



FAITH LED.

JUSTICE DRIVEN.

2020
Annual
Report



CAIR
OKLAHOMA



ABOUT US

CAIR-Oklahoma is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. Established in 2006 by a group of local Muslims, CAIR-Oklahoma serves the entire state of Oklahoma through its Oklahoma City office. CAIR-Oklahoma is a chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), America's largest Islamic civil liberties group with chapters nationwide. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

CAIR Oklahoma partners regularly with community and social justice organizations from around the state in working together towards the common goal of improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans. To that end, CAIR Oklahoma has been a proud member of the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits since 2012 and CAIR Oklahoma board members and staff regularly participate in trainings and discussions led by the Center for Nonprofits.

VISION AND MISSION

CAIR Oklahoma's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

Our mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

La misión de CAIR es proteger las libertades civiles, mejorar la comprensión del Islam, promover la justicia, y empoderar a los musulmanes en los Estados Unidos.



CAIR
OKLAHOMA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

2	LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3	FINANCIAL INFORMATION
4	SHUTDOWN RESPONSE & 2020 IN PICTURES
5	AN UPDATE FROM OUR CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR
6	CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT
9	AN UPDATE FROM OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTOR
10	COMMUNITY OUTREACH DEPARTMENT
11	AN UPDATE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
12	GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
16	CAIR-OK STAFF AND INTERNS
17	CAIR-OK BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Assalamu Alaikum & Greetings of Peace,

I hope and pray that upon reading this, you and your family are in good health and high spirits.

2020 will go down in the history of our nation and the world as one of the most challenging times of our lives. Little did we know when we started out the year that we would be faced with the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and the rising tide of police brutality and racism. We did not plan for our entire country to be shut down, for children to be sent home from school, and for the new normal of wearing masks and social distancing. As if that was not enough, we still had to find a way to make it to polls or vote by mail and ensure that the very pillars of our democracy were upheld.

Indeed, it has been a difficult year for us all, and we are still uncertain as to what 2021 will look like even though we hope and pray for things to improve. When all these concerns overwhelmed us and we made swift adjustments to continue serving our beloved Okie Muslim community, we did not know how things would pan out. We had to deal with the immediate realities of canceling our in-person events, seeing Mosques close their doors for the entirety of Ramadan, and simply waiting to see how long this would last.

We were also concerned for the financial well-being of CAIR Oklahoma, an organization that is fully funded by the generosity of our fellow Oklahomans. With our world being turned upside down, we wondered: could we weather the storm and continue to serve those who need our help the most?

That is where YOU came in!

Through all the darkness, YOU were a light shining bright with your prayers, donations, and words of encouragement. Through all the difficulties, YOU were the sense of comfort we needed to stay focused. When we asked ourselves, “where do we go from here?” YOU helped us find the way.

For that, and so much more, I can never thank you enough!

As we move in to 2021, we know that there is still much work to do and that the fight against hate and anti-Muslim bigotry is far from over. But we also know that together, as a community focused on upholding justice and speaking truth to ignorance, we will build a better future for us all.

With love and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Soltani". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Adam Soltani



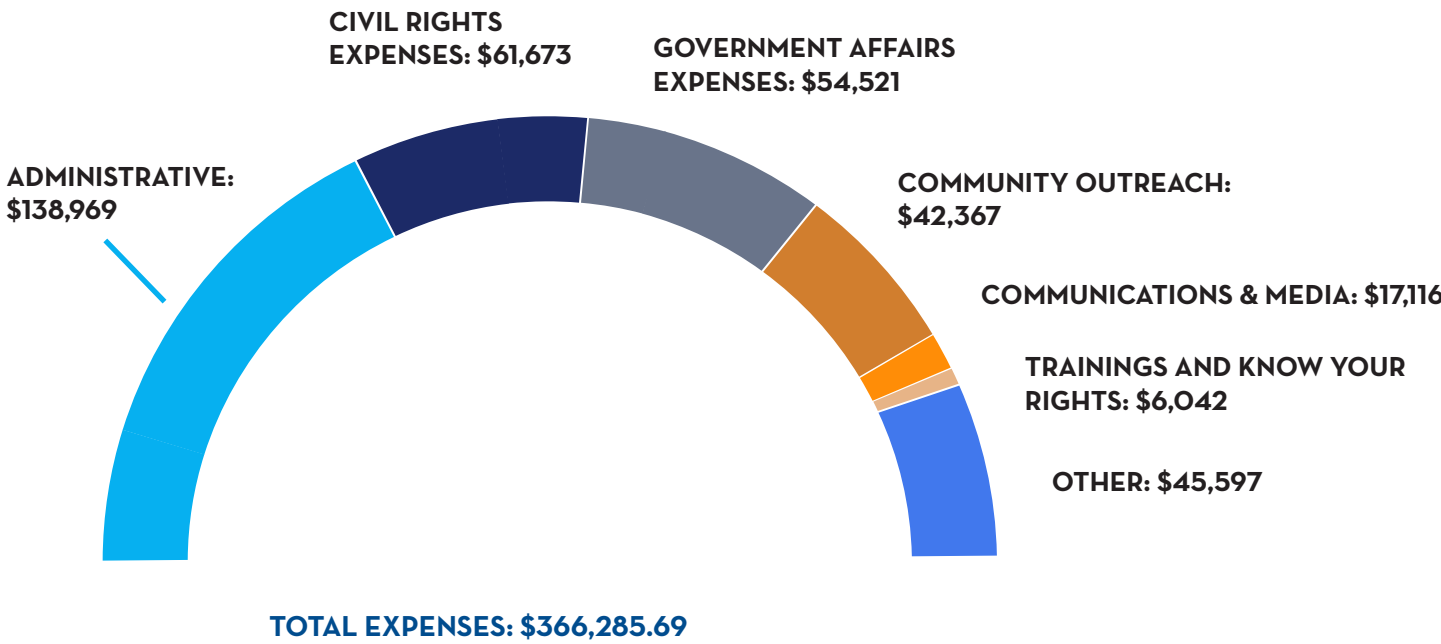
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME

- GENERAL REVENUE: \$310,261.10
- PAYROLL PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT: \$46,800
- OKLAHOMA BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM GRANT: \$14,250
- CENSUS OUTREACH GRANT: \$10,000



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



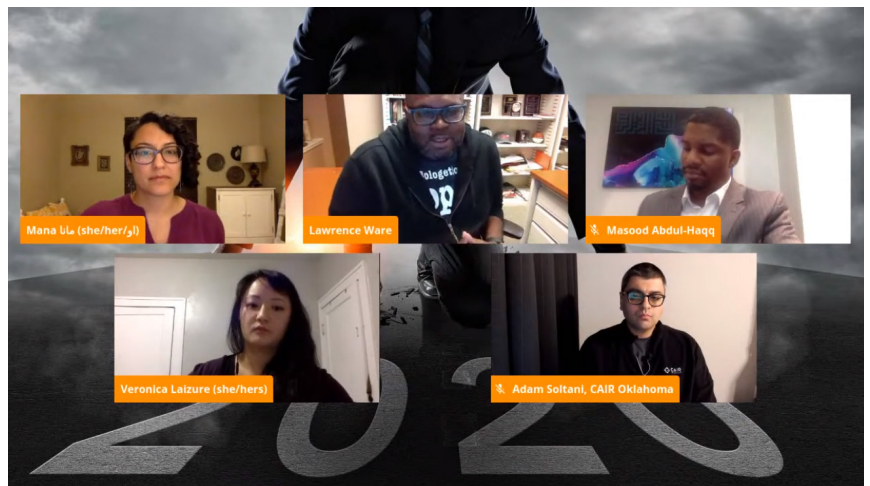
SHUTDOWN RESPONSE

What a year 2020 has been for us all! Prior to our state and country shutting down mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were gearing up for 2020 to be a landmark year for the Okie Muslim community. Hot off the heels of one of our most successful Muslim Days at the Capitol, we were looking forward to welcoming our community to our annual awards banquet followed by a series of Ramadan events. Of course that all changed very quickly. As an organization and a community, we had to quickly adapt to a new way of living, interacting with one another, and forging ahead with the mission of CAIR Oklahoma.

From experience, however, we know that with challenge comes opportunity. We were met with a moment in time that proved the strength of our relationships and commitment to standing up for justice. We leaned into technology and discovered innovative, new ways of fulfilling the CAIR Oklahoma mission. As a result, we are happy to say that CAIR Oklahoma has continue to serve each and every Muslim in our state through our civil rights, government affairs, and community outreach departments.

Since 2006, CAIR Oklahoma has served you with a single goal in mind - ensure the highest quality of life for Muslims living in the state of Oklahoma. While we recognize that we have made tremendous strides in the last 14 years, we also are keenly aware the the fight against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry is far from over. Together, however, we will continue to stand up for what is right and speak truth to ignorance - changing the world one person at a time.

2020 IN PICTURES



AN UPDATE FROM FROM OUR CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR



2020 may have changed the way we do business, but it certainly did not change our commitment to civil rights!

The past year brought us so many adjustments. While some of them were hard – office closures, quarantines, and the looming global pandemic – we have also had some time to be more thoughtful and intentional about our work. We reaffirmed our commitment to racial justice with our 5 Point Plan, which informs every aspect of our work at CAIR-OK to address pervasive anti-Blackness in our communities and our country. We worked with allies throughout the community, across the spectrum of social justice advocates, to join the fight for positive change. And we continued our traditions as the state's strongest Muslim civil rights advocacy team, leading our community through a historic election and a cultural revolution which is continuing to unfold.

The Civil Rights Department has remained hard at work, continuing to serve clients and guide people through the many challenges that face Oklahoma's Muslim community. Thanks to technology, we met with a variety of community leaders through the Community Check-in Videos, to get connected to the wonderful work of Oklahoma's many warriors for change. Our seminars on racial justice and religious tolerance helped engage a wide audience as we discussed challenging subjects like intra-community racism, gender justice, and the meaning of representation. We were even able to host Legal Fellows over the summer, who got the opportunity to speak with clients, work at the cutting edge of Constitutional jurisprudence, and grow in their own understanding of civil rights law.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you for the past six years. 2020 was a year of many challenges, but it has also been a year of growth – a chance for us to take a step back, focus on our foundational principles, and reaffirm our commitments to justice for all. We remember every day that where the rights of one person are threatened, the rights of all become less secure, and we work together to secure peace: not the peace that is the absence of conflict, but peace that is found in the presence of justice.





CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

FIVE POINT PLAN FOR RACIAL JUSTICE:

In 2020, America has been forced to confront our painful history of anti-Black racism – a pattern of thought and behavior from which the American Muslim community is, unfortunately, not immune. The murder of George Floyd sparked a cultural revolution as America wrestles with this dark legacy. We believe at CAIR-OK that we have a responsibility to stand with our Black family and to end racialized injustice wherever it occurs. The Five Point Plan to Combat Racial Injustice informs every level of our work, helping us to understand and address anti-Black racism and transmit new knowledge throughout the organization, our community, and beyond. Pioneered in Oklahoma, the Five Point Plan also became the basis for work done at CAIR chapters nationwide – another example of CAIR-OK’s leadership throughout our networks.

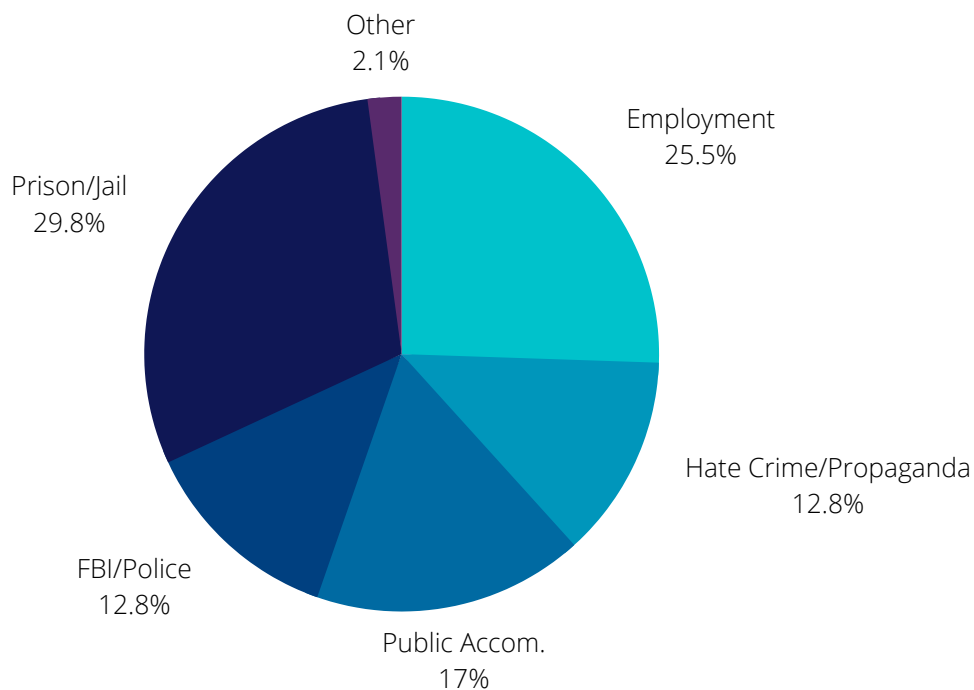
HATE CRIME:

When Jenan Ayesh and her family traveled from Enid to Dallas, TX, to celebrate the New Year, they were expecting a time of fun for their children and enjoyment for them all. However, Jenan instead was the victim of a brutal attack by a stranger – a stranger who targeted her for her hijab and left her with bruises and a concussion. When we heard about the incident, we reached out to provide support to Jenan and her family and to ask her to use our platform to share the real dangers of Islamophobia and the effect it has on the Oklahoma Muslim community, spreading awareness of how hateful propaganda can escalate into hate-filled violent attacks.

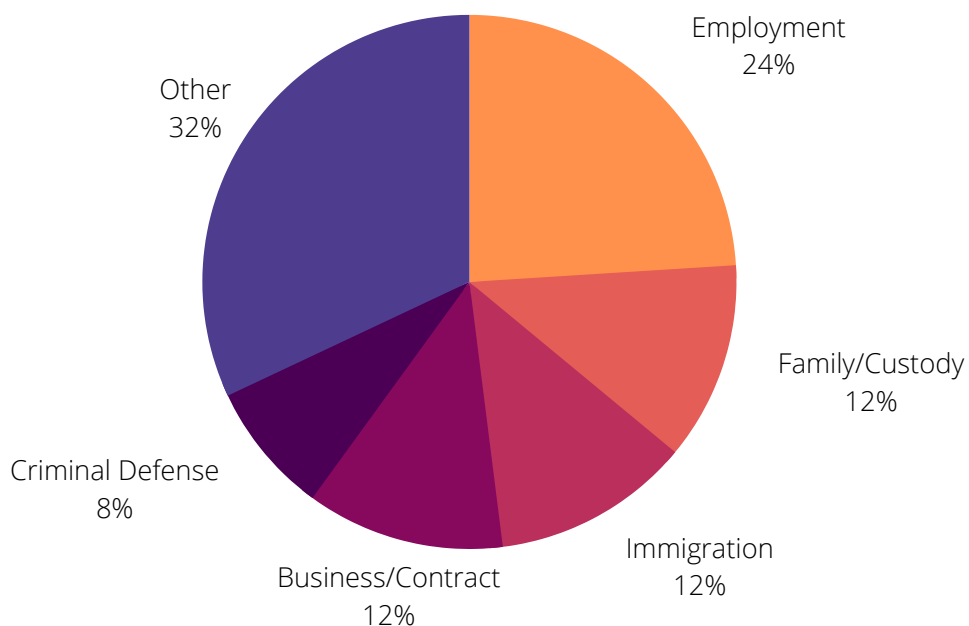
ANTI-MUSLIM DISCRIMINATION:

The Civil Rights Department has continued to accept calls, texts, and emails from clients who face discrimination or anti-Muslim bias. We carefully investigate each call or complaint to determine if evidence of discrimination exists and if the complaint falls within the scope of our department. If it does, we are prepared to support clients through the challenging legal process, including reporting to regulatory bodies such as the EEOC, negotiations at mediations, and even litigation where needed. Where we cannot assist, we have a network of legal service providers that can help solve issues in the areas of family/custody disputes, criminal defense, immigration, and more.

DISCRIMINATION



NON-DISCRIMINATION



FEDERAL WATCHLIST LAWSUIT

CAIR-OK has helped Oklahoma Muslims challenge the unconstitutional federal terrorist watchlist through legal challenges which advanced to federal court in 2020. The No Fly List and other associated watchlists, which have created serious problems for traveling Muslims for years, has been challenged as an unconstitutional violation of American civil liberties. Lawsuits proceeding through the court system have revealed heinous practices that specifically target Muslims and which should be struck down.

**Prison/jail
complaints
increased 70% in
2020**

POLICY - ANTI-SPEECH BILL

2020 saw a wave of bills proceeding through the state legislature, many of which were designed to spark controversy. One such bill was HB 3967, which prevented Oklahoma businesses from entering into contracts with the state unless they promised not to boycott Israel or its territories. We worked with our allies to protest this anti-speech bill and the threat it poses to the First Amendment. We also connected with legislators who asked probing questions about the real intent behind a bill that would stifle our freedom to protest through legal boycotts. Although the bill was eventually passed, we continue to monitor its effects on the local economy and potentially to sue in order to get it stopped.

Most common cases:

Employment
Public Accommodation
Prison/Jail

KYR PROTESTS AND PROTEST SUPPORT

The summer of 2020 brought protests to nearly every major city in the nation, including cities and towns in Oklahoma. As grieving and angry communities took to the streets, it became very clear that many people engaged in protests and demonstrations needed to be informed of their legal rights to protest and how to protect themselves should they encounter law enforcement. We quickly created Know Your Rights Protest cards, which were distributed in the thousands at local demonstrations, to help the community know how to fight for their rights.

COALITION BUILDING

More than ever, the role of strong coalitions is clear in the world of social justice advocacy. Through our strong partnerships with a variety of organizations, the reach of the Civil Rights Department has extended into many corners of the community we previously have never reached. The Civil Rights Director was featured in a task force aimed at combatting domestic violence in the Asian-American community. Our Native American friends remind us of our presence on stolen land and of the ongoing legacy of colonialism that affects us here as well as our families abroad. Ongoing work with the Black community is vital in our work to end intra-community racism and anti-Blackness. And our interfaith partners are helping us to promote social justice wherever we can extend our reach, including amongst the homeless population, inside prisons and jails, and in every corner of the community where we are needed.

“MUSLIM-FREE GUN RANGE”

In 2016, we were alerted to a gun range in Oktaha, Oklahoma, which had posted a sign stating that they were a “Muslim-free” establishment. When Army reservist and civil servant Raja’ee Fatimah went there, they were happy to serve him – until he identified himself as a Muslim, at which point he was asked to leave. We filed suit against the gun range for a violation of the Civil Rights Act, and in 2019 won a victory when the gun range changed their policy to allow Muslims to shoot at their gun range.

HIJABI DENIED ENTRANCE TO COURTHOUSE

In Summer 2019, the Tulsa County Sheriff’s Department refused to allow a Muslim woman to enter the courthouse without removing her hijab, eventually requiring her to remove her scarf in the parking lot, crouched down between parked cars. We sued the Sheriff’s Department and forced them to change their policies to accommodate religious head coverings and train their deputies to respect religious requirements.

Most Common Referrals:

Employment
Immigration
Family/Custody

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTOR



Assalam Alaikum and Greetings of Peace,

Thank you all for supporting CAIR Oklahoma! I have been the Community Outreach Director for two years now and I am truly humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve you over the years.

This year has been interesting in the most unprecedented of ways. We miss hosting our events where we connect with you all, but I look forward to when we are able to again safely, ensuring everyone's health is protected. However, we connected with everyone through various means in virtual settings on Zoom, Facebook and other social media platforms. We checked in with you every month to see how you are doing and we hosted guest speakers to keep us informed about social issues, the elections, local affairs and more throughout the pandemic. It's a new way to stay in touch and communicate, and although it's not the most ideal way to do so, it is what we had to do to protect each and every one of us.



Despite not having our annual events this year such as our Awards Banquet, Tulsa Gala, or Ramadan Day of Service, we have pulled through the year with your amazing support and generosity. Since we could not meet in person, we highlighted our community members through three different social media campaigns this year. We hosted monthly webinars, had virtual check-ins, and stayed in touch and up to date with monthly emails to our donors and weekly newsletters to our community members.

It was also an election year and much of our focus was ensuring you had the right resources to make informed decisions at the ballot box. We created an Election Guide and a State Question Guide. We hosted dozens of virtual meeting with potential candidates, councilmembers and legislators. On election night, we hosted our first-ever election night watch party where we virtually connected with candidates and friends after the polls closed and received live updates throughout the evening.

None of this would have been possible without the encouragement and motivation that comes from you all. Frankly, I miss planning our events for everyone to enjoy, but I have learned to connect with everyone in many different ways and I am in awe of the amount of support we have received throughout this tumultuous year. It is truly rewarding to be your Community Outreach Director for CAIR-OK.

We want you to know that we are here for you. CAIR-OK will continue to serve this community and work towards its mission for your safety and well-being.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH DEPARTMENT



3 SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

• THE BLACK MUSLIM EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA (FEBRUARY)

• APPRECIATION FOR THE FRONT-LINERS OF THE COVID-19 CRISES (APRIL-MAY)

• WE ARE OKLAHOMA (JULY)

25+ COMMUNITY CHECK-INS

ONLINE STORE SUCCESS WITH OVER 100 SHIRT SALES ALONG WITH BOOKS AND CAIR-OK MERCHANDISE

6TH MUSLIM DAY AT THE CAPITOL WITH ZERO PROTESTORS (BEFORE THE PANDEMIC)

LED THE COUNT OF THE OKIE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE 2020 CENSUS

50+ MUSLIM MEMOS – OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

12 ISLAM IN 90 VIDEOS TO HELP EXPAND OUR EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

BIRTHDAY CARDS TO EVERY STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE SENATOR IN OKLAHOMA



AN UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



If you're reading this, congratulations, you made it through 2020! What a crazy election year we've had. Thankfully, before the pandemic hit, we were able to hold our 6th Annual Muslim Day at the State Capitol, which brought 200 plus participants, many of them students, to the state capitol building to meet with over a dozen elected officials.

This year, like many other nonprofits and businesses, we had to pivot to working remotely. When the focus of your department is engagement, this poses exceptional challenges. At CAIR-OK, we decided to think outside the box and throw our energy and resources into connecting with the community through providing timely and valuable content.



I hope you had a chance to tune in to our Coffee with the Candidates show we launched in July, where we interviewed candidates running for elected office every Wednesday.

I hope you felt educated and prepared when you filled out your ballot for the primary, runoff, and general elections. This year we developed our most comprehensive guides yet. With the help of many interns and volunteers, we were able to produce a general election guide that covered all State House and Senate races. And we were able to branch out to cover Congress and US Senate races taking place in Oklahoma as well.

Since its establishment in 2018, CAIR-OK's Government Affairs Department has continued to increase civic engagement among the Oklahoma Muslim community by educating and connecting Oklahoma lawmakers with their diverse constituents. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in 2021, inshAllah.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

2020 POLICY PLATFORM

Each year, CAIR Oklahoma (CAIR-OK) develops policy priorities to advance key issues and promote civic engagement among Oklahoma Muslims. The priorities are informed by research, community interest, and CAIR-OK's mission, and is approved by our Board of Directors. These are:

- **VOTING RIGHTS**
- **DISCRIMINATION**
- **INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING**
- **IMMIGRATION**
- **CIVIL RIGHTS**
- **FIREARMS**
- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

More information can be found at: <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/cair-ok-2020-policy-platform/>

2020 MUSLIM DAY AT THE CAPITOL:

Muslims celebrated advocacy day without protesters yelling at them or holding signs in their faces as they entered the state Capitol. It was a situation noted more than once during the Sixth Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol. "Love and peace never give up, but hate will eventually be extinguished," said Adam Soltani, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Oklahoma chapter. More than 150 people preregistered for the event, including a number of youth in attendance.

OKIE MUSLIM VOTE PAGE

- **VOTER PLEDGE**
- **VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION**
- **PRIMARY GUIDE**
- **PRIMARY ENDORSEMENT OF STATE QUESTION 802**
- **GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE**
Covered all 48 State Senate and 101 State Representative districts. Most comprehensive guide to date.
- **STATE QUESTION GUIDE- CAIR-OK ENDORSEMENT OF SQ 805**
- **JUDICIAL RETENTION GUIDE**
- **TULSA CITY COUNCIL RUNOFF GUIDE**
- **OKC CITY PROPOSITIONS GUIDE**

COFFEE WITH THE CANDIDATES SHOW

Live interviews with candidates running for office almost every Wednesday from July 11 - October 7.

ELECTION NIGHT LIVE COVERAGE

Hosted 3 hours of live election coverage on November 3rd from 8PM - 11PM. Interviewed 11 experts and candidates every 15 minutes as results rolled in.

FOUGHT ANTI-SPEECH BILL

A bill filed for the 2020 legislative session sought to exclude private business owners from state markets if their political ideologies don't line up with that of the authors'. House Bill 3967, by Reps. Mark McBride, R-Moore, and Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, restricted free speech by excluding business owners from full participation in Oklahoma's economic markets and presented an undue burden of requiring all businesses to submit a written certification stating they are not engaged in the BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement. The bill identified businesses engaging in the boycott as "unduly risky" to deal with and makes a character judgment stating that their "commercial soundness" is impaired.

LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Anit-BDS-Bill-Data-Sheet.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaQr6es357Q>
- <https://oklahoman.com/article/5653496/point-of-view-oklahoma-bill-is-anti-speech>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/11839/>

OP-EDS & BLOGS FROM THE YEAR

- <https://www.readfrontier.org/stories/opinion-suppressive-oklahoma-voting-system-exacerbated-by-covid-19/>
- <https://oklahoman.com/article/5653496/point-of-view-oklahoma-bill-is-anti-speech>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/why-vote/>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/the-fight-to-end-gerrymandering/>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/covid-19-government-affairs-and-you/>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/big-topics-state-of-the-state-address-and-cair-oks-take-on-it/>
- <https://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/the-balcony-was-flushed-in-red/>

2020 INTERVIEWS

- <https://oklahoman.com/article/5675522/oklahoma-elects-first-muslim-nonbinary-state-legislator>
- <https://www.pbcommercial.com/news/20201105/oklahoma-elects-nations-1st-muslim-nonbinary-legislator>
- <https://www.thenorthstar.com/in-the-fight-against-voter-suppression-the-injustices-against-muslim-americans-cannot-be-forgotten/>



- LANI R. HABROCK



OKLA
CAPITOL
RESTORATION PROJECT

2022

Rotunda Opens

2022

Interior Work Completion

Oversight

The State Capitol Re
Committee approves
of work for the "repa
improvements" of the



2014

Committee

Our Expenditure Oversight
the RFQ, RFP and scope
of work, refurbishing and
State Capitol building



2014

Winning The Work

The design-build team of Manhattan
Construction Company and Manhattan
& Engineers is awarded the Oklahoma State
Capitol Interior Restoration Project. These
projects include infrastructure upgrades,
programmatic changes, security measures at building
entrances, improved ADA access and historic
restoration of the Capitol.

2015

Conditions Assessment

To begin, the Manhattan FSB team assessed the
current state of the architectural and engineering
systems that entailed an analysis of over 250,000
square feet of space. The team verified the
extent of system updates and replacements that
are needed.

2016 Programming Starts

The Manhattan FSB team is currently working on
the programming for the restoration project. This
includes the development of a detailed program
that will guide the design and construction of the
restoration project.



CAIR-OK STAFF



ADAM SOLTANI
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



NATASHA SAYA
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
DIRECTOR

**VERONICA
LAIZURE**
CIVIL RIGHTS
DIRECTOR



LANI HABROCK
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR



CAIR-OK INTERNS



ZOE ZUERKER
FALL 2019 GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS INTERN



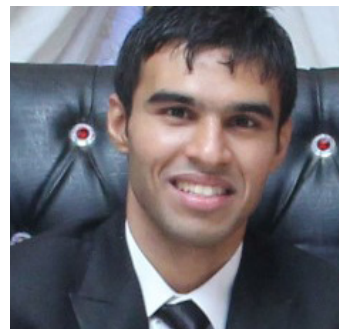
STEVEN KAPPEN
SUMMER 2020 LEGAL
FELLOW



LAURA MARTINEZ
SUMMER 2020 LEGAL
FELLOW



TRACY STEWART
SPRING 2020 LEGAL
INTERN



WAQAS ALI
SUMMER 2020 LEGAL
FELLOW

CAIR-OK BOARD



TARIQ SATTAR
BOARD CHAIR



RAJA'EE FATIHAH
BOARD VICE CHAIR



MASOOD ABDUL-HAQQ
BOARD SECRETARY



KAMRAN ABBASI
BOARD MEMBER



RAND ALZUBI
BOARD MEMBER



MIKAEL DEEMS BRYANT
BOARD MEMBER



NADIA JANJUA
BOARD MEMBER



ANNA MARAKAH
BOARD MEMBER



TAHA SYED
BOARD MEMBER

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

HOLLIN BETHEL
KATE BRYE
MEGAN DIERKS

MARQUIS HAYES
LUCAS KELLEY
KALE KINNAIRD

ALEX LOZANO
MAIRIANY LOPEZ
MAARIJ MAHMOOD

MAHAM SAYA
NAWAL SAYA

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO IMAM IMAD ENCHASSI FOR HIS SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTOR, NATASHA SAYA, FOR COMPILING INFORMATION FOR THIS REPORT



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