



2024 SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

Muslims Vote 2024 Election



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CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, proudly presents our annual updated federal election community resource document: the "2024 CAIR Sample Questions for Candidates and Government Officials." This resource aims to assist Muslim community members and allies in questioning and understanding the views and positions of incumbents, new candidates running for office, and government officials already in service.

Questions included in this community resource cover a wide range of issues related to the freedom of religion, the economy, education, immigration, community safety, the right to vote, and the right to boycott. This questionnaire also features a special section addressing the Israeli government's war in Gaza and its occupation of Palestinians in the West Bank, along with the response of the U.S. government.

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 local, state, and federal government officials and policymakers. 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.*****

Section I

PALESTINE/ GAZA



1. CEASEFIRE NOW: Do you support or oppose calls for an immediate and permanent U.S.-backed ceasefire to Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinian civilians in Gaza?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

2. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE has found it is "plausible" that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza. Following Israel's murder of over 32,000 Palestinian civilians, severely injuring 73,000 more, and displacing 85% of the population in Gaza, do you support or oppose claims that Israel has committed genocide?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

3. ENDING MILITARY AID: Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen has called Israel's murder of over 32,000 Palestinian civilians, severely injuring 73,000 more, and displacing 85% of the population in Gaza examples of a "textbook war crime." Do you support or oppose ending any further U.S. military aid or political support to Israel following their action in Gaza?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

4. ENDING THE OCCUPATION: With the backing of the United Nations, more than 50 countries have submitted testimony to the International Court of Justice to issue a nonbinding legal opinion against Israel's ongoing occupation of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza since 1967. Do you support or oppose Israel ending its illegal occupation of Palestinian lands?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

5. DESIGNATING ISRAEL AN APARTHEID GOVERNMENT: South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands, Vusimuzi Madonsela, recently declared that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank "constitute an even more extreme form of institutionalized apartheid against black people in my country," referencing the apartheid regime that South Africa endured until 1994.

Do you support or oppose the view that Israel qualifies as an apartheid state?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

6. UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY:

The Biden Administration and Congress have barred until next year any U.S. funding to UNRWA, the only international organization aiding Gaza and the West Bank. One in four people in Gaza are starving, with many children and elderly already having starved to death. Do you support or oppose the continued funding of UNRWA?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

Note: UNRWA is the acronym for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

7. HUMANITARIAN AID: In Gaza, half a million people face starvation, and all 2.3 million residents experience acute food shortages. Do you support or oppose implementing urgent measures to address the dire human rights situation in Gaza, including providing essential humanitarian aid and promoting sustainable solutions to alleviate suffering and uphold the basic rights of the people in Gaza?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

8. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR PALESTINI-

ANS: Given the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict and the resulting displacement of Palestinians, Do you support providing Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Palestinians seeking refuge in the United States?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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 ☐ Undecided ☐

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 ☐ Undecided ☐

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 following such religious codes comply with U.S. law?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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.

ECONOMY



1. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

Background: Over the past decade, several businesses declared themselves “Muslim Free Zones” or denied service to Muslim patrons in the past decade.

2. LIVING WAGE: The majority of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. In 2022, 12.4% of Americans lived in poverty, up from 7.8% in 2021. In response, a growing number of cities and states are exploring the possibility of increasing minimum wages to support low-income workers and families better. Do you support annually increasing the minimum wage, which was federally set in 2009 to \$7.25, to correspond to the cost of living?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

3. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

4. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

EDUCATION



1. SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN:

Do you support the adoption of federal and state programs that would expand 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

2. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

3. OPTING OUT: Do you support providing parents with the ability to opt their children out of classroom lessons that include discussions about sex and romantic relationships if parents feel those discussions would force students to contradict their sincerely held religious beliefs?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

4. FREEDOM OF SPEECH: Do you support the right of students on university campuses to peacefully criticize the Israeli government and express support for Palestinian human rights without facing discrimination, harassment, or censorship for doing so?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

5. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

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. In the past, school administrators have punished this behavior rather than the initial bullying.

6. SUPPORTING STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS: Nearly one-third of all American students go into debt to pay for their college education, 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 interest-free, principle-only student loans going forward?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

7. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

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.

8. MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH: This year, American Muslims welcomed the introduction of a congressional House and Senate resolution recognizing January as “Muslim-American Heritage Month” and celebrating the achievements of American Muslims. Similar resolutions and proclamations have been adopted in Los Angeles, Orange County, Illinois, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, where Muslim-American Heritage Month is celebrated. Do you support the recognition of Muslim-American Heritage Month?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

9. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

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.

10. 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 non-violent student misconduct?

(Check one) **Support** ☐ **Oppose** ☐ **Undecided** ☐

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS

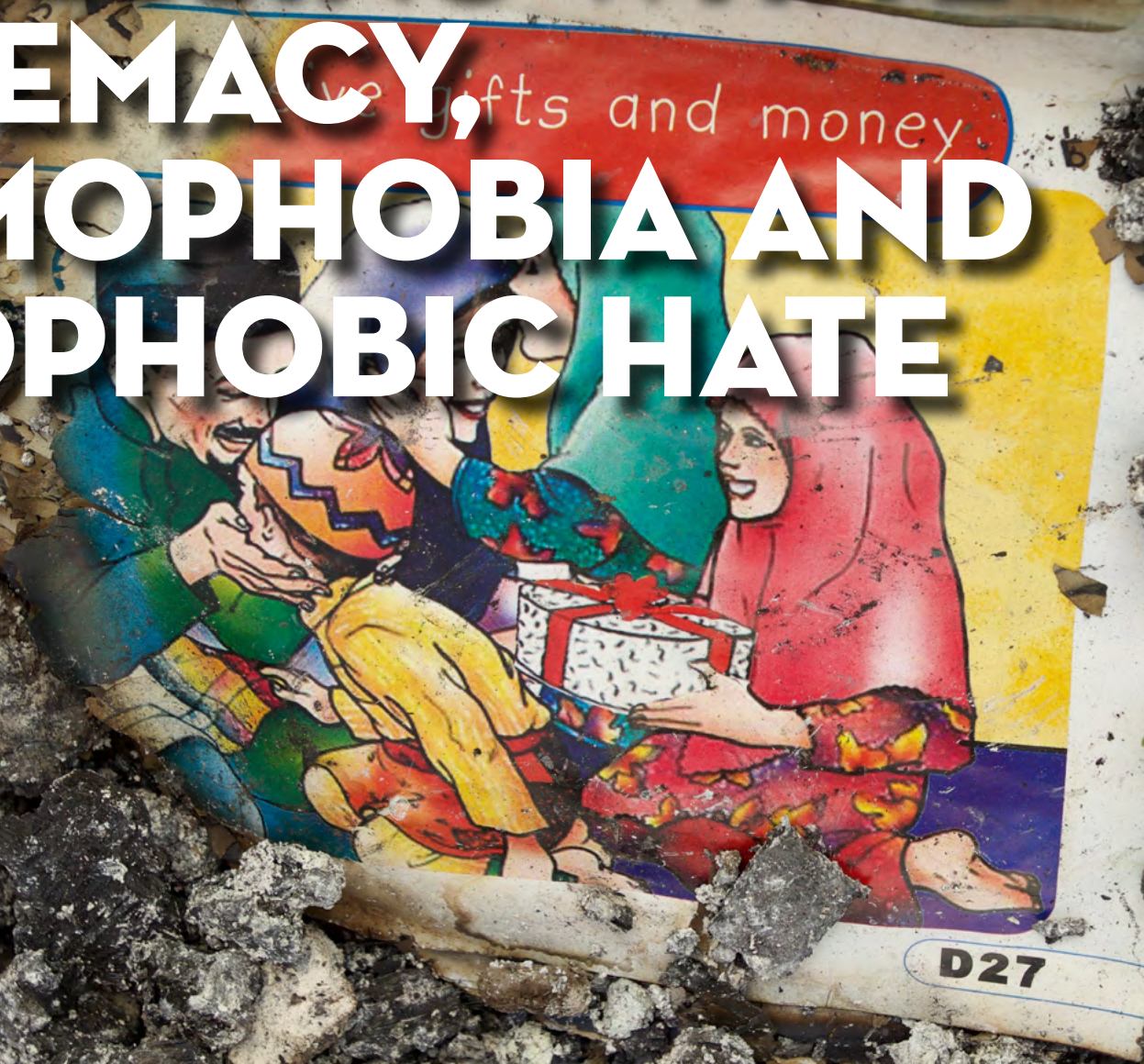


1. RIGHT TO BOYCOTT: Do you support the First Amendment right of Americans and U.S. businesses to engage in a boycott of countries that engage in human rights abuses?

(Check one) **Support** ☐ **Oppose** ☐ **Undecided** ☐

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 the 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.

ADDRESSING WHITE SUPREMACY, ISLAMOPHOBIA AND XENOPHOBIC HATE



D27

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

4. CREATING A U.S. ENVOY TO MONITOR AND

COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA: In 2021, 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. That same act was reintroduced by Representative Ilhan Omar and Senator Corey Booker in the 118th Congress.

Given 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

AMERICAN MUSLIMS
REFUSE TO BE
SECOND CLASS
CITIZENS
CAIR

LIBERTY
AND
JUSTICE
FOR ALL. RIGHT?
CAIR

SCOTUS,
PLEASE REMIND THE
FBI
ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION
CAIR

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CAIR



1. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

2. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

3. 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? The Biden Administration has refused to do so.

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

4. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

5. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

6. PROHIBITING CITY OR STATE EMPLOYEES ASKING ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS: Would you use your office to support the adoption of the Trust Act, which prohibits local law enforcement or state governments from participating in immigration enforcement?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

7. SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN PAROLE FOR CAMEROON:

Do you support or oppose implementing measures to address the pressing demand for Special Humanitarian Parole for Cameroon, considering the ongoing armed conflicts, displacement, and human rights abuses faced by Cameroonian refugees?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

Background: The Anglophone Crisis, ongoing since 2017, has claimed over 6,000 lives and displaced 765,000 people. Boko Haram's attacks in the Far North region exacerbate the situation, while over 200,000 refugees from the Central African Republic strain resources. Economic challenges add to the turmoil, including fuel price hikes and soaring food costs. Political unrest, highlighted by the trial of 17 individuals for the kidnapping and murder of journalist Martinez Zogo, further destabilizes the country. These crises have led to significant internal displacement, testing Cameroon's capacity to restore peace and stability.



Section VIII

COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE REFORM

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

2. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

3. INVESTING IN ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: Given that the United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other country, do you support shifting towards community-based alternatives to incarceration, such as restorative justice programs and substance abuse treatments, to address the root causes of crime and reduce recidivism rates?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

4. BODY-WORN CAMERAS: Under a framework that protects the privacy rights of 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?

5. 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 was 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 announce their identity as police officers?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

6. FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY: Do you support banning the government's use of facial recognition technology, as it has been the subject of mass surveillance and police misconduct?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

8. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

RIGHT TO VOTE

The first choice you will make this election is which day to vote!



Maryland voters can vote in-person **BEFORE** Election Day at Early Voting! Early Voting will be held from **Monday, October 26, 2020, through Monday, November 2, 2020, (including Saturday and Sunday)** from **7:00 AM until 8:00 PM** daily.

Early Voting will be held at the following five locations:

Marriotts Ridge High School- Aux. Gym and Gym
12100 Woodford Drive
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Meadowbrook Athletic Complex- Main Room
5001 Meadowbrook Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Reservoir High School- Aux. G
11530 Scagsville Road
Jilton, MD 20759

Long Reach P
6101 Ol
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1. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

2. VOTER ID LAWS: Do you support Congress devising a law that bans all modern forms of voter discrimination, such as certain state voter ID laws?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

3. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

4. PROTECTING MAIL-IN VOTING: In response to recent efforts to restrict mail-in voting access in several states, and considering that 45% of voters voted by absentee or

mail-in ballots in the 2022 Midterm Election, do you support enacting federal legislation to protect and expand mail-in voting, to ensure all eligible voters can participate in elections conveniently?

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INMATES



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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

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

(Check one) Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Undecided ☐

3. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

4. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐

5. 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 ☐ Undecided ☐



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