CAIR

Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR 2024 ELECTION SURVEY OF MUSLIM VOTERS

August 29, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, CAIR has consistently provided a platform for American Muslims to voice their perspectives and preferences through detailed surveys and reports.

The 2024 CAIR Muslim Voter Survey Report, based on extensive data collection from both the primary season and ongoing general election, offers a timely and detailed snapshot of the political attitudes within the American Muslim community. It underscores the critical role Muslim voters are expected to play in the upcoming election and serves as a call to candidates to engage meaningfully with this vital constituency.

As the 2024 national general election approaches, **America's estimated 2.5 million Muslim voters** are positioned to once again play a crucial role in shaping the political landscape. With their significant presence in key swing states, Muslim voters have the potential to influence the outcomes of not only the presidential race but also numerous congressional, state, and local elections. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Muslim voters' political inclinations and voting intentions in this pivotal election year.

The political landscape has shifted dramatically following President Biden's decision to withdraw from the race and the subsequent nomination of Vice President Harris as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate. Just before Biden's withdrawal, CAIR's unreleased poll of over 2,500 Muslim American voters showed Biden (7.3%) and Trump (4.9%) each receiving less than 10% support of respondents compared to 36% for Jill Stein and 25.2% for Cornel West.

In the wake of the Democratic National Convention, CAIR conducted a scientific poll of 1,159 Muslim voters via Short Message Service (SMS) on August 25-27, 2024, to assess the updated voting plans of the American Muslim community. The results indicate that **29.4% of American Muslims support Kamala Harris, 29.1% favor Jill Stein, 11.2% favor Donald Trump, 4.2% support Cornel West, and less than 1% favor Chase Oliver of the Libertarian Party.**

CAIR AUGUST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY OF MUSLIM VOTERS (AUG. 25-27)
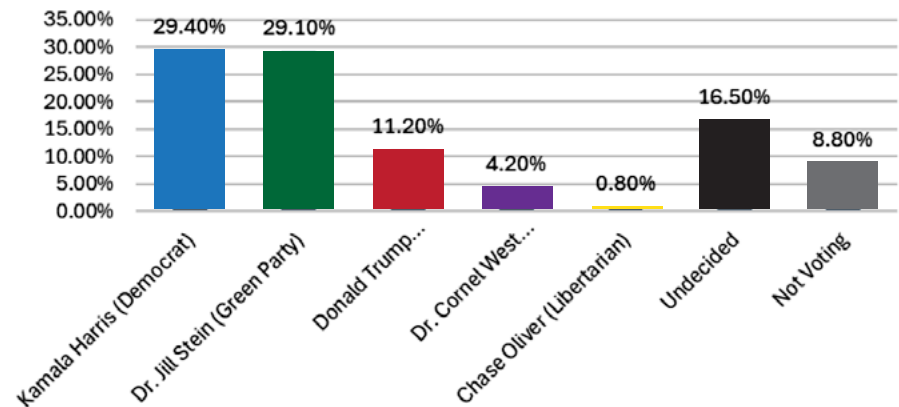
Despite this shift, a notable **16% of Muslim voters remain undecided,** reflecting ongoing concerns over critical issues. Additionally, **8.3% say they will likely not vote** in November's election.

Following CAIR's post-Republican and post-Democratic convention survey, third-party candidate Jill Stein continues to enjoy significant support from Muslim voters while Cornel West's support dropped significantly and Vice President Harris is polling significantly better than President Biden did. **In both CAIR surveys, Muslim voter support for Trump remained consistently between 11.2% (Aug.) and 4.9% (May to July), a range of six percentage points.**

That earlier survey of Muslim voters found in both cases 94% had disapproved of President Joe Biden and Congress' recent job performance, with 98% (2188) saying they disapproved of how President Joe Biden has handled the war in Gaza.

For additional context, in a CAIR September 30, 2020 poll of 846 Muslim voters, 71% indicated they would vote for then-candidate Joe Biden, while 18% reported they would vote for then-President Donald Trump.

Based on conversations with the Muslim community, CAIR believes the issue of Gaza is driving the political choices of many American Muslim voters.

The data also shows a narrowing percentage on non-voters, **with only 8.8% of Muslim voters now reporting that they plan to abstain from voting. With over 90% of Muslim voters still indicating they have a voting preference or are still considering which candidate to support,** the American Muslim community continues to exhibit a strong determination to participate in this election despite widespread discontent.

BACKGROUND ON 2024 CAIR MUSLIM VOTER SURVEY REPORT

This report combines the results of two separate surveys: one conducted before President Joe Biden stepped down as the Democratic Party's 2024 presidential nominee, and another conducted after Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, accepted the Democratic Party's nominations for president and vice president.

Conducted between August 25-27, CAIR's "August Presidential Election Survey of Muslim Voters" serves as a follow-up to the May-July primary survey. For this survey, CAIR partnered with a third-party Data Analytics and Digital Targeting firm Molitical Consulting LLC to ask 1,076 Muslim voters via cellphone text message whom they plan to vote for in the November 5, 2024, presidential election.

The earlier survey, conducted between May 23, 2024, and July 18, while Joe Biden was still a candidate, was designed to capture the perspectives of the American Muslim community amid local, state, and congressional midterm elections. It was made publicly accessible online, inviting self-identified American Muslims to participate. A total of 2,850 responses were collected, offering insights into voter registration status, political preferences, views on political party performance, and stances on various social and policy issues.

HIGHLIGHTS & IMPLICATIONS

SURVEY ONE: "CAIR AUGUST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY OF MUSLIM VOTERS" (AUG. 25 - 26)

This Muslim voter choice text message-based survey of **1,155 Muslim voters clearly indicates that no one presidential candidate enjoys the majority of Muslim voters' support. At present, Vice President Kamala Harris (29.4%) has an 18+ point lead over former president Donald Trump (11.2%), in comparison to 34% of Muslims still favoring third-party candidates Jill Stein (29.1%), Dr. Cornel West (4.2%), and Chase Oliver (<1%), 16.5% remaining undecided, and 8.8% have decided not to vote.**

Whether Muslim voters will continue to support Stein, Harris, or Trump in such a split vote on the November 5th election will be determined by how candidates speak to their concerns.

SURVEY TWO: "CAIR MUSLIM VOTER SURVEY" (MAY 23 - JUL.18)

This analysis of 2,850 Muslim voter responses highlights the diverse political landscape within the American Muslim community, emphasizing the importance of social justice, healthcare, education, and economic stability as primary concerns. The findings suggest significant opportunities for voter mobilization and engagement strategies tailored to this community's unique needs and priorities.

Voter Participation: A significant 82% of respondents indicated their intent to vote in the November election, demonstrating high projected voter turnout among the Muslim community.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** With an estimated 2.5 million registered Muslim voters, representing less than a third of the American Muslim population, community organizations, and political parties can further increase civic engagement with voter registration drives and candidate forums.

Political Party Preferences: While 69.1% of respondents reported voting for the Democratic Party, a notable 59.7% plan to support third-party candidates in the 2024 Presidential election.

Presidential Candidate Support: Candidates like Dr. Cornel West and Jill Stein received substantial support, with 25.2% and 36% respectively.

Performance Approval: An overwhelming 94.4% disapprove of President Joe Biden's performance, and 94.5% disapprove of Congress's performance.

Party Control of Congress: 55.4% of respondents were unsure about which party should control Congress, highlighting a need for increased voter education and engagement.

Civic Engagement: Respondents showed varied plans for civic engagement, with 17.8% intending to donate to campaigns and 15% planning to volunteer with civic or religious organizations.

Policy Priorities: Key issues for the American Muslim community include protecting religious freedom, addressing racial inequality, and providing accessible healthcare. A significant portion believes neither political party adequately addresses these issues.

Support of Third Parties: Responses show that American Muslims plan to vote for parties outside the 'democrat" or 'republican' part, with a significant percentage of voters (60%) planning to support a party that is not 'democrat' or 'republican.' Many respondents do not feel tied strongly to one specific party.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** Advocacy organizations and policymakers need to focus on these areas to address the community's needs and concerns effectively.

Support for Comprehensive Healthcare: There is a clear demand for accessible healthcare among respondents, with providing accessible healthcare ranking as one of the top issues. This underscores the need for healthcare reforms that ensure equitable access to medical services for all, particularly marginalized communities.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** Legislators and healthcare providers should consider these findings when developing and implementing healthcare policies.

Importance of Education and Economy: Education and the economy are also significant issues for respondents, indicating that these areas are crucial for the community's well-being and prospects.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** Policymakers should prioritize educational reforms and economic policies that promote stability, growth, and opportunities for the Muslim community.

Strong Stance of Human Rights: Respondents showed strong support for global human rights issues, such as the situation of Rohingya and Uyghur Muslims and the genocide occurring in Gaza. This strong support indicates a high level of awareness and concern for international human rights among the Muslim community in the U.S.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** Advocacy groups should leverage this support to push for more robust U.S. foreign policies that address human rights abuses globally.

Implication for Voter Mobilization: Given the high rate of survey participation and the clear prioritization of certain issues, there is a significant opportunity for voter mobilization within the Muslim community.

> **OPPORTUNITY:** Organizations focused on voter registration and turnout should target the American Muslim community, emphasizing the importance of their vote in shaping policies that reflect their values and priorities.

METHODOLOGY

SURVEY ONE: "CAIR AUGUST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY OF MUSLIM VOTERS" (AUG. 25 - 27)

The CAIR August Presidential Election Survey aims to capture the most current preferences of Muslim voters for the presidential election less than three months before November 5th.

CAIR, in collaboration with Molitical Consulting LLC, designed the survey questions and obtained a proprietary, randomized national list of 40,000 registered Muslim voters from 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Military members serving overseas. The survey was distributed to this dataset from Sunday, August 25, to Tuesday, August 27, with 1,478 responses received, 1076 of which were verified and matched to the national voter file.

Margin of Error Statement: The survey results have a margin of error of 0.10 percentage points at the 90% confidence level. This means that if the survey were conducted multiple times, CAIR would expect the true population parameter to fall within 0.10 points of the observed survey estimate 90% of the time. It is important to note that this margin of error applies to the overall survey findings and may vary for specific subgroups within the sample.

The 40,000 voters targeted for the survey were a stratified random sample of registered Muslim voters using Targetsmart's national voter file and the Ethnicity + data. The random sample was selected from Muslims, who were both registered and had a reliable cell phone on record.

The survey was weighted on age range, gender, race, and party affiliation to reflect the population of registered Muslims nationally.

CAIR plans to publish an even more thorough analysis of the survey data in the next week or two.

SURVEY TWO: "CAIR MUSLIM VOTER SURVEY" (MAY 23 - JUL.18)

The purpose of the 2024 Muslim Voter Survey—whose responses constitute the majority of this report—is to better understand the political views and attitudes of American Muslim voters during the ongoing local, state, and federal primary elections.

CAIR designed the survey questionnaire and used online survey platform Qualtrics to design and conduct the survey. The survey results were analyzed by Associate Professor Taylor Bryant and Associate Professor Kyle Lorenzano.

The questionnaire focused on critical topics relevant to American Muslim voters, primarily featuring multiple-choice questions. Using a link generated by Qualtrics, the survey was distributed via emails and text messages to CAIR's mailing lists and promoted through social media, including paid advertisements.

Survey Administration: The survey data was collected over two weeks, analyzed by the Associate Professor Taylor Bryant and Associate Professor Kyle Lorenzano, and reported by CAIR to reflect the community's views accurately.

Response Analysis: The survey explored the responses of 2,850 Muslim voters, their demographics, political behavior, views on public issues, and civic engagement intentions.

With 46% identifying as White, a category that likely includes Muslims of Middle Eastern, Turkic, and European descent. Additionally, 31% of respondents are Asian, a group that includes South Asian, East Asian, and Southeast Asian Muslims. The survey also includes 16% Black, 3% Hispanic, 2% under the "Other" category, and 2% unknown. This diversity in racial representation highlights the broad spectrum of backgrounds within the American Muslim community, offering valuable insights into their political preferences and trends.

CAIR notes a remarkable response among young Muslim voters aged 18 to 29, with 42% expressing support for Kamala Harris. This strong backing among younger voters suggests that Harris's platform resonates well with the priorities and values of the emerging Muslim electorate.

CAIR August Presidental Election Survey Muslim Voters Participants by Race	
Row Labels	Percent
Asian	31%
Black	16%
Hispanic	3%
Native American	0%
Other	2%
Unknown	2%
White, Turkic, Middle Eastern	46%

The CAIR August Presidential Election Survey reflects a diverse range of participants.

CAIR August Presidental Election Survey Muslim Voters Participants	
Gender	Count
Female	48.80%
Male	51.20%

SURVEY ONE: RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

CAIR August Presidental Election Survey Muslim Voters by Age						
Candidate	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	Grand Total
Kamala Harris (Democrat)	42%	25%	32%	34%	31%	32%
Donald Trump (Republican)	3%	16%	17%	13%	9%	12%
Dr. Cornel West (People's Party)	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Dr. Jill Stein (Green Party)	4%	35%	23%	18%	34%	25%
Chase Oliver (Libertarian)	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Undecided	38%	12%	11%	18%	15%	16%
Not Voting	8%	8%	13%	12%	6%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SURVEY TWO: NOTE ON RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey respondents included **1326 men (60.6%), 809 women (37%), and 50 (2.2%) individuals who preferred not to report their gender from across the nation.** In reporting responses to questions by gender, only male and female responses were provided.
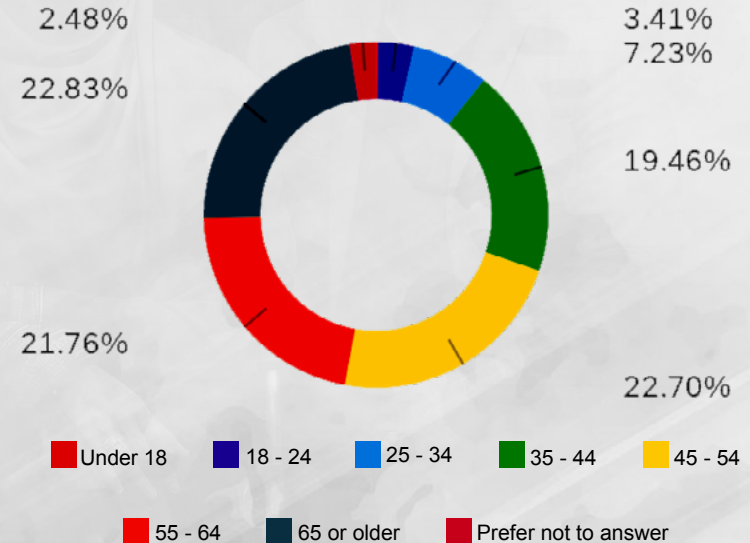
In reporting responses to questions by race or ethnicity, only races or ethnicities with 20 or more responses were highlighted in this report. Those races with 20 or more responses include the following:

African (87)
African American (98)
Arab (620)
Asian (306)
Central Asian (36)
East Asian (43)
Indigenous/Native American (20)
Latino (Hispanic) (43)
Persian (37)
South Asian (553)
Southeast Asian (186)
White/Caucasian (324)

When this survey report breaks down responses to questions by race or ethnicity, there is also some overlap in reporting where the respondents who identified as more than one race or ethnicity have their answers count in each listed racial or ethnic demographic. Meaning someone who identified as being both African American and White/Caucasian will have their answer counted and reported under each demographic.

Additionally, the survey respondents' racial or ethnic or gender makeup does not exactly match the demographic composition of the American Muslim community, any notable differences in responses based on gender and ethnicity are highlighted in the survey analysis section.

Survey Participants by Age

2.48%
3.41%
7.23%
22.83%
19.46%
22.70%
21.76%

Legend:
- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 or older
- Prefer not to answer

SURVEY ONE RESULTS: "CAIR AUGUST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY OF MUSLIM VOTERS" (AUG. 25 - 26)

Question 1: The Republican & Democratic conventions have wrapped up, and both parties have formally nominated their presidential candidates. As a Muslim American, who do you plan on supporting in the upcoming Presidential election?

Kamala Harris (Democrat) 29.4%
Donald Trump (Republican) 11.2%
Dr. Cornel West (People's Party) 4.2%
Dr. Jill Stein (Green Party) 29.1%
Chase Oliver (Libertarian) <1%
Undecided 16.5%
Not Voting 8.8%

SURVEY TWO RESULTS: "CAIR MUSLIM VOTER SURVEY" (MAY 23 - JUL.18)

Question 1: Participation
Yes (3205) 95.8%, No (33) 2.9%

Question 2: Are you Muslim?
Of the respondents, 97.9% (2588) identified as Muslim, 0% (0) said no, and 2% (55) preferred not to say.
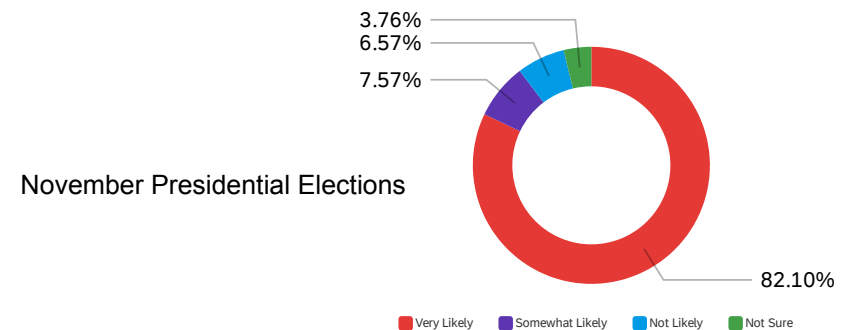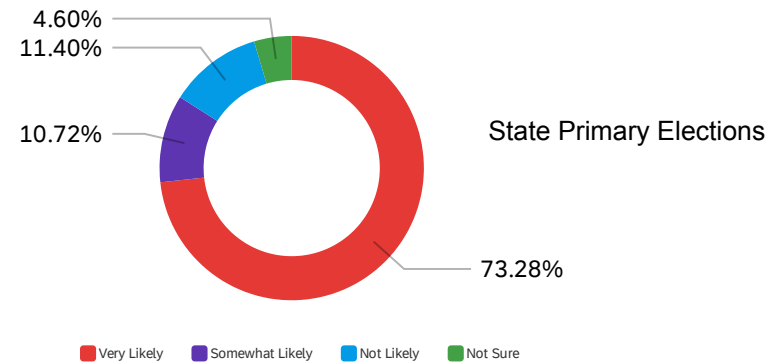
Question 3: Are you registered to vote?
Most all survey respondents, 94.7% (2650) reported as registered to vote; 3.6% (103) are not registered to vote; and 1.6% (45) preferred not to say.

Question 4: How likely is it that you have voted or intend to vote in the following elections?

The majority of American Muslim respondents 73.2% (1736) report they are 'very likely' likely to vote in their state's primary election. For the Presidential election, 82.1% (1899) of respondents reported that they are "very likely" to vote.

CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION: This high rate of anticipated voter participation (73.2% and 82.1%) indicates a significant opportunity for voter mobilization within the Muslim community. Organizations focused on voter registration and turnout should target this community, emphasizing the importance of their vote in shaping policies that reflect their values and priorities.

4.60%
11.40%
10.72%
73.28%

State Primary Elections

Very Likely   Somewhat Likely   Not Likely   Not Sure

3.76%
6.57%
7.57%
82.10%

November Presidential Elections

Very Likely   Somewhat Likely   Not Likely   Not Sure

Question 5: What political party do you primarily vote for?
69.1% (1743) of Muslim respondents reported voting for the Democratic Party, while 4.9% (125) voted for the Republican Party and 19.2% (485) voted as "Other".

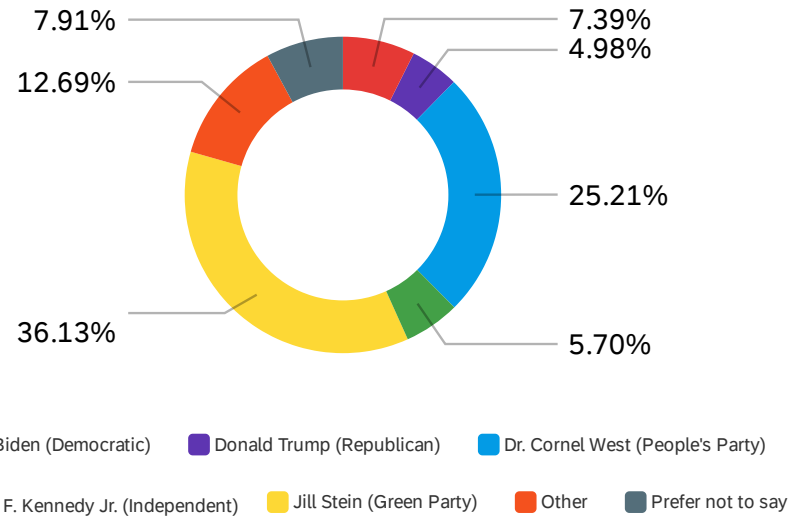**Question 6: Which political party do you plan to support in your state's November election?**
For the 2024 Presidential election, 25.7% (639) of Muslim respondents reported planning to vote for the Democratic party, 6.4% (159) for the Republican party, and a large majority of 59.7% (1483) plan to vote "other" in the 2024 Presidential election. 8.1% (203) answered "Prefer not to say".

CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION: This distribution indicates a notable inclination toward third-party or independent candidates (59.7%), reflecting the community's diverse political affiliations and potential dissatisfaction with the major parties. This trend presents an opportunity for third-party candidates and advocacy groups to engage more deeply with Muslim voters who may be seeking alternatives to the traditional party system.

8.17%
25.75%
6.40%
59.68%

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Other
- Prefer not to say
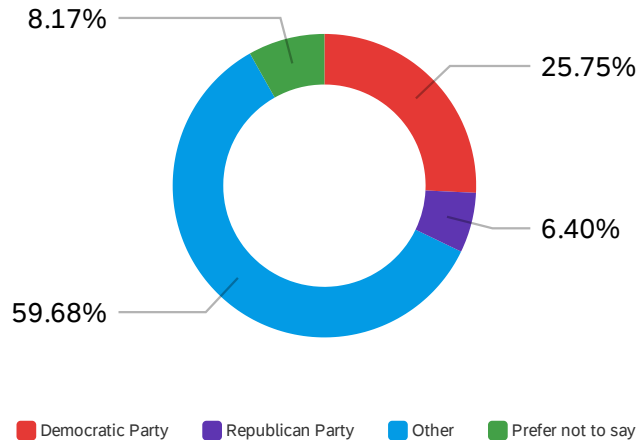
Question 7: Which presidential candidate do you most support in the November 2024 election?
Looking at the upcoming November 2024 election, 7.3% (184) of Muslim respondents reported that they plan to vote for current President Joe Biden and 4.9% (124) stated they planned to vote for Donald Trump. Other candidates recorded larger results of respondents including Dr. Cornel West (25.2%, 628), Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (5.7%, 142), Jill Stein (Green Party) (36%, 899), "Other" (12.6%, 316) and 7.9%, (198) preferred not to answer the question.

7.91%
7.39%
4.98%
12.69%
25.21%
36.13%
5.70%

- Joe Biden (Democratic)
- Donald Trump (Republican)
- Dr. Cornel West (People's Party)
- Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (Independent)
- Jill Stein (Green Party)
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Question 8: Do you approve or disapprove of President Joe Biden's recent performance?
A large majority of 94.4% (2066) of Muslim respondents reported they disapproved of President Joe Biden's performance.

**Question 9: Do you approve or disapprove of Congress' recent performance?**

Similarly, 94.5% (2279) of Muslim respondents reported they disapproved of Congress' current performance.

> **CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION:** This overwhelming disapproval (94.4%) reflects the community's broader concerns about representation and effectiveness in addressing key issues such as religious freedom, racial inequality, and fair treatment of immigrants. Advocacy organizations and policymakers should take note of this sentiment to better align their efforts with the community's expectations and priorities.

Question 10: Do you want Republicans or Democrats to win control of Congress in the November General election?

When asked what party they wanted to win control of Congress in the November 2024 general election, 6.6% (162) of respondents reported the "Republican" party while 37.9% (929) chose the "Democratic" party. However, the largest majority of Muslim respondents (55.4%, 1357) were "Not sure".

> **CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION:** This high level of uncertainty (55.4%) suggests a need for greater engagement and education about the parties' platforms and policies. Advocacy organizations and community leaders can mobilize these undecided voters by providing clear, accessible information and fostering discussions about congressional control's implications. This approach could help reduce uncertainty and encourage more informed and decisive participation in the electoral process.

6.61%

37.93%

55.45%

■ Republicans   ■ Democrats   ■ Not sure
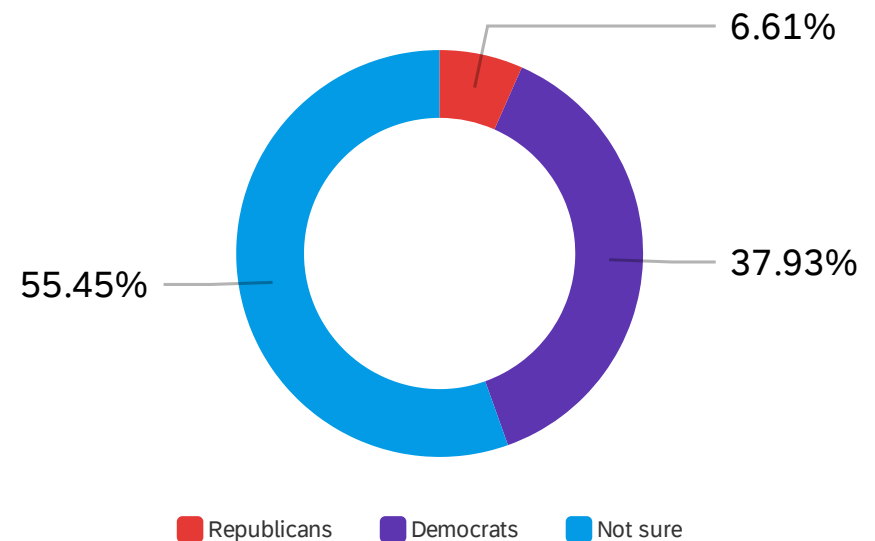
Question 11: This election year 2024, do you plan to participate in any of the following civic engagement or election activities?
Check all that apply.

Examining how Muslim respondents report their plans to be civically engaged or participate in election activities. The largest respondent group when reporting, had "not yet decided" (25.8%, 1165).

The top three selected planned actions included:

1) Donate to a political or social campaign (17.8%, 804)
2) Volunteer with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization (15%, 680)
3) Get involved in another way (12.6%, 568).

CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION: Advocacy organizations and community leaders can leverage this information to tailor engagement strategies that resonate with the diverse ways in which the Muslim community plans to contribute to civic life.

Question 12: Which political party would you say is most concerned with the following policy positions?
The majority of Muslim Respondents reported "neither" for which political party aligns with the following positions:

1) Protecting religious freedom (56.8%, 1364)
2) Addressing racial inequality (49.4%, 1184)
3) Providing accessible healthcare (40.7%, 973)
4) Treating all immigrants fairly and equally (54.1%, 1289)

Question 13: How would you characterize each of the following political parties' feelings towards Muslims?
For the "Democratic" and the "Republican" parties, Muslim voters reported both political parties' feelings as largely "unfriendly." The "Democratic" party reported 48.5% (1146) as "unfriendly" and the "Republican" party totaled 89.6% (2103).

CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION: This trend presents a significant opportunity for voter mobilization within the Muslim community. Organizations focused on voter registration and turnout should target this community, emphasizing the importance of their vote in shaping policies that reflect their values and priorities. Engaging with Muslim voters who may be seeking alternatives to the traditional party system can enhance the effectiveness of these mobilization efforts.

Question 14: Generally, do you lean more conservative, liberal, or moderate on social issues?
Most Muslim respondents report being "Moderate" (43.66%, 1027) on social issues. "Conservative" respondents made up 29.6% (697), while "Liberal" respondents totaled 19.4% (458).

Legend: Conservative, Liberal, Moderate, Not sure
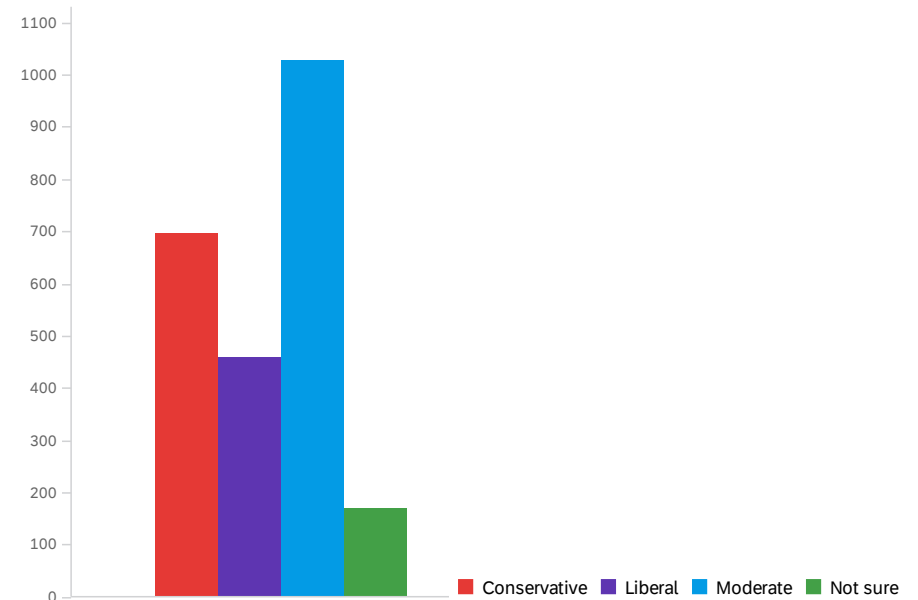
Question 15: Generally, do you consider yourself to be more fiscally conservative, liberal, or moderate?

Most Muslim respondents report viewing themselves as mostly "Moderate" (46.1%,1089) fiscally. "Conservative" respondents made up 29.1% (688), while "Liberal" respondents totaled 16.8% (397).

■ Conservative ■ Liberal ■ Moderate ■ Not sure
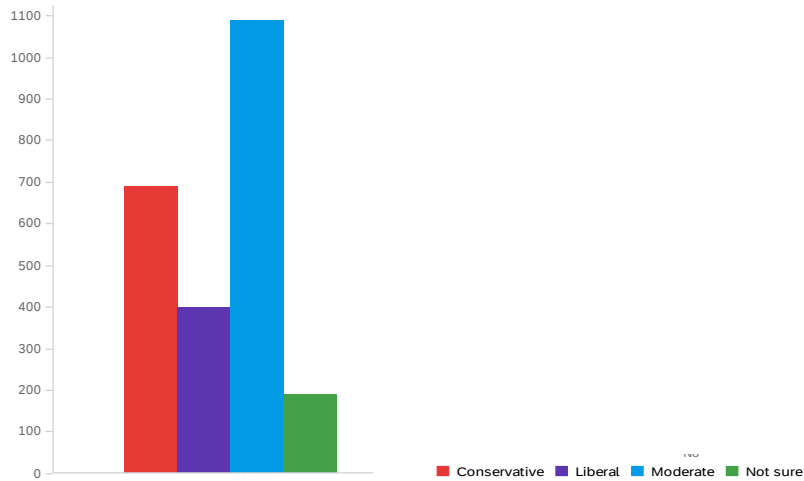
Question 16: Do you approve or disapprove of President Joe Biden's handling of the Israeli government's war in Gaza?

In a large majority, 98.2% (2188) of Muslim respondents disapprove of how President Joe Biden has handled the war in Gaza.

■ Disapprove ■ Approve ■ Neither approve nor disapprove
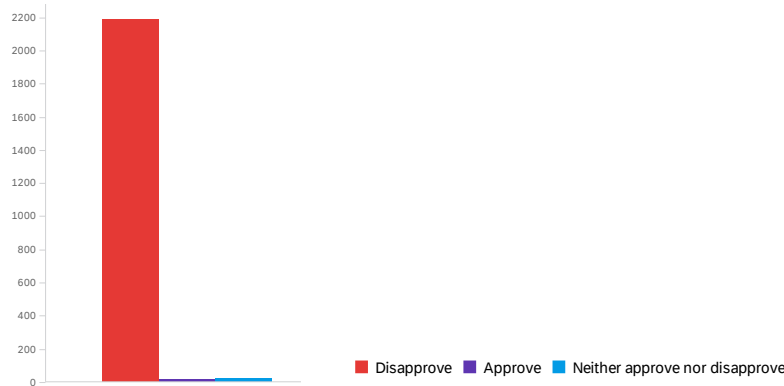
Question 17: How much do you agree with the following statement? *"The United States government promotes human rights and justice globally."*

Muslim respondents (64%,1453) reported as "strongly disagree[ing]" with the U.S. 's promotion of "human rights and justice globally". Conversely, only 1.1% (26) of respondents felt they "strongly agree[d]".

Question 18: What are the three most important domestic issues to you in this election year?

The top five important domestic issues Muslim respondents report being concerned with during the 2024 election cycle include:

1) International Human Rights (1106)
2) Religious Freedom (548)
3) Healthcare Access (484)
4) Hate Crimes (459)
5) Gun Violence (434)

Question 19: What are the most important Muslim-related foreign policy issues to you in this election year? Check all that apply.

The top five important Muslim-related foreign policy issues respondents report being concerned with during the 2024 election cycle include:

1) Israeli Genocide (2215)
2) China Genocide of Uyghur Muslims (1568)
3) Discrimination against Muslims in India (1559)
4) Burma Genocide of Rohingya Muslims (1480)
5) Conflict in Sudan (1186)

CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION: This indicates an elevated level of awareness and concern for international human rights among the Muslim community in the U.S. Advocacy groups should leverage this support to push for more robust U.S. foreign policies that address human rights abuses globally.

Question 20: Regarding a candidate's stance on abortion, to what extent does their position influence your voting decision?

27.9% (631) of Muslim respondents felt a candidate's stance on abortion had a "Moderate[ly]" influence on their voting decision, while 24.6% (557) reported "not at all", 23.4% (530) had "slightly" impacted influence, 18% (407) reported "very much" and 5.9% (134) felt it had "complete[ly]".

Question 21: Which of the following statements best represents your views on the issue of how to address existing student loan debt?

For Muslim respondents, 43.4% (985) supported "full student loan forgiveness", 31.2% (709) supported student loan forgiveness "partial[ly]". Only 14.2% (323) did not support student loan forgiveness "at all".

Question 22: Which of the following statements best represents your views about how to change the student loan system for future students?

Largely, 88.1% of Muslim respondents (1995) responded they "support[ed] establishing interest-free student loans for future students".

Question 23: Do you think Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. have increased or decreased since President Biden took office?

When asked if anti-Muslim sentiment had "increased" or "decreased" in the U.S. since President Biden took office, 72.5% (1644) felt it had "increased", while 4.4% (100) felt it had since "decreased" and 18.3% (417) responded it had "stayed the same".

> **CORRESPONDING IMPLICATION:** These responses reflect the community's ongoing concerns about discrimination and social justice (72.5%), emphasizing the need for continued advocacy and policy efforts focused on protecting religious freedom and addressing racial inequality.

Question 24: Including prayer, how involved are you in activities at the mosque or Islamic Center?

Respondents reported as being "somewhat involved" (54%, 1217) in activities in their mosque or Islamic Center. 27.3% (616) report being "very involved" and 17.1% (387) report being "not very involved".

Questions 25-27 are demographic questions that are explained on page 8 (gender, race, and age).