

The background of the entire slide is a stylized, wavy American flag. The top left corner features the blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is composed of red and white stripes that flow across the frame.

2022 Sample Questions for Candidates and Government Official: Muslims Vote 2022 Election





CAIR's **vision** is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR's **mission** is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.



Introduction

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has compiled a unique resource, our "2022 CAIR Sample Questions for Candidates and Government Officials," to help Muslim community members and allies better question and understand the views and positions of candidates running for office and government officials already in service.

Questions included in this community resource cover issues related to freedom of religion, the economy, education, immigration, community safety, right to vote, and right to boycott. These questions can be asked during community town halls, public forums, public or private meetings, or submitted for written response. These questions are drawn from the advocacy and legal work of CAIR and its network of chapters that serve the needs of American Muslims nationwide.

As a nonpartisan organization CAIR encourages American Muslims to engage government officials and policy makers at the local, state and federal level. CAIR also encourages Muslims to participate in national and state elections, conduct voter registrations, training programs, issue briefings, candidate forums, volunteer in campaigns, and get-out-the-vote drives.

Nonprofits cannot engage in political activities that support one candidate or party over another, but we are committed to making our community's voice heard.



Religious Freedom

1. FOSTERING MUTUAL RESPECT: Do you support a welcoming environment that fosters mutual respect for all religious beliefs, traditions, and heritages in the United States?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

2. RELIGIOUS LAND USE: Do you support actions taken by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to protect the right of Muslim communities to establish or expand places of worship on the same terms as other religious communities?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

3. FREEDOM TO PRACTICE ONE'S FAITH: Do you agree that the U.S. Constitution and state laws are not threatened by citizens privately following their own religious codes, such as Jewish Halacha, Islamic Sharia, or Catholic Canon Law, as long as such religious codes comply with U.S. law?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: In the past decade, more than a dozen states have adopted copy-cat “anti-Sharia” or “anti-foreign law” legislation whose sponsors invoke Sharia as the reason behind the legislation.



2022 Sample Questions
for Candidates and
Government Officials
Section II

Economy



4. RIGHT TO COMMERCE: Do you support businesses denying entrance or service to customers based on their perceived race, religion or nationality?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: Several businesses declared themselves “Muslim Free Zones,” or denied serve to Muslim patrons in the decade.

5. LIVING WAGE: A growing number of cities and states are exploring the possibility of increasing minimum wages to better support low-income workers and families. There is a national call to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour through a bill proposed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. Do you support increases to the minimum wage, federally set in 2009 to \$7.25, to correspond to the cost of living?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: According to Interfaith Worker Justice: In 2012, a working mother of two earning \$7.25 per hour lived below the poverty line.

6. PAID SICK LEAVE: States, cities and counties across the U.S. have adopted paid sick time laws. Do you support reforming federal law to require employers to provide paid sick days for all workers?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

7. PAID PARENTAL LEAVE: Millions of American workers who are new parents go without paid parental leave (maternity or paternity leave) or the option to take additional parental unpaid leave, impacting working families nationwide. Do you support reforming federal laws to require employers to provide at least six weeks of paid family leave and at least 12 weeks of unpaid leave as already afforded to federal employees?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐



2022 Sample Questions
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Section III

Education

8. SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN:

Do you support the adoption of federal and state programs that would expanding access to fully or partially subsidized preschool programs for parents to enroll their children in pre-kindergarten, daycares or nurseries for children ages four and below?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

9. SUPPORTING STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS: Nearly one-third of all American students go into debt to pay for their college and Americans collectively owe nearly \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt. That number is projected to grow to \$2 trillion by 2024 and \$3 trillion by 2038. Do you support the federal government forgiving all tuition-related student debt from public colleges and universities and establishing a path to debt-free higher education?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

10. SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS ATTIRE IN SCHOOL SPORTS:

Do you support statewide and local measures protecting the rights of public school student athletes who choose to dress modestly or wear religious articles of faith including the hijab, Sikh patka and Jewish kippah while participating in sports?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

11. LOCAL MEASURES TO END BULLYING OF MUSLIMS: Do you support school districts taking measures to identify, record, and prevent anti-Muslim bullying?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** Muslim children are targets for bullying because their name identifies them as Muslim or because they practice their religion openly by praying while at school, wearing a hijab (headscarf) or growing a beard. Sometimes this leads to them being called a “terrorist” by their peers or taunts that they are going to “bomb” the school. Often the child victim of bullying will react or retaliate against their tormentors. School administrators have in the past punished this behavior rather than the initial bullying.*

12. SCHOOL RECOGNITION OF MUSLIM HOLIDAYS: Do you support public school systems with significant Muslim populations in your congressional district and/or state closing for the Muslim holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha*, when many students or faculty would otherwise be absent?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** Eid al-Fitr, which comes at the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan, is the first of the two major Muslim holidays. The second holiday, Eid al-Adha, comes at the end of the Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca. Many public-school districts, including New York City, New York; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Dearborn, Michigan; Burlington, Vermont; Paterson and South Brunswick, New Jersey; and Montgomery County, Maryland, and others, already grant school days off for Eid. Many more schools note Eid on school calendars and excuse student absences.*

13. FEDERAL ANTI-BULLYING REFORM: Recent reports have indicated that Muslim children have faced increased bullying and harassment in schools. Do you support amending Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include religion* as a protected characteristic in schools?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** As of now Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not directly cover religion. In some cases, the US Department of Education can take action against religious-based harassment when it falls under the umbrella of shared ancestry of ethnic characteristics.*

14. SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE: In addressing the school-to-prison pipeline, do you support policies that promote restorative justice and conflict de-escalation and resolution practices as opposed to disciplinary approaches (suspension, expulsion or arrest) in addressing student misconduct?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐



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Section IV

Supporting Human Rights

15. RECOGNIZING APARTHEID IN ISRAEL: In the past two years, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Israeli based human rights group B'Tselem, have separately designated the Israeli government's decades-long human rights abuses against the Palestinian people in both the Occupied Territories and Israel itself as a system of apartheid. Do you support designating Israel's abusive treatment of Palestinians as Apartheid?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

16. RIGHT TO BOYCOTT: Do you support the First Amendment right of Americans and U.S. businesses to engage in a boycott of countries that engage in human rights abuses?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: *Boycotts supporting civil and human rights such as the Montgomery Bus boycott against segregation or the boycott of companies enabling South African Apartheid have been revered throughout American history as an integral part of our political process and means by which to participate in democracy. However, many states have adopted statutes to curb activity involving Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign activity in support of Palestinian human rights.*



2022 Sample Questions
for Candidates and
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Section V

Addressing White Supremacy, Islamophobia and Xenophobic Hate

17. Do you plan to address the rise in white supremacy and white nationalism in the United States?

(Check one) Plans to address ☐ No plans to address ☐

18. Do you plan to address the rise in Islamophobia and hateful rhetoric towards Muslims in the United States?

(Check one) Plans to address ☐ No plans to address ☐

19. Will you affirm that America must stand against xenophobic sentiments directed to members of Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities?

(Check one) Affirm ☐ Does not affirm ☐

20. CREATING A U.S. ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT

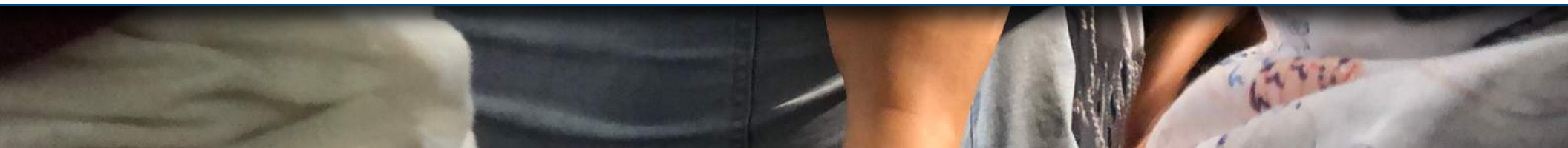
ISLAMOPHOBIA: In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Combatting International Islamophobia Act, which would create a U.S. Department of State Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia overseas. Giving the rise in international persecution of Muslims in China, India, Burma, and France, do you support the creation of a special envoy to monitor and combat Islamophobia?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐



2022 Sample Questions
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Section VI

Supporting Immigrant Rights



21. PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP: Do you support the adoption of comprehensive federal immigration reform which provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and the nation's 12 million undocumented immigrants?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

22. RESETTLING REFUGEES: Do you support locally resettling Syrian, Iraqi, Somali, or Afghani refugees?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

23. SUPPORTING AFGHAN EVACUEES: Do you agree that the United States has a moral obligation following our military withdrawal from Afghanistan to protect and ensure that every Afghan evacuee who sets foot on American soil has a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

24. REPAIRING THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN: Do you support re-issuing diversity visas to past lottery winners who were blocked from coming to the U.S. because of Donald Trump's discriminatory Muslim travel ban?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

25. RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM: Do you support ensuring that refugees are not prevented from seeking asylum at the border or inside the United States?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

26. ENDING ICE MOUs: Do you support state or local law enforcement entering into 287(g) agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to carry out federal immigration law enforcement functions?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐

***Background:** Many state or local law enforcement departments have entered into a partnership with ICE, under a joint Memorandum of Agreement, commonly referred to as 287(g) agreements, to receive delegated authority for federal immigration enforcement within their jurisdictions. These agreements have led to state and local law enforcement officials enforcing immigration policies among immigrant families and communities. While President Biden campaigned on the promise that end 287(g) agreements, his administration has not yet done so.*

27. PROHIBITING CITY OR STATE EMPLOYEE'S ASKING ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS: Would you use your office to support adoption of the Trust Act in local or state government?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: Adopted by cities and states nationwide, the Trust Act prohibits city or state employees — including law enforcement officers — from asking a law-abiding person's immigration status. It would also prohibit the collection of residents' information for unconstitutional federal registries.



2022 Sample Questions
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Section VII

Community Safety & Police Reform



28. END LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFILING: Do you support the adoption of federal and state laws prohibiting law enforcement officers profiling individuals based on their perceived race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, or religion?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

29. POLICE TRAINING: Do you support anti-discrimination and use of force de-escalation training for federal and state law enforcement officers?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

30. BODY-WORN CAMERAS: Under a framework that protects the privacy rights of both citizens and law enforcement, do you support outfitting federal law and state enforcement officers and agents who are required to face an imminent threat of some kind with body-worn cameras?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

31. NO KNOCK-WARRANTS: In the early hours of February 2, Amir Locke, who was sleeping under a blanket, on a living room couch was shot and killed by the Minneapolis police force while executing a no-knock warrant. Breonna Taylor, who was not the subject of a warrant and simply in the wrong place at the wrong

time was also shot and killed by police while they were executing a no-knock warrant. Do you support raising the legal standard for police to seek a no-knock warrant that includes courts evaluating the safety of all individuals who would be present during such raids, and for police to be in uniform and announcing their identity as police officers?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

32. FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY: Do you support banning the government use of facial recognition technology, as they have been the subject of mass surveillance and police misconduct?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** Facial recognition technology is not only dangerously inaccurate, but also a serious infringement on one's right to privacy, and it can have a chilling effect on one's free speech activities.*

33. POLICE SURVEILLANCE: Do you support transparency, accountability, and a use policy for the acquisition of surveillance technology?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** Police departments around the country have begun implementing new pieces of surveillance technology, like drones, in their policing practices without adequate transparency about the rules governing how this new technology will be used. Many state legislatures are stepping in to ensure that the rights of American citizens are not violated.*

34. POLICE SURVEILLANCE: Support for Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System: Do you support the promotion of diversion of people with mental illness from the criminal justice system, and to increase access to community mental health services?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

35. POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN JOINT TASKFORCES: Do you support local police officers who are assigned to federal task forces, such as the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), following local and state laws rather than the looser and highly problematic FBI guidelines?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** The FBI standards for opening a terrorism investigation are so low that they have been widely ridiculed. Investigations have found that federal task forces frequently overstep their mandates and lead to broad, unconstitutional surveillance.*

35. OPPOSING CVE: If elected, would you use your office to support or oppose Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) legacy projects like DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnership (CP3) and related Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention initiatives and programs on any level of the government?

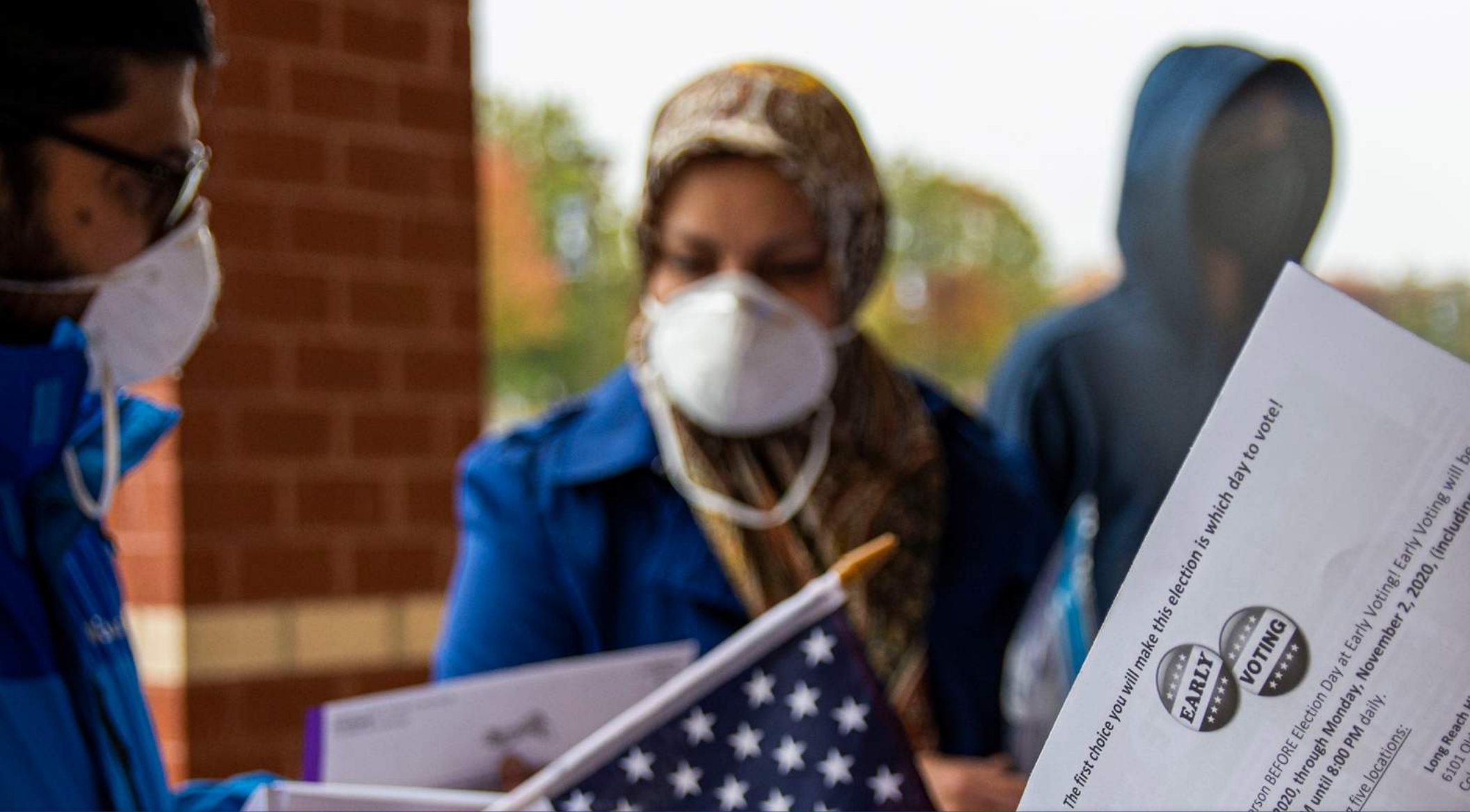
(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: In 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a new anti-terrorism initiative, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), with the seeming objective to deter U.S. residents from joining “violent extremist” groups by bringing community and religious leaders together with law enforcement, health professionals, teachers and social service employees. However, Muslim and allied communities nationwide have rejected the CVE initiative for its primary focus on and singling out of Muslim communities above all other communities for surveillance and criminalization. While campaigning for office, President Biden pledged to “end the Trump Administration’s Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Program,” the successor to CVE. However, in the past year, DHS has instead built up the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnership (CP3), which instead builds off the legacy of earlier CVE programs by seeking to increase federal grant funding for “communities across the United States to prevent individuals from radicalizing to violence and intervene when individuals have already radicalized to violence.” Despite DHS acknowledging

past mistakes were made with CVE and expressing a commitment to better “consider and respect civil rights and civil liberties,” CAIR remains concerned about the program, and its lack of clarity in how it safeguards against possible civil rights violations.



2022 Sample Questions
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Section VIII

Right to Vote



37. VOTING RIGHTS ACT REFORM: Do you support devising a new formula to establish criteria for determining whether states with histories of voter discrimination can fall under Justice Department preclearance oversight?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

***Background:** In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 ruling struck down a key provision of the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act used to determine which states with histories of voter discrimination were required to obtain federal preclearance before changing state voting laws. The Court did however uphold the constitutionality of requiring states with histories of voter discrimination to obtain federal preclearance.*

38. POLICE SURVEILLANCE: Voter ID Laws: Do you support Congress devising a law that bans all modern forms of voter discrimination, such as state voter ID laws?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

39. RESTORING THE RIGHT TO VOTE: Do you support restoring the fundamental right to vote for citizens who have served their prison sentences as a necessary step towards eliminating policies that have historically disenfranchised large segments of communities and disproportionately affected U.S minorities?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐



2022 Sample Questions
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Section IX

Addressing Religious Accommodations for Inmates:

40. Do you support the right of Muslim and Jewish inmates to make religious accommodation requests for halal and kosher meals?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

41. Do you support the right of Muslim inmates to make religious accommodation requests for religious head wear, like hijabs, kufis, and other head coverings?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

42. Do you support the right of Muslim inmates to make religious accommodation requests for copies of the Quran and other religious texts, prayer mats, prayer beads, and other religious items?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

43. Do you support the right of Muslim inmates to make religious accommodation requests for modified meal schedules while fasting during Ramadan?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

44. Do you support the right of Muslim inmates to make religious accommodation requests for daily congregational prayers and Friday religious services?

(Check one)

Support ☐

Oppose ☐

Background: Many Muslim inmates face unreasonable and excessive harassment from prison staff and officials for requesting basic religious accommodations such as for halal food, Qurans and other religious texts, prayer mats, kufis and hijabs (religious headwear), and modified meal schedules while fasting during Ramadan.



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