

More than half of New York voters oppose Ground Zero mosque plan: poll

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Originally Published: Thursday, July 1st 2010, 10:43 AM
Updated: Friday, July 2nd 2010, 2:49 AM



Siegel for News Vincent and Joyce Boland of New Jersey, whose son Vincent died on the 97th floor of Tower 1 on 9/11, were among hundreds who rallied to protest plans to build a mosque just blocks from Ground Zero.

More than half of [New York](#) voters oppose building a Muslim community center blocks away from Ground Zero, a new [Quinnipiac University](#) poll found.

A solid 52% of voters in the five boroughs don't want the Cordoba House in lower [Manhattan](#), and just 31% are behind the center.

Voters in Manhattan are most supportive of the project, with 46% in favor.

The strongest opposition came from [Staten Island](#), where 73% of voters oppose it.

"Is it because we're still nursing the wounds from the terrorist attack on the [World Trade Center](#), or is it more like bigotry?" asked [Maurice Carroll](#), the poll's director.

The Cordoba House, a planned 13-floor Muslim community center and mosque two blocks from Ground Zero, has upset families of 9/11 victims and their supporters. They claim the building would amount to a monument for terrorists.

But Islamic community leaders insist the project is about building bridges between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Community Board 1, which represents lower Manhattan, voted in favor of building the mosque in May. Most politicians who represent the area have thrown their support behind it.

The Cordoba House doesn't need city approval to be built downtown. Developers own the land at 45 Park Place, and it is properly zoned for a community center.

The only potential construction obstacle is the pending landmarks status for the building. Mosque developers intend to demolish the former home of a [Burlington Coat Factory](#) store to build the center.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will vote

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on the fate of the building later this month.

Opposition to the Cordoba House aside, 55% of New Yorkers polled said "mainstream Islam" is a "peaceful religion," compared with 22% who said the religion "encourages violence against non-Muslims."

Officials from the Cordoba House yesterday declined to comment on the poll.

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