



2014 Annual Report

Emerge. Engage. Expand.





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Message from Our Chairmen



Khurrum Wahid
Emerge USA Co-Chairman
Florida



AJ Durrani
Emerge USA Co-Chairman
Texas

The American Muslim community has more opportunities than ever to become a voice for change. In 2014 we saw a historical increased interest among those 35 and under to participate in the electoral process, not just as voters, but as completely invested citizens. At Emerge USA we see voting not as the goal but as a result of being fully involved in the political mainstream. This year we saw a significant increase in the interest of the community around issues that lead to sustained efforts to champion a positive outcome in the world of public policy and the election of candidates that espouse these causes.

Emerge USA has attempted to create tools and opportunities for engagement in the civic process. In 2014 the Emerging Voters program saw more people engaging their elected officials through our District Day program. Families of all ethnic backgrounds showed an interest in public service through our community service activities. More youth volunteered to reach out to community members by calling them to action through phone banking leading up to the primary and general elections. In Florida we completed our third full class of Emerging Leaders and started our first class in Texas. In 2015, we will be training leaders in at least 2 other states as well. If we do not focus on guiding leaders towards success we risk never achieving it.

The Emerging Influence program continues to focus on in-depth and direct participation in the major political parties, including recognition and achievement through elected leadership positions. Our Emerging Data program took a huge leap forward with the addition of chapters in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Michigan. Collectively we will be able to influence and measure the impact the Muslim American community has in the major swing states for the 2016 Presidential cycle. Those who we engaged in programming came out to vote at approximately 10 points higher than those we did not reach out to. As stated previously, voting was not our sole goal, it however was a result. This alone shows the value of your work and support for Emerge USA.

Emerge USA took a substantial step forward this year by expanding from two to five states in 2014. With that we also took steps to insure the ship will be steered through steady waters by bringing on our first National Executive Director, Tamim Chowdhury. Tamim spent fourteen years serving his country in the federal government and with the Board's vision is well prepared to lead this organization towards becoming a national force for change. Many believe that we as a community will never achieve the influence needed to impact public policy - we don't have the numbers - we don't raise enough funds - we don't have the leadership. Those who say that have not seen your work at Emerge USA. Your vision is what has created immense opportunities for you and your children. Please stay with us and help us realize that vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Khurrum Wahid".

Khurrum Wahid

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AJ Durrani".

AJ Durrani

Elected Leaders on Emerge USA



“ The future generation of leaders in Florida is already making a difference and Emerge USA has been a leader in providing the next generation the tools they need to have an impact. ”

Erik Fresen

Florida State Representative, Republican, District 114



“ It is the efforts and participation of communities like the South Asian Americans under the leadership of grassroots organizations like Emerge USA, that are the among primary reasons for my reelection. ”

Hubert Vo

Texas State Representative, Democrat, District 149



“ I was glad to have the opportunity to learn about Emerge USA in 2014 and look forward to learning more in 2015 with the goal of finding common interests towards which we can work together. ”

Dann Truitt

Pennsylvania State Representative, Republican, District 156



“ America is at its strongest when every citizen participates in the political process. Emerge USA does great work in engaging Muslim, Arab, and South Asian American communities to participate in the political process and I look forward to continuing to work with them. ”

Barbara Comstock

Congresswoman, Republican, District 10



“ Emerge USA is a leader in providing Florida’s future leaders the skills they need to succeed and make an immediate difference in our community. ”

Barbara Sharief

Broward County Commissioner, Democrat, District 8



“ It’s about organizing, using your power, using your resources and getting in the game. That’s what you have done with Emerge USA. ”

Maxine Waters

Member of Congress, Democrat, District 43



“ There is a growing need for grassroots organizations working to ensure that all communities are engaged in the political process and have a seat at the table and I am proud to work with Emerge USA in this effort. ”

Sam Rasoul

Virginia Delegate, Democrat, District 11



“ I am excited about the formation of Emerge USA’s Michigan chapter and can’t wait to see the impact it has on advancing progress in our state. ”

Stephanie Chang

Michigan State Representative, Democrat, District 6

Board & Staff

| **Khurrum Wahid**
Co-Chairman
Florida

| **A.J. Durrani**
Co-Chairman
Texas

| **Tim Attalla**
Board Member
Detroit, MI

| **Mohammad Aziz**
Board Member
Philadelphia, PA

| **Abdul Mughees Chaudhry**
Board Member
Philadelphia, PA

| **Dr. Doured Daghistani**
Board Member
Miami, FL

| **Jaret L. Davis**
Board Member
Miami, FL

| **Nidal Hozein**
Board Member
Paterson, NJ

| **Amira Ishoof**
Board Member
Miami, FL

| **Saif Ishoof**
Board Member
Miami, FL

| **Dr. Mohsin Jaffer**
Board Member
Weston, FL

| **Amin Mitha**
Board Member
Lakeland, FL

| **Farooq Mitha**
Board Member
Miami, FL

| **Dr. Mohammed Saleem**
Board Member
Detroit, MI

| **Moon Sulfab**
Board Member
Alexandria, VA

| **Dr. Shahid Usmani**
Board Member
Orlando, FL

| **Syed Faisal**
Board Member
Miramar, FL

| **Dr. Shaista Usmani**
Board Member
Orlando, FL

| **Arif Ghafur**
Board Member
Houston, TX

| **Tamim Chowdhury**
Executive Director

| **Sarah Cochran**
Virginia Regional Director

| **Wendy Keslick**
Pennsylvania Regional Director

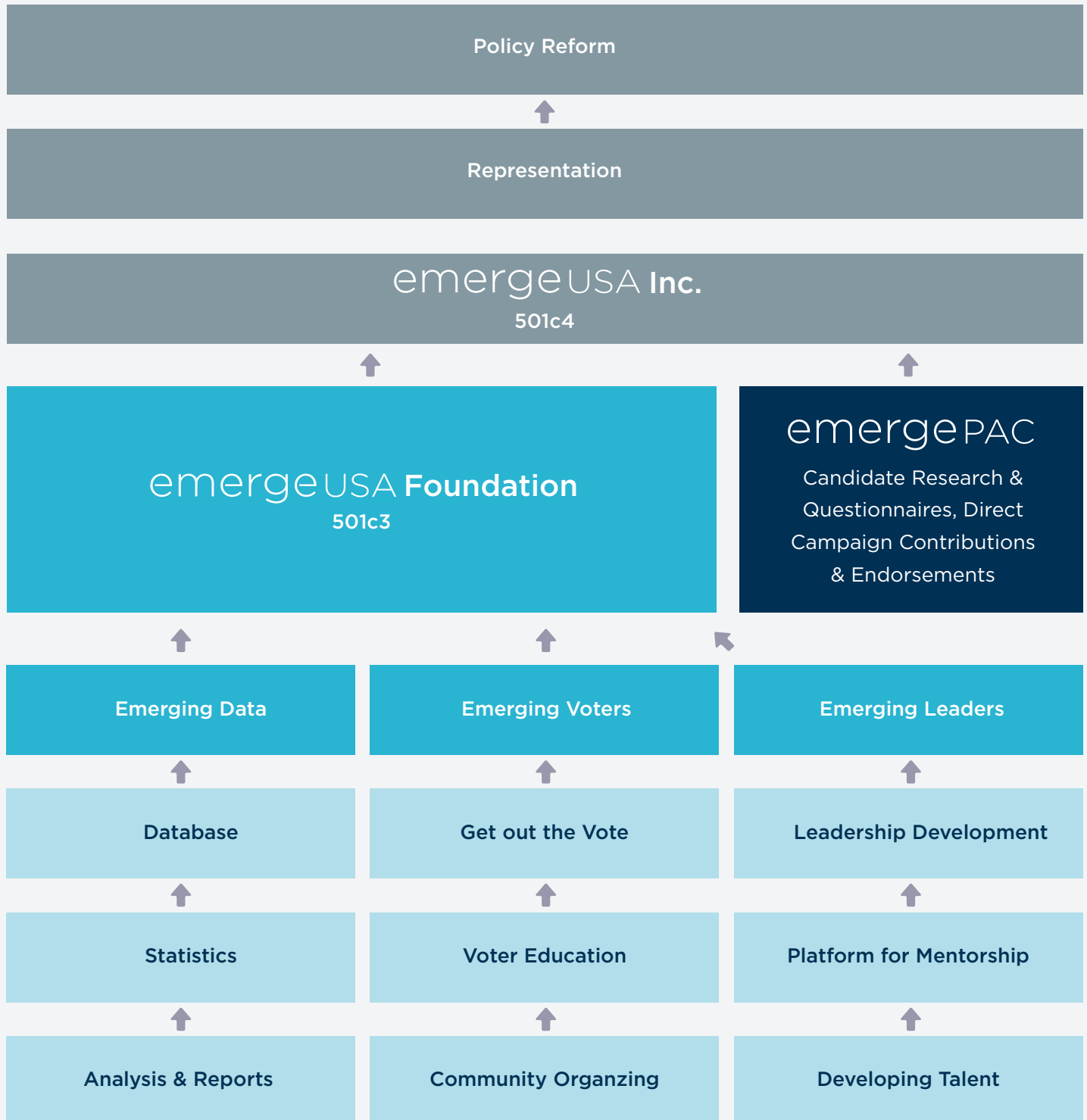
| **Saad Khan**
South Florida Coordinator

| **Nabila Mansour**
Houston Regional Director

| **Amina Spahic**
Tampa Bay Coordinator

Organization Structure

This flow chart shows how Emerge USA's programs lead to tangible change for the community



National Expansion

Emerge USA's Founder Society

In March 2014, Emerge USA hosted its first annual dinner in Washington, DC. This dinner, titled “the Founders Society Benefit Dinner”, brought in leaders from Florida, Virginia, Michigan, Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland and raised \$240,000 to support Emerge USA's national expansion. Attendees included Congressman Keith Ellison, Congressman Patrick Murphy, Congressman Joe Garcia, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and Congressman Tony Cardenas.



“It's about organizing, using your power and using your resources and getting in the game and that's what you have done with this kind of organization. If you want a democracy that really works, you have to be in the right places at the right time to do the kind of work that democracy demands. Democracy demands participation.”

Congresswoman Maxine Waters
Democrat, District 43

“I appreciate what you're doing. It's having impact. It makes our country better, try to understand it, you're making our country better. The more that you stand in front of us the less you see the myopic ignorance that... we've been victims of. If you engage, the system engages back.”

Congressman Joe Garcia
Democrat, District 43

“You all are fighting for history, you're on the right side of history. Emerge is off the ground, there is no question about it.”

Congressman Patrick Murphy
Democrat, District 18



Get Out the Vote 2014

Mobilizing the Vote in Florida

Emerge USA volunteers **called over 10,000 MASA voters** across the state of Florida to mobilize the vote.

We **hosted 4 candidate forums** across the state of Florida making sure candidates connected with the MASA community.

Emerge USA **mobilized over 1,000 MASA voters** throughout Florida on Muslim Early Vote Day

Emerge USA **distributed 12,000 voter guides** across the state educating the MASA community on the gubernatorial candidates and providing them with information about voting rules in Florida.



“ I only voted this year because I received a call from Emerge USA's volunteers about Muslim Early Voting Day, without that call I would have stayed home and not voted. ”

Ahmad Sharief, Tampa, FL



“ Through Emerge USA's candidate forum I learned about where my candidates stood on the issues, which helped me to decide on how to vote in my local elections. ”

Layla Sarsour, Pembroke Pines, FL

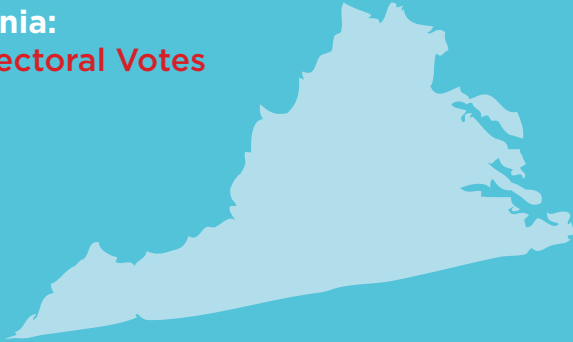


Get Out the Vote 2014

Mobilizing the Vote in Swing States

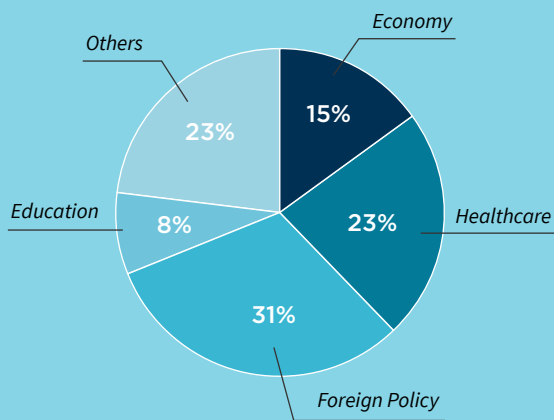
In 2014 Emerge USA expanded its operations fully into Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Hosting candidate forums, phone banking to MASA voters and educating the community on key races and issues.

Virginia: 13 Electoral Votes

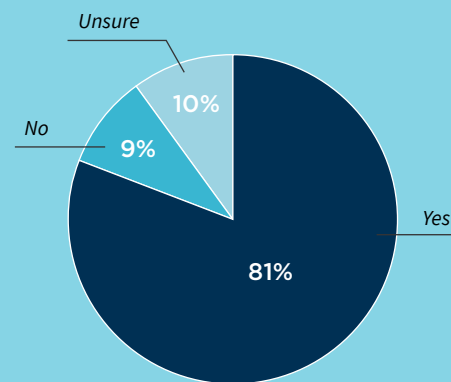


Emerge USA along with the ADAMS Center made over 1,000 phone calls to MASA voters in Virginia's 10th Congressional District in one day.

ADAMS Center Fairfax County
Issues Results 2014



ADAMS Center Loudon County
Plan to Vote Survey 2014



Congresswoman Barbara Comstock at ADAMS Center's event—partnered with Emerge-USA

In 2014 Emerge USA **teamed up with ADAMS Center** in Northern Virginia to distribute voter education guides, make phone calls to voters, and host a candidate forum to educate the community about the electoral process.



Emerge USA passed out 5,000 voter guides in Virginia and 5,000 voter guides in Pennsylvania educating MASA voters on their statewide races, where the candidates stood on the issues and state specific voter information.

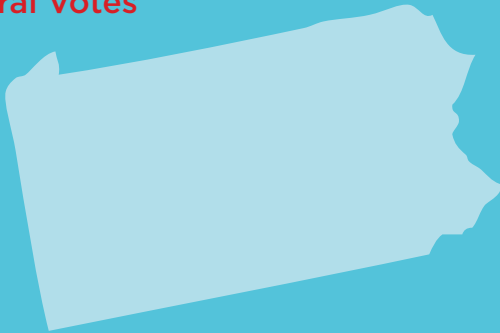
VA Voter Guide:

Ed Gillespie vs. Mark Warner (US Senate Race)

PA Voter Guide:

Tom Corbett vs. Tom Wolfe (Gubernatorial Race)

Pennsylvania:
20 Electoral Votes



In a short period of time Emerge USA was able to register new voters, engage in phone banking, host a candidate forum, and have a presence at the polls on election day. In addition, there were able to establish key relationships with local religious centers, organizations, students, and many members of our community.

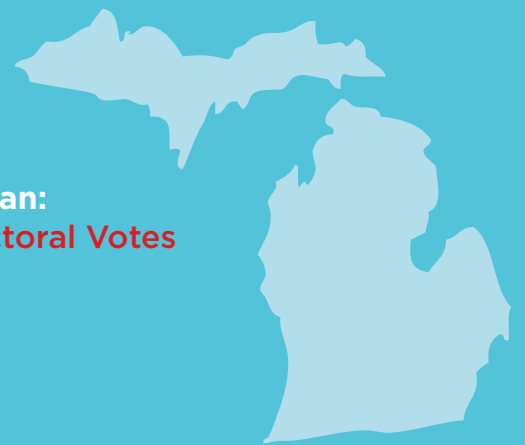


Pennsylvania candidate forum



Michigan candidate forum

Michigan:
13 Electoral Votes



Get Out the Vote 2014

Mobilizing the Texas Vote

Emerge USA worked hard to mobilize the MASA vote in 2014. Over the last year, we:

-  **Held two candidate forums**
-  **Hosted an Emerge radio hour for two straight weeks to promote voting within the community**
-  **Called thousands of voters through targeted phone banking**
-  **Bought ads in local ethnic newspapers identifying voting locations for Early Voting**

Pennsylvania:
20 Electoral Votes



Candidate Forum

Over dozens of candidates from both parties attended our candidate forums and spoke briefly about how their candidacy would impact the electoral base.

Our partners included: Fort Bend Voters League, Organization of Chinese Americans, Houston Chinese Alliance, Houston 80-20, South Asian Chamber of Commerce, Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA, Indian Muslim Association of Greater Houston, Japanese American Citizens League-Houston Branch, and Bangladeshi American Political Action Committee.



Voter Mobilization Efforts

Emerge Texas staff and volunteers visited senior groups to push senior mail ballots, campus groups to promote voter education and “halaqa” groups across the city to raise voter awareness. Our efforts made Emerge Texas as the go-to organization in the greater Houston area for political education & awareness among the area’s many ethnic communities.

Media Strategy

Emerge Texas bought and hosted a daily radio hour on Sangeet Radio. We informed listeners about the importance of voting, took live call-in questions from listeners regarding the electoral process, and interviewed several local candidates.



Success: Defeated Anti-Shariah Bill



During the 2014 legislative session, Emerge USA battled hard in Tallahassee to defeat Senate Bill 386 (the Anti-Foreign Law bill) once and for all.

Emerge led the Family Rights Coalition, which included the Community Business Association of Florida (CBA), The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Our Proud Partners



A Proud Coalition

With the help of coalition partners, Emerge USA defeated the Anti-Muslim bill and assisted in drafting a new version. The new version passed by a 78-40 vote and was designed to cite existing case laws and to have no additional negative impacts on judicial proceedings. Senator David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) helped draft the strike-all amendment which removed the threatening and questionable language from the bill that would affect Florida citizens.

Hundreds Mobilized

The launch of the Family Rights Coalition included Emerge USA and other organizations aiming to put a stop to the disruptive bill. Emerge USA's social media and outreach efforts involved building a rapid response team, a coalition website that garnered hundreds of petition signatures, and phone calls to legislators in Tallahassee. Additionally, during committee hearings for the bill, Emerge USA was present with over 20 participants to speak in opposition of the bill.

Sharing Ramadan

For American Muslims, and Muslims around the world, the month of Ramadan marks a blessed month of fasting, abstaining from food and drink from sunrise to sunset, and spiritual growth and reflection.

For the past several years, Emerge USA has been engaging elected officials and community leaders through Sharing Ramadan events around the state. Elected officials, 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.

15+ Sharing Ramadan Dinners Across the State



Miami Dade County Mayor **Carlos Gimenez** at Sharing Ramadan in Miami

“ We are stronger together. We are better together... You’re investing in the next generation. ”

City of Tampa Mayor **Bob Buckhorn** at the Emerge USA Sharing Ramadan Tampa iftar.



Representative **Joe Saunders** at Sharing Ramadan in Orlando



“ If you’re familiar with how anything happens in Tallahassee, you would know that legislators there can all benefit from the values of the month of Ramadan—restraint, self-discipline, and a healthy dose of compassion. ”

State Rep. **Karen Castor-Dentel** at the Emerge USA Sharing Ramadan iftar in Longwood



Image caption (clock-wise from left):

1. Sharing Ramadan in Orlando
2. State Rep Karen Castor-Dentel at Longwood iftar
3. Mayor Barbara Sharief at Ft. Lauderdale iftar
4. Commisioner Victor Crist at Sharing Ramadan in Tampa

Annual Banquets

- Between Orlando, Miami and Houston we raised \$200k towards sustaining our operations.
- We attracted some of the nation's most prolific speakers including Sayed Ammar Nakshawani in Miami, South African Ambassador to the United States Ebrahim Rasool in Orlando and in Houston Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin then-Mayor of Teaneck New Jersey, Mayor Saud Anwar of South Windsor, Connecticut, Texas State Representative Gene Wu and Texas State Senator John Witmire.



“ In America, we are all brothers in faith or we are equals in humanity... The future of Muslims in America will be unbelievable and Emerge will be successful because of its young, vibrant leadership. ”

Sayed Ammar Nakshawani, academic, lecturer, author, and top 500 Most Influential Muslims



Emerging Leaders Class of 2013-14

Emerge USA kicked off 2014 with its third Emerging Leaders class in Florida and the launching its first class of the Emerging Leaders in Texas. The Emerging Leaders Program turns motivated students primarily from MASA communities into the leaders of tomorrow.

The six-month program is an in-depth, intensive immersion experience that uncovers true potential and develops lifelong skills. Emerging Leaders practice team-building skills in realistic, hands-on scenarios, and foster lifelong relationships with like-minded colleagues and mentors. Emerging Leaders learn important skills such as public speaking, community organizing, advocacy, and how to communicate with elected officials. Program graduates are then placed into internships and jobs across the state in the fields that interest them the most.



Florida Retreats:

Leadership: November 29-December 1: Miami, Florida

Engagement: February 7-February 9: Tampa, Florida

Service: April 9-12, Tallahassee, Florida

Texas Retreats:

November 15-16, 2014: Houston, Texas



Mohammad Shair presenting in front of a panel of judges which included Senator Dwight Bullard from the 39th District of Florida (Miami-Dade County).



“ Emerging Leaders has created a lasting bond between my classmates and I, and gives me access to mentors and leaders across Florida that have been our guiding lights. Emerge’s power comes from its ability to inspire our youth to be engaged in the political process and to provide a forum through which we can participate and build a strong foundation. ”

Mohammad Shair, Florida A&M University College of Law



“ The Emerging Leaders program provided me the skills that I needed to succeed in my job on the Charlie Crist for Governor campaign and also provided me with the network that I needed to get the job. ”

Emerging Leaders Alumni **Saif Hamideh**, who worked on the Charlie Crist for Governor Campaign and was one of 10 Emerging Leaders alumni who worked as staff on political campaigns in Florida in the 2014 election cycle.



Emerge USA PAC

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

Emerge USA PAC made
73 endorsements
in Florida throughout 9
counties.

Across the country we
raised nearly \$250,000
for local, state and federal
candidates.

Emerge USA PAC has a
winning percentage of 56%
for the 2014 Florida Midterm
Elections.

Key Victories: We supported, they won



Florida: **Gwen Graham**
U.S. Representative
Democrat, District 2



Florida: **Patrick Murphy**
U.S. Representative
Democrat, District 18



Florida: **Daniella Levine Cava**
Miami Dade County Commissioner
Democrat, District 8



Florida: **Eric Fresen**
Florida House of Representatives
Republican, District 114



Florida: **Maria Lorts Sachs**
Florida State Senate
Democrat, District 34



Florida: **Victor Crist**
Hillsborough County Commissioner
Republican, District 2



Florida: **Darren Soto**
Florida State Senate
Democrat, District 114



Florida: **David Simmons**
Florida State Senate
Republican, District 10



Florida: **Steven Abrams**
Palm Beach County Commissioner
Republican, District 4



Pennsylvania: **Dan Truitt**
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives
Republican, District 156



Michigan: **Stephanie Chang**
Michigan State Representative
Democrat, District 6



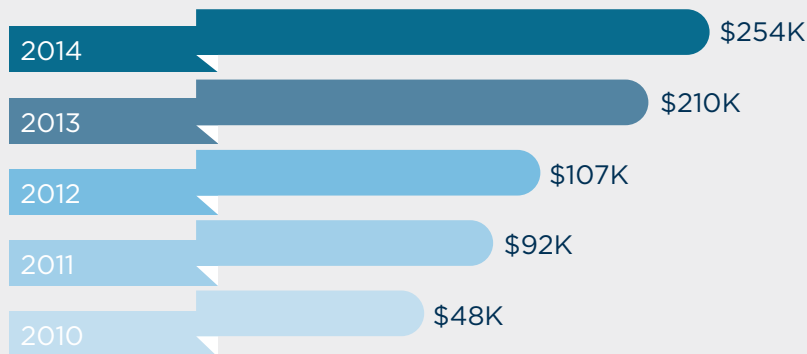
Texas: **John Witmire**
Texas State Senator
Democrat, District 15

Finance

Emerge USA continues to be agile, efficient and prudent with our resources. Every year our board and volunteers donate over 4,000 hours of time to our cause. Additionally, several businesses who believe in our mission donate their time and space to EmERGE every year for office space, legal services, IT consulting and marketing consulting. In 2014 these services were valued at nearly \$75,000.

Funding

Emerge USA's funding has grown exponentially in our organization's short history, thanks to our generous supporters. We met our 2014 fundraising goal, which allowed us to hire our first National Executive Director. We project that our funding will continue to grow in order to continue to meet our community's ever-changing needs, EmERGE USA's 2015 fundraising goal is \$500,000 nationally.



Emerge USA has grown from opening its first office in 2010 to five offices today across Florida and Texas. These offices allow us to have a physical presence and be on the ground organizing our communities. EmERGE USA employees spread across the country in Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Endowment Fund

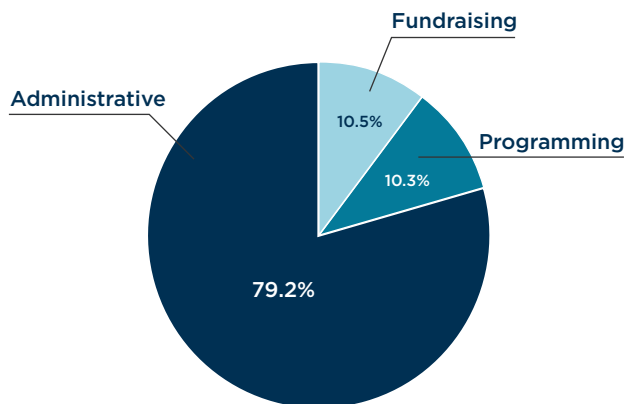
We received our first major commitment for our endowment fund with \$80,000 in contributions in 2014 towards securing our institutions future.

Grants

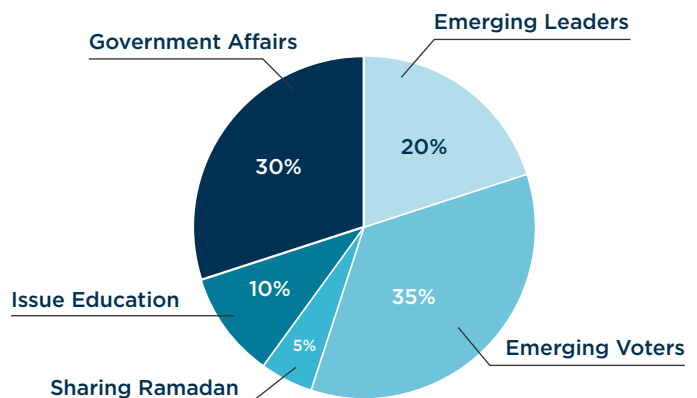
Emerge USA Foundation received for the first time a mini-grants from Four Freedom's Fund to mobilize the MASA vote in Florida.

Expenditure

Total expense \$275,000



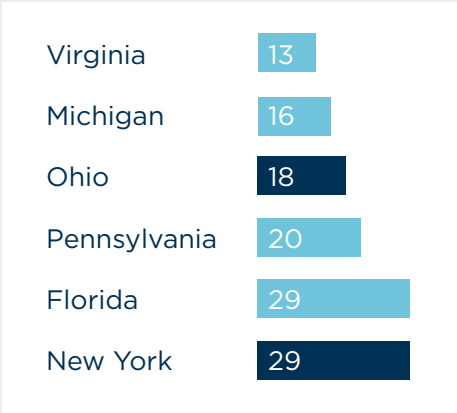
Programming Breakdown



Future Vision

Electoral Votes

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



■ Achieved ■ On-going

#Imagine2016

200,000 mailers
to MASA voters

200 Emerging Leaders
trained in every swing state

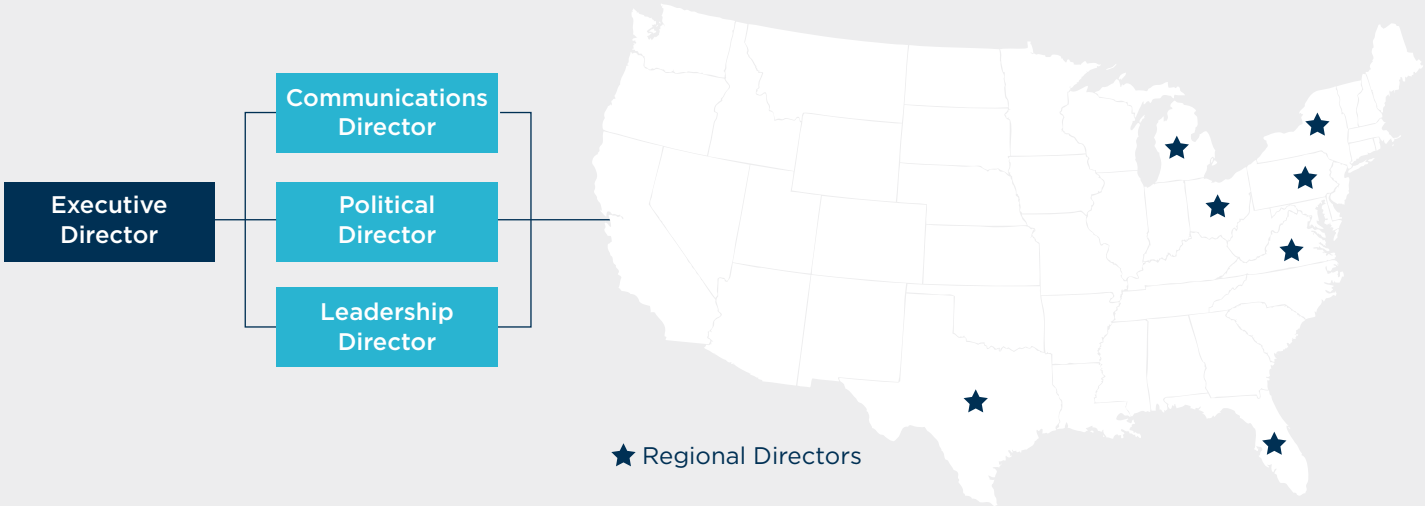
300 elected officials
across six state

1 million votes mobilized
across the swing states

\$2 million raised
via Emerge PAC

10% higher MASA voter
turnout than national average

Leadership



Support Emerge USA

GIVE ONLINE

Contribute to Emerge USA can be made at:
www.emerge-usa.org/donate

GIVE BY MAIL

Please fill out the form below with your credit card information or with an enclosed check, payable to Emerge USA.

Mail your payment to:
3245 US Highway 98N, Lakeland FL 33809

MY NAME IS:

ADDRESS:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

I will provide operating support to Emerge USA in the amount of:

☐

\$25,000

☐

\$10,000

☐

\$5,000

☐

\$1,800

☐

\$1,000

☐

\$500

☐

Other

\$

I want my donation to go to:

☐

The civic education efforts of Emerge USA Foundation (501c3) (tax-deductible)

☐

Emerge USA, Inc.'s advocacy efforts (501c4)

Payment method:

Check (enclosed)

Credit Card

☐

Visa

☐

Master

☐

Amex

☐

Other

Name on card:

Card number:

Exp Date:

Security Code:

Signature:



emergeUSA

www.emerge-usa.org



“ In America, we are all brothers in faith or we are equals in humanity... The future of Muslims in America will be unbelievable and Emerge will be successful because of its young, vibrant leadership. ”

Sayed Ammar Nakshawani



Stay in Touch

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