

# BOISI CENTER

# INTERVIEWS

NO. 38: OCTOBER 21, 2009

**owens:** Your [recent book](#) is about the 1960 election. Could you explain the final stages of the campaign, with a Catholic candidate against a candidate who was born a Quaker and the political context surrounding that?

**casey:** September of 1960 was the most dramatic moment in terms of the religion issue. Kennedy had a group of pollsters who came to him and people were against him because he was Catholic and

**Erik Owens** after his presentation comparing the 1960 and 2008 presidential elections at the Boisi Center.

He was very adept, did a great job, and was rewarded with an ambassadorship after the election.

**OWENS:** As a senior advisor to the Obama campaign in 2008, what were the lessons from 1960 campaign that you and your team employed in the contem-



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