



**Muslim American Public Affairs Council**  
**PO. Box 18196**  
**Raleigh NC 27606**

Website: [www.mapacnc.com](http://www.mapacnc.com)

## MAPAC NC 2024 Political Endorsement Guide

The Muslim community, while having a range of opinions on priorities and effective policies regarding healthcare, criminal justice/law enforcement, education, the economy, and the environment, largely views these issues as important, guided by Islamic and American values:

- **Freedom of Religion**
  - Freedom to practice our faith, organize as a community and practice our constitutional rights without fear of persecution
- Govt should act according to the constitution and bill of rights which guarantee fundamental freedoms to the American People
- **Respect and Compassion:**
  - Muslims are taught to respect and honor all human beings, regardless of their religion, race, sex, language, status, or profession. They should also show kindness and compassion to others, especially the needy, orphans, and those who are marginalized.
  - Politicians and Candidates should show respect and consideration for those of diverse backgrounds including Muslims
  - Unconditional statements of contempt for immigrants and any religion are not acceptable
- **Upholding strong moral values:**
  - Faith, Family, and Community are at the center of our way of life
  - Promoting Modesty and Virtue for our community, families, and children
    - Includes Sexuality and Gender: refer to [navigatingdifferences.com](http://navigatingdifferences.com)
  - Sanctity and Protection of Life
    - We are against unjust violence perpetrated by private citizens or the state
      - Ties in with Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement as an Issue
    - Believe in Sanctity of Life for the mother and the unborn Fetus
      - The default in Islam is that abortion is not permitted. There are exceptions based on the length of the pregnancy and extreme circumstances
      - Abortion should be a last resort rather than a default birth control or contraceptive method
- **Justice and Honesty:** Muslims are encouraged to uphold justice and honesty, as emphasized in the Quran. This includes being fair and equitable in all dealings, speaking truthfully, and avoiding deception.



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- **Education**
  - Schools should not be places of indoctrination. Families have the right and are entitled to educate their children as they see fit regarding their moral system, way of life, and views on sexuality/gender.
  - Parents should have the choice of where they want to educate their children whether home, charter, or private
  - Public Schools should focus on student success in achieving core educational goals and equipping children with the tools to be successful as citizens and in the workforce
- **Fiscal Responsibility**
  - Public officials on the local, statewide, and federal level are all responsible for ensuring government programs and spending is balanced and budgeted appropriately
  - Crushing tax and inflation need to be decreased especially on the working class
- **End the Weaponization of Government against the American People**
  - Violation of the 4th Amendment by Government Agencies
  - Lack of Judicial Oversight
  - Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
  - Restore Americans' civil liberties; Repeal the Patriot Act and FISA
- **Foreign Policy**
  - Stop US involvement in Foreign Wars; invest in America and focus on what matters here for citizens
  - Reduce foreign aid and redirect taxpayer dollars to support national programs
  - Uphold the sanctity of Muslim holy sites, especially in Jerusalem.
  - Demand the immediate removal of all obstacles that impede the right of ALL Americans, including Palestinian Americans, to enter and worship freely in Jerusalem
- **Transparency and Accountability**
  - A major revamp and vast reforms are needed for transparency and accountability
  - The undue influence of special interest and the weapons industry on government policy, primarily exerted through lobbying and Super PACs (some on behalf of foreign governments), needs to be curtailed



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### Evaluation of Candidates and Scoring

Candidates exhibiting hatred or contempt towards Muslims or their faith will be automatically disqualified from endorsement, as such attitudes violate the principles of tolerance and respect on which this country is founded. Furthermore, we will not support candidates who support or condone persecution or killing of Muslims abroad.

Candidates will be scored on categories based on how favorably they align with MAPAC's criteria. A score of 1-5 will be assigned as follows:

- 1: Very Poor
- 2: Poor
- 3: Fair
- 4: Good
- 5: Excellent

The following are the criteria and most favorable description for them:

- **Engagement with the Muslim Community**
  - Exhibits understanding and actively engages in dialogue with the community, accepts our invitations and presents respectfully during attendance of candidate forums, goes beyond statements of tolerance by involving our community in initiatives
- **Qualifications and Capabilities**
  - Relevant experience, education, and leadership skills
  - Ability to work with others, make decisions, and handle crises.
- **Commitment to Civil Liberties**
  - Supports Muslim Community's freedom to practice our faith, organize and practice our constitutional rights without fear of persecution
  - Supports Ending the Weaponization of Government against the American People via:
    - Violation of the 4th Amendment by Government Agencies - FBI, NSA, Homeland Security and others
    - Lack of Judicial Oversight
  - Supports restoring Americans' civil liberties by repealing the Patriot Act and FISA
  - Shows Appreciation of the Diversity of the American People: different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences contribute to a richer society
  - Supports unequivocally people's constitutional right to:
    - protest peacefully
    - to boycott, divest, and call for sanctions of any foreign entity



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- **Integrity and Ethics**
  - Personal Integrity: Record of honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior.
  - Accountability: Willingness to take responsibility for actions and decisions.
  - Consistency: Consistency in statements, promises, and actions over time
  - Commitment to Transparency and Accountability
    - Has not exhibited strong leanings towards special interests or acceptance of Super PAC and lobby money
  - Debates with civility and expresses disagreements in a manner fitting of a leader
- **Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision**
  - Expresses well developed strategic plans for addressing major issues such as healthcare, criminal justice/law enforcement, education, economy, and environment.
  - Clear and compelling vision for the future and long-term goals for their constituency
  - Alignment with Values: Whether their policies align with your values and priorities.
  - Clarity and Feasibility: The clarity and practicality of their proposed policies. Are their plans realistic and achievable?
- **Performance Record**
  - The candidate will be evaluated on effectiveness, track record, and previous positions whether public or private and their performance there. Inherently and importantly so, incumbents who have a record of performing favorably and effectively will be favored by this criterion. However, incumbents who have a poor track record will be penalized.
- **Stance on Foreign Policy**
  - Vocal and adamant about stopping US interventionism including involvement in Foreign War and advocates for focusing government resources on domestic issues that benefit the American Public

**Candidates will be scored on the 7 criteria explained above and listed as follows:**

1. Engagement with the Muslim Community
2. Qualifications and Capabilities
3. Commitment to Civil Liberties
4. Integrity and Ethics
5. Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision
6. Performance Record
7. Stance on Foreign Policy



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The category of candidate will decide which weighting scheme the scoring will fall under:

- Local, City, and County Officials
- Judiciary
- State Legislature (State House and Senate)
- State Executive
- Federal Legislature (Congress comprised of House and Senate)

<b>Local, City, and County Officials</b>			
Evaluation Criteria	Most Favorable Score	Weight Factor	Percentage Points
Engagement with the Muslim Community	5	5	25
Qualifications and Capabilities	5	3	15
Commitment to Civil Liberties	5	2	10
Integrity and Ethics	5	3	15
Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision	5	3	15
Performance Record	5	3	15
Stance on Foreign Policy	5	1	5
Total Possible Points			100

<b>Judiciary</b>			
Evaluation Criteria	Most Favorable Score	Weight Factor	Percentage Points
Engagement with the Muslim Community	5	3	15
Qualifications and Capabilities	5	4	20
Commitment to Civil Liberties	5	4	20
Integrity and Ethics	5	4	20
Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision	5	1	5
Performance Record	5	3	15
Stance on Foreign Policy	5	1	5
Total Possible Points			100



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<b>State Legislature</b>			
Evaluation Criteria	Most Favorable Score	Weight Factor	Percentage Points
Engagement with the Muslim Community	5	5	25
Qualifications and Capabilities	5	3	15
Commitment to Civil Liberties	5	4	20
Integrity and Ethics	5	2	10
Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision	5	3	15
Performance Record	5	2	10
Stance on Foreign Policy	5	1	5
Total Possible Points			100

<b>State Executive Officials</b>			
Evaluation Criteria	Most Favorable Score	Weight Factor	Percentage Points
Engagement with the Muslim Community	5	5	25
Qualifications and Capabilities	5	3	15
Commitment to Civil Liberties	5	3	15
Integrity and Ethics	5	3	15
Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision	5	2	10
Performance Record	5	3	15
Stance on Foreign Policy	5	1	5
Total Possible Points			100

<b>Federal Legislature</b>			
Evaluation Criteria	Most Favorable Score	Weight Factor	Percentage Points
Engagement with the Muslim Community	5	3	15
Qualifications and Capabilities	5	2	10
Commitment to Civil Liberties	5	3	15
Integrity and Ethics	5	3	15
Policy Positions, Platform, & Vision	5	2	10
Performance Record	5	2	10
Stance on Foreign Policy	5	5	25
Total Possible Points			100



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### **Assessment of Qualifications & Policy/Platform**

The following elaborates in more detail on what factors into qualifications and capabilities as well as the policy positions, platform, & vision criteria at each level of government:

#### **Local Offices**

Virtually all North Carolina municipalities have adopted the Mayor-Council-City Manager form of government. Under this arrangement a Mayor has few direct powers, and to be effective must rely on their vision for effective City government, consensus building skills and communication skills. Mayoral candidates should be evaluated accordingly.

#### **City Councils and County Commissioners**

City Councils and County Commissioners are deliberative bodies who can and should set policies, but whose direct executive powers are limited outside of the control of budgets and the appointment of members of various Boards and special commissions.

Appropriate criteria for evaluation include:

- Understanding of the Statutory Role and Legal Limitations Imposed on City Councils and County Boards of Commissioners
- Understanding of the Proper Roles and City/County Managers and Professional Staffs
- Understanding of the Interactive Workings of Various City/County Appointed Boards and Commissions and Those of Different Professional Staff Organizations
- Understanding of the Various Review, Permitting and Other City/County Approval Processes
- Understanding of the Budgetary Process
- Understanding of Capital Funding and Operational Funding Options Available to Cities and Counties
- Commitment to affordable housing and increasing economic opportunity, particularly for the poor and lower middle class

#### **Boards of Education**

Boards of Education are somewhat like County Commissioners and City Councils, but with a much narrower scope of interests. Evaluation criteria for Board of Education Candidates include:

- Commitment and Advocacy for Publicly Funded, Universally Available Education
- Understanding of the Statutory Role and Legal Limitations of a Board of Education
- Understanding of the Proper Roles of Professional Staffs
- Understanding of the Budgetary Process and Funding Sources Available to the County
- Having the Confidence of and Sharing the General Views of One or More



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Significant Community Segments, Particularly Parents, Teachers, and the Community Groups Whose Backing Is Necessary for Securing Critical Funding

### **Judicial Offices**

While Federal Judges are appointed by the Executive Branch subject to Approval of the US Senate, in North Carolina all Judge Positions are decided by election (vacancies created by retirements, deaths or other causes are filled by executive appointment, but only until the next regular election for that judgeship), and, other to some extremely minimal requirements, it is the general electorate who decide on Judicial Candidates.

The Supreme and Appellate Courts only act as courts of original jurisdiction under extremely limited circumstances, and ordinarily only consider “points of law” related to lower court rulings and decisions that have been appealed by one party or another to a lower court proceeding. Supreme Court and Appellate Court positions require a thorough knowledge of the law, of legal precedents and principles, and of the proper workings of the overall court system. Possession of extensive legal proceedings experience and mastery of the more academic aspects of the law are major considerations in evaluating Supreme Court and Appellate Court candidates.

Lower Courts are where criminal (both misdemeanor and felony) proceedings are held, where civil suits are heard, and where family law matters are decided. Lower Court judges deal more directly with the public, and require more people skills, and administrative skills in addition to a sound understanding of the law and a commitment to justice within the law.

### **State Legislative Offices**

The qualifications for State Senate and State House of Representatives are similar in many ways to those for City Council and County Commissioners, with some additional qualifications reflective of the unique nature of the State Legislature.

Appropriate criteria for evaluation include:

- Understanding of the Constitutional Duties of the Legislature, and the Limitations the Legislature Has Imposed on Local Units of Government.
- Understanding of the Intricacies of the Legislative Approval Process and Committee System
- Commitment to the Democratic Process, and the Elimination of Gerrymandering and Voter Suppression Methods Used to Directly or Indirectly Disenfranchise Voters
- Commitment to Civil Rights and Racial Equality





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### Tools for Researching Candidates

When researching political candidates, you can use a variety of tools and sources to gather comprehensive information about their backgrounds, policies, and public records:

1. **Official Campaign Websites:**
  - Candidates' official sites often provide their platforms, biographies, and positions on various issues.
2. **Social Media:**
  - **Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:** Candidates frequently use these platforms to communicate their policies, respond to current events, and engage with the public.
3. **Government Websites:**
  - **Congress.gov, Senate.gov, House.gov:** For federal candidates, these sites provide records of legislative activities, sponsored bills, and voting history.
  - For NC Legislature: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Legislation/Votes>
4. **Election Databases:**
  - **Ballotpedia, VoteSmart:** Offer comprehensive information on candidates' backgrounds, previous elections, and issue positions.
5. **Fact-Checking Sites:**
  - **PolitiFact, FactCheck.org:** Verify the accuracy of candidates' statements and claims.
6. **News Outlets:**
  - coverage of candidates' campaigns, controversies, and public appearances.
7. **Public Records Databases:**
  - **State or local public records offices:** For accessing information on campaign finance, legal issues, or other relevant public records.
8. **Debates and Interviews:**
  - View recordings of debates, interviews, and speeches to assess candidates' communication skills and policy positions.
9. **Political Analysis Sites:**
  - **FiveThirtyEight, The Cook Political Report:** Offer in-depth analysis of election data, polling, and political trends.
10. **Campaign Finance Reports:**
  - **Federal Election Commission (FEC) for federal candidates, state election boards for local candidates:** Detail campaign contributions and expenditures.

By utilizing these tools, you can gain a well-rounded understanding of a political candidate's qualifications, views, and track record.