Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action November-December, 2012 * Vol. 22, Number 05



Candidate Scorecard Answers to our CAM Survey Page 2-6

Choosing Candidates for Public Office

What you should consider in a candidate.

Page 7

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)

Understanding Islam <u>Micah Winefeld</u>

Copies of the DVDs that were made at our September event are available for \$15. This is a 3 DVD set and includes:

 Radical Islam What we can do Current Affairs in Israel
 Understanding Islam

Message, goals, methods 3. The Financial Storm

3. The Financial Storm Parts One & Two If you would like a copy of this please contact CAM at 802-372-6442

2012 Candidate Survey

ву Dick Trudell

his is the 11th General Election for which the Christian Action Ministry has provided a survey of the candidates' positions on issues of interest to Christians. To enable you to understand the survey and appreciate the information contained in it, we will provide some insight about the thought process that went into the survey and how we obtained the information that it contains.

The first step in developing a survey is to determine the questions. The members of CAM met to formulate the questions. We wanted them to represent those issues that should be of interest to Christians. Many of the questions would not be asked of the candidates in the normal forums sponsored by various groups. The questions we asked were also geared to determining a candidate's character. How someone stands on an issue. even if it may not come to a vote, can tell you a lot about how they might react to other issues not yet introduced.

Once a first draft of the questions was formulated, we regrouped several times to review them again. We started questions with a key word, usually SUPPORT or OP-POSE, to clarify the intent of each question and allow a "yes" or "no" answer.

The next step in the survey was to determine who to contact. The 2010 questionnaire polled candidates for the Vermont House and Senate from Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, and Grand Isle Counties, This year we have included Lamoille County, and added Statewide candidates.

We obtained the candidate list for the primaries from the Secretary of State and prepared letters and questionnaires for them all. The survey was mailed to the candidates registered in the primary. Independent candidates, and those not associated with a recognized party that were on the Secretary of State's website, were also contacted.

Not all candidates answered. Some never answer questionnaires. Others don't wish you

to know their positions (particularly if they are not favorably inclined to a Christian perspective). Some of the uncontested races saw no need to reply. We have seen a decline over the years in the number of candidates who respond, and feel this is a regrettable trend. We attempt to make up for this by repeated calls to ask candidates to complete the survey or to give us the information over the telephone. We got some interesting responses, such as, "This conflicts with the separation of church and state", or "Keep religion out of politics". Since morals and values are a part of politics, and there is no constitutional separation of church and state, such candidates are uninformed and shouldn't be running for office.

The final step is setting up a format to display the answers, and entering the information as it is received. We hope you will closely review the survey and make an informed decision on November 6th.

Dick Trudell is President of CAM and attends Community Bible Church.

He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."

2 Samuel 23:3

CAM Network Survey					C	hitt	ten	iden	Co	our	nty	Car	ndic	late	es ·	- V	ГΗ	ous	e o	f R	epr	es	ent	ati	ves	s			
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1. Do you AGREE that the United States was founded on Judeo-Christian principles?									Y	N			Y												Y			Ц	
2 Have you, as an adult, actually READ the U.S. & VT Constitutions, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence?				Y					Y	Y			Y						١	Y					Y				
3. Do you SUPPORT the right of towns and public schools to display Christmas items and sing songs that reflect Christmas as being the celebration of the birth of Christ?									Y										r	N					N				
4 Do you OPPOSE making physician-assisted suicide legal in Vermont?	r	1 1	N	I Y		Ν			Y	Ν		N	N	Ν	Y	N	Y		٢	N			Ν	N	NI	N		Y	N
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8. Would you SUPPORT a law allowing citizens' initiative petitions, requiring the legislature to vote on an issue?				Y					Y	N															N				
9 Would you SUPPORT legislation prohibiting nonresident college students or other non-residents from voting in Vermont elections?				N					Y	N									r	N					N				
10. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?									Y	N			N			r	N		r	N					N				
11. Would you SUPPORT legislation that requires parental involvement (Parental Notification), with provisions for a judicial waiver, prior to performing an abortion on a minor?	r	v 1	N N	IY		N		N	Y	Y		N		N	Y	N	N Y		N	N	1	N	N		N	N		Y	N
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13. Do you SUPPORT some form of voucher system to allow parents to choose the form of schooling most beneficial to their child?				N					Y	N			Y						r	N					N				
14. Do you AGREE that the state should not raid dedicated funds for other purposes, e.g. transportation or education funds?				N					Y	Y									Ì	Y					Y				
15. Do you SUPPORT legislation requiring a balanced VT budget?				Y					Y	N									٢	N					N				
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17. Do you OPPOSE the use of foreign law and Sharia (Islamic law) in the Vermont and U.S. Judicial systems?									Y				Y						ſ	Y					Y				
18. Do you SUPPORT a voter identification (Voter ID) law?				Y					Y	N									٢	N					N				
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20. Do you SUPPORT limiting party status in the Vermont permit process to those materially affected?				Y					Y																N				

Voters are urged to contact candidates to be certain of their position.

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Feel free to take this information into the polling booth on November 6th.

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2. Have you, as an adult, actually READ the U.S. & VT Constitutions, Bill or Rights and Declaration of Independence?	f Y									Y	Y		`	Y		Y	·											
3. Do you SUPPORT the right of towns and public schools to display Christmas items and sing songs that reflect Christmas as being the celebration of the birth of Christ?	n Y									Y	Y		`	Y		Y	Y									Y		
4 Do you OPPOSE making physician-assisted suicide legal in Vermont?	Y				Y	Y				Ν	Y		•	Y		Y	Y		Ν	Ν	Υ				١	r Y		Ν
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7. Do you BELIEVE life begins at conception?													•	Y		Y	·									Y		
8. Would you SUPPORT a law allowing citizens' initiative petitions, requiring the legislature to vote on an issue?	Y									Y	Y		,	Y		Y										Y		
9 Would you SUPPORT legislation prohibiting nonresident college students or other non-residents from voting in Vermont elections?	Y									N	Y		•	Y		Y	·									Y		
10. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?	Y									Y	Y		`	Y		Y	N									Y		
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13. Do you SUPPORT some form of voucher system to allow parents to choose the form of schooling most beneficial; to their child?	Y									N	Y		`	Y		Y	•									Y		
14. Do you AGREE that the state should not raid dedicated funds for other purposes, e.g. transportation or education funds?	Y									Y	Y		`	Y		Y	Y									Y		
15. Do you SUPPORT legislation requiring a balanced VT budget?	Y									Y	Y		•	Y		Y	·									Y		
16. Do you AGREE not to pass unfunded mandates?	Y									Y	Y		•	Y		Y	·									Y		
17. Do you OPPOSE the use of foreign law and Sharia (Islamic law) in the Vermont and U.S. Judicial systems?													•	Y		Y	·									Y		
18. Do you support a voter identification (Voter ID) law?													•	Y		Y	·									Y		
19. Do you OPPOSE a single payer healthcare system?										L			·	Y		Y	·									Y		
20. Do you SUPPORT limiting party status in the Vermont permit process to those materially affected?													•	Y		Y										Y		

Voters are urged to contact candidates to be certain of their position

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CAM Network Survey			Ve	rm	ont	Ser	nat	e							;	Stat	tew	/ide	Of	ice	s			_		
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1. Do you AGREE that the United States was founded on Judeo-Christian principles?			ш					Y												Y					Y	
2 Have you, as an adult, actually READ the U.S. & VT Constitutions, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence in the past year?								Y				1								Y					Y	
3 Do you SUPPORT the right of towns and public schools to display Christmas items and sing songs that reflect Christmas as being the celebration of the birth of Christ?								Y												Y					Y	
4 Do you OPPOSE making physician-assisted suicide legal in Vermont?	Y	'				U	Υ	Y		Y	Ν	`	r	Y	Ν			Y		Y			Υ	•	YY	
5 Would you SUPPORT a woman's right-to-know law (information on fetal development, alternatives to abortion, and the medical/mental risks)?	N					N	Y	Y		N	N	י א	r	N Y	N		N	Y		Y	N		Y	N	Y Y	N
6. Do you OPPOSE the use of state funds for abortion?	Ν					Ν		Y			Ν	N Y	Y	1			Ν			U	Ν		Υ	N	YY	N
7. Do you BELIEVE life begins at conception?																									Y	
8. Would you SUPPORT a law allowing citizens' initiative petitions, requiring the legislature to vote on an issue?							Y	Y												Y					Y	
9 Would you SUPPORT legislation prohibiting nonresident college students or other non-residents from voting in Vermont elections?							Y	Y												Y					Y	
10. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?								N												Y					Y	
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13. Do you SUPPORT some form of voucher system to allow parents to choose the form of schooling most beneficial to their child?								Y												Y					Y	
14. Do you AGREE that the state should not raid dedicated funds for other purposes, e.g. transportation or education funds?							Y	Y												Y					Y	
15. Do you SUPPORT legislation requiring a balanced VT budget?								Υ												Y					Y	N
16. Do you AGREE not to pass unfunded mandates?								Y																	Y	
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CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

John C. Talcott, Jr,

I believe our nation, the United States of America, is at the crossroads. We need to choose God's way now, or we shall continue on the road to destruction just like other nations preceding us. Many selfish and ungodly men and women have been running our nation; we need to change this by voting in God-fearing, righteous persons to replace them.

What should we look for in political candidates seeking office? A few words of caution:

Don't select a candidate by party affiliation, for all parties have both good and corrupt individuals within the organization.

• Don't select a candidate by his appearance, good looks, etc.

• Don't select a candidate by what he says or promises

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he will do, for this is often meaningless when he gets into office.

• Don't select a candidate just because you know him, or some friend of yours knows him.

• Don't pick a candidate because he is the smartest person or has had the most experience in politics.

• Don't select a candidate because he says he is a Christian ~ most all will profess to be Christian since they live in a so-called Christian nation.

Of course, the best candidate is the committed, qualified, God-fearing Christian who is seeking office not to further his own interests, but to please God and to serve his community, state or nation justly and honestly. In many cases, the electorate may not have the choice of a qualified, born again Christian candidate! What do we look for then? First, we have to inquire more about the candidates, learn their qualifications: Does the person have an affiliation with a church or Christian organization? But, more importantly, does he or she have a sterling character? Is he a person of high principles? Is he seeking to serve his electorate as a statesman, not seeking the rewards accorded to politicians? Finally, is he honest? Is he humble? Is he willing to stand up for the right even though he may lose?

When you have a comparison of the qualifications of the candidate, pray to God about the matter, asking Him to give you His wisdom; particularly if two or more candidates seem to be about equal in their qualifications. Once you feel sure of the answer in your heart, promote and endorse the person of God's choice and be sure you cast your vote in the election.

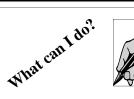
I am reminded that some choices seem impossible to make; neither one is a good choice. What do you do in such a case? Ask yourself; which person would the devil want more in this office? Upon determining that, vote for the other candidate, the lesser evil of the two.

Lastly, remember, by praying and fasting with God's people for our nation, we present a channel through which God can work.

John C. Talcott, Jr. served as the founding president of Intercessors For America.

"The way to have good and safe government is not to trust it all to one, but to divide it among the many, distributing to everyone exactly the functions in which he is competent...To let the National Government be entrusted with the defense of the nation, and its foreign and federal relations...The State Governments with the Civil Rights, Laws, Police and administration of what concerns the State generally. The Counties with the local concerns, and each ward direct the interests within itself. It is by dividing and subdividing the Republics from the great national one down through all it subordinations until it ends in the administration of everyman's farm by himself, by placing under everyone what his own eye may superintend, that all will be for the best."

Thomas Jefferson, third U.S. President





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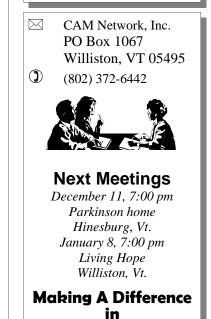
Faith without works is dead James 2:17

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"In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate ~ look to his character. The scriptures teach that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, men of truth, hating covetousness. It is to the neglect of this rule that we must ascribe the multiplied frauds, breaches of trust, and embezzlements of public property which tarnish the character of our country and disgrace government. When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility; he sacrifices not only his interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country."

Noah Webster, 1823

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