

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 *

Alikhan

First and Middle Name *

Sarah

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 parents, Mir Suleman Alikhan and Aejaz Alikhan helped establish the SW Zone in the 1980's. My mother served as teacher at Moonmist and later at the Synott Masjid, now Masjid at Taqwa. They instilled in me a desire to serve Allah by working as a volunteer and a love for our Masjid. I consider myself a product of ISGH. Alhamdulillah, I was a youth activist and volunteer, and later I too became a Sunday School Teacher.

I took an active role in civic engagement by working to create a Muslim Caucus in a major American political party in Texas where I served as a Vice Chairman. I served on the Harris County Resolution Committee for SD17 for 3 election cycles, and was a delegate to the State four times. Throughout my life, it has been an honor to be a community organizer and volunteer.

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

Current Profession *

Job title, Job Description, if Retired Previous Profession

Project Management Professional

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.

Student of Islamic Society of Greater Houston, Hafiz Iqbal was my first teacher and I have continued my studies throughout my life in our Masajid, local educational programs, and online programs.

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.

A Project Management Professional that has been a dedicated lifelong volunteer for ISGH. Served as an ISGH Councilman, Sunday School Teacher, Sister's Coordinator, and on several committees including on the ISGH Women's, Zakat, Construction, Transparency and Accountability, and Constitution and Bylaws.

Spearheaded several successful projects including recent Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts by implementing a Distribution Center at Masjid At Taqwa, managed 2400 Backpack Drive for students hit hardest during Harvey, and worked exhaustively for the successful ISGH Harvey Fundraiser.

Alhamdulillah, brought many Dawah, Quran, and Islamic Studies programs to the Masjid. And continues to bring volunteer opportunities for youth involvement.

Goals *

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

First and foremost, bring a diverse voice to the ISGH Board. Alhamdulillah, ISGH was established 50 years ago, but this is the first time a woman is running for a Board position. I hope this encourages many other women to run and gives our future generations an opportunity to broaden our horizons when considering their leadership.

Camaraderie and working in unison should be the goal of every Board member. During Harvey Relief Efforts, the greater Houston community proved that we can come together and unite. I saw firsthand, how people of every faith, gender, young or old, came together to serve the community. A year later, we are still very much engaged with those same volunteers seeking more opportunities to serve. Community service projects have a way of transcending boundaries and empowering the community members like no other effort. Every Islamic Center should work towards these projects on a monthly basis where all members of the Center have a chance to serve.

Transparency and Accountability is a right of every member of ISGH on all leadership. Open communication and welcoming all points of view on decisions should be a built-in process. ISGH is the amanaah of the community. As such, all financial records, decisions, and meetings should be made public. Any large business transactions, construction projects, bylaw amendments, or transfer of funds should be communicated to the membership prior to any decision by the Board.

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.

Empower the community with Transparency in the decision making process and making each member's voice count. Elected officials should be available to the public via townhalls and open communications. Bylaw resolution amendments, construction projects, and large business transactions should be made public before any votes are taken at the Board.

ISGH needs to ensure that every decision is made just and fair by creating procedures for all business processes including Zakat Administration and Construction Bidding Process.

One of ISGH organizational objectives is to foster Social Services. Community Service Projects should be created to both engage and empower our volunteers to deliver much needed service throughout the community.

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.

ISGH is by the people and for the people, it is not owned by any given individual or a private entity. It is the amanaah of the community. And all elected officials are the humble servants of the community. It will be an honor to serve Allah and the greater Houston community as a humble servant.

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