saturday from 4-5PM
Station: WURD 900 AM
Show Title: "Living Islam"

Time:
Every Saturday from 12:00-2:00PM
Station: WHAT-AM-1340
Schedule:
Youth show-First Saturday of the month
Sister's Broadcast-Every 4th Saturday of the Month
All Hosts Show-Every 5th Saturday (If there is a 5th Saturday)
You can listen online at www.what1340i.com.



CAIR-PHILLY- NEIGHBORLY CHARITY FIRST.

The concept of Zakat- mandatory redistribution of wealth in Islam- when performed in accordance to the teachings and ways of the Prophet Muhammed(SAW) and the Sahabah is one of the most beautiful paths of worship in Islam. When studying the prophetic example we see the following:

1. Charity should be given to ones family first if they are in need.
2. Charity should be given to the neighbor in need with specific mention of ones most physically near neighbor.
3. Charity should be given to the traveler and wayfarer.

Even the smallest acts of kindness are considered charity in Islam.

Islam is a truly simple religion. The Prophet Muhammed has made the path to worship clear throughout his teachings an in his sunnah. How much a better



world would we live in if the Muslim community made such small efforts to reach out to those in need on an organized level? Muslims today suffer from misrepresentation because of a lack of definition. Who are Muslims? What is Islam? By simple grassroots efforts- and by going back to the simple beautiful concept of charity for the sake of alleviating human suffering- Muslims can make huge inroads to combating the negativity in the world today.

How to accomplish this? Volunteer at a local food bank, homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Conduct non-perishable food drives during the 2 Eids to demonstrate the kindness of the Muslim communities heart in response to suffering. Instill in our children the love of volunteer work by getting them involved in working with these noble causes.

Contact the Masjid in your area to start a program or get involved in an established program. Also look up a social services provider in your neighborhood to volunteer.

If we look at recent events throughout the country we can see a clear pattern of insensitivity and ignorance being leveled against Islam and Muslims. To give a few brief examples:

- A county commissioner in Florida said Tuesday that he agrees with a letter his wife wrote to a local newspaper calling Islam a "hateful, frightening religion."
- In Missouri, a top Baptist leader in that state told 1,200 convention delegates: "Today, Islam has a strategic plan to defeat and occupy America." He said Muslims are planning to take over America one city at a time, starting with Detroit. "They are trying to establish a Muslim state inside America, and they are going to take the city of Detroit back to the 15th century and practice Sharia (or Islamic) law there."
- Also in Missouri, "KKK" and "Kill Muslim" were scrawled in spray paint on the garage door of a family of Pakistani heritage.
- In Wisconsin, a congressional candidate questioned about his call for profiling of Muslims suggested looking for anyone who is "wearing a turban and his name is Muhammad."
- In New York, Rep. Peter King claimed the vast majority of mosques in his state and nationwide are being run by "radicals."
- And in Minnesota, another candidate for Congress said that "as a Jew" he is offended by his Muslim opponent's candidacy.

(CONT'D) TAKING THE FUN OUT OF HALLOWEEN

BY ALIYA Z. KHABIR

for their children, so they won't feel left out at the swapping sessions that take place in many schools the day after Halloween. This practice encourages Muslim children to take advantage of what seems to be a benefit, although the core belief in the practice is wrong.

Empower Them!

Enlist your child's help to create "No Trick or Treating" signs to hang on your front door prior to the trick or treating starts in your neighborhood.. Encourage them to be proud of who they are and what Muslims believe. Express to them that a costume does not make you special, being Muslim makes you special!

This list of recent events can go on and on. We as a community in the Philadelphia area have a historic opportunity to step up to the plate and pledge our support for an organization dedicated and committed to enhancing the understanding about Islam in our local community on a grassroots level, promoting justice and empowering our local Muslim communities.

Through continued support of CAIR-Philly your efforts and dollar will go towards:

- Educational outreach programs and seminars to be held in local night school's, churches, synagogues, colleges, etc.
- Expand our civil rights seminar program to reach more Masajid
- Hire more paid staff to tackle the enormous task of Media management, community outreach and relations.
- And much more.

CAIR-Philly is specifically reaching out to families and individuals who are blessed with the ability to donate \$100 per month on an automatic checking account withdrawal process. Without these critically needed funds situations and incidents like listed above can and will go unchallenged.

Be a champion.

Sign up today.

Please contact Finance Committee Chair Ribhi Shwar at rshawar@comcast.net.



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