



NOVEMBER | 2025

Our Votes, Our Power

November Election & Community Impact Report

The Charlotte Muslim Caucus continues to build political momentum and community protection across Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. This month's newsletter highlights our election wins, policy interventions, and the ways our community showed up for one another when it mattered most.

CMS Board Elections

All CMC-Endorsed Candidates Won

This year's Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education elections brought fresh faces and bold new priorities. Every candidate endorsed by the Charlotte Muslim Caucus won their race.

Shamaiye Haynes, District 2

Longtime education advocate and founder of the Charlotte Community Think Tank.

Platform Highlights:

- Expanding parental and community involvement in schools
- Promoting restorative justice approaches to student discipline
- Supporting "Community Schools" with services for families

Anna London, District 6

President of Charlotte Works and a leader in workforce development.

Platform Highlights:

- Strengthening post-graduation career and training pathways
- Building trust through consistent, transparent communication
- Increasing transparency in district decision-making

City Council Wins & Organizing Victory

In the most recent city council elections, 8 out of 10 Charlotte Muslim Caucus endorsed candidates won their seats!

A Stand-Out Example – in the primaries, our endorsed candidate J.D. Mazuera Arias (District 5) defeated an incumbent by just **33** votes!

Joi Mayo won District 3 with roughly 73% of the vote after defeating the incumbent in the primary.

Kimberly Owens flipped the seat to Democrats on District 6 with approximately 56.5% of the vote.

Why this Matters for Us

- Our combined efforts can be the tipping point that produces wins at the local level.
- These victories build infrastructure: relationships, voting power, and volunteer capacity we can deploy in future campaigns.
- We do *not* need to wait for someone else to act WE are the change we wish to see!



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Transit Tax Referendum

On November 4, 2025, Mecklenburg County voters approved a 1 percent sales tax referendum, raising the local rate from 7.25% to 8.25%. Generating \$19.4 billion over 30 years for transit, roads, sidewalks, buses, and rail.

The Charlotte Muslim Caucus recommended a 'NO' vote based on concerns about equity, accountability, and community benefit. However, we remained actively engaged throughout the process by tracking board appointments, following candidate interviews, and mobilizing our base.

Because of our organizing, we helped secure at least one community focused voice, Cameron Pruett, on the upcoming transit board at a time when many proposed appointees were more aligned with business interests than community needs.

Our email and outreach campaign to members and supporters play a key role in raising awareness and influencing how this new system will be governed. Although the final outcome was not our preferred one, we can make a real difference regarding who sits at the table and how decisions will be made.

NC Divests from Israeli Bonds

We are hopeful by the news that North Carolina has fully divested \$6.4 million in Israeli government bonds from the State Pension Fund. This is a significant step for human rights and responsible public spending.

This victory comes after sustained advocacy by the Break the Bonds NC Coalition, along with partners such as Jewish Voice for Peace and dozens of other organizations statewide. The Charlotte Muslim Caucus proudly partnered with the petition demanding that our public dollars not be used to support foreign human rights violations.

This is just the beginning. We will continue to advocate for divestment from all institutions complicit in injustice, both at home and abroad. People power works and coalition work wins. Let's keep building.

Charlotte Names First Female Police Chief

Charlotte has appointed Estella Patterson as the new Chief of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD), making history as the first woman to lead the department.

A former CMPD officer and most recently the Chief of the Raleigh Police Department, Patterson brings more than two decades of experience, a strong record on reducing crime, and a publicly stated commitment to community engagement, officer wellness, and public safety. She will succeed Chief Johnny Jennings at the end of the year.



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Immigration Raids Response

When Customs and Border Patrol launched immigration raids in Charlotte, fear spread widely and more than 350 people were detained.

The Charlotte Muslim Caucus did not stay silent. Partnering with CAIR, MAPAC, and advocacy group Muslim Women For (MWF), we organized across the state to protect our communities in the following ways:

- Issued a joint statement that was featured on CNN
- Gathered leaders statewide for urgent strategy calls
- Created and distributed a community safety checklist

Our message is clear: "We urge you to stay safe. Carry ID. Know your rights. You are not alone!"

When systems failed our most vulnerable neighbors, our community rose up with dignity, generosity, and unity. We did not wait. We showed up. This is the heart of our work: collective care grounded in faith and justice.

Community Engagement and City Committee Opportunities

- **What's Happening:** Charlotte has openings on various city committees and boards, where residents can influence local issues like transportation and environmental sustainability.
- **How to Get Involved:** Apply for these roles via the City of Charlotte's website. Participate in forums, discussions, and stay engaged with community volunteer opportunities.
- **Local Committees:** Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Tree Advisory Commission, Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board, Historic District Commission, Civil Service Board, Community Relations Committee, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Access Corporation Board, Domestic Violence Advisory Board, Neighborhood Matching Council Grants Committee, Transit Services Advisory Committee, Waste Management Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Council, Charlotte Water Advisory Committee.

WE CAN HELP YOU APPLY!

When SNAP Cuts Hit, Our Community Stepped Up

As government support fell short, Charlotte's Muslim community stepped up to navigate the uncertain political reality.

- **Masjid Ash-Shaheed** – Free groceries every Sunday for anyone in need
- **Pillars Masjid** – Week long food drive (Nov. 8–14) supporting local families
- **Islamic Center of Charlotte (ICC)** – Community wide food drive
- **Islamic Society of Greater Charlotte (ISGC), The Haveli Foundation & United Ummah CLT** – family food distributions
- **Masjid Qiblatain, Project Ibadah, & Triad Muslim brothers** – Ongoing clothing, hygiene, and food support
- **Welcome Home CLT** – Regular food assistance to refugee families rebuilding their lives.



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We are seeking representation from women and other underrepresented members of our community!

If you would like to get involved with the Caucus to build a better future for this life and the hereafter, please reach out via email!



HARAZ

COFFEE HOUSE

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REACH OUT FOR FUTURE AD SPACE