

IACC Elections 2024

Iqbal Kalla Biography



Background

Assalamualikum my name is Iqbal Kalla. My family and I are from South Africa. We moved to Plano about 10 years ago from Atlanta. In Atlanta I served on the shura of our local masjid and served as Ameer for 3 years Alhamdulillah. I'm a business owner and have been running my own business for many years, Alhamdulillah.

Experience

Running a business has helped me understand how to develop strategy, lead teams, delegate, and execute. I've learned a multitude of soft-skills through business that I utilized in my role as Ameer of the Masjid in Atlanta and would do similarly if elected to Shura inshaAllah. During the past two years, I have served on our Quranic Education Committee, the finance Committee, and most recently on the Imam Search Committee. I've truly enjoyed working with the brothers and sisters in our community.

Core Values

Integrity, Respect and Clear Communication in the envelope of Ubudiyah to Allah SWT and the example of His Beloved Messenger SAW.

Key Initiatives

1. Look at hiring an Executive Director to manage day to day running of the masjid. Shura's role should be to strategize and provide direction.
2. We need to provide health insurance and retirement programs for all our full-time staff. This will ensure that they have a safety net in times of need. Allah is the best of protectors.
3. The Shura needs to have quarterly community meetings. This will help with driving efficiency and make the Shura and committees more accountable.
4. We need to refresh the IACC membership and reset the Quorum so we can begin to make some updates to the constitution. All while being completely transparent.

Q&A

1. What are two aspects of IACC's current operations or initiatives that you find particularly successful or impactful?

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Taqwa Seminary and the Quranic Education program

2. How would you approach potential disagreements or conflicts within the community to foster a harmonious and collaborative environment?

I feel it's important to practice Husnul Dhan - believe that people are well intentioned. Then to seek to understand where people are coming from. Collaboration and harmony are built in any organization by getting people involved in strategy and the decision making process. A top-down approach does not encourage collaboration.

3. What strategies would you employ to maintain and strengthen unity within the IACC community?

Having a clear plan and including Shura and Team Leads in the creation of that plan will foster unity inshaAllah.

4. How would you ensure a safe and private space for sisters within IACC, including measures to minimize free mixing and intermingling between genders?

I'm not sure, but I'll ask the sisters or work through the sisters' Shura liaison inshaAllah.

5. How would you foster a love for Islam among the youth, encourage their active participation within the masjid, and empower them to become future leaders?

We'll need a broader community session involving the Imam, our scholars, parents, youth, and possibly outside guest(s) who have successfully engaged the youth. Then we would implement ideas from this session. We may need to do this at least once a year inshaAllah. We do need a youth director(s). Possibly one for brothers and another for sisters.

6. Do you believe there should be term limits for Shura members? Please explain your reasoning.

Yes there should be term limits. It encourages new people to get involved in the running of the Masjid. I believe when a void is created, people will fill it. There are a lot of capable people who don't get involved. They need to be encouraged to do so at a committee level and then take on leadership roles as Team Leads and eventually Shura as well inshaAllah.