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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



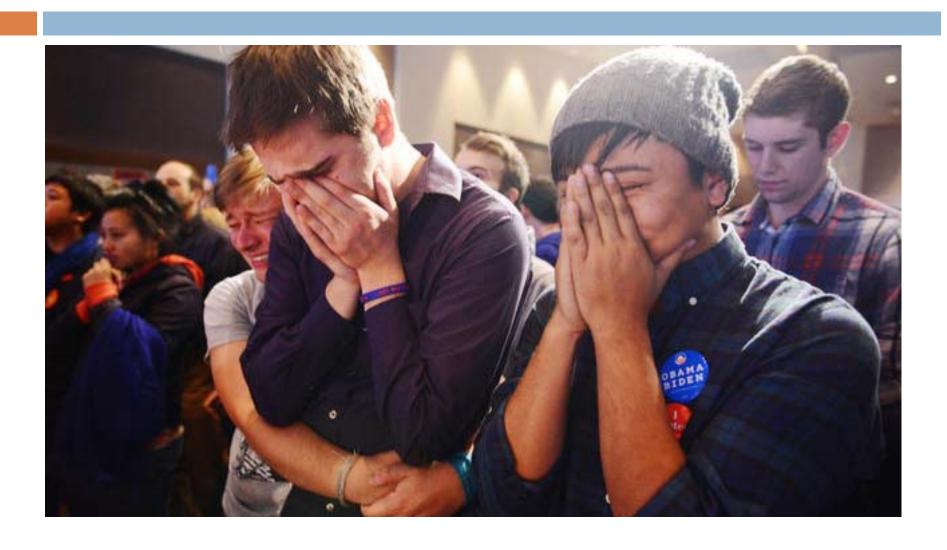
## Moral and Faith-Based Argument

- ISAIAH 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