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PRESS RELEASE

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New Book Explains Mitt Romney's Mormon Beliefs

Washington, D.C.—July 13, 2012—Mitt Romney is a Mormon, but does that mean he's a Christian? Does he belong to a cult? Does he wear funny Mormon underwear? These questions and more are answered in *Could I Vote for a Mormon for President? An Election-Year Guide to Mitt Romney's Religion* (144 pp., tpb., \$12.95), by Ryan T. Cragun and Rick Phillips. In this accessible and concise introduction to Mormonism, two sociologists of religion take an objective look at 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney's beliefs. The book is geared to voters wondering whether Romney's Mormon faith should affect their vote. It answers about 20 common questions people ask about Mormonism, including whether Romney is likely to take orders from Salt Lake or base political decisions on his religion.

Mark Silk, author of *One Nation, Divisible: How Regional Religious Differences Shape American Politics*, says, "Cragun and Phillips' irreverent guide for the perplexed tells you everything you need to know about Mormonism this election season." And Geoffrey Kabaservice, author of *Rule and Ruin: The Decline of Moderation and the Destruction of the Republican Party, from Eisenhower to the Tea Party*, calls the book "a scholarly but highly accessible analysis of Mormonism in politics that is even-handed, educational, enlightening, and even entertaining. It should be read by anyone who's planning to vote for Mitt Romney — or against him."

Authors Ryan T. Cragun and Rick Phillips are professors of sociology at the University of Florida and the University of North Florida, respectively. Both are former presidents of the Mormon Social Science Association and experts in the field of Mormon studies. Each was raised Mormon, served a Mormon mission, and subsequently left the Mormon church. The authors say they harbor no ill-will against their former faith, but simply want to prevent misinformation regarding it.

Could I Vote for a Mormon for President? An Election-Year Guide to Mitt Romney's Religion was published by Strange Violin Editions in July 2012, in original trade paperback (US\$12.95) and e-book (US\$3.99) formats. For more information, reviews, and updates, please visit <http://strangeviolineditions.com/could-i-vote-for-a-mormon>. Strange Violin Editions is a small independent publisher based in Washington, D.C., that specializes in literary works by or about former and current Mormons from a variety of perspectives. Review copies may be requested through NetGalley or from the publisher (therese.doucet@strangeviolineditions.com).

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