

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

9:00 AM Registration and check-in and breakfast from Panera Bread  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda]

9:30 AM: Opening Remarks  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda]

Veronica Laizure (as MC)  
Deputy Director

Nicole Baumann  
Advocacy Coordinator

Imam Imad Enchassi  
ISGOC

Masood Abdul-Haqq  
CAIR OK Board Chair

10:00 AM Advocacy Training  
*(if you're new to advocacy, want to get started!)*

[Multipurpose Room 100]

Representative Ellyn Hefner HD 87:

Ellyn Novak Hefner is a single-working mother with three children. Life changed and so did her career path when her youngest son was born with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Learning to navigate the developmental disability service system and advocate for her son is what inspired Ellyn to become a champion for disability rights in Oklahoma.

She has spent the last 18 years as a caregiver and professional dedicated to helping Oklahoma parents find hope and resources for their children with IDD. Originally a small business owner with her late husband in Oklahoma City, Ellyn shifted careers to become a health coordinator for the Oklahoma Family Network, a nonprofit serving families with disabilities and special health care needs. She became more involved at the policy level after graduating from Partners in Policymaking, a leadership training program designed to teach people with disabilities and family members the power of advocacy to positively change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. She served on the Interagency Coordinating Council for Sooner Start as a member and Chair. In 2015, Ellyn helped organize the Roll and Walk from 11th and Walker to the Capitol to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the

Americans with Disabilities Act Sunday, July 26, 2015. She was appointed by the Governor, in 2015, to serve on the Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Ellyn is currently a financial advisor at Bluecrest Financial Alliances in Midtown. She is a Chartered Special Needs Consultant (ChSNC) and helps families access information, specialists, financial products and services that improve the quality of life for Oklahomans with disabilities and special needs.

#### [Breea Clark Former Mayor of Norman:](#)

Breea Clark is originally from Wichita, Kansas where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wichita State University in 2005 and then received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2008. She serves as the Director of the JCPenney Leadership Center in the Michael F. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. After serving three years representing Ward 6 on the Norman City Council and then three more years as the first Millennial Mayor of Norman, she continues serving her community in a variety of ways, but has also joined the national family law firm WhitbeckBennett as Of Counsel.

Her priorities while in office included increasing sustainability initiatives, strengthening the local economy through entrepreneurship and business retention, and building an inclusive community.

She also helped to create the Eastside Business Association, also serving as its first President. She is currently launching a non-profit called Norman CEO (Children's Educational Opportunities) that has the mission of ending the cycle of poverty in her community through intensive and impactful mentorship and personal development training for selected 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in Norman Public Schools.

#### [Hon. Chelsey Branham](#)

(she/they) (Chickasaw) is the owner and CEO of One Whole Village Consulting, LLC. She specializes in transformational equity in public administration, public policy, and economic development.

Transforming systems through strategic development and policy have been a huge priority in Chelsey's career, as a former State Representative, a consultant, and a professor. They also spend considerable time in grassroots advocacy, community mobilization, and community-led development.

#### [Nick Singer](#)

Nick Singer is an organizer and activist with degrees in Math and Economics from Penn State University. He's worked a varied career including live event production, being a wedding DJ as well as a realtor with a company developing affordable housing. His political experience ranges from lobbying and advocacy to municipal and presidential campaigns.

#### [Oklahoma Progress Now:](#)

Our mission is to build progressive power in Oklahoma. We develop compelling, hard-hitting progressive content for a 21st century audience, cultivate coalitions across progressive organizations and engage voters to elect leaders who are more responsive to their constituents and the needs of the many. We will promote policies and ideas that counter many mainstream narratives, center the voices of those directly impacted by our current system, expand our political imagination about what is possible to address problems and seek to build a more equitable and inclusive community.

## 10:00 Identity in Politics Panel Discussion

*(If you are a little more familiar with advocacy, attend this!)*

[2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda]

### [Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval HD 89](#)

Alonso was born in the United States, but lived in Guanajuato City, Mexico until he was four. His family then moved to Oklahoma City, where he attended Santa Fe South High School for middle and high school. While in high school, he volunteered on Michael Brooks-Jimenez's state senate campaign.[2] He then attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a BS in mechanical engineering in May 2022. Alonso is bilingual in English and Spanish.

### [Kendra Horn previous US Congresswoman](#)

Kendra Horn represented Oklahoma's 5th District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2019 to 2021. During her time in Congress, Kendra supported education, access to healthcare, and Oklahoma industries, and her outreach to the Oklahoma Muslim community has been unprecedented. She challenged Markwayne Mullin for one of Oklahoma's seats at the U.S. Senate, running a campaign focused on service to all of Oklahoma's diverse communities.

### [Tasneem Al-Michael OK Policy Institute](#)

Tasneem Al-Michael joined OK Policy in September 2022 as the Central Regional Organizer. A community-justice advocate and creative at his core, Tasneem is an activist, entrepreneur, and organizer from Oklahoma City by way of Bangladesh. As an organizer, Tas has served at the local, state, and national levels in the electoral arena and issue-based campaigns. He aspires to help break barriers in underrepresented communities by building their collective power and uplifting stories to become changemakers. In his spare time, when he has any, Tas enjoys hosting community events and creating art with friends.

### [Sergio Martinez ACLU](#)

Born and raised on the south side of Oklahoma City to two Mexican immigrant parents, Sergio comes to the ACLU with a strong passion for the Latinx community and a history of community and electoral organizing. Previously serving as President of the Student Government Association at Oklahoma City Community College and later, Regional Field Director for Kendra Horn's 2022 Senatorial Campaign, Sergio has a passion for helping and reaching marginalized communities and families in need through targeted and timely outreach.

Sergio's passion for helping the south side of Oklahoma City has led him to build coalitions and working relationships with members of the state legislature across the aisle and worked with members of the Latino Caucus to elect more Latinos to the state legislature. Areas of advocacy that Sergio has had experience in are social justice, immigration reform, criminal justice reform, and 2SLGBT+ Advocacy as a member of the community.

11:00 AM Keynote Address:

[Multipurpose Room 100]

Introduction by Rep. John Waldron

Keynote Address: Kendra Horn

Closing Remarks by Senator George E. Young

Presentation of Special Citation by Representative Ellyn Hefner.

12:00 PM Lunch catered by Shawarma & Co.

[2nd Floor Rotunda]

1:00 PM Issue Specific Advocacy Training on Voting:

[Multipurpose Room 100]

[Jasmine Brown-Jutras ACLU](#)

Jasmine Brown-Jutras joined the staff of the ACLU of Oklahoma in June of 2021 as the Statewide Organizer. Jasmine comes to the ACLU from a background of Community and Electoral Organizing. Recently, she worked as a Regional Organizing Director in North Carolina for the Biden Harris Presidential Campaign, as well as The State of Georgia for the historic US Senate Runoffs of 2021. Jasmine's passion for Social Justice has driven her to engage with the community as an activist and advocate around issues such as racial equity, immigration rights, and voter engagement and recruitment.

Jasmine was born in Rhode Island and raised in Southern Arkansas, she graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in 2018 with degrees in Music Education and Music Performance. Teaching instrumental music and performing has always been a passion for Jasmine. However, being an advocate for underrepresented communities took precedent in her life. In an effort to be more central to the work in Oklahoma, Jasmine moved to Oklahoma City in 2019 to pursue a career centered around Organizing and Community building. Jasmine has continued to use her dedication for voter engagement, racial equity, and community, and hopes to influence others to use their same dedication to bring about change in our State.

[Andy Moore Let's Fix This](#)

Andy Moore is the founder and CEO of Let's Fix This and Let's Fix This Votes, which are nonpartisan, Oklahoma-based education and advocacy organizations with a mission to engage and empower underrepresented communities to build sustainable people power that eliminates barriers to civic participation and guides policy-making. He currently serves on the boards of Generation Citizen Oklahoma, Freedom of Information Oklahoma, and Rank the Vote Oklahoma. Outside of his political work, Andy is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the OU Price College of Business.

### [Amy Curran, Generation Citizen](#)

Amy joined Generation Citizen in 2016 in furtherance of her professional and personal passion for empowering youth and providing opportunities through education. She began her career with Project Transformation, a community oriented summer day camp focused on building literacy among elementary-aged children from Oklahoma's low-income urban neighborhoods. Long a community volunteer in a variety of capacities, she currently chairs an organization which operates a food pantry and provides no cost eye care (and other services) to Oklahoma City's working poor.

Amy is proud to be at the forefront of Generation Citizen's expansion to the Sooner State. Perpetuating the optimism and resilience of her pioneer forebears, she believes teaching Oklahoma's youth to engage civically will improve their lives and equip Oklahoma with a new generation of leaders.

Amy holds a B.A. in Letters from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters in Religious Education from Oklahoma City University. She enjoys adventures with her husband and two boys, knitting, cooking dinner with friends, and cheering on the OKC Thunder.

### [Councilman James Cooper](#)

James Fennimore Cooper (April 1, 1982) took the oath of office in April 2019 to begin his first term on the Oklahoma City Council. He served formerly in Oklahoma City Public Schools, specifically as an AVID middle school college preparation teacher and—after taking office— taught as an adjunct English professor at the University of Central Oklahoma. Currently, Cooper teaches English and Film Studies as the Artist in Residence at Oklahoma City University, where he serves on OCU's Arts and Sciences Advisory Board. A published writer, he resides in OKC's historic Paseo Arts District with his cat, Marion.

Cooper was born in Midwest City, Oklahoma where his mother, a retired registered nurse, still lives. He received a bachelor's degree in Film Studies with a minor in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. He began his teaching career at Oklahoma State University as a graduate assistant, where the university's English Department recognized him for Teaching Excellence in Composition. He holds an MA in English at OSU and Creative Writing MFA from Oklahoma City University.

During his first election, The New York Times profiled his campaign. In 2019, Freedom Oklahoma, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization, designated Cooper "Lawmaker of the Year," and Generation Citizen—a national civics education advocacy group—honored him as a "Civic Leader Change Maker."

Unanimously, Council adopted a resolution Cooper authored regarding six public safety priorities and law enforcement reforms, including the upcoming implementation of an alternative response to mental health calls and hiring street outreach teams with mental health professionals to respond to homelessness.

2:00 PM      [Dhuhr Prayer led by Imam Imad Enchassi](#)  
[2nd Floor Rotunda]

Followed by group photo on rotunda.

## 2:15 PM Individualized Advocacy

*Set up a table to help people locate legislators and find offices*

*Leave behind cards, template letters, and Muslim community fact sheets to be given during individual advocacy*

- Visits to legislative offices (Nicole & Ronni)
- Sit in on committee meetings
- Observe floor debates (if happening) (Natasha)

## 3:00 PM Closing Remarks

*Cleanup and pack up by volunteers and staff*