



***"First Arab-American PAC in Illinois History" amvotepac.org***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 20, 2023**

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**AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST VOTERS ALLIANCE-PAC  
ANNOUNCES NEW ENDORSEMENT PROCESS TO  
ADDRESS CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS FOR  
PUBLIC OFFICE AND JUDICIARY AMID LAW FIRMS  
SUSPECTED OF INTOLERANCE AND BIAS**

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AMVOTE-PAC announced on Monday that it has amended its endorsement process to address candidate qualifications for public office and judiciary amid law firms suspected of intolerance and bias. AMVOTE-PAC will implement in its endorsement process **an explicit inquiry concerning diversity and inclusion practices of law firms presenting candidates for public office and the bench, especially as they relate to the treatment of Arab American and Muslim lawyers and law graduates.**

The American Middle East Voters Alliance (AMVOTE-PAC) is an “issues” PAC which engages in candidate endorsements to over **365,000 MENA voters in Illinois and over 195,000 voters in Cook County** in its proprietary database.

It has come to our attention that the MENA community is questioning the diversity and inclusion practices of certain Chicago law firms who are said to be participating in the nationwide campaign to influence law school deans concerning law students who vocalize concerns with the war in the Middle East.

AMVOTE-PAC questions the temperament and professionalism of those firms who would be intolerant of the constitutional rights of lawyers and law students to peacefully express their diverse opinions.

Therefore, in light of the aforementioned concerns for bias and undue influence, and in order to ensure the integrity and impartiality of any legal professionals seeking public office in the future, AMVOTE-PAC will implement in its endorsement process an explicit inquiry concerning diversity and inclusion practices of law firms presenting candidates for public office and the bench, especially as they relate to the treatment of Arab American and Muslim lawyers and law graduates.

**Judge William J. Haddad, Retired**

**CHAIR AMVOTE-PAC**

**Mission: Established in October of 2015 as a State PAC to promote new opportunities for our MENA community in (1) government, (2) business, (3) employment, (4) education, and (5) equal rights through voter empowerment.**

AMVOTE-PAC is not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee. A copy of our report is filed with the State Board of Elections or will be available on the Board’s official website ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL.