



In coordination with



CANDIDATES AND CONSTITUENTS: AMERICAN MUSLIM  
ELECTION VICTORIES AND VOTER ATTITUDES SURVEY

2018 Midterm Election

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Report Authors:

Robert S. McCaw, CAIR Government Affairs Department Director  
Dr. Abbas Barzegar, CAIR Research and Advocacy Department Director  
Liam W. Foskett, CAIR Government Affairs Department Coordinator  
Zainab Arain, CAIR Research and Advocacy Department Manager  
Abigail Shepard-Moore, CAIR Research and Advocacy Department Intern  
Shaun J. Kennedy, Jetpac Executive Director

Conducted by Triton Polling & Research  
[www.tritonpolling.com](http://www.tritonpolling.com)

Commissioned by Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003  
Tel 202.488.8787 Fax 202.288.0833  
[info@cair.com](mailto:info@cair.com)  
[www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)  
Twitter: @CAIRNational  
Facebook: [facebook.com/cairnational](https://facebook.com/cairnational)

## BACKGROUND

This report presents a detailed picture of political positions and attitudes held by American Muslim voters in the wake of the Tuesday, November 6, 2018 midterm election. It also provides a comprehensive list of nationwide American Muslim election victories in 2018. This list was compiled in coordination with Jetpac and based upon publicly available data as of November 7, 2018. According to this research, approximately 57 American Muslims were elected to local, state, and national positions. Data in this report will be updated and further analyzed in a forthcoming joint report on American Muslim political organizing strategies to be released on November 13.

The exit poll is based on an automated survey that explores the views of registered American Muslim voters on their participation in this year's election, political party preference, perception of personal values, concerns about rising Islamophobia, and religious and civic engagement since the 2016 presidential election. The survey results are drawn from a random sample telephone survey of 1,027 American Muslim voters.

As American Muslim participation in the political process has experienced steady growth in the past several decades, so has interest in better understanding Muslim voters. During the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections, American Muslim groups mobilized to deliver presidential endorsements that received national attention. In 2006, CAIR issued its first-ever random sample poll of likely Muslim voters. Prior to the increasingly heated 2008, 2012 and 2016 presidential elections, CAIR commissioned polls to track the views of American Muslim voters. CAIR also commissioned a national exit poll survey of Muslim voters following the 2008, 2012 and 2016 presidential elections.

In the 2014 midterm election, CAIR released a survey of the six most populous states of American Muslim voters, which included California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Texas, and Virginia. CAIR also released a similar six-state poll for the March 2016 "Super Tuesday" primary that explored Muslim views of Democratic and Republican Party presidential nominees.

**AMERICAN  
MUSLIMS  
ELECTED  
TO OFFICE \***

State	Last Name	First Name	Legislative Body	Level of Office
CA	Sudduth	Cheryl	West County Wastewater District Director	COUNTY
CA	Abdallah Jr.	George	Superior Court of San Joaquin County	JUDICIARY
CA	Dhanidina	Halim	District 2 Court of Appeal	JUDICIARY
CA	Afzal Berta	Maimona	Franklin-McKinley Board of Education	LOCAL
CA	Ellahie	Javed	Monte Sereno City Council	LOCAL
CA	Jabbar	Al	Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees	LOCAL
CA	Khan	Farrah	Irvine City Council	LOCAL
CA	Taj	Ali Sajjad	Artesia City Council	LOCAL
CA	Wahab	Aisha	Hayward City Council	LOCAL
CA	Zafar	Sabina	San Ramon City Council	LOCAL
CA	Zahra	Ahmad	Fullerton City Council	LOCAL
GA	Rahman	Sheikh	GA State Senate	SL
IL	Covert	Sadia Gul	Dupage County Board	COUNTY
IN	Carson	Andre	US House of Representatives	CONGRESS
MD	Lateef	Babur	Prince William County School Board	COUNTY
MD	Taj	Sabina	Howard County Board of Education	COUNTY
MI	Tlaib	Rashida	US House of Representatives	CONGRESS
MI	Baydoun	Sam	Wayne County Commission	COUNTY
MI	Harb	Adel A.	Wayne County Circuit Court	JUDICIARY
MI	Salamey	Sam	MI District Courts	JUDICIARY
MI	Ahmed	Aamina	Plymouth Canton Community School District	LOCAL
MI	Fawaz	Salwa	Crestwood School Board	LOCAL
MI	Hassan	Mohammed	Hamtramck City Council	LOCAL
MI	Hammoud	Abdullah	MI House of Representatives	SL
MN	Omar	Ilhan	US House of Representatives	CONGRESS
MN	Gomez	Aisha	MN State House	SL
MN	Hassan	Hodan	MN State House	SL
MN	Noor	Mohamud	MN House of Representatives	SL
MN	Ellison	Keith	MN Attorney General	SW
NC	Majeed	Nasif	State House of Representatives	SL
NC	Mohammed	Mujtaba	NC State Senate	SL
NH	Khan	Aboul	NH House of Representatives	SL
NH	Wazir	Safiya	NH State House	SL
NJ	Akhter	Assad	Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders	COUNTY
NJ	Patel	Salim	Passaic City Council	COUNTY
NJ	Ramadan	Mohammad	Passaic County Board of Education	COUNTY
NJ	Abdel-Aziz	Alaa	Paterson City Council	LOCAL
NJ	Arjumand	Shahanaz	Teaneck Township Board of Education	LOCAL

State	Last Name	First Name	Legislative Body	Level of Office
NJ	Haynes	Dawn	Newark Public Schools School Board	LOCAL
NJ	Khairullah	Mohamed	Prospect Park City Council	LOCAL
NJ	Matari	Alaa	Prospect Park Borough Councilman	LOCAL
NJ	Sherif	Siaka	Orange Board of Education	LOCAL
NJ	Yassin	Hazim	Red Bank City Council	LOCAL
NJ	Elnahal	Shereef	NJ Department of Health Commissioner	SW
NM	Akhil	Abbas	NM State House	SL
NY	Ally	Shahabuddeen	Manhattan Civil Court Judge	JUDICIARY
NY	Fall	Charles	State Assembly	SL
NY	Jackson	Robert	NY State Senate	SL
OH	Al-Hamdani	Mohamed	Dayton Public Schools Board of Education	LOCAL
PA	Dawkins	Jason	PA State House	SL
TX	Collier	Rabeea	Texas District Courts	JUDICIARY
TX	Bhojani	Salman	Eules City Council	LOCAL
VA	Javed	Haseeb	Manassas Park City Council	LOCAL
VA	Seifeldein	Mo	Alexandria City Council	LOCAL

\*This information is based upon publicly available data gathered and analyzed by CAIR and Jetpac and updated as of close of business on November 7, 2018. Please report content updates or adjustments to at [info@cair.com](mailto:info@cair.com).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

- 95% of Muslim voters participated in this year's midterm election.
- 78% of Muslim voters primarily voted for the Democratic Party candidates and 17% for Republican Party candidates.
- 46% of Muslim voters consider themselves liberal on social issues, while 35% consider themselves conservative.
- 43% of Muslim voters consider themselves fiscally conservative, while 40% consider themselves liberal.
- 26% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic candidates perceived themselves as being conservative on social issues. Moreover, 36% perceived themselves as being fiscally conservative.
- 68% of Muslim voters thought Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. increased while 17% thought it decreased in the past year.
- 78% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates thought Islamophobia increased in the past year. Conversely, only 33% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates thought Islamophobia increased in the past year.

- 53% of Muslim voters became more interested in politics since the 2016 presidential election, while 34% maintained the same level of interest in politics and 13% became less interested in politics.
- 55% of Muslim voters have become more actively involved in politics and/or civically engaged since the 2016 presidential election, while 45% have not.
- Out of those Muslim voters who have become more actively involved in politics and/or civically engaged since 2016 presidential election:
  - 20% have primarily donated money to a political or social campaign.
  - 25% have primarily donated their time by volunteering with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization.
  - 18% have primarily donated their expertise by using their skills and/or network to advance social/political engagement.
  - 37% have primarily been involved in another way.
- Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates were more likely to contribute money as their primary form of involvement, while Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates were more likely to volunteer with a local charity or civically minded or religious organization.
- 15% of Muslim voters are very involved in activities at their mosque or Islamic center, while 26% are somewhat involved, 27% are not very involved, 28% are not at all involved, and 4% were not sure / didn't know how to answer.
- 49% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates were more likely to not at all be involved in activities at the mosque or Islamic center in comparison to their Democratic Party supporting counterparts (23%).
- 63% of survey respondents identified as male and 37% as female.
- Muslim women are more likely to support Democratic Party candidates and less likely to support Republican Party candidates than their male counterparts.

## METHODOLOGY

A sample of 1,027 respondents was drawn through a randomization procedure from a larger database of more than 250,000 Muslim voter households. The 1,027 respondents themselves were a subset of this larger database characterized by having two or more traditionally Muslim names.

The American Muslim voter database was developed by matching state records of registered voters with an extensive list of some 45,000 traditionally Muslim first and last names. In compiling this list, common names prevalent among Muslims across the world's Muslim-majority ethnic groups were identified and verified by well-informed members of these ethnic groups.

Although it is the largest such list compiled to date, this pool of Muslim voters does not include Muslims with uncommon names or those who do not have traditionally Muslim names. Also excluded are Muslims with names that are also common in other communities (such as Sarah or Adam).

CAIR commissioned an independent polling company, Triton Polling & Research of Henderson, Nevada, to conduct the poll via automated telephone interviews.

Calls were conducted on November 6, between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., by time zone. Respondents included 650 men and 377 women from across the nation. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%, with a confidence level of 95%.

### **The interview explored the following topics:**

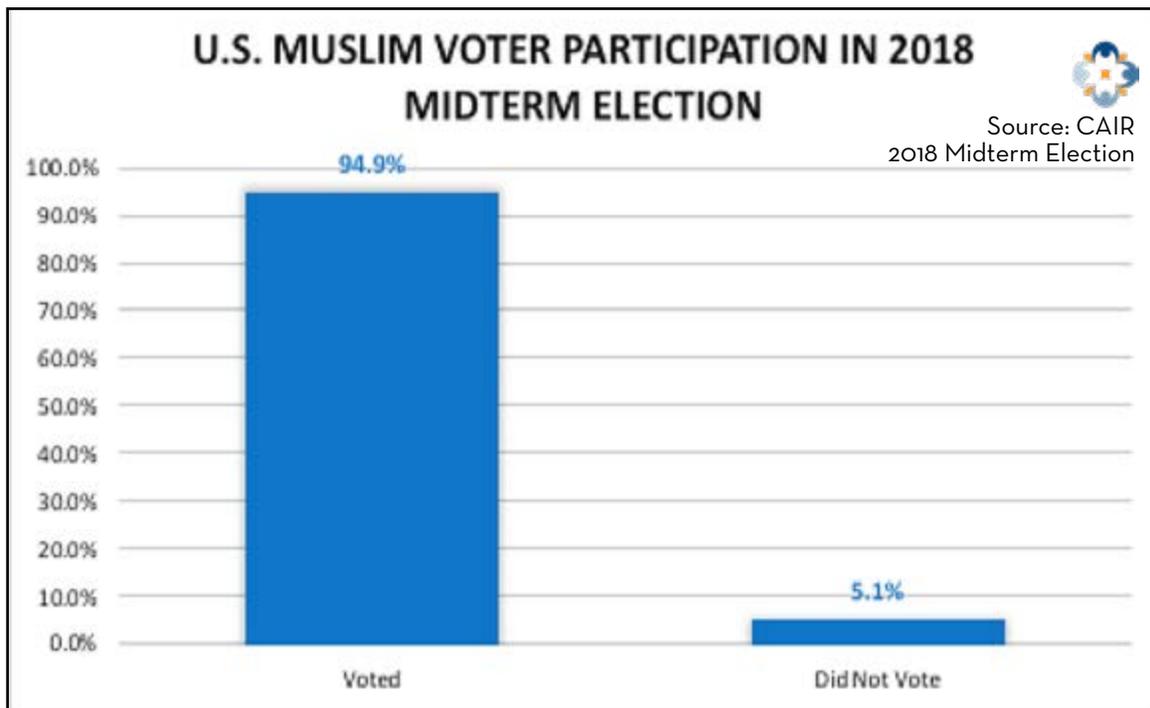
1. Basic demographic indicators, including age and gender.
2. Perception of personal political ideology, social values and religiosity.
3. Political and civic engagement and voting behavior.
4. Perception of Islamophobia.

**TOP LINE  
SURVEY RESULTS**

**Q1. Did you vote in the 2018 November midterm election?  
(Based on total respondents)**

Yes: 94.9% (975 respondents)

No: 5.1% (52 respondents)



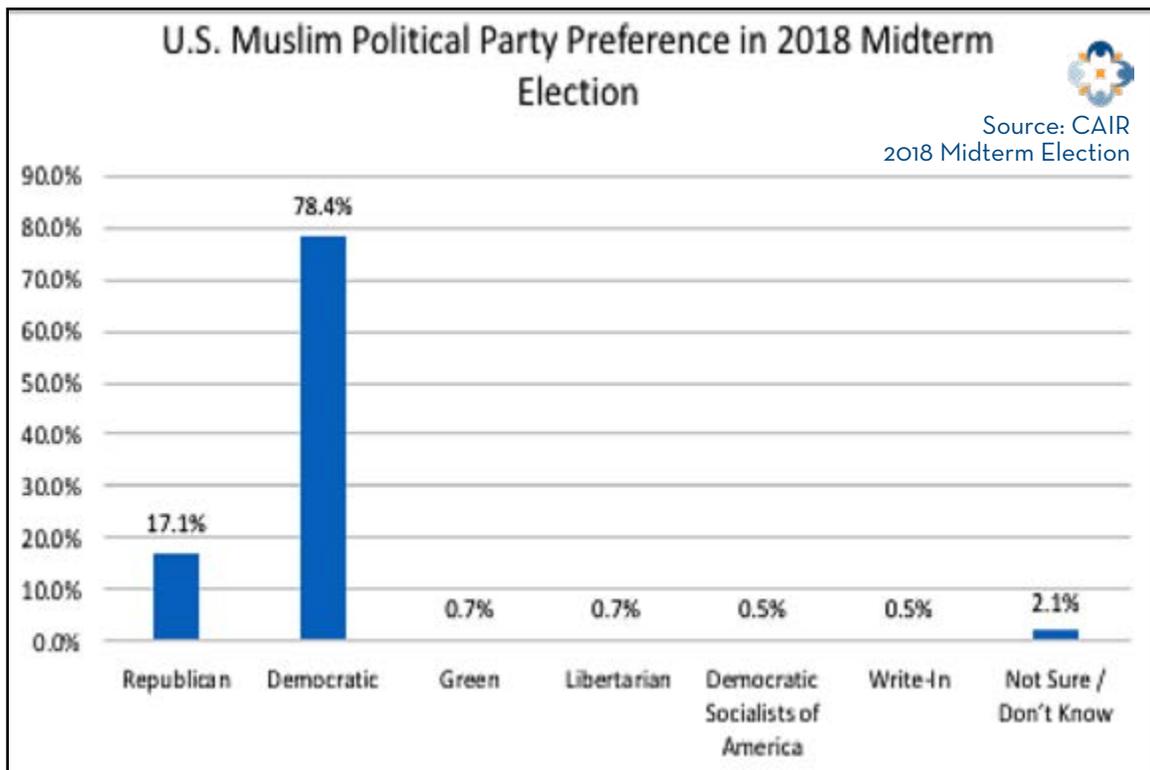
When asked whether they voted in the 2018 midterm election, 94.9% registered Muslim voters stated that they voted, while 5.1% said that they did not.

**TOP LINE  
SURVEY RESULTS**

**Political Attitudes & Personal Political Ideology**

**Q2. Which party did you primarily vote for?  
(Based on respondents who voted)**

Republican: 17.1% (167 respondents)  
Democratic: 78.4% (764 respondents)  
Green: 0.7% (7 respondents)  
Libertarian: 0.7% (7 respondents)  
Democratic Socialists of America: 0.5% (5 respondents)  
Write-in: 0.5% (5 respondents)  
Not sure / don't know: 2.1% (20 respondents)



In a poll of registered Muslim voters that participated in the 2018 midterm election, 78.4% reported that they primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates, while 17.1% voted Republican Party, 0.7% Green Party, 0.7% Libertarian Party, and 0.5% Democratic Socialists of America. Only 0.5% of registered Muslim voters

wrote in the name of their preferred candidate and 2.1% of respondents were not sure or did not know how to respond to the question.

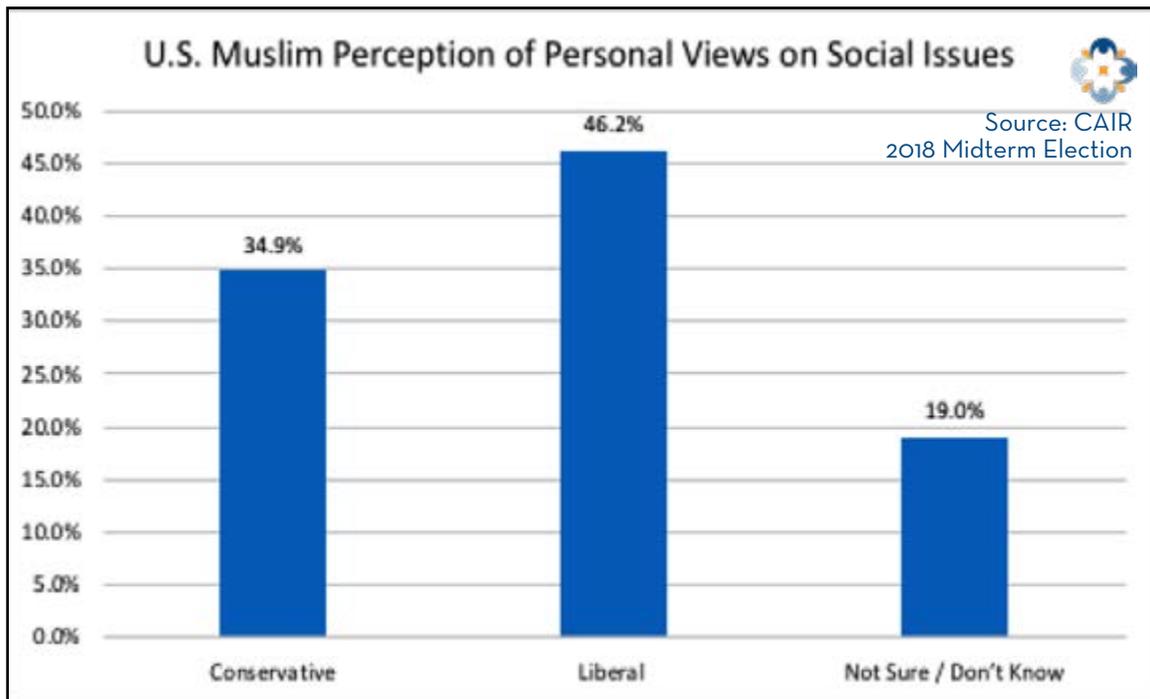
The results of this poll continue the noted trend of most registered Muslim voters aligning with the Democratic Party. CAIR's 2016 presidential election exit poll of more than 2,000 Muslim voters indicated 74% voted for Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton, while 13% for Republican Party candidate, now president, Donald Trump.

### **Q3. Generally, do you lean more conservative or liberal on social issues? (Based on total respondents)**

Conservative: 34.9% (358 respondents)

Liberal: 46.2% (474 respondents)

Not sure / don't know: 19.0% (195 respondents)



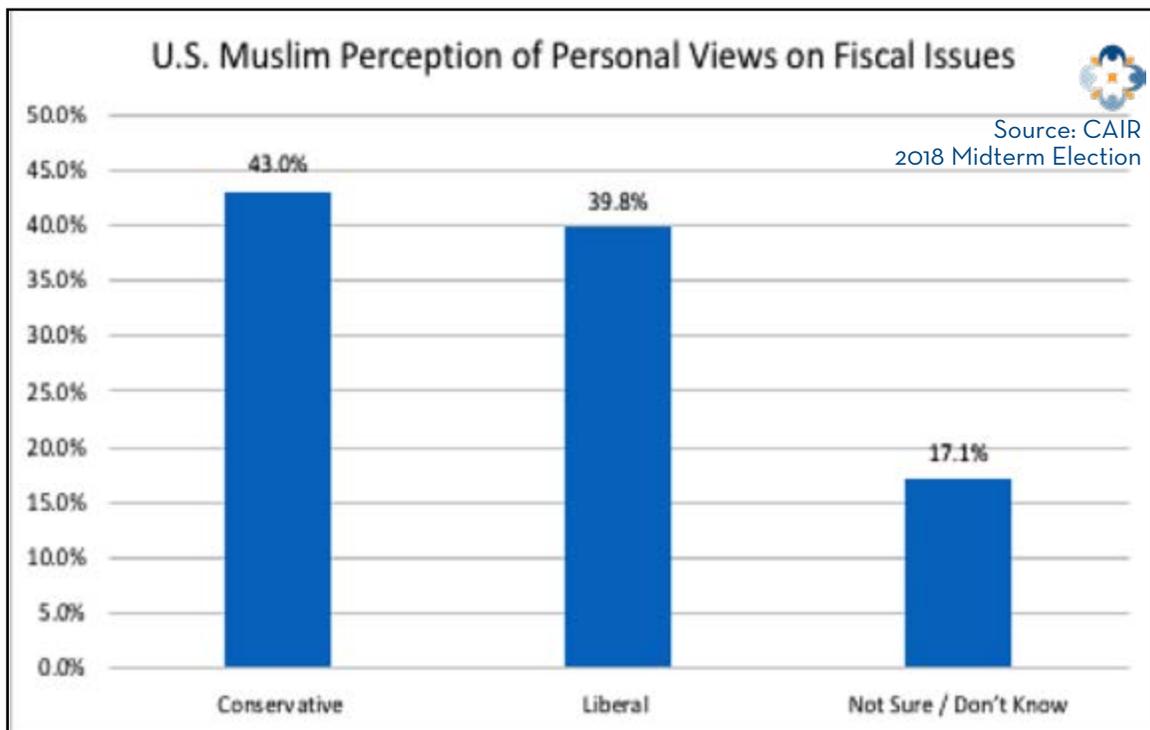
This poll indicates that most registered Muslim voters, regardless of political party affiliation, consider their personal views on social issues to be liberal (46.2%), in comparison to the 34.9% that viewed themselves to be conservative on social issues. 19% of respondents were not sure or did not know how to respond to the question.

**Q4. Generally, do you consider yourself to be fiscally conservative or fiscally liberal?  
(Based on total respondents)**

Conservative: 43.0% (442 respondents)

Liberal: 39.8% (409 respondents)

Not sure / don't know: 17.1% (176 respondents)



This poll indicates that most Muslim voters, regardless of political party affiliation, consider themselves to be fiscally conservative (43%), in comparison to the 39.8% that viewed themselves as fiscally liberal. 17.1% of respondents were not sure or did not know how to respond to the question.

Both poll questions on whether registered Muslim voters perceive themselves to be conservative or liberal on social and fiscal issues are in follow-up to CAIR's "AMERICAN MUSLIM VOTERS AND THE 2016 ELECTION" pre-election survey of 804 Muslim voters. In that survey, CAIR found that most Muslim voters, regardless of political party affiliation, consider their personal political ideology to

be moderate (44%), followed by liberal (25%), conservative (11%), and then other (16%).

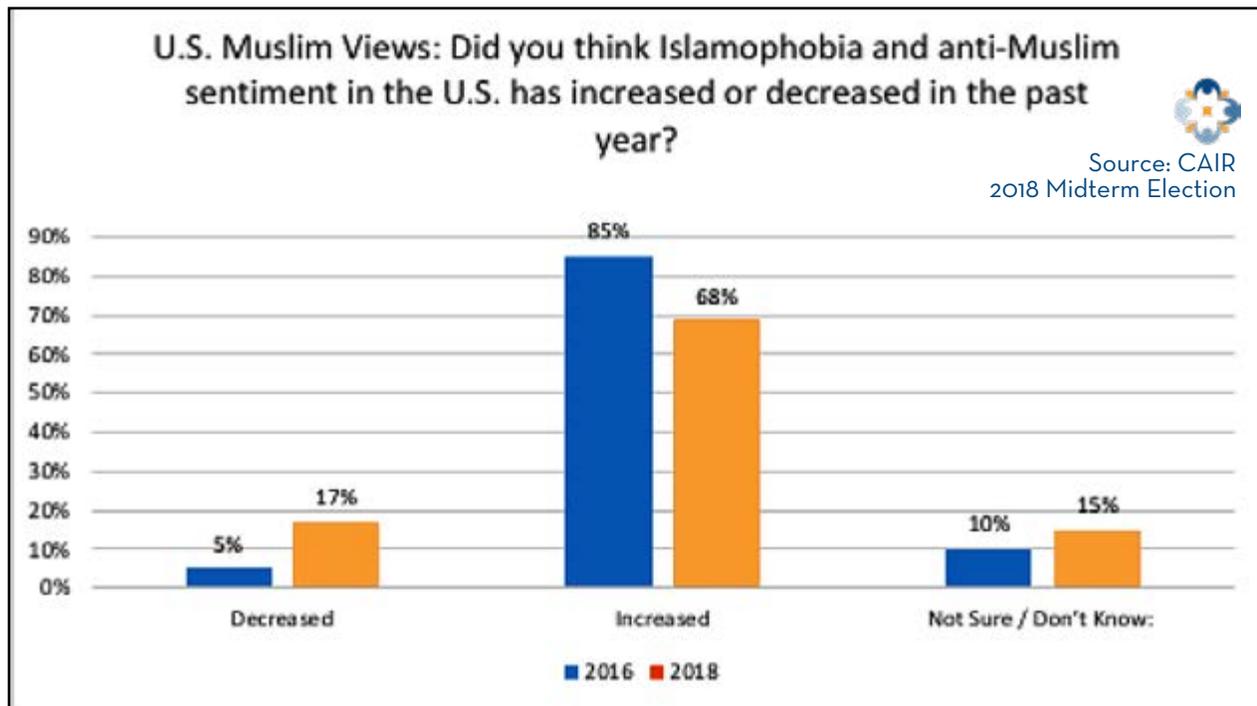
## Perception of Islamophobia

### Q5. Do you think Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. have increased or decreased in the past year? (Based on total respondents)

Increased: 68.4% (702 respondents)

Decreased: 17.0% (175 respondents)

Not sure / don't know: 14.6% (150 respondents)



Note: 2016 data sourced from previous general election survey sample commissioned by CAIR in October 13, 2016.

Most respondents, 68.4%, believe that Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. have increased in the past year. Conversely, only 17% of respondents believe that such sentiment has decreased and 14.6% were not sure or did not know how to respond to the question.

CAIR asked registered Muslim voters the same question in its October 2016 pre-election survey. As shown above, most respondents in both surveys thought Islamophobia increased.

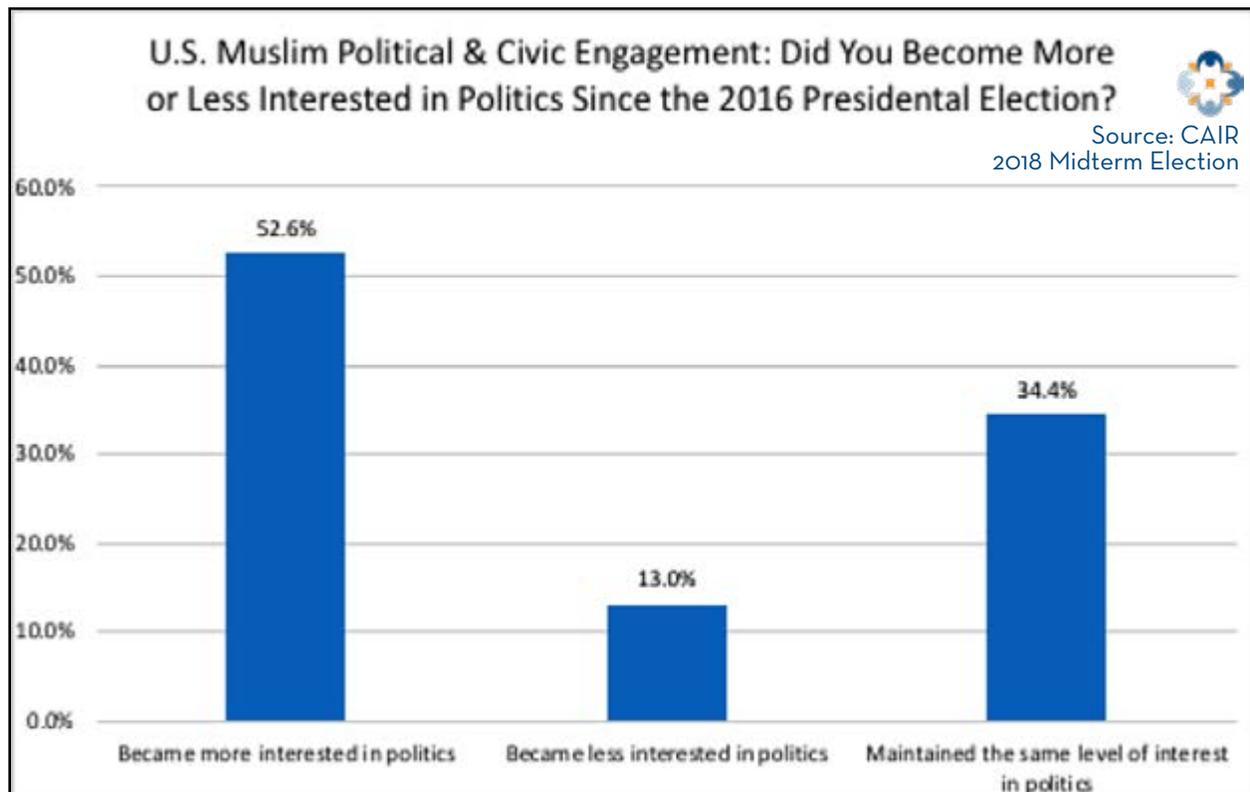
## Political and Civic Engagement

### Q6. Since the 2016 presidential elections, have you... (Based on total respondents)

Become more interested in politics: 52.6% (540 respondents)

Become less interested in politics: 13% (134 respondents)

Maintained the same level of interest in politics: 34.4% (353 respondents)

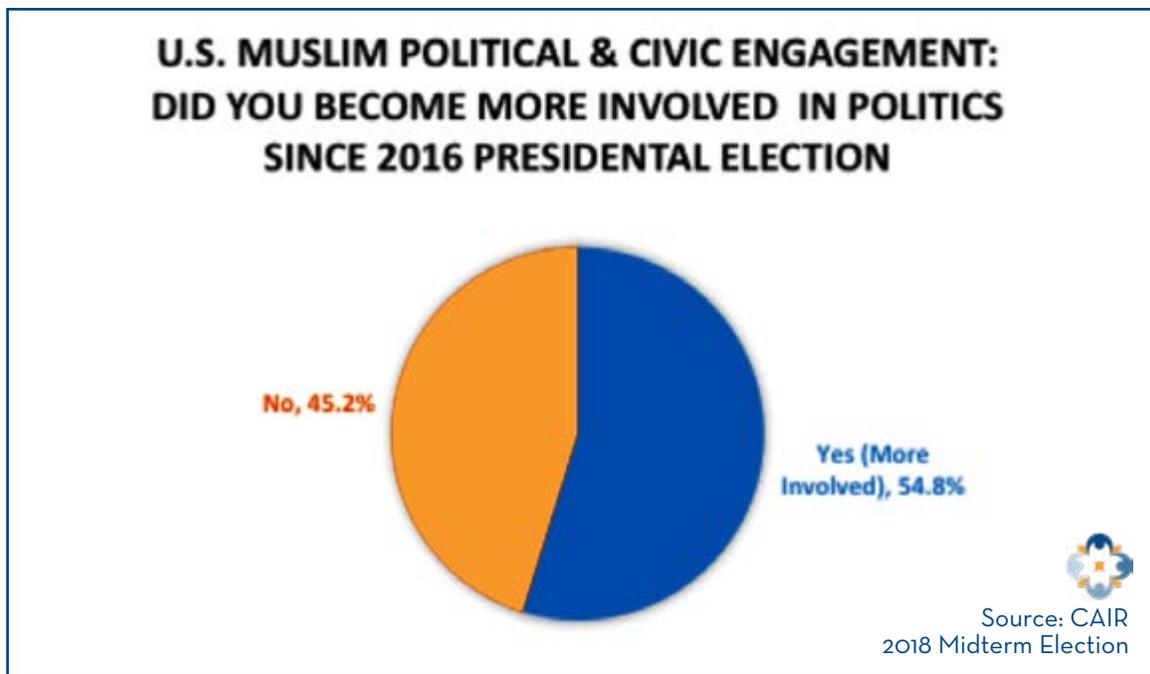


Since the 2016 presidential election, more than half of register Muslim voters (52.6%) reported that they became more interested in politics. Conversely, 13% of respondents reported that they became less interested in politics, while 34.4% reported that they maintained the same level of interest in politics.

**Q7. Since the 2016 presidential election, have you become more involved in politics and / or civically engaged?  
(Based on total respondents)**

Yes (more involved): 54.8% (563 respondents)

No: 45.2% (464 respondents)



Since the 2016 presidential election, 54.8% of Muslim voters reported that they became more involved in politics and/or civically engaged. Conversely, 45.2% of respondents reported that they had not become more engaged.

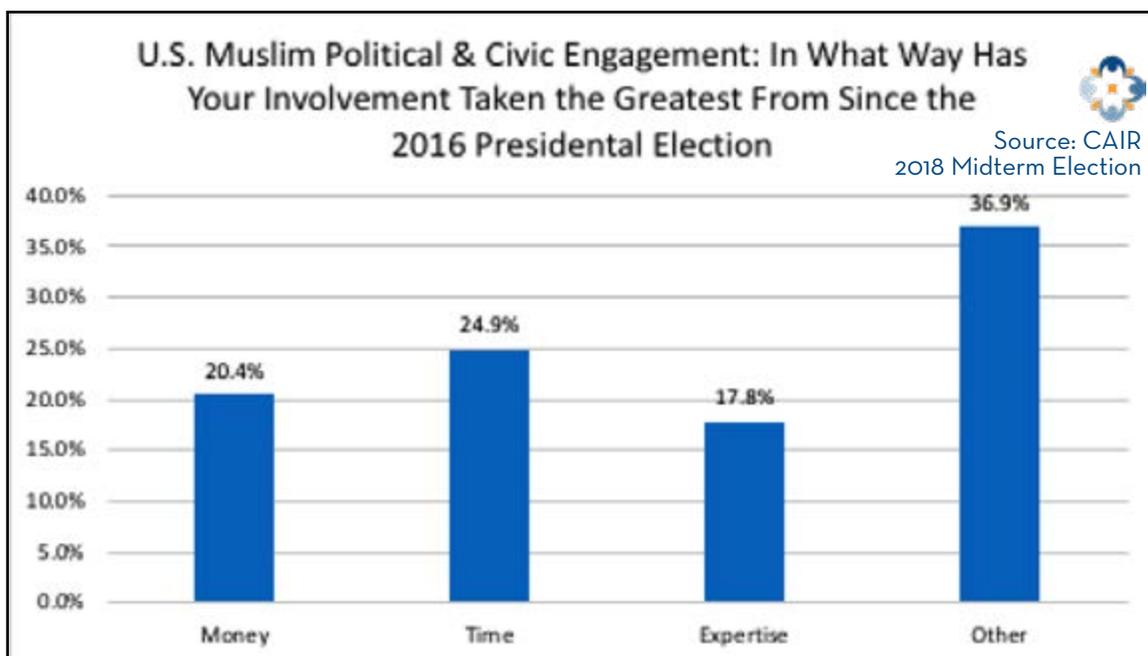
### Q8. In what way has your involvement taken the greatest form? (Based on those answered yes to the previous question)

Money: Donating to a political or social campaign: 20.4% (115 respondents)

Time: Volunteering with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization: 24.9% (140 respondents)

Expertise: Using your skills and/or network to advance social/political engagement: 17.8% (100 respondents)

Other: 36.9% (208 respondents)



Of those respondents who reported greater involvement in politics and/or civic engagement since the 2016 presidential election, they were asked a follow-up question to determine in what way their involvement took the greatest form:

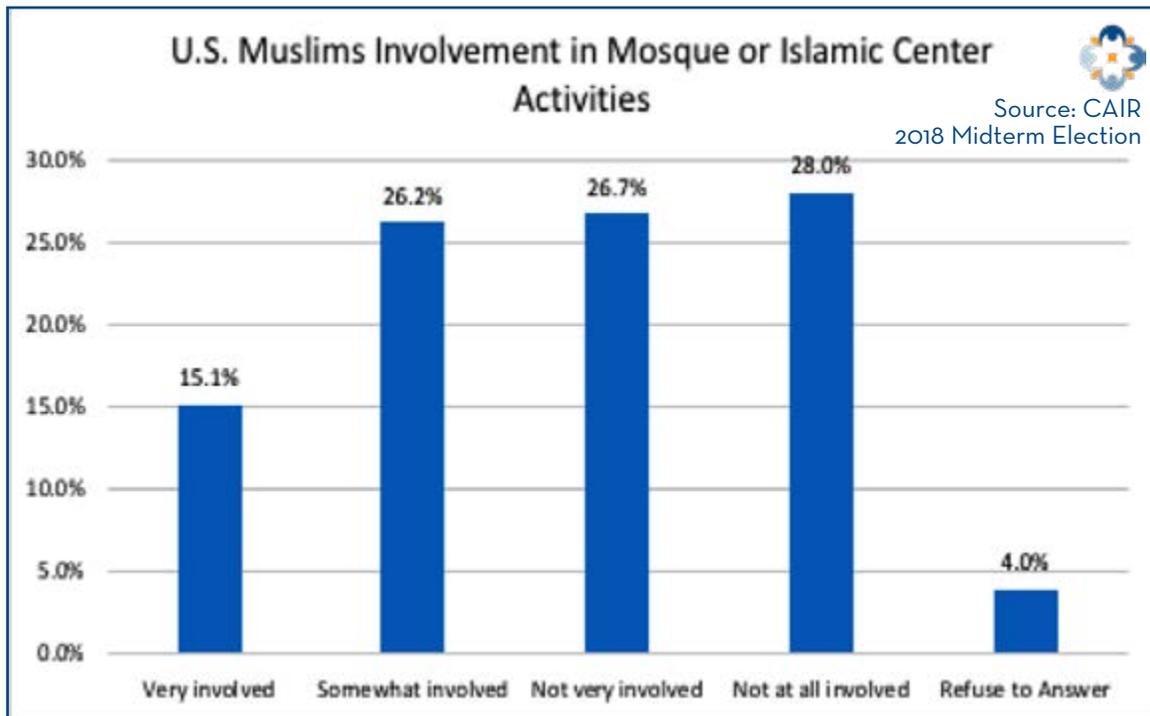
- 20.4% of respondents said they primarily donated to a political or social campaign.
- 4.9% of respondents said they primarily volunteered with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization.

- 17.8% of respondents said they primarily used their skills and/or network to advance social/political engagement.
- 36.9% of respondents report their involvement took another form.

## Religiosity

### Q9. Including prayer, how involved are you in activities at the mosque or Islamic center? Would you say that you are? (Based on total respondents)

Very involved: 15.1% (155 respondents)  
 Somewhat involved: 26.2% (269 respondents)  
 Not very involved: 26.7% (274 respondents)  
 Not at all involved: 28% (288 respondents)  
 Not sure / don't know: 4% (41 respondents)



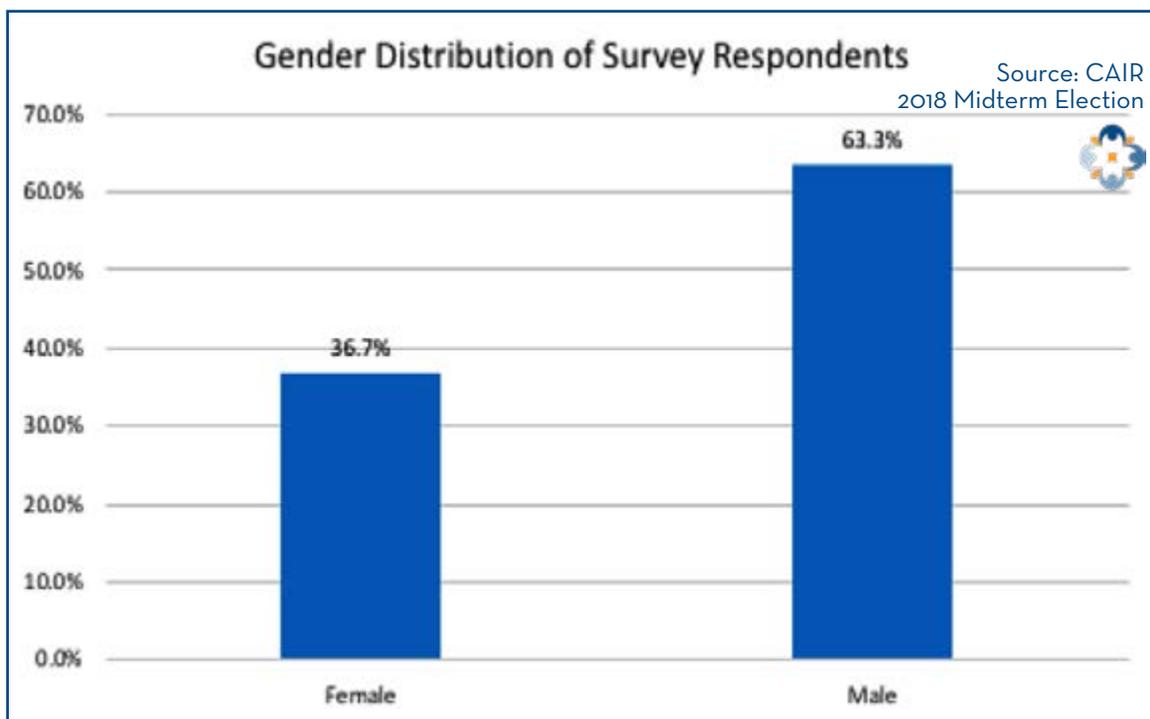
Fifteen percent (15.1%) of polled Muslim voters reported that they were very involved in activities at a mosque or Islamic center, 26.2% stated they were somewhat involved, 26.7% were not very involved, 28% were not at all involved, and 4% refused to answer the question.

## Demographics

### Q10. What gender do you identify as? (Based on total respondents)

Female: 36.7% (377 respondents)

Male: 63.3% (650 respondents)



## HOW MUSLIM VOTERS WHO VOTED FOR DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES RESPONDED TO OTHER SURVEY QUESTIONS

Comparison of the responses of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican and Democratic Party candidates to other survey questions.

 Source: CAIR 2018 Midterm Election		Which party did you primarily vote for?			
		Republican		Democratic	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Q. If you answered yes to the previous questions, in what way has your involvement taken the greatest form?	Money: Donating to a political or social campaign	32	32.0%	74	17.5%
	Volunteering with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization	21	21.0%	113	26.8%
	Using your skills and/or network to advance social/political engagement	18	18.0%	76	18.0%
	Other	29	29.0%	159	37.7%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Q. Including prayer, how involved are you in activities at the mosque or Islamic Center? Would you say that you are?	Very involved	25	15.0%	112	14.7%
	Somewhat involved	16	9.6%	228	29.8%
	Not very involved	37	22.2%	219	28.7%
	Not at all involved	82	49.1%	178	23.3%
	Not Sure / Don't Know	7	4.2%	27	3.5%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Highlights:

- 26% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic candidates perceived themselves as being conservative on social issues. Moreover, 36% perceived themselves as being fiscally conservative.

 Source: CAIR 2018 Midterm Election		Which party did you primarily vote for?			
		Republican		Democratic	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Q. Do you think Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. has increased or decreased in the past year?	Increased	56	33.5%	596	78.0%
	Decreased	79	47.3%	76	9.9%
	Not Sure / Don't Know	32	19.2%	92	12.0%
	Total	167	100.0%	764	100.0%

### Highlights:

- 78% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates thought Islamophobia has increased in the past year. Conversely, only 33% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates thought Islamophobia has increased in the past year.
- 47% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates thought Islamophobia has decreased in the past year. Conversely, only 10% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates thought Islamophobia has decreased in the past year.

 Source: CAIR 2018 Midterm Election		Which party did you primarily vote for?			
		Republican		Democratic	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Q. Since the 2016 Presidential election, have you...	Become more interested in politics	80	47.9%	435	56.9%
	Become less interested in politics	13	7.8%	93	12.2%
	Maintained the same level of interest in politics	74	44.3%	236	30.9%
	Total	167	100.0%	764	100.0%

### Highlights:

- 57% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates expressed becoming more interested in politics since the 2016 presidential election, while 48% of their counterparts who primarily voted for Republican candidates expressed becoming more interested in politics.



Source: CAIR  
2018 Midterm Election

		Which party did you primarily vote for?			
		Republican		Democratic	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Q. Since the 2016 Presidential election, have you become more involved in formal politics and / or civically engaged?	Yes	100	59.9%	422	55.2%
	No	67	40.1%	342	44.8%
	Total	167	100.0%	764	100.0%
Q If you answered yes to the previous questions, in what way has your involvement taken the greatest form?	Money: Donating to a political or social campaign	32	32.0%	74	17.5%
	Volunteering with a local charity or civic-minded or religious organization	21	21.0%	113	26.8%
	Using your skills and/or network to advance social/political engagement	18	18.0%	76	18.0%
	Other	29	29.0%	159	37.7%
	Total	100	100.0%	422	100.0%

### Highlights:

- A near even amount of registered Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican or Democratic Party candidates expressed having become more involved in formal political and / or civically engaged since the 2016 presidential election (60% vs 55%).
- Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates were more likely to primarily contribute money as their primary form of involvement, while Muslim voters who primarily voted for Democratic Party candidates were more likely to volunteer with a local charity or civically minded or religious organization.

 Source: CAIR 2018 Midterm Election		Which party did you primarily vote for?			
		Republican		Democratic	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Q. Including prayer, how involved are you in activities at the mosque or Islamic Center? Would you say that you are?	Very involved	25	15.0%	112	14.7%
	Somewhat involved	16	9.6%	228	29.8%
	Not very involved	37	22.2%	219	28.7%
	Not at all involved	82	49.1%	178	23.3%
	Not Sure / Don't Know	7	4.2%	27	3.5%
	Total	167	100.0%	764	100.0%
Q. What gender do you identify as?	Male	112	67.1%	476	62.3%
	Female	55	32.9%	288	37.7%
	Total	167	100.0%	764	100.0%

### Highlights:

- A near even amount of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican or Democratic Party candidates are very involved in activities at the mosque or Islamic center (15% vs. 15%).
- 49% of Muslim voters who primarily voted for Republican Party candidates was more likely to not at all be involved in activities at the mosque or Islamic center in comparison to their Democratic Party-supporting counterparts (23%).
- Muslim women are more likely to support Democratic Party candidates and less likely to support Republican Party candidates than their male counterparts.