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# BREAKING NEWS

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CHARLOTTE MUSLIM CAUCUS ✧ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

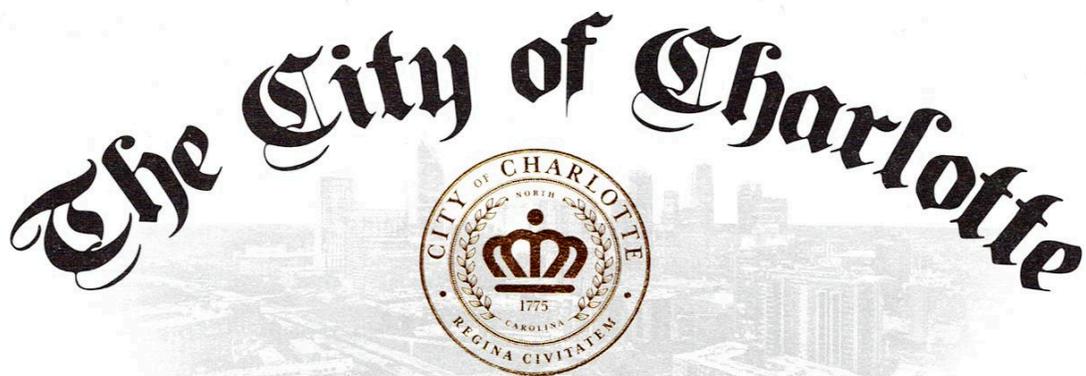
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# ELECTIONS ARE HERE!

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PRIMARY ELECTIONS ARE SET FOR MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>



## PROCLAMATION

### Ramadan Proclamation

As we welcome the holy month of Ramadan, the City of Charlotte's official proclamation stands as a testament to our community's growing visibility. However, as students of both faith and history, we know that symbolic recognition can often serve as "cheap grace" for a political establishment looking for the path of least resistance. While a proclamation honors our presence, it does not, by itself, grant us a seat at the table where budgets are balanced and infrastructure is planned. To move from being recognized to being truly represented, we must transform this visibility into a disciplined, organized political force.

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# MUSLIMS RUNNING FOR OFFICE

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## CHARLOTTE MUSLIM CAUCUS ✧ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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WE ARE PROUD TO HIGHLIGHT ALL MUSLIMS RUNNING FOR OFFICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA!

### NASIF MAJEED



NASIF MAJEED HAS BEEN A RESPECTED LEADER IN CHARLOTTE AND ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA FOR DECADES, MAKING A LASTING IMPACT IN PUBLIC SERVICE. AS THE FIRST MUSLIM EVER ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE STATE, HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF A TRAILBLAZER COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, AND PROGRESS.

### MUJTABA A. MOHAMMED



AS AN ATTORNEY, NONPROFIT LEADER, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE, AND NC STATE SENATOR SINCE 2018, MUJTABA MOHAMMED HAS BEEN A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES. HE IS DRIVEN BY A DEEP COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL CHARLOTTE FAMILIES.

### NIDA ALLAM



NIDA ALLAM MADE HISTORY IN 2020 AS THE FIRST MUSLIM WOMAN ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE IN NORTH CAROLINA, EARNING A SEAT ON THE DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. NOW SHE IS BUILDING ON THAT LEGACY WITH A HISTORIC RUN FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS REPRESENTING MEANINGFUL PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND REPRESENTATION.

### SHARIF HANNAN



SHARIF HANNAN'S RUN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE REFLECTS THE MISSION OF THE CHARLOTTE MUSLIM CAUCUS: EMPOWERING MUSLIM LEADERS TO STEP INTO PUBLIC SERVICE AND CHAMPION POLICIES THAT SERVE PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE AND EQUITY. HE HOPES HIS RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

RUNNING FOR NC STATE  
SENATE SEAT 22



LAKESHIA M. ALSTON

RUNNING FOR RALIGH CITY  
COUNCIL AT-LARGE



SANA SIDDIQUI



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# MAJOR LOCAL ISSUE

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## CHARLOTTE MUSLIM CAUCUS ✖ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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### I-77 HIGHWAY TOLLS

The I-77 South Express Lane project has become the ultimate litmus test for community influence in Charlotte. For the Caucus, this is a "proof of concept" for advocacy. It demonstrates that when we remain silent, officials treat our neighborhoods as lines on a map to be exploited for private profit. A review of City Council proceedings from the past two years reveals a radical shift in the political landscape, catalyzed entirely by resident presence.

In October 2024, the Council's posture was one of **quiet compliance**. Committee Chair Ed Driggs "nudged" the city toward a Public-Private Partnership (P3) model for what was then an estimated **\$3.7 billion project**. The conversation was technical, financial, and **devoid** of community soul.

By the February 23, 2026, business meeting, the atmosphere was unrecognizable. The cost had escalated by 600million to a staggering **4.3 billion highway expansion**, proving that the "business as usual" model has failed even on its own fiscal terms. Compelled by a room overflowing with constituents and a petition of 1,300 names, Council members were forced to re-evaluate the project's legitimacy. Council Members urgently demanded a 60-day pause, acknowledging that the city has "lost public confidence."

Most pointedly, Council Member Dimple Ajmera challenged the status quo, stating, "Leadership is not about saying that our hands are tied; it's about asking who tied them and why." The February 2026 meeting proves that the calculus of power changes when the community organizes. Council members noted that "**when this room overflows at this capacity, it tells us the trust the community has in us is on the line.**"



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# THE COURAGE OF DOROTHY COUNTS-SCOGGINS

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## CHARLOTTE MUSLIM CAUCUS ✖ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor those who modeled the civic courage we now strive to emulate. We stand on the shoulders of giants who understood that showing up in spaces where you are not expected is the first step toward justice.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dorothy Counts-Scoggins: A local hero of Charlotte's West End, Ms. Counts-Scoggins was one of the first African American students to desegregate Harding High School. In 1957, she walked through a gauntlet of hostility to claim her right to an education, a moment that forever changed the moral fabric of our city.



She was **spat** on so much that day that she remembers having to **wring** out her dress once she got home because it was so wet. As Muslims, remembering sacrifices like hers is not simply history, it is a reminder that dignity and justice were preserved because ordinary people refused to stay silent in the face of humiliation. Honoring those who came before us means carrying that same moral courage forward, standing for justice even when it is uncomfortable or costly.

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# WANTED MUSLIMS READY TO ENGAGE!

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CITY COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Charlotte has openings on various city committees and boards, where residents can influence local issues like transportation and environmental sustainability.

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!

### BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF ADVOCACY

Join, Volunteer, Donate

Our faith teaches us the concept of Sadaqah Jariyah (continuous charity) that yields benefits long after the initial act. Building a sustainable advocacy infrastructure is our civic Sadaqah Jariyah. We must move beyond reactive politics to a model of proactive power building. The Caucus exists to ensure that the "path of least resistance" taken by officials is redirected toward the priorities of our masjids and neighborhoods.

**JOIN:** Become a member to help set our 2026 strategic priorities.

**VOLUNTEER:** Apply the prophetic mandate to "change a wrong with your hand" by lending your professional skills to our legislative and mobilization teams.

**DONATE:** Consistent funding is the only way to counter the corporate interests that lobby for toll lanes and displacement. Your resources sustain the professional advocacy needed for long-term accountability.

Interested in getting more involved in local politics? Whether you're in Charlotte, or elsewhere and want to use our model for grassroots advocacy, we're here to support you. We believe in building power together for both our ummah and our greater society, so reach out and help us grow this movement!