

# FRIDAY BRIEF

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## National Review Editor Suggests "Nuking Mecca"

An editor of the National Review magazine, Rich Lowry, and other contributors to the publication recently held a discussion in an online forum of the magazine that produced some disturbing comments. In "The Corner," a forum on National Review Online, a discussion began over what the United States would do if a nuclear weapon were detonated in a U.S. city by terrorists. According to Lowry, there was sentiment for attacking Mecca in that event, and other Middle Eastern cities were also discussed.

The Islamic Institute feels that discussions and comments of this nature do not help in our country's mission to fight terrorism and improve the civilizational dialogue of America and Islam. National Review should apologize for the statements, and take greater care in the future to promote more responsible journalism.

## Texas Primary Election Results

Primary elections were held in Texas on Tuesday, finalizing most of the candidates for state and federal offices in the general election this fall. In the race for governor, incumbent Republican Rick Perry will face Democrat primary winner Tony Sanchez, who took 62% of the vote. In the race to succeed retiring U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, Republican John Cornyn will face the winner of a runoff election between Democrats Victor Morales and Ron Kirk. In the races for the U.S. House of Representatives, several elections of interest included:

TX-6 - Republican incumbent Joe Barton will face Democratic challenger Felix Alvarado in November.

TX-18 - Democrat incumbent Sheila Jackson Lee will face Republican challenger Phillip Abbott.

TX-22 - Republican incumbent and House Majority Whip Tom Delay will face Democrat Tim Riley in November.

TX-26 - Republicans Scott Arney and Michael Burgess will face each other in a runoff election on April 9th, since neither candidate drew over 50% of the vote in the primary. Scott Arney is the son of House Majority Leader and current Representative of the 26th district, Dick Arney, who is retiring. The winner will face Democrat Paul Lebon in the general election.

TX-28 - Democrat incumbent Ciro Rodriguez will face Republican Gabriele Perales in November.

On Tuesday, March 19, the state of Illinois will hold its primary elections. The state is home to a large Muslim American population. The Islamic Institute encourages Muslims in Illinois to make their voices heard this month by getting out the vote for their primary elections.

## Senate Defeats Bill to Raise Gas Mileage Standards

This week, the Senate voted to effectively put off action on raising fuel efficiency standards, or CAFE (corporate average fuel economy) standards, on U.S. cars. A proposal on the floor to require American vehicles to become more fuel-efficient as a way to protect the environment was defeated 62-38, with the Senators deciding instead to direct the Bush administration to study how best to raise standards. A major problem in raising the standards is that car makers would have to sacrifice size and weight in their vehicles, making them less safe. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that the lighter vehicles resulting from increased CAFE standards have led to more than 40,000 additional highway deaths since 1975, when the standards were first introduced.