

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

For Immediate Release: October 4, 2022

Get Out The Vote!

The national elections are approaching fast. November 8 will be here before we know it and we must make sure that we fulfill our obligation to vote. Those who are eligible to vote and not registered, should get registered ASAP. Those that would like to vote absentee ballot, meaning by mail, should sign up by October 24, 2022. You can register to vote in person all the way up to and on election day. You can use this link to register and for more information



<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

There are many issues that will be affected by the outcome of this upcoming election. Critical issues like poverty, water rights, voting rights, military issues, education, line 5 here in Michigan, among others. Based upon the margin of victory and voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election, the *Poor People's Campaign: National Call for A Moral Revival* calculates that if only 1% more of Low-Income Non-Voters had turned out, it would have likely altered the result. Their impact on the 2020 election further confirms this.

The Islamic Organization of North America fully supports voting and civic engagement regardless of political affiliation. Allah (SWT) says: *“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah as witnesses to justice and let not the enmity and hatred of others make you swerve from justice. Be just: that is nearer to piety, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Well-Acquainted with what you do.”* (Qur'an 5:8)

Many scholars, past and present, have concluded that 'giving testimony' is obligatory even if not asked. Zayd ibn Khālid al-Juhani reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Shall I not inform you who the best witness is? He is the one who gives his testimony before he is asked for it.” (Muslim) Taking part in U.S. elections does not diminish one's *deen* if a Muslim is using their right to voice their opinion through voting. Certain rights that are incumbent on us to uphold and protect could be affected by an election. A greater harm might be averted by using our voice to vote. Burdens on others in our shared society may be lifted or alleviated by our vote. So we must bear witness as we have been commanded to.

Commenting on voting, “Voting is not a choice, it is an obligation. People should exercise their right to vote and vote their conscience,” said Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA.

Please do not delay in securing your voter registration or your absentee ballot. Registered voters may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center, <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication>, to apply for absentee ballot.

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IONA's mission is to transform its members and help transform the surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek forgiveness from our Creator to earn His pleasure. We seek His compassion and mercy in this life and in the hereafter. We rejuvenate our soul through internal struggle and spiritual exercise in worship of our creator God. The strength of our belief in God gives us the courage to establish good and forbid evil, thus promoting a system of justice for all mankind.

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