emergeusa

POLITICALLY EMPOWERING AMERICAN MUSLIMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. **33**

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN ABRAHAM LINCO

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*Programs described on pages (10-28) and (32-34) are programs of Emerge USA Foundation

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSONS

It is the day after the November 2016 Presidential elections. The headline reads, "American Muslims arrive as a political player." The article goes on to point out how this year the American Muslim community turned itself into a true asset that will be highly sought after in political circles. They voted over 10% above the state average in the key swing states of Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Florida. They raised over \$1 million nationally for candidates at all levels of office. And the American Muslim community continued in its goal to develop a culture that sees voting as an outcome of consistent civic engagement instead of making voting the end goal.

This is what Emerge USA has worked towards in 2015 and will continue to work towards in 2016. Our programmatic approach to civic engagement is designed to create the American Muslim community as a consistent and strong voice in the political process. We made some changes to Emerge USA's structure in 2015 to strengthen the position of our community at achieving this goal.

The net result of our restructuring is you now have the tools creating a complete ecosystem for political power. You can educate the community, create the next generation of leaders, track political priorities of the masses, advocate those priorities to those who write laws, and fund to support those who support our priorities. All you have to do is plug yourself into this ecosystem. Do this by becoming a member of Emerge USA at www.emerge-usa.org. When you do, please check the box to support the PAC so we can support the elected officials whose vison is aligned with ours. Also, please help the foundation with your larger donations, your time, your children's time, and your voice. You are Emerge USA. Your engagement in the political process is not only limited to voting. In this national election year we need help knocking on doors, making phone calls (known as phone banking), and hosting neighborhood events to talk about issues. We need your support so that on November 9th, we can ensure the story is "American Muslims arrive as a political player".

KHURRAM WAHID

Co-Chairperson Khurren Wahid

AJ DURANNI Co-Chairperson

emergeusa correctioner

In 2015, we've experienced tremendous growth at Emerge USA and continued to solidify our presence and support in five additional States in the Union. We've now developed our turn-key model for civic and political engagement with the creation of replicable tools, standard operating procedures and methods of data collection that better tell the narrative of the American Muslim community. We can show our elected officials, through facts, our collective impact on not just the local, State and Federal races, but where we stand on core legislative issues that affect America today.

We've seen the American Muslim wake up in the past year with Islamophobia reaching new highs, negative effects of overseas conflict spilling into the overall perceptions of American Muslims and new and creative forms of legislation on the State and Federal levels of government to restrict and encroach on our inalienable rights under the United States constitution.

The challenge we face is far more daunting than at any time in history. When 60% of Americans have never met a Muslim, negative stereotypes prevail. With continued grassroots engagement we become humanized in the eyes of others and people can see the contributions we make to society.

At Emerge USA, we have and will continue to make those opportunities for community engagement, but we cannot do it without your support. That requires both your time and resources. I humbly request everyone who reads this Annual Report and likes what they see to sign up to become a member. With your membership we can create an institution that stands the test of time that serves the interest of American Muslims and the causes of those who share our struggle against bigotry, hatred and ignorance. Through your investment, we can create a world where a Muslim does not have to hide their faith, where education is paramount and we support those candidates and elected officials who share a vision of pluralism and justice for all.

TAMIM CHOWDHURY

Executive Director

MEET THE TEAM

WHAT DEFINES THE AMERICAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY?

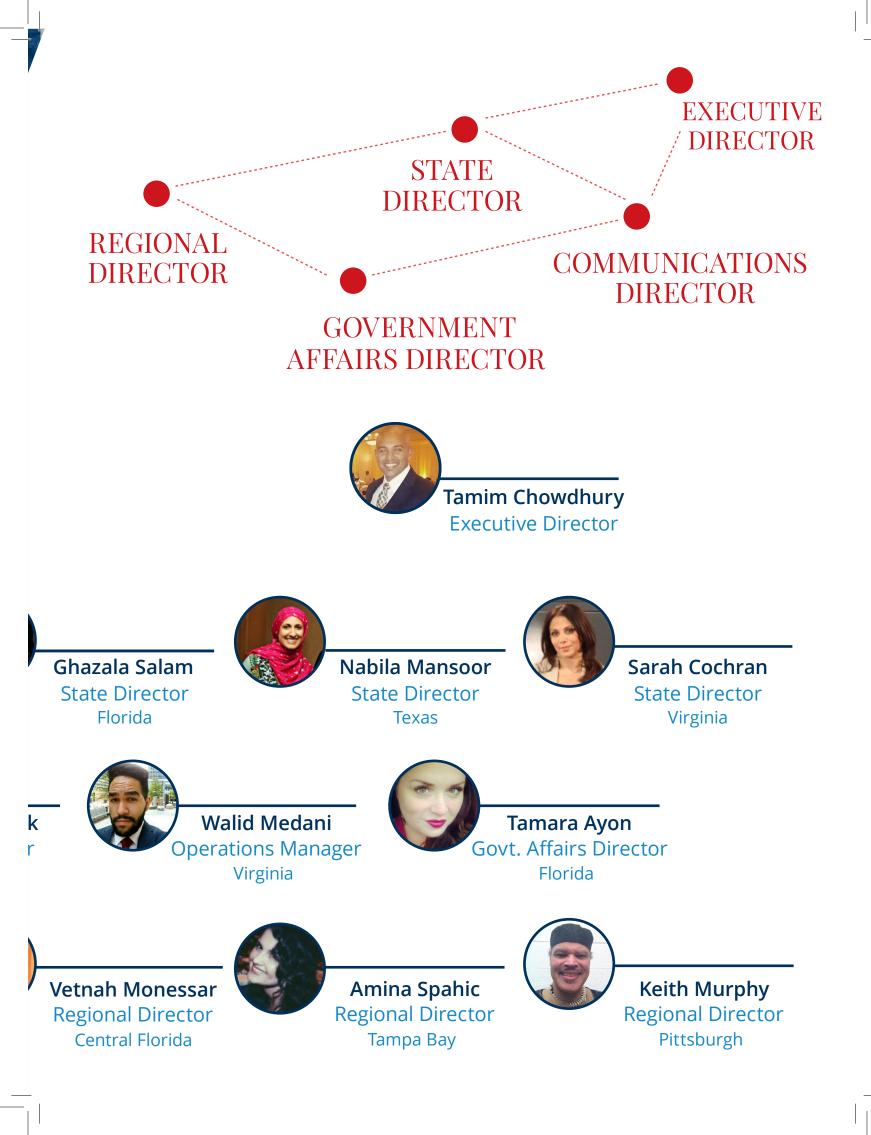
The diversity of our community is one of our greatest strengths while also our greatest challenge. Emerge USA strives to ensure that we are able to reach every part of the American Muslim community. To do that, we have actively built our board and staff to reflect the diversity of our communities and our country. The various backgrounds and experiences our team brings to the table helps us to better serve our communities and country. Through sharing the best of ourselves as a team we have built tight bonds and a sense of family at Emerge USA. It is with that same passion and understanding we are able to do the civic work that you have entrusted us to do and bring communities together.



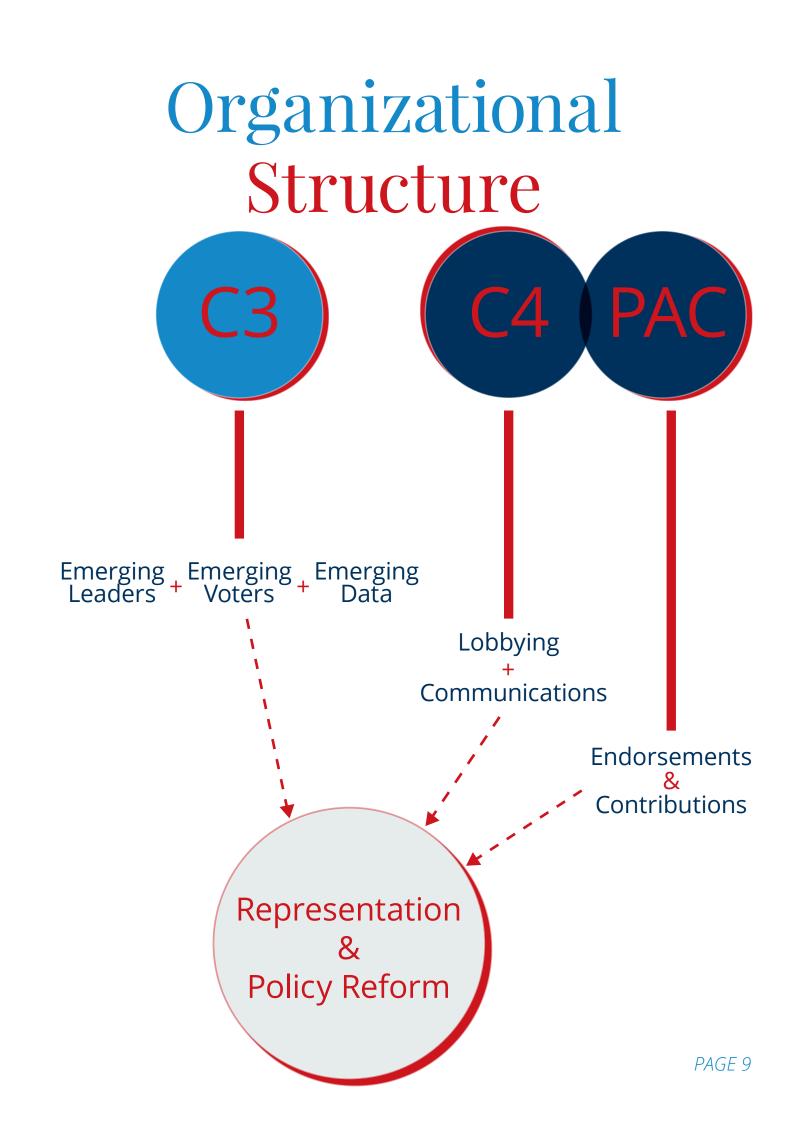


Wendy Keslick State Director Pennsylvania

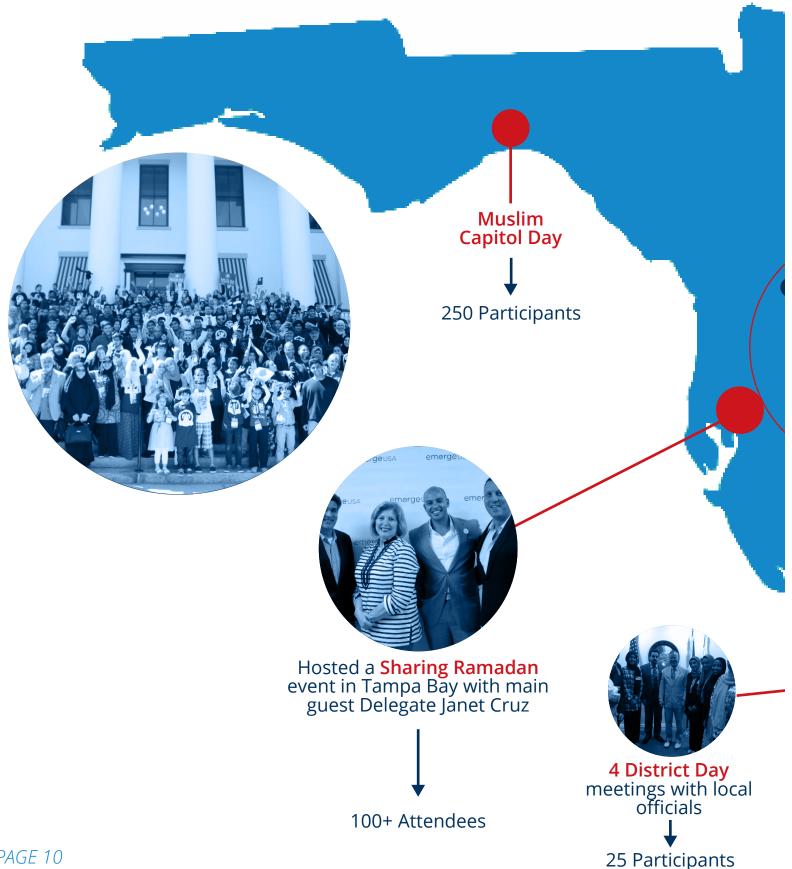


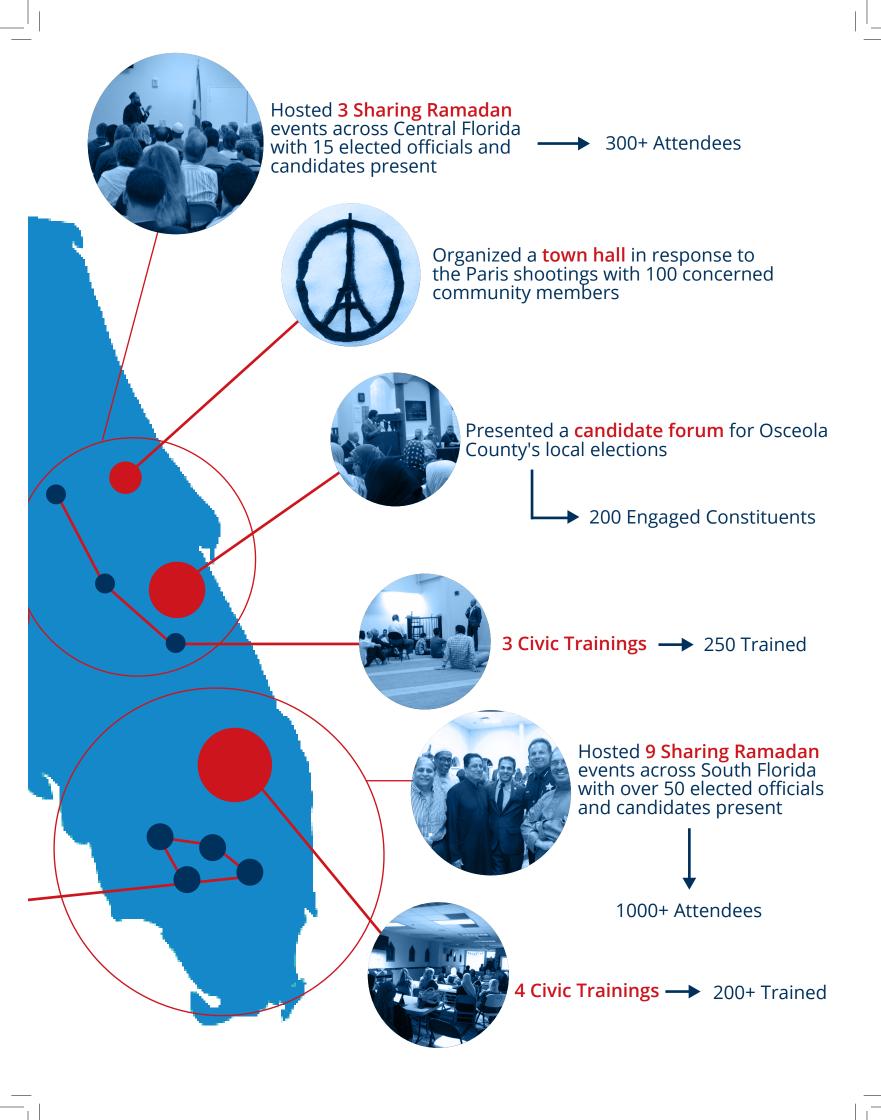






FLORIDA





TEXAS



mergeus

1,000 GOTV Phone Calls Made

+

20 Voter Registration Drives

500 Registered



Nabila Mansoor, Texas Director, discusses the **impact that Asian-American voters** could have on November's General Elections with ABC 13's "*Visions*"



Emerging Leaders visit State Capitol to maintain a relationship with their elected representatives and better understand the civic process

Organized a Mayoral Debate followed by a Houston City Council Candidate Forum

250 Engaged Constituents



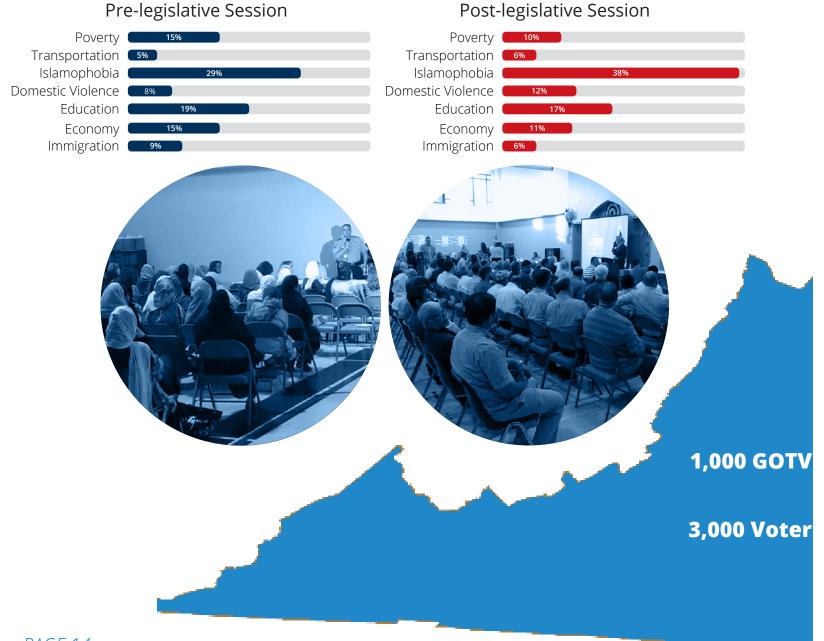


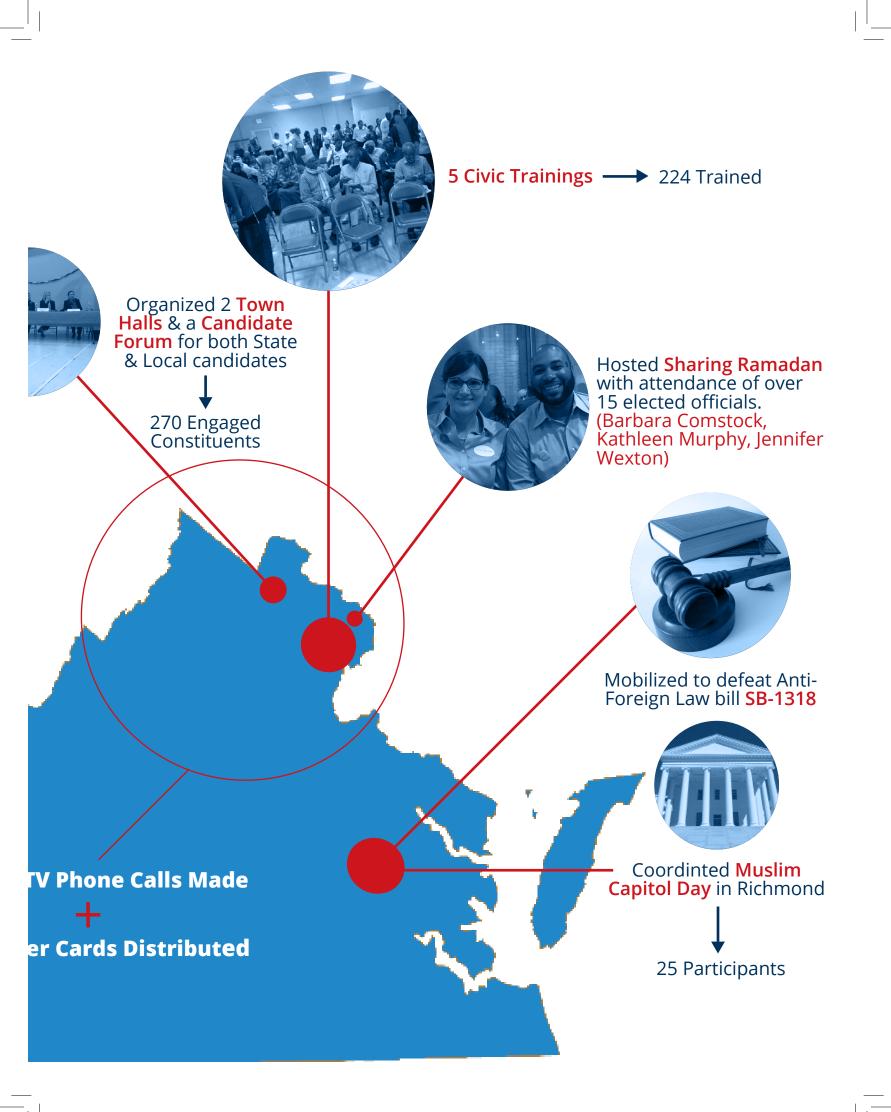
VIRGINIA

Emerge USA and the All Dulles Area Muslim Society's (ADAMS) ACE group conducted two Town Hall meetings in 2015. On January 9th, a pre-legislative Town Hall introduced Delegates and Senators to issues that concern the area's American Muslims before they headed to Richmond.

After the legislative session, we co-hosted yet another Town Hall at the ADAMS Center. This event allowed lawmakers to return to the community with updates on specific committee decisions and specific bills on the floor of the General Assembly. Below is the data that we collected on how American Muslims feel about the issues from both events:







PENNSYLVANIA





Expanded operations out west by opening a new office in Pittsburgh

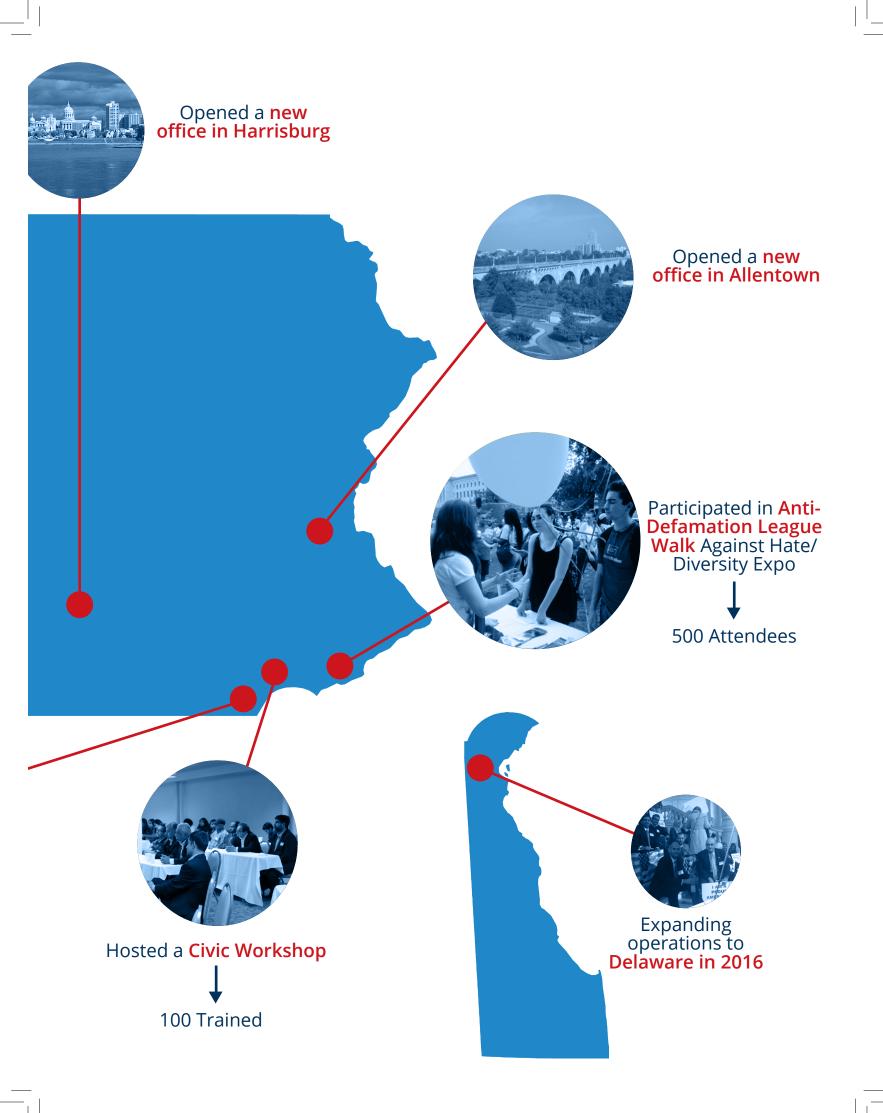






Hosted an "Evening with Congressman Keith Ellison"

> ↓ 60 Attendees



West Chester, PA

Houston, TX

TRAINING

A core program of Emerge USA is to better educate our communities on how government works, how citizens can best engage government and how to get involved in the political process. Our training tackles four categories: Government Structure, Civic Engagement, The Legislative Process, and Advocacy.

Orlando, FL

Fairfax, VA



Broward, FL

Kissimmee, FL





"If we have an Allen West in Congress who makes statements against Muslims, we can leverage our voting block and get him out of office. That's the work of Emerge USA. That is the result of what we have to do when we have 8 million Muslims in the greatest country in recorded history."

- Andre Carson, Congressman Indiana's 7th Congressional District



"This organization is addressing one of the most fundamental and key aspects of empowerment - that is mobilizing the vote and being a part of the political process."

(

- Keith Ellison, Congressman Minnesota's 5th Congressional District

The Founder's Society Dinner is an annual, national event, which raises funds for the growth and expansion of Emerge USA Foundation into new markets and to fortify our efforts in existing markets. This event is a convening of distinguished community leaders, organizational champions and elected officials from all levels of government to celebrate the previous years' successes and to look forward to face the challenges in the year ahead.

Our Founders Society members are philanthropic champions that are committed to the long term institutional sustainability of Emerge USA and seek to scale our impact to reach more states with a sizable American Muslim electorate.



"The great work that Emerge USA is doing is that it's bringing Muslims (together) without asking them are you Shia or Sunni. Rather it's saying are you looking to help the cause of humanity in America and building a better future? Then come along and join us in this journey."

- Dr. Sayed Ammar Nakshawani Islamic Historian & Speaker



"Emerge USA is a promising organization that is bringing positive change not only to the Muslim community but also to the nation at large by engaging Muslims and others minority groups into the public discourse."

- Mohammed Magid Imam of All Dulles Area Muslim Society

SHARING RANADAN

For the past several years, Emerge USA has been engaging elected officials and community leaders through Sharing Ramadan events across our states of operation. Elected officals, community leaders, and faith leaders come together to share the experience of Ramadan and engage in dialogue about the issues that matter most to our communities.

A part of sharing the Ramadan spirit with non-Muslims, is a voluntary "Ramadan Challenge" issued out to participants to document their day of fasting on social media via #SharingRamadan. Through the month of Ramadan, we were blessed to have over 100 elected officials join us by fasting with us and/or joining us in an iftar (breaking of the fast) at 15 Sharing Ramadan events nationwide. A special thanks to the 2000+ members of the Muslim community who joined us at the #SharingRamadan events to dispel negative stereotypes, meet their elected officials and share the beauty of our community during such a reflective and pious time.

15+ Sharing Ramadan *Iftars* across our swing states

"Our Muslim community is one of the most rapidly growing multicultural communities in Central Florida that shows through this activity their pride in perserving the culture, spiritual, and family values that will be passed on in new generations." - Buddy Dyer, Mayor of Orlando, FL





"Emerge USA thank you for the opportunity to join you and share Ramadan with you. I always think it's so wonderful when we can all come together over a table, visit, talk, share and learn more about each other's traditions."

- Barbara Comstock, Virginia Congresswoman



Jennifer Wexton @SenatorWexton



Fasting today in honor of #SharingRamadan along with @EmergeUSA & my Muslim friends and supporters. (1/2) 10:01 AM - 1 Jul 2015



emergeusa

Koran T. Saines @Koran4sterling

During my lunch hour, I took a walk and reflected on all the blessings in my life #SharingRamadan @EmergeUSA 1:30 PM - 1 Jul 2015

emergeusa

er



Raymond Rieling @RaybabyIV

Fasting w/ @SenatorWexton today for @EmergeUSA 's #SharingRamadan. So far the lack of coffee has been the hardest part... 12:33 PM - 1 Jul 2015



EMERGING LEADERS

he Emerging Leaders program launched in 2011 and has seen over 200 students graduate into leadership roles in their communities, schools, and occupations. Emerging Leaders aims to empower American Muslim youth and train a generation of leaders that will pave the way for equal opportunities and fair representation for everyone.

Every year we train our next generation of leaders through targeted training and skill building. Prominent mentors ranging from a wide array of skill-sets participate to instruct our students. These students then go on to serve as civic leaders in government, non-profits and other community organizations.

Emerge USA offers a bridge into internships, jobs, and mentoring opportunities in every field from a network that keeps growing with each year of Emerging Leaders. In 2016 we plan to launch an alumni version of Emerging Leaders to allow those young people to invest back into their community as well as guide the emerging leaders that follow in their footsteps.

Themed Curriculum

The Emerging Leaders program consists of three themed retreats over the course of six months. Each retreat emphasizes service, engagement and leadership, respectively.

Service

SILED

How to serve your community

Engagement

Best practices of influencing change

Leadership

How to craft your vision and inspire others to support it

by Nabila Mansoor TX, State Director

Alter

Texas held its first Leadership Class in 2015 with the aim of developing young leaders to be productive and connected citizens who make meaningful contributions – now and throughout their adult lives. Our Service Retreat held in Istanbul, Turkey was truly exciting Abroad, our Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to meet with and engage accomplished leaders and serve with community and philanthropic service providers. Our young leaders met writers, journalists and educators as well as contributing to local refugee relief efforts. The trip inspired not only our Emerging Leaders to recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective ethical leaders in their own community but also in the "global society" of the 21st century.

"It is always important for me to be visibly standing up for the Muslim community. I'll tell you why -because I'm Chinese and many of the things that are happening to the Muslim community already happened to my community."

- Gene Wu, Texas State Representative













ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Iman Khalil, an Emerging Leaders Alumni, is currently interning at the Tampa City Council and pursuing her Masters in Public Health with a oncentration in Global Health Practice at the University of South Florida



hen we think of leadership and politics, we often think of loud-mouth, obnoxious politicians in pressed suits yelling and shaking their fists in regards to policies and legislation. For many, this image is very unsettling and the idea of being involved in the political process is unattractive. It definitely was for me.

I saw it as an opportunity to learn about the political system so that I could manipulate it for the greater good of public health. I was adamantly convinced that I could be a good leader without being involved in the political scene. I felt that the craziness of politics would only hold me back in the public health endeavors I was pursing. My mentor approached me with an opportunity to grow my leadership and political skills and initially, I was not interested. I felt like I would be exposing myself to experiences that were unnecessary to my growth. After a long conversation with my mentor I had decided I would go into Emerge USA's Emerging Leaders program with an open mind and just observe. I had no obligation to change my mind or become a politician.

I saw it as an opportunity to learn about the political system so that I could manipulate it for the greater good of public health. I was very skeptical in the beginning but what I left with was life-changing.

The first retreat was in Miami. This retreat focused on what it means to be a leader and how to effectively lead. Learning about how to speak in public and how to effectively get your point across, how to work cohesively with a group to achieve a goal, and the influential people that gave me advice that has been essential in my growth were only a few things I had gained in the three days I was there. This retreat had the most impact on me because, not only did it open my eyes to the dynamics of leadership, but I made long lasting friendships that have influenced and changed the way I view leadership. My perspective has

"

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS NOT WHAT YOU HEAR SAID, IT'S WHAT YOU OBSERVE. - MICHAEL CONNELLY

opened up tremendously and I have taken this and applied it to other facets of my life.

The Tampa retreat was more politically educational and acted as a precursor to what was to come in the Tallahassee retreat. Initially, I was not looking forward to this retreat because, again, I wanted nothing to do with politics.

As the retreat progressed, I had a profound epiphany. I realized that the most impactful politics happens locally, at the grassroots level. These are concerned citizens that not only want and demand change, but they are DOING something about it. I realized that what I do as an aspiring public health professional starts at the grassroots level. I not only listened to what the speakers had to say but I observed what they did. I put their methods to practice throughout the Emerging Leaders program. This was proof to me that politics is broad and that I could use it to my advantage. I could use it to ignite change in my community.

The Tallahassee retreat was my first real taste of Florida politics. Going into this retreat, I knew I was going to experience my original version of politics. While I did see men and women in pressed suits walking corridors of government buildings and witnessed closed minded politicians speak ignorantly on certain legislation, I realized something important. We collectively elected (either through vote or by not voting) these political leaders. How can we sit and complain about legislation and policy if we do not take responsibility for our role in electing those who make these policies?

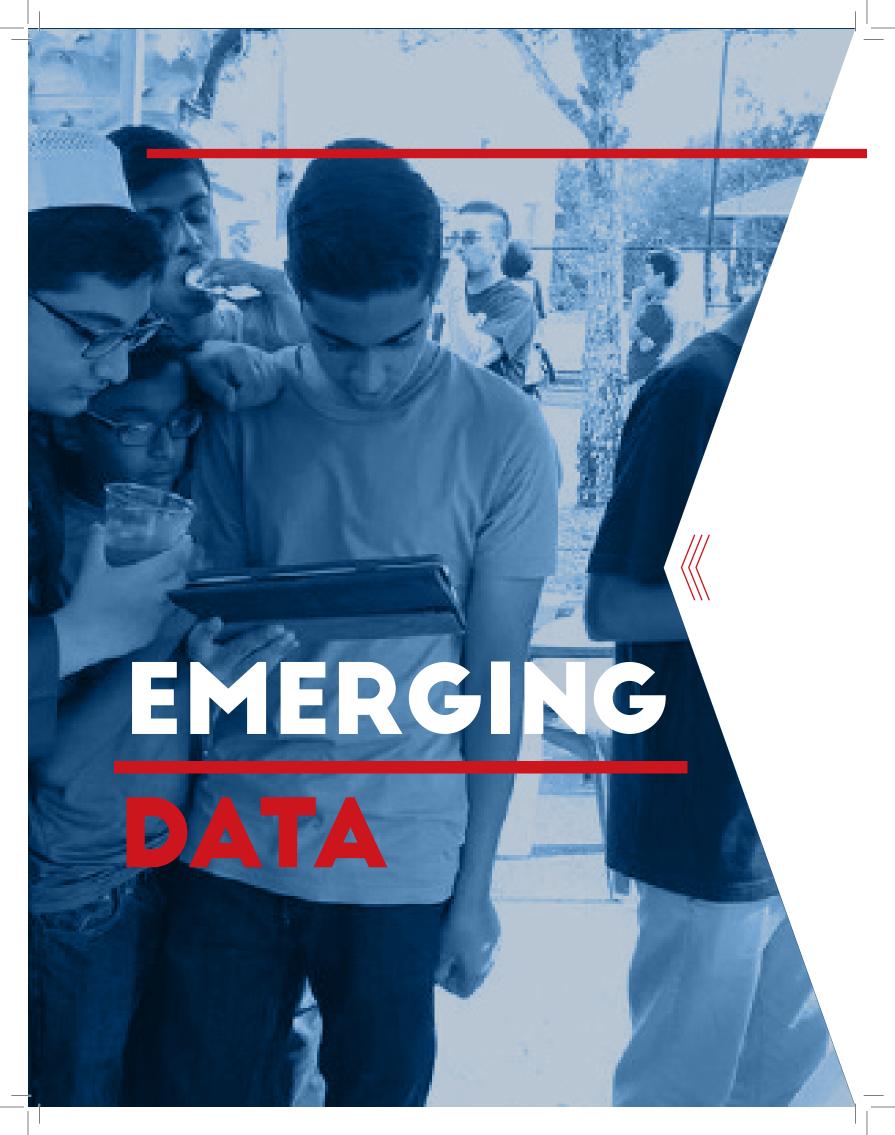
My observations led me to realize that I have to be more involved. I have to put myself out there and be a voice for change. If not, I had no right to complain.

All in all, the Emerging Leaders program helped me to grow exponentially. I have learned to be a better leader, a better example. When I entered the program, I was a senior at the University of South Florida studying public health. I am now in the process of receiving my Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Global Health Practice at USF. I am also a Legislative Aide Intern for the Tampa City Council and participate in community engagement, organization, and revitalization programs. I would not have chosen this path without the life changing experience of the Emerging Leaders program.

I now want to take what I learn in local politics and apply it on a global scale. I have realized that anyone with the drive and passion for change can get involved. It takes an open mind and eye, an observer, a listener. Change is induced through active participation, not merely through its suggestion. Emerging Leaders not only instilled this in me but gave me the tools to effectively implement the skills that I have learned.

For more information visit: emerge-usa.org/emergingleaders

I realized that the most impactful politics happens locally, at the grassroots level.



Polls

To take a pulse on the community, we polled over 350 American Muslims across the nation on issues related to Gun Control, Education, and Economy.



emergepac

Emerge USA PAC is a political action committee that endorses and raises money for state and federal candidates based on their support for civil rights, minority rights, and a diverse America where underrepresented communities are seen as a part of the social fabric of our nation.

Endorsements are not made in every elected race because the endorsement is based upon the interest of the candidate in building a relationship with our community. If no candidate is endorsed for a particular elected position then neither candidate has developed a significant enough relationship with the minority community members for an endorsement.

REGISTER TO VOTE www.vote.virginia.gov FIND WHERE TO VOTE voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov

2015 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VOTER CARD RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

DEM - Democrat | REP - Republican



www.emerge-pac.org

e	mergep	AC REC		IENDED CAN		RGINI	A VOTER CA	RD
Ş	STATE DELEGATE Sam Rasoul	DISTRICT 11 DEM		STATE DELEGATE Kenneth Plum	DISTRICT 36 DEM	R	STATE DELEGATE Ron Villanueva	DISTRICT 21 REP
E	STATE DELEGATE Kathleen Murphy	DISTRICT 34 DEM		STATE DELEGATE John Bell	DISTRICT 87 DEM	G	STATE DELEGATE Betsy Carr	DISTRICT 69 DEM
	STATE DELEGATE Eileen Filler-Corn	DISTRICT 41 DEM	G	STATE DELT ATE Marcus non	DISTRICT 35 DEM	2	STATE DELEGATE Jimmie Massie	DISTRICT 72 REP
	STATE DELEGATE Tag Greason	DISTRICT 32 REP	3	STATE DELEGATE	DISTRICT 66 REP	Q	STATE DELEGATE Jennifer McClellan	DISTRICT 71 DEM
	STATE DELEGATE Vivian Watts	DISTRICT 39 DEM		STATE DELEGATE Alfonso Lopez	DISTRICT 49 DEM	g	STATE DELEGATE Lashrecse Aird	DISTRICT 63 DEM
	STATE DELEGATE Jennifer Boysko	DISTRICT 86 DEM	Q	STATE DELEGATE Rip Sullivan	DISTRICT 48 DEM	T	STATE DELEGATE Jason Miyares	DISTRICT 82 REP
NB2	STATE DELEGATE David Bulova	DISTRICT 37 DEM	8	STATE DELEGATE Mark Keam	DISTRICT 32 DEM	Ø	STATE DELEGATE Steve Landes	DISTRICT 25 REP

ENERGEPAC

THE FIRST FEDERAL PAC THAT REPRESENTS AMERICAN MUSLIMS

Emerge USA PAC is a national political action committee that supports local, state and federal candidates based on their support for civil rights, minority rights and a diverse America where underrepresented communities are seen as a part of the social fabric of our nation.

Emerge USA PAC has endorsed and financially supported candidates across the country, a majority of whom went on to win their elections. The PAC also produces a voter recommendation slate, which it distributes in local communities mobilizing tens of thousands of voters within individual states. In 2016, Emerge USA PAC aims to build strong political support to bring civility to the political discourse of the United States and works to ensure that American Muslim communities have a voice in our nation's political dialogue.

METHODOLOGY

Emerge-PAC recommends candidates to its members by reaching out and asking candidates for their views on issues important to the Emerge-PAC membership. Based on these responses, we issue voter cards so you know which politicians are on your side. Candidate Research

> Solicit Community Leaders

Verify with local
organizations
(advocacy groups)2828Victoring
Victoring
(advocacy groups)2865%

Issue Endorsements

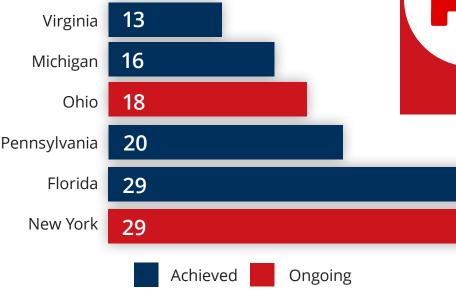
BUILDING 2016

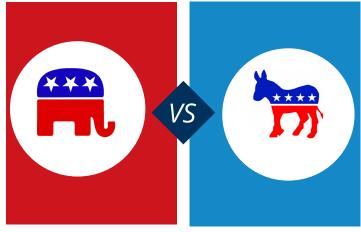
merge USA is ready, willing and poised now more than ever to serve the American Muslim community. With our upgraded infrastructure, improved data capture capability, access to information and our strategic alliances with other organizations, we intend to be there every step of the way as you head to the ballot box. Some targets and services you can expect from us in 2016:

- Civics Training Online
- Community Phone Banks
- Candidate Forums
- Legislative Tracker (State & Federal)
- Voter Guides for Key Races
- National Resource Center

Electoral Votes

Through our swing states strategy, Emerge USA will be able to organize and educate the American Muslim community to provide 125 of the 270 (46%) electoral votes needed to win a Presidential election.

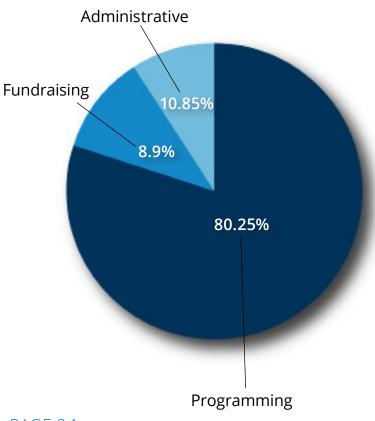


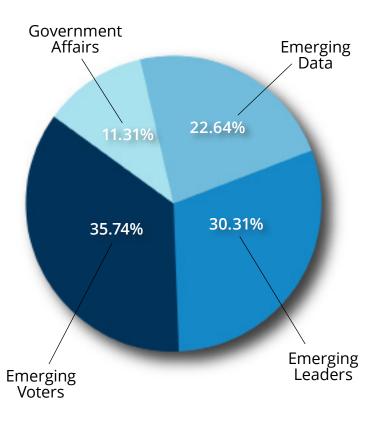


2015 FINANCES

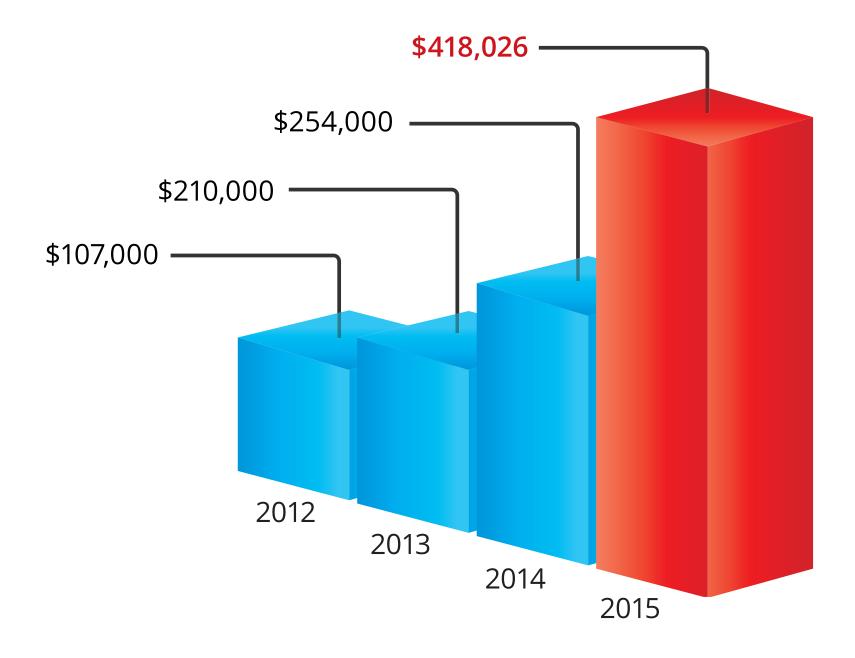
Expenditure Total: \$398,138

Programming Breakdown





\$418,026 EARNED LAST YEAR



SUPPORT emergeusa FOUNDATION 501(C)(3)

ur non-profit, Emerge USA Foundation, continues to work on raising the funds needed to educate the public about the political process via our Emerging Voters program. The Foundation also funds a large database development program that seeks to register voters and track their positions on various issues. We in turn publish that data for use by media and academics as well as campaign staff. A very significant percentage of American Muslim US citizens are not registered to vote. Emerge USA has been selected as the sole community organization to partner with for acquisition of a database of non-registered Muslim US citizens throughout the 50-states and to develop an organized program to register them.

To ensure that our community is not just seen as focusing solely on election day voting, we encourage and facilitate participation in the structure of various political parties, including running for office at the precinct level, becoming election judges, party delegates at all levels, and even seeking party political office at state and federal levels. Finally, the Foundation continues to fund the evolution of the next generation of civic leaders via the Emerging Leaders program.

In 2016 we plan to launch an alumni version of Emerging Leaders to allow those young people to invest back into their community and guide the emerging leaders who'll follow in their footsteps.

GIVE ONLINE www.emerge-usa.org/donate



emergepac emergeusa INC. 501(c)(4)

merge USA Inc., a 501 c 4 organization, was launched in late 2014 to allow lobbying activity for issues important to you. This entity is funded by your membership of at least \$50 per year. In addition to lobbying your needs at various levels of government, Emerge USA is the communication tool to discuss the issues and direct action to solve problems. Related to Emerge USA Inc. is the political action committee. As a member of the advocacy organization you can contribute to the PAC and help support candidates who agree with the issues you support or oppose those candidates who oppose your issues.

BECOME A MEMBER www.emerge-usa.org/membership



"EMERGE USA IS A GREAT GROUP BECAUSE WHAT THEY'RE ENGAGED IN IS MAKING SURE EVERY VOICE IS INVOLVED AND HEARD." - BARBARA COMSTOCK, VIRGINIA CONGRESSWOMAN

"WHEN I LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM, I SEE PEOPLE WHO GET IT. I SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE MOTIVATED. I SEE LEADERS." - RICK SINGH, ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

"THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THAT EMERGE IS DOING FOR OUR COMMUNITY. KEEP GETTING INVOLVED, KEEP TALKING TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS BECAUSE THE BEST WAY TO EFFECTUATE CHANGE IS WHEN GOOD FOLKS LIKE YOURSELVES REACH OUT TO US AND TELL US HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB FOR THE COMMUNITY." - MARTIN KIAR,

VICE MAYOR OF BROWARD COUNTY

"IT IS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE EMERGE WITH ITS FOCUS ON EDUCATING UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES THAT ARE TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF SUCH COMMUNITIES IN THE UNIQUELY DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WE CALL THE AMERICAN MAINSTREAM POLITICAL SPECTRUM." - JOHN WHITMIRE,

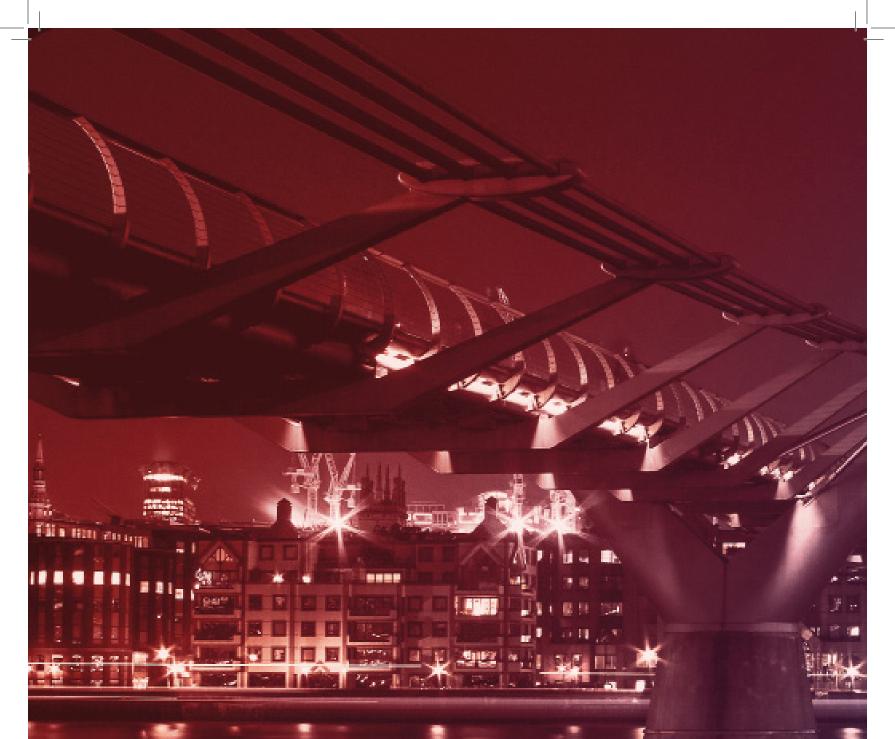
TEXAS STATE SENATOR

"I SUPPORT EMERGE USA. EMERGE USA HAS A LONG-STANDING BENEFIT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO COME OUT, GET INVOLVED, AND PARTICIPATE IN ISLAMIC CULTURE."

- BARBARA SHARIEF,

BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER

"IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE ROOM, YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE CONVERSATION. THAT'S WHAT EMERGE USA IS DOING THROUGHOUT SWING STATES." - SAM RASOUL, VIRGINIA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE





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