

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 *

Syed

First and Middle Name *

Sohail

Position *

PRESIDENT



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.

Sohail Syed graduated from University of Illinois-Chicago and went on to start two successful businesses. Sohail Syed fused his business acumen and his desire to work to the benefit of the larger community by serving as the president of the South Asian Chamber of Commerce. After his term in the SACC, Sohail worked with members of the Cypress Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Greater Houston to help establish the Cypress Islamic Center by the grace of Allah SWT. He has served two successful terms as the Associate Director of CIC with the support of the community. Currently with the help and mercy of Allah SWT, CIC is now poised to break ground for a 10,000 sq. ft multipurpose hall, and inshallah plans to complete the construction project by the end of 2019. Sohail Syed seeks to bring his passion for service, his experience, and his desire to help the community prosper to the ISGH Shura by seeking election as the President of ISGH. His vision and goals are to

1: Hire an Executive director with the intent to bring efficiency to the organization and to better serve the community. It is essential to separate the operation of ISGH from policy making body (Shura) and having an executive director will make this separation feasible.

2: Financial transparency by streamlining the financial operation and hiring a comptroller as a financial watchdog of the organization.

3: Focus on providing much needed services to the community such as recruitment and the training of qualified scholars and imams, premarital counseling, marriage counseling, adult day care for seniors, community outreach, political awareness programs, and low-cost funeral services.

4: Make ISGH younger by attracting young professionals to the ISGH leadership positions and committees. I am also proposing to create Young professionals committee at ISGH level. This committee will be tasked with providing networking opportunities and conducting job fairs for young Muslim professionals in the greater Houston area.

5: Our sisters are fifty percent of our population. It is time to make Masajids sisters friendly and Increase the representation of the sisters at all level of leadership in ISGH.

6: Last but not the least is to simplify, increase, and bring value to the membership of ISGH. This can be done through awareness, partnership with other Islamic organizations and thousands of businesses across Houston.

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.

Finance

Current Profession *

Job title, Job Description, if Retired Previous Profession

Business Owner

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.

No

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.

Associate Director of Cypress Islamic center.

Past Harris County Voter Registrar.

Democratic Precinct Chair.

President of two successful businesses.

President South Asian Chamber of Commerce.

Goals *

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

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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.

I would like to create a task force of legal experts who have the experience in the constitution and bylaws of non-profit organizations to compile the suggestion on improving ISGH bylaws to truly serve the current need of the community. Alhamdulillah some of the work in this direction has already started.

I want to make this organization younger by attracting young professionals to committees and leadership positions. I also want to create a young professionals' committee whose job will be to provide networking opportunities for our young professionals and youth.

Separate the day to day operations of ISGH from the policy making body (Shura).

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.

Many Muslims around the Greater Houston area, myself included, take great pride in being associated with ISGH. Being part of something that is so extensive and integral to the city is a wonderful thing and I salute those past officers and countless volunteers who have helped this organization become what it is today. Being part of something like ISGH conveys a sense of ownership and responsibility to the organization. Alhamdulillah lots of work has been done last year and I wanted to ensure that progress continue, and this organization becomes even greater than it already is. It's this that fuels my bid for its presidency. I believe I can bring efficiency, transparency, and extend its reach and relevance to a younger generation. With these goals in mind I believe we can make ISGH even more valuable to its community than it already is.

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