

## RI ACLU 2010 CANDIDATE SURVEY – FEDERAL OFFICE

**CANDIDATE: James R. Langevin**

Please respond to the following questions. If you wish to offer explanatory comments to any of the questions, please limit them to 50 words or less.

**1. In April, the New York Times reported that President Obama had approved the “targeted killing” of a U.S. citizen who is believed to be a high-level Al Qaeda operative. Are there any circumstances under which you would approve of the preemptive assassination of an individual suspected of acts of terrorism against this country?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*The United States does not conduct assassinations. There are certain individuals who continue to pose a high level threat to the security of the citizens of our country, and I support efforts to track them down and bring them to justice.*

**2. Should individuals accused of acts of terrorism against the United States be tried in traditional criminal court, rather than by military commissions?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

*US citizens deserve the full protection of their Constitutional rights. However, military commissions may be an acceptable venue for prosecuting certain enemy combatants in terrorism cases. The Administration must establish guidelines for prosecuting such cases so that we can develop a long-term solution that does not leave detainees in limbo.*

**3. Do you support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes provisions for the legalization of undocumented immigrants currently in the United States?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

*I strongly support comprehensive immigration reform. I am a co-sponsor of the CIR ASAP Act, which provides for a path to citizenship for those currently in this country illegally (subject to fines, background checks and other restrictions), in addition to stronger border security, employment verification and visa reform.*

**4. In February 2010, Congress passed, and President Obama signed into law, an extension of three expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, among them a provision authorizing the FBI to conduct roving wiretaps without having to identify the target. Do you support a repeal of this provision?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

*The FBI takes seriously its responsibility to protect the privacy of citizens, and it is critical that we provide them with the tools to keep Americans safe. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I will work to ensure our privacy protections are just as robust as our security efforts.*

**5. National health care reform legislation requires women who participate in health exchanges to pay their insurers separately for abortion-related coverage, creating potential financial disincentives for insurers to offer such coverage. Would you support removing this restriction from the new health care law?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

*Maintaining a separate, private funding stream allows women in the health exchanges to purchase abortion coverage with their own premium dollars while adhering to the longstanding policy that prohibits federal funding of abortion, except in extraordinary cases of rape, incest or life-endangerment.*

**6. Do you support elimination of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy for our military service members?**

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

*As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have long supported a repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I was proud to vote this year for a defense authorization*

*bill that included a repeal of the policy, and I hope the Senate will act on this provision quickly.*

**7. Do you support updating the Electronic Communications Privacy Act in order to limit the ability of law enforcement to conduct warrantless cell phone (GPS) tracking of individuals?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*We must protect civil liberties by ensuring strong oversight over internal controls and practices by those in law enforcement using this tool. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I am currently reviewing this issue to ensure an appropriate balance between security and privacy.*

**8. In light of this country's very high and racially- disparate incarceration rates, do you believe that mandatory minimum sentences serve an important sentencing objective?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*While I support the intent behind mandatory minimums, I am concerned that in practice, they don not allow judges sufficient discretion and can also have the unintended impact of creating racial disparities (such as with the sentencing guidelines for powder and crack cocaine).*

**9. The Paycheck Fairness Act seeks to close loopholes in the law in order to redress the fact that women earn only 77 cents to the dollar that men earn. Do you support this proposal?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

*I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will help end gender-based wage disparities. I also supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and I will continue to support legislation that ensures women are paid equally for their work.*