



*In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful*  
The Muslim Community Association of San Francisco Bay Area  
3003 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95054

**Announcement & Decision of the MCA Elections Committee to hold exclusively online voting for the 1442 Hijri (2020-2021) MCA Election:**

**Friday, August 21, 2020**

**Assalamu-alaikum Dear MCA Members,**

Article XII of the MCA Constitution governs Elections.

According to Section 3 of this article of the MCA Constitution, “The Elections Committee shall report only to the General Body and shall operate independently of any board or committee.”

Section 1 of this article of the MCA Constitution requires that “the elections shall be held at a time and place that is convenient to most members.”

In addition, Section 11 of this Article notes the following: “The voting shall be held in person. All votes shall be cast on an official ballot that is uniquely numbered that cannot be cross-referenced to an individual voter. The official ballot shall be finalized one week prior to the election. Absentee balloting shall be permitted in limited circumstances such as illness, travel or other situations as defined by the Election Committee procedures. The absentee ballots may be requested once they are finalized. All ballots, including absentee ballots, shall be issued upon a signed request or a signature of the voter in the voter register. All ballots must be received by the close of the election.”

Finally, Section 4 of this Article indicates that “The decision on each and every matter of the Elections Committee shall be reached by a simple majority with each member of the Elections Committee present voting on the matter.”

We are currently living through unprecedented, unique times- The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, an ongoing global pandemic that has, due to Santa Clara County and State of California regulations, resulted in the general suspension of most in person services traditionally offered by the MCA including Jummah prayers, Taraweeh prayers during Ramadan and Eid Celebrations. These restrictions have been instituted to protect the health and well-being of our community members as well as the greater public.

The MCA Elections are a vital part of the fabric and integrity of this institution. There is a clear mandate in the MCA Constitution that voting shall be held in person. The Constitution is silent on exceptions to that requirement but does note that “the elections shall be held at a time and place that is convenient to most members” and does offer that “absentee balloting shall be permitted in limited circumstances such as illness...”

***After considering all factors and circumstances, receiving input from the community, reviewing all available options and discussing the matter thoroughly, the MCA Elections Committee, by majority decision, has decided to conduct and hold exclusively online voting for the 1442 Hijri (2020-2021) MCA Election.***



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The Elections Committee finds that the possibility of our nearly 2000 voting eligible members gathering at MCA in person over the course of the election dates (Sept. 11-Sept. 13) would put those voters and Elections Committee members at risk of severe harm. The Elections Committee finds that, in light of the ongoing pandemic, online voting would be convenient to most members. ***The Elections Committee finds that the ongoing pandemic is a limited circumstance that allows for all voters to vote absentee by way of an online ballot and that, therefore, all voters will be considered to be absentee in the 1442 Hijri (2020-2021) MCA Election.***

These findings and rulings only apply to the 1442 Hijri (2020-2021) MCA Election and do not, until further notice and deliberation, apply to future election cycles.

We will do our due diligence to ensure the integrity and security of the online balloting process. Information will be forthcoming soon informing members on how, where and when to cast their ballot.

Please let us know if you have questions, feedback or concerns. The MCA Election Committee can be reached via email for any questions or concerns:

[election@mcabayarea.org](mailto:election@mcabayarea.org)

May Allah (SWT) make this election process continue to be a source of unity, strength, and harmony among the members of our community, Ameen.

MCA Election Committee

Sajid A. Khan (Chair)

Altaf Khan

Marwa Ahmed

Christy Chase

Khandaker Azad