

**AMSS 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

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**“Muslim American Political Participation”**

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The face of any minority group is perhaps not shown more powerfully than through political activity. This study will detail Muslim-American involvement in American politics from 2002 to 2004. These dates were chosen to highlight Muslim political participation after 9/11, as there are clear indications that Muslim political activity increased during the years following September 11. This study will examine the political participation of those Muslim candidates who ran for seats in the United States House of Representatives and the Senate. Gathered information will include party affiliation as well as platforms and endorsements. The candidates' opinions will be assessed through interviews on a wide range of issues from domestic and foreign policy matters to their opinions with regard to such Muslim political organizations as the American Muslim Alliance (AMA) and the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). The names of Muslim-American candidates will be obtained from both the United States Office of the Clerk, which publishes lists of candidates and results of their congressional races, and the American Muslim Alliance (AMA), which records the names of Muslim-Americans running for public office. The campaigns of an approximate number of Muslim-American candidates obtained from these two sources will be detailed. A candidate will be considered Muslim only if he/she is identified as such in the campaign, regardless of race or ethnicity.