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People of faith and prophetic voices: the role of faith voters and activists in recent Minnesota political history

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PEOPLE OF FAITH AND PROPHETIC VOICES

*FAITH-BASED ORGANIZING IN RECENT MINNESOTA
POLITICAL HISTORY*

Eric S. Fought

Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary

2014 Election




- Voter Turnout
 - ▣ 51% statewide
 - ▣ 76% in 2012, 78% in 2008
- Same Day Registration
- Absentee Voting
- Photo ID Requirement

Voter ID Amendment Background

- ❑ March of 2012
- ❑ No Clear Path, Majority of Political Establishment Moves On
- ❑ Coalition Begins to Build
- ❑ Our Vote Our Future
 - ▣ Over 80 Groups
 - ▣ Multi-partisan Leadership



- 
- Need to Change the Conversation
 - ▣ Not a Simple Thing
 - ▣ Photo ID/Voter ID → Voter Restriction
 - ▣ Voter Fraud
 - ▣ Most Restrictive Proposal in the Country
 - ▣ Costs and Consequences

**For Minnesotans living in Crane Lake,
voter restriction won't be easy.**

263 miles round-trip to make sure
their provisional ballot is counted.

115 miles round-trip to obtain a
photo ID.



Moral and Faith-Based Argument



- ISALAH and Friends
 - ▣ Jewish Community Action, Minnesota Council of Churches, HIS Works United, Somali Action Alliance
 - ▣ Press Conferences in February and September
- Direct Engagement, One-on-One Conversations
 - ▣ Twin Cities and St. Cloud
 - Phone Banks
 - Direct Mail
 - Congregational Outreach
- Moral Call to Full Participation in Democracy

Minnesotans United for All Families



- Conversations
- Intentional Faith Outreach
- Catholics Divided
 - ▣ Minnesota Bishops
 - ▣ Clergy
 - ▣ Lay faithful
 - ▣ Academic institutions
 - ▣ Catholics for Marriage Equality

A Historic Night



A Historic Night



2013 Legislative Session



- ☐ People's Agenda
- ☐ Homeowner's Bill of Rights
- ☐ Minimum Wage
- ☐ Somali Lifeline
- ☐ Ban the Box

Our Call to Be Church in the World



- Catholic Social Teaching
- Scripture
- The Nature of Democracy Demands Participation
- When We Organize Together From Our Values, We Can and Do Win