

## Good News From Tennessee

Michael Sean Winters | Aug. 6, 2010 | Distinctly Catholic

Kudos to the Republican voters in the Volunteer State who last night [nominated Bill Haslam](#) [1] as their candidate for Governor. Haslam fended off challenges from two more conservative candidates who challenged him on a host of issues, including raising taxes while Mayor of Knoxville.

One of those challengers, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, was caught on video suggesting that Islam is a cult. It would have been a sad day if he had won. The other candidate, Rep. Zach Wamp, told voters he wanted to restore the state to ?Judeo-Christian values? which is a kind of code in some circles for pursuing a rightwing agenda. Ramsey garnered on 22 percent of the vote and Wamp took 29 percent. Haslam garnered an impressive 48 percent.

I am a lifelong Democrat, but it is not good for the country to have either party too beholden to their more extreme elements. The lesson from Tennessee is that a record of moderate governance can still win at the polls. It is an important lesson.

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[1] <http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/05/knoxville-mayor-wins-tennessee-g-o-p-primary/?ref=politics>