



**The Muslim Community Association of San Francisco Bay Area**  
3003 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95054  
[www.mcabayarea.org](http://www.mcabayarea.org)

**MCA EB and BoT Election Nominee Information Form For Hijri Year 1442 (2020-2021) Elections:**



**Photo:**

**Name:** Abdirahman A Farah

**Position Nominated For:** EB

**Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

- **Many years of corporate finance experience**
- **Served as a board member for Ansar Housing Coop in Canada for over 15 years**
- **A current board member of Ihsan Foundation for West Africa (over 12 years)**

**Vision and Priorities for the Community:**

- **Help promote a youth centered programs and resources at the MCA for our youth**
- **Help promote Islamic Da'wah and outreach for Muslims and non-muslims**

**Message for MCA Members:**

- **In sha Allah, if elected, I will personally commit to nurturing a culture, which enables greatness, encourages openness, and helps us provide quality services to our members and the community at large.**

**Disclosure of any potential Conflict of Interest:**

- **None**



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**Photo:**

**Name:** Abdullah Ibrahim

**Position Nominated For:** Executive Board

**Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

- Working in the Non-profit sector for about 4 years, specializing in operations, marketing, and fundraising.
- Certified Fundraising Manager (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)
- Life-Long volunteer at MCA
- Served on multiple MCA committees: Election Committee, Youth Committee, Future Planning Committee, Social Committee, Ramadan Committee
- Successfully executed many projects/services and passed resolutions on behalf of the student population as Senator of Student government in my University

## **Vision and Priorities for the Community:**

1. Inclusivity & Unity, developing a welcoming space for all community members, of all ages, races, and genders.
2. Providing programming and services for the community that will educate, benefit, develop the community.
3. Investing in our youth, encouraging youth engagement and leadership.

## **Message for MCA Members:**

I have always said that MCA has the potential to be the anchor of Masjid and a model Masjid for the entire country. Alhamdulillah through my work, I am privileged to be able to travel to many Masjid across the country. As I connect with the leadership and communities of these mosques I realize that MCA is so unique in comparison. Although our community is ahead in some ways, there is still so much room for improvement. I look forward to being part of that process even if it is in a small capacity. May Allah swt protect, preserve, and continue to bless our community.

**Disclosure of any potential Conflict of Interest:** None



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### **Photo:**



**Name:** Chafik Ziadeh

**Position Nominated For:** EB Member

### **Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

- I Grew up in the community, attended GIS, Sunday Schools, and Friday Night Halaqas as a child. Then as a High School and College Student I lead halaqas, worked at Al-Arqam Sunday School, and joined the Granada Team. Service to the community is all I've known and it's all I plan on doing for as long as Allah gives me the ability to breathe insha'Allah.

## **Vision and Priorities for the Community:**

- My vision is to see MCA become an active hub for everyone, young and old. We're headed in that direction and have progressed immensely in the past 3 decades. Insha'Allah I will contribute in the ways that I can to expedite the growth process. My priority is to listen to the youth and figure out their needs while seeking guidance and wisdom from the elders.

## **Message for MCA Members:**

I don't care about position or power, I'm here to serve my community. My philosophy is to listen to the youths' needs and always respect the elders' wisdom. It'll take us a long way.

**Disclosure of any potential Conflict of Interest:** I used to work at GIS so, just like every community member should, I have the school's best interest at heart.



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## **MCA EB and BoT Election Nominee Information Form For Hijri Year 1442 (2020-2021) Elections:**



**Photo:**

**Name:** Iqra Shaikh

**Position Nominated For:** Executive Board (EB)

### **Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

Alhamduallah, I was born and raised in the Bay Area and have been involved with MCA since I was child. Attending and volunteering at jummah, prayers, tarawih, halaqas, speaker events, qiyams, weddings, community picnics, etc. Simply put, I am connected to and care about our community.

I graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Geography and Minor in City Planning. And recently, completed both a Masters in Finance and Masters in International Business from Hult International Business School.

Currently, I sit on the Board of the Network for Sustainable Financial Markets, a London based Community Interest Company focused on better aligning financial markets with the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and promoting better business practices. While at

Berkeley, I was a Board Member of SSWANA (South and South West Asian and North African) Coalition at UC Berkeley, where we organized efforts to bring more mental health resources specific to the needs of our communities. Over the years, I have volunteered with numerous organizations such as Islamic Relief, the Support Lives Foundation, the Givelight Foundation, the Red Cross, etc. And have been involved in Muslim Student Associations throughout my youth from organizing community discussions around sexual harassment in our community to planning youth iftars.

In terms of professional experience, I have worked at a couple startups, a few local businesses, and have experience in management, operations, service, and delivering results.

**Vision and Priorities for the Community:**

1. Aiding our community during these times of hardship and creating a long-term plan to make MCA a light during a time of difficulties. And Inshallah Allah (swt) will protect our community from difficulties in this life and the next.
2. Creating an innovation and learning hub that lives up to the legacy of the Golden Age of Islam. The goal being to be a people which reflect upon the creation of Allah (swt), be of those who think, and who Allah (swt) increases in knowledge.
3. Bringing social justice movements to the mosque and engaging with the larger community to change the injustice practices engrained in our society by aligning ourselves with words from the Prophets last sermon.

**Message for MCA Members:**

As salaam aliakum,

Inshallah you and your loved ones are staying safe during these turbulent times. With Covid-19 impacting health and increasing social isolation, fires destroying homes and smoke impacting air quality, record levels of unemployment further amplified by the fact that in this area most folks



are one paycheck away from being on the streets, this is the world we live in. Community is more important now than ever.

First off, if you are struggling or know someone who is struggling. Please reach out to the resources we have available in the community, there are several initiatives that have been providing food and some relief during this time of hardship. Take advantage, be the reason someone is able to get into Jannah. They are just waiting and absolutely thrilled to help.

If you are able, please consider how you can give back to the community. This could be through volunteering your time, sharing your resources, or donating money. Take advantage, be the reason someone is fed, able to sleep better, keeps their lights on, their water running, or has a roof over their head.

Everyone should check in on their families and neighbors, especially our elderly folk. Give them a call, say salaam. See if they need food, help picking up groceries, someone to talk with. Maybe even a video chat with a simple smile. Smile, it is Sunnah. Drop off some baked goodies, bread, fruits, etc. Now is the time to come together, ideally at a safe distance while wearing a mask.

Please be smart, wear a mask, and check in on one another. Count your blessings, do good, and vote. Your voice matters. Your community matters. You matter. Black Lives Matters.

In solidarity,

Iqra Shaikh

**Disclosure of any potential Conflict of Interest:**

I am involved with the Network for Sustainable Financial Markets so scheduling conflicts may arise, but those can be worked around. In addition, my family owns a local courier service in the area, Golden Express. While I do not foresee any conflicts arising, I thought I would share these to err on the side of transparency.



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## **MCA EB and BoT Election Nominee Information Form For Hijri Year 1442 (2020-2021) Elections:**

**Name:** Shabeena Ahmed

**Position Nominated For:** Executive Board (EB)

### **Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

Shabeena Ahmed has been a member of this community for the past 20 years. She is an educator by profession and completed her studies in India, with a PhD in Mathematics from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). She serves on the editorial team of an international humanities and social sciences journal. She is married to a loving husband and has three beautiful and active children, all of whom have attended the Granada School.

MCA has been Shabeena's second home, ever since she immigrated from India. It was at the MCA that she started her social life, by attending numerous halaqas and early community programs. Some of the earliest friends that she first met at the MCA, continue to remain close to her, and now, more than just friends, are her family here. Over the years, she has been actively involved in the MCA in various capacities, be it through attending or leading halaqas, volunteering in committees, or tutoring in programs. In recent years, she has started the MCA STEM program, with two other sisters, as a community program for middle and high school students. She also serves as a member on the Noor Hifz Academy Committee. Shabeena looks forward to working in newer projects and continuing to give back to the community that she has known for years.

## **Vision and Priorities for the Community:**

- Ensure that MCA leadership is **transparent** and **accountable** to the community that it serves
- Strive to continue extending MCA's arm to **include** and **welcome** all members of the community
- Involve **women** population of the community in issues related to women
- Nurture Islamic values in our children and the

## **younger generation Message for MCA**

### **Members:**

Shabeena strongly believes in the principles of institution and community, on which our elders founded the MCA upon. The MCA is the large welcoming community that it is today due to the immense efforts that our volunteers, imams, scholars, and board members have dedicated to the prospering of this organization. As individuals that are fortunate to call MCA our community and our home – a statement that we must never take lightly – the responsibility falls on us to continue the legacy of our elders and continue to emulate the principles that our beautiful religion teaches.

If elected, Shabeena promises that she will invest her time and energy to foster open dialogue with respect and understanding within our community. Through the involvement and inclusion of all community members, she will seek to keep the community informed on decisions that pertain to them, amplify the voices of community members, and serve as a catalyst for advancement in the positive direction.

### **Disclosure of any potential Conflict of Interest:**

None.



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### **Photo:**



**Name:** Zafar Haq

**Position Nominated For:** Executive Board

### **Relevant Background/Qualifications/Experiences:**

- Member of MCA Community since 2007
- Proud father of 3 lovely kids aged 7 and twins (1 year)
- I live and work in Santa Clara for the past 13 years
- I am the Director of Business Development @ Questivity Inc
- MCA Volunteer – Social Committee in 2018 / 2019
- Member - Board of Trustees – Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC)
- Personal Interest: Islamic History, Political Science & Poetry

## **My Vision and Priorities for the Community**

My vision of our community is to build on the legacy of the MCA that has been established by the founders and subsequent leadership. I take special interest in community development with specific focus on the next generation, our elders and the differently abled. Below are some of the priorities that I will work towards if elected.

- Striving to keep the community united and resolving all issues amicably
- Youth leadership & empowerment
- Full time Youth Imam / Scholar
- Senior Citizens Social Activities Center
- Programs for differently-abled children

May allah be my guide and help me accomplish these goals to the best of my ability

**Message for MCA Members – None**