

Election 2007 Virginia Muslim Voter Issues

During early June through mid July, 2007, VMPAC conducted surveys in various community and mosque events in Northern Virginia. From a list of 15 issues for county elections and 15 issues for state elections, here is how 782 Muslim registered voters rated their issues of concern:

At the **county level**, the 5 most important issues were:

Anti-immigrant resolutions: 96% were concerned about anti-immigrant resolutions at the county level – As in many ethnic communities, Muslims in Virginia expressed worries about the new efforts to allow local police/sheriff to do immigration enforcement, and possible profiling and civil rights violations.

Education: 93% thought education was an important issue – Good school systems and proper funding for those were a top priority for the Muslim community.

Support for diversity: 92% felt support for diversity by candidates was essential – Muslim voters are eager to know which county candidates have a strong commitment to diversity.

Cuts in social services: 84% had opposition to cuts in social services – Muslim voters were opposed to cuts in county social services, like county health services, etc.

Traffic congestions: 72% felt that local traffic congestions were a serious problem.

At the **state level**, the 5 most important issues were:

Anti-immigrant legislations: 95% were concerned about anti-immigrant legislations at the state level – As in many ethnic communities, Muslims in Virginia expressed worries about the new efforts to allow state police to do immigration enforcement, and possible profiling and civil rights violations.

Support for diversity: 93% felt support for diversity by candidates was essential – Muslim voters are eager to know which House and Senate candidates have a strong commitment to diversity.

Payday lending: 82% thought payday lending was wrong and needed to be controlled – Since payday lending practices rely heavily on usury (which is forbidden in Islam), Muslim voters felt strongly against those. For Muslim voters, it was at once a religious and a social justice issue.

Cuts in social services: 79% had opposition to cuts in social services – Muslim voters were opposed to cuts in state social services, like healthcare and other state programs.

Traffic congestions: 76% thought highway traffic congestions were a serious problem.

PRINCE WILLIAM Endorsement Sheet

Based on the criteria listed on the other side, **VMPAC has endorsed the following candidates (check who is in your district before voting — if a candidate/office is not mentioned, it implies NO ENDORSEMENT or NO OPPONENT for that seat):**

Supervisors

Chair	Democrat	Sharon E. Pandak
Brentsville	No Endorsement	—————
Coles	Republican	Martin E. Nohe
Dumfries	No Endorsement	—————
Gainesville	Democrat	Corey R. Riley
Neabsco	No Endorsement	—————
Occoquan	Republican	Michael C. "Mike" May
Woodbridge	No Endorsement	—————

School Board - Neabsco

Indep.	Belkacem Hacene-Djaballah
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Clerk of Court Democrat William M. "Bill" Ryland

Delegates

13th District	Democrat	Bruce E. Roemmelt
31st District	Democrat	Bill S. Day, Jr.
50th District	Democrat	Jeanette M. Rishell
51st District	Republican	Faisal M. Gill
52nd District	Democrat	Christopher K. Brown

Senators

29th District	Democrat	Charles J. Colgan
39th District	Democrat	George L. Barker

**Please vote for these candidates on
Tuesday, November 6**

Virginia Muslim Political Action Committee (VMPAC)

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Virginia Muslim Political Action Committee (VMPAC) is a registered non-partisan Political Action Committee of Muslim Americans living in Virginia. VMPAC was formed in May 2005 as a coalition of several active Virginian PACs. Its goal is to educate and involve the Muslim community to participate in the political process of the Commonwealth through mobilization of votes and funds for issues which are important to the community and candidates who support those issues.