

# Candidate Information

As Salaam Alaikum,

In an effort to introduce yourself to the community, please provide your brief background and your plans.

JazakAllah Khair  
Election 2018 Committee

Last Name \*

Atiq

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First and Middle Name \*

Faizan

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Position \*

DIR, SW ZONE



## Introduction \*

Begin with some background information about yourself. Try to include some qualities that separate you from your opposition. Keep it positive and perhaps touch on some issues that are of concern to voters.

My name is Faizan Atiq and I have the honor of serving as your current Director for the SW Zone of ISGH. Alhamdulillah - the last two years have been a learning opportunity as well as an amazing experience., With overwhelming encouragement from my SW Associate Directors and the support of my family, I am humbled to run again for the same position of Director of Southwest Zone and help complete the change WE all started out to achieve.

In 2017, when I started my position, I was shocked to find myself in the midst of a very divided board where every word or action of a colleague was being looked at with doubt. I was surprised to find myself in-charge of a zone where we had some of the largest and most influential centers in the city but VERY LITTLE synergy amongst them. Over the last two years, I have collaborated with my colleagues in the Shura to uproot politics and established relationships for a united SW zone.

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## Highest Level of Education \*

High School

Bachelors

Masters

Doctorate

## Area of Study \*

Your major for degrees or certificates earned in an institution of higher learning. Mention the name and location of the Institution.

Computer Science from University of Texas at Dallas

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## Current Profession \*

Job title, Job Description, if Retired Previous Profession

Sr. Manager of Trading and Risk IT at Direct Energy

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## Formal Islamic Education \*

Please briefly share any religious training you have received, such as graduate of an Islamic University or Madrassah, Hafiz Quran, Dars Nizami, Certificate in Arabic, Islamic Finance, or if you have studied under a known sheikh.

Outside of Al Maghreb classes, some fiqh classes at the masjid and doing a good amount of self study, I do not have a formal Islamic Education background.

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## Previous Leadership Experience \*

What experiences in your personal, professional or political life have helped shape you and made you the person you are today? Discuss your titles, community and civic work, awards and other offices you've held. How do those experiences translate into being a better candidate for the position you are running? Don't just create a laundry list of accomplishments, but work your experience into a larger narrative. A little bit about you personally goes a long way. Voters want to know about you, but maybe not every detail of your life. Include both personal and professional content that helps provide a rounded idea of who you are.

I have been in management both professionally and on a volunteer basis for several over a decade now. I have a passion for community service. I moved into the area 10 years back in order to be able to volunteer and serve in Maryam Islamic Center. With respect to ISGH I have been the Director since I was voted in on Dec 2016. Prior to that I served on the Maryam Islamic Center Zonal council for several years running several programs and instituting several changes making the center a professionally run org with the best programs in the city. Professionally I currently manage a distributed global team of highly talented IT professionals handling multi-million dollar projects working with senior global leaders. My professional experience helps drive professionalism across the organization. Additionally it brings into my personal life behaviors that ensure I maintain the highest level of ethics in all my dealings.

While our interfaith, outreach and youth programs have made huge strides forward in the SW zone, there is still plenty of potential for growth. With the political atmosphere that we are in, the growing concern around Islamophobia, and the STRONG desire from parents to help young people maintain their Muslim identity - these programs are MORE important than ever. Because of our strong and diverse community AND our WONDERFUL volunteers, SW zone is notably the most successful in ISGH today.

While I can continue to talk about what has already happened, it's important to understand - that we are still far from where we want to see our organization - BUT on the right track. It's important to me that you know - I have done my utmost to deal with issues in the Shura - with the HIGHEST level of integrity and transparency - not siding with any groups - remaining independent with my decisions and with only ONE FOCUS in mind - to represent the needs of the Muslims in Southwest - which is what YOU elected me for.

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## Goals \*

Please list three most urgent issues you will tackle first if you are elected for your position

Continue to counter Islamophobia in a united way through increasing active community interfaith and outreach programs.

Unite the SW community in order to institute high quality youth programs across all centers. Most importantly – it's important for everyone to know, that my policy has always been to empower, and then move out of the way – because the youth know - what's best for them. Establish additional Social services programs partnering with other organizations that are doing it much more successfully than ISGH.

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## What do you want to accomplish? \*

What do you want to accomplish during your time in office? Perhaps your goals can relate to previous accomplishments in your life. Use some examples if you can. Take a situation and how you handled it and use it as a template for this section.

In addition to the above, I want to free ISGH of partisan politics that plague the organization and unite the community. I want to come up with an actionable plan that will allow for a new younger brand of leadership with a mix of both qualified brothers and sisters who can take over the organization and help the Muslim community deal with the contemporary issues that we face today.

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## Final Thoughts \*

End on a strong note. Finish your candidate biography with a strong statement about your purpose for running and what you hope to accomplish in the office you seek. Be inspirational and specific.

Brothers and Sisters, we must continue to build on the positive change that we achieved in the last couple of years and this can ONLY happen if we continue to be UNITED. Being United doesn't necessarily mean that we have to agree on everything - But it means that we are able to move past our personal grudges putting aside our egos and working as one unified organization. Only YOU - the community members can make this possible  
Unity has always been and will continue to be my first priority. Please come out and vote and encourage others to vote on Dec 2nd and Dec 9th. May Allah bless you and your families and May Allah bless - our community.

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