

2024

General Primary Elections

VOTER GUIDE

Candidate Questionnaire

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Basic Information | page 4

Voting by Mail-in Ballots | page 6

Voters' Rights | page 7

CAIR-Chicago seeks to empower the Muslim American community within its 2018 Primary General Election Voter Guide, providing general information about the election such as candidate positions and biographies.

CAIR-Chicago encourages Muslims to support candidates whose positions they agree with. Further, as a nonpartisan organization, CAIR-Chicago encourages Muslims and all eligible voters to participate in national and state elections, conduct voter registrations, candidate forums, volunteer in campaigns, and "get out the vote" drives. Nonprofits designated as 501(c)(3) organizations cannot engage in political activities that support one candidate or party over another, but we are not committed to making our community's voice heard. **Therefore, CAIR-Chicago does not endorse any campaigns or candidates.**

For this election guide, CAIR-Chicago sent every candidate in the 2024 Primary Election a list of questions the are relevant to the Muslim American community. For a complete list of candidates running for public office in the 2024 Primary Elections, visit the Illinois State Board of Elections website at: elections.il.gov.

FORWARD

It is crucial for all U.S. citizens over the age of eighteen to participate actively in the political process. Voting is a right that every citizen possesses in order to make a difference in the political process and to help their community. Before the coming election you should make sure that you are registered to vote. You can click [here](#) to check if you are registered and learn how you can get registered.

The CAIR-Chicago Voter Education Guide for the 2024 General Primary Elections is designated to make voting easier for you by informing you of your choices and the backgrounds of candidate. We have also made an effort to connect you to the candidate's personal websites so that you may take a closer look at each candidate.

The 2024 General Primary Election Voter's Guide consists of information and links about civil rights and sociopolitical issues of high importance to the Illinois executive branch, Illinois House of Representatives, Illinois Senatem Illinois judges, and the United States House of Representatives. Each of the topics listed has become a central issue to both the state and federal governments in the last year, which will have a direct impact on the upcoming election season. In nearly all cases, recent legislative efforts have been made at both levels of government that have compiled here. Through this voter guide offers insight into a few key topics, the list is not exhaustive of all issues facing the American public today.

In this guide, we provided a short summary of each topic, as well as supporting legislation that the Illinois General Assembly and the United States federal government has implemented towards addressing these issues. We made the effort to provide the most informative descriptions and implications of each issue. If you want to learn more about the issues and supporting legislation that we cite, click on the name of the specific bill or resolution. It will take you either to the governmental website where updates are given on the legislative bill or resolution, or to another website that gives a nonpartisan explanation of the legislation and its implications.

As this is a guide for the General Primary Election, it acts as a precursor to a Legislative Scorecard that will provide more information on the candidates and their platforms. CAIR-Chicago will publish that scorecard prior to the general election in November.

Basic Information

HOW DO GENERAL ELECTIONS WORK?

Primary elections decide which candidate will run for each party during the general election. Illinois holds a closed primary, which means voters must formally affiliate with parties on the day of a primary election. You can vote in either the Republican or the Democratic primary, but not both. You cannot vote in the Republican primary for president but in the Democratic primary for congressional races, for example. Voters can be challenged as not being genuine members of a party. Voters declare their party affiliation at the polling place to a judge who must then announce it “in a distinct tone of voice, sufficiently loud to be heard by all persons in the polling place.” If there is no “challenge,” the voter is given the primary ballot for his or her declared party.

When: Illinois holds its primary elections on March 19th. The polls are open 6 AM – 7 PM.

Where: To find your polling place, contact your county clerk or visit www.vote411.org/pollfinder.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age by Election Day
- Have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day

ID NEEDED FOR VOTING:

In general, identification is not required to vote at the polls, although you will be required to verify your signature. However, there are individual circumstances that may require that identification be shown. In those cases, you must present a photo ID, and if the photo ID has an address, it must match the registration address. If a photo ID is not used, the document (examples of which are listed below) must show your name and address. This must be presented to an election judge before being permitted to vote.

If you registered to vote by mail after January 1, 2003, and you did not submit a copy of the required identification with the registration application at that time, and you will be voting in a jurisdiction for the first time, then you will be required to submit a copy of one of the following:

- Current and valid photo identification
- Utility bill
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Government document

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is available from February 8th through March 18th preceding the election. Illinois voters who vote during the early voting period must vote in person and must provide a valid identification. Valid forms of identification for this purpose include a current driver's license, state-issued identification card, or another government-issued identification card.

PROVISIONS FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Numerous provisions are available to aid voters with disabilities. If you are a disabled voter you may request the opportunity to register at home and have registration materials brought to you. You may also request to register to vote by mail. If you are permanently physically disabled, in a nursing home or in a hospital, you may also be eligible for absentee voting.

The Help America Vote Act requires that election authorities have voting equipment in place for voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently, and Illinois is no exception. Additionally, there are options for a seated voting booth, voting assistance from a friend, relative, or two election judges (one from each party), and curbside voting. Language assistance is also available where required under amendments to the Federal Voting Act of 1992.

TIME OFF TO VOTE

Employers must grant employees two hours to vote during their regular working shift. This time off is unpaid unless specified otherwise by the employer.

PROVISIONAL VOTING

An election judge will issue you a provisional ballot at your polling place if:

- Your name does not appear on the lists of registered voters for the precinct.
- Your voting status has been challenged by an election judge, poll watcher or another voter and a majority of election judges agree.
- A court order is issued instructing your polling place to remain open after 7:00 pm (if this occurs everyone voting after 7:00 pm must cast a provisional ballot).
- You are required to show identification because you registered by mail, but you did not bring ID to the polling place on Election Day or early voting site. In this instance you must supply the election authority with a copy of acceptable identification by 7:00 pm the Thursday after Election Day.

By law, you must vote in your assigned precinct for all votes on your provisional ballot to count. Provisional ballots are counted after Election Day. The election authority receives all provisional ballots and determines the registration status for each provisional voter within two weeks after the election. If it is determined that you are registered and eligible to vote, your vote will be counted. If you are not registered, your vote will not be counted, but the information you supplied on the affidavit form will serve as a registration application for the next election.

Voter Rights

- Voters whose names do not appear on the poll list, or are unable to comply with the identification requirements for mail-in registrants, are entitled to vote by provisional ballot if they declare they are registered to vote in the jurisdiction and eligible to vote in the election.
- Voters who vote by provisional ballot are entitled to written information describing how they may learn, through a free access system, whether their provisional ballot was counted by election officials, and if it was not counted, why not.
- Voters who vote after the established time for polls to close due to a court order requiring the polls to remain open for extended hours will have to vote by provisional ballot (unless those voters were in line at the time polls closed).
- Voters whose voting status has been challenged by an election judge, a pollwatcher, or any legal voter and that challenge has been sustained by a majority of the election judges may vote provisionally.
- Voters who are registered to vote and who have moved within their election authority's jurisdiction more than 30 days before an election for federal office may vote in that election (for federal offices) under the failsafe procedures set forth in NVRA. Such voters must vote in the polling place for the residence from which the voter most recently registered even if they did not advise the election authority of the move.
- Voters who have submitted to the appropriate election authority (either in-person or by mail) their completed registration application by the close of registration as permitted by state law, and such registration application has been determined to be valid by the election authority, are entitled to be registered and vote in that election.
- Voters are entitled to notice of the disposition of their voter registration application.
- Voters who are otherwise qualified to vote may be entitled to register and vote absentee in an election for if they are in the military or are residing overseas.
- Voters in jurisdictions with a statutorily-specified minimum number of voters who speak a primary language other than English may be entitled to receive a written ballot or other election materials or assistance in a language other than English.
- Voters who require assistance due to blindness, disability or inability to read or write may receive assistance from a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or union (or agent thereof).
- Voters who are confined or detained in a jail or prison pending a trial are not disqualified from voting.
- Jurisdictions must not apply standards or practices which deny or abridge the right to vote in violation of the U.S. or Illinois Constitution (denial on the bases of race, religion, gender, etc.).
- Jurisdictions must take steps to make the registration and voting process accessible to the elderly and to individuals with disabilities.
- Persons must not intimidate, threaten or coerce any other person for registering or voting; for urging or aiding persons in registering or voting; for purposes of interfering or influencing how a person chooses to vote; or for purposes of preventing a person from voting.
- Election officials must not unlawfully fail or refuse to permit a person to vote who is entitled to vote and must not refuse to tabulate, count and report such a person's vote.

For more information, contact your county's election authorities.

Below is the contact information for election authorities in Illinois:

City of Chicago

Chicago Election Board
69 W. Washington St., Suite 600
312-269-7900
Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Cook County

Cook County Election Board
69 W. Washington St., Suite 500, Chicago
312-603-0906
Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am – 5 pm

DuPage County

DuPage County Election Commission
421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton
630-407-5600
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm

Kane County

Kane County Clerk's Office
719 S. Batavia Ave., Building B, Geneva
630-232-5990
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm

Kendall County

Kendall County Clerk's Office
111 W. Fox St., Yorkville
630-553-4104
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm

Lake County

Lake County Clerk's Office
18 N. County St., Room 101,
Waukegan 847-377-2410
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 am - 5 pm

McHenry County

McHenry County Clerk's Office
667 Ware Rd., Room 107,
Woodstock 815-334-4242
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm

Will County

Will County Clerk's Office
302 N. Chicago St., Joliet
815-740-4782
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm

All Illinois Residents

Illinois State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.,
Springfield 217-782-4141
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am – 4:30 pm
Weekends: Closed

PROHIBITED ACTS OF FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION

- Persons must not make any false statement or falsely claim that they are citizens of the United States in order to register or vote in any Federal, State, or local election. Persons must not vote more than once in any election (note: this does not include voting a replacement ballot after a spoiled ballot was invalidated).
- Persons must not procure or submit materially false, fraudulent or fictitious voter registration applications in any election.
- Persons must not submit false information as to name, address or period of residence in a voting district for the purpose of establishing eligibility to register or vote in any election.
- Persons must not procure, cast or tabulate materially false, fraudulent or fictitious ballots in any election.
- Persons must not pay, offer to pay or accept payment for voting, registering to vote, withholding their vote, or voting for or against any candidate in any election.

VIOLATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

- If you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office, the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois State Board of Elections complaint hotline at 1-866-513-1121, the Illinois Attorney General's office or the office of your election authority.
- The administrative complaint procedure applies to alleged violations of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Any alleged violation(s) of Title III that have occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may be reported to the IL State Board of Elections. Alleged violations under Title III include, but are not limited to, voting systems standards, accessibility for those persons with disabilities, and voter registration.
- If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931.

TO REMEMBER

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Early Voting Begins:** Thursday, February 8th, 2024
- **Last Day to Register to Vote:** Sunday, March 3rd, 2024
- **Last Day for Early Voting:** Monday, March 18th, 2024
- **2024 Primary Election Date:** Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
- **Early Voting Begins:** Thursday, February 8th, 2024

WHAT TO BRING:

These Items or Documents can/will suffice as a form of identification if required at the polls:

- State Issued ID/Driver's License
- City Issued ID
- Voter Registration Card • Utility bill
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Government document

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CHECK LIST ARE YOU READY?

- READ OUR VOTER GUIDE!
- READ ABOUT THE CANDIDATES
- REGISTER TO VOTE (by March 3rd)
- FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION!
- VOTE ON MARCH 19!

Mahnoor Ahmad

Illinois 6th Congressional District



We sent every candidate running in the primary election a list of questions of concern to the Muslim American community, below are the answers from candidates who responded.

Mahnoor Ahmad

We sent every candidate running in the primary election a list of questions of concern to the Muslim American community, below are the answers from candidates who responded.

Questionnaire:

1. Since October, CAIR-Chicago has reported over 1,300 calls regarding discrimination and hate crimes against American Muslims in Illinois, most notably the murder of 6-year-old Wadee Al-Fayoumi by his landlord. How would the representative or candidate engage with the Muslim constituents in the district to ensure they feel safe in this environment of elevated Islamophobia and hatred?

"I'm absolutely devastated by the recent rise in Islamophobia and hate in our community, and it truly makes me fear for myself, my family and my son. Illinois District 6 has one of the highest per capita Muslim populations and also one of the largest communities of Palestinian Americans in the US. Despite this, our current elected leaders contribute further to the dehumanizing rhetoric which causes deadly Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian hate which killed Wadee AlFayoume. I want to be a representative that is beholden to only my community and my constituents, and not any special interest groups. I hope that I am able to continue to build and strengthen the Muslim community. I would plan to continue to listen and learn from Muslim civic leaders, and continue to hear the voices of all of our neighbors and constituents. The current IL-6 representative does not listen or show up for the Muslim constituents, except for photo ops. We're worked hard to build these relationships across the Muslim community through our campaign and commit to continuing to build these relationships them once elected."

2. What is the representative's stance on the deliberate and extensive doxxing campaigns targeting pro-Palestinian activists on college campuses and workplaces?

"It's important to stress that the First Amendment guarantees our right to free expression and free association and this absolutely applies to pro-Palestinian activists. Not only do they have a right to express support for Palestine and against its oppression, but they have the same right to safety as anyone else, including from online doxxing and harassment. I would work to strengthen legislation that protects activists, and protects every single person that is fighting for human dignity and justice."

3. What is the representative's position on constituents' choice of supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement?

"Yes, I support the BDS movement and its aims to put economic pressure on Israel to comply with international law in its treatment of Palestinians. Israel's governance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is regarded by multiple human rights groups including Amnesty International as Apartheid. This system of apartheid must be dismantled, BDS allows for a system of international economic and cultural pressure to achieve this goal."

Mahnoor Ahmad

Questionnaire:

4. CAIR-Chicago has received many inquiries from Palestinian visitors to the United States who are unable to return home to Gaza or the West Bank due to the war. Students and those with tourist visas are especially impacted. The Biden Administration has not offered a Temporary Protected Status for Palestinians unable to return. Does the representative agree to initiating TPS for Palestinians?

"Yes"

Please explain why: "Initiating TPS for Palestinians is the right and moral thing to do. Not only could the benefit be lifesaving, affording the opportunity to remain safely in the US allows Palestinians the opportunity to work legally to support themselves and their families."

5. How does the representative evaluate President Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war?

The Biden Administration has failed the American public and the international community with its handling of the current War on Gaza. While it's widely reported that the President and his cabinet members are wringing their hands with distress by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, they have been unwilling to transform this distress into action. Instead, this administration has continued to send more military aid to Israel and has unilaterally bombed Yemen, fanning the flames for a regional war. This type of unilateral military action undermines the core values of democracy that we stand for as Americans. Furthermore, we are not helpless bystanders of this genocide. We need to listen to the majority of Americans who support a ceasefire in Gaza.

6. According to a recent report by the United Nations ¹, one/half of Gazans are suffering from starvation due to the impact of the war. Famine is imminent and contagious diseases are spreading at unprecedented levels among 2.3 million people, about half of whom are children. What is the representative willing to do to alleviate the suffering and stop the bloodshed in the Gaza strip?

"First and foremost, support H. Res. 786 calling for the immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Palestinian Territories and immediate unimpeded entry of humanitarian assistance in Gaza. I would also call for and support the immediate refunding of UNWRA. Further we need a long term plan that will rebuild the medical and civilian infrastructure that has been destroyed."

Mahnoor Ahmad

Questionnaire:

7. According to Wall Street Journal², about 70% of homes in Gaza are either destroyed or damaged, does the representative believe that Israeli bombardment has been calculated at Hamas targets only? How would your office make sure that any party committing war crimes in this war will be held accountable for?:

"No, it is clear that this is way beyond a war on Hamas, the bombings and assault are described by even the Biden administration as "indiscriminate". The Netanyahu administration at almost every level of government has made multiple genocidal statements, which have been followed by Israeli soldiers. Further at a macro scale, we see that the deprivation of food, and even water are not aimed at Hamas but rather at civilians to create conditions in which life is unsustainable. Other policies that show that civilian infrastructure is being targeted, include the continued targeting of healthcare and other civilian infrastructure and the fact that almost half of bombs used are dumb bombs, intended to inflict the most amount of destruction possible. The ICJ has found that Israel is plausibly committing acts that could fall under the genocide convention. The United States must use diplomatic, political, and financial pressure to demand accountability instead of continuing to rubber stamp these actions."

8. Does the representative believe U.S. military aid to Israel is being used appropriately in Gaza?

"No"

Please explain why: "There is absolutely no accountability for how this aid is being used and we are seeing it in the news and on social media: indiscriminate bombing and killing, destruction of property, and the genocide of Palestinians. Amnesty International has evidence of Israeli use of white phosphorus, in addition to the widespread use of dumb bombs. These military strategies using American military aid, have inflicted maximal damage on civilian targets. This is wholly, grotesquely inappropriate. The far-right government of Israel is not hiding their goal to occupy and resettle Palestinian territory and using US taxpayer dollars to do it."

9. What steps, if any, does the representative believe the United States should take to ensure U.S. weapons and ordnance are used in accordance with international law? Similarly, how would the representative make sure U.S. weapons don't fall into the hands of extremist settlers in the West Bank?:

"Military aid to Israel should be halted during this current assault as there are multiple organizations that have shown that war crimes, and human rights abuses are widespread. Further any future aid should comply with the Leahy Laws. Any countries that have proven human rights violations such as Israel, should not continue to receive carte blanche military aid. As a world leader we should emphasize diplomatic and political solutions that allow for the security of both Israelis and Palestinians."

Mahnoor Ahmad

Questionnaire:

10. What is the representative's stance on the South Africa's International Court of Justice genocide case against Israel? Will they respect the court's ruling?

"The ICJ court ruling was a heartening first step, that on the world stage we are seeing that Israel can and should be held accountable for violations of international law. The ICJ ruling fell short of calling for an immediate ceasefire despite the current assault on Rafah, the last supposed "safe zone" in Gaza. It is utterly disappointing that the ICJ is not taking more immediate actions to stop what they have ruled as plausible acts falling under the genocide convention. As a representative, I will do everything in my power to ensure that international law is upheld, and hope to be a leader that will help our country stand on the right side of history. The US must stop vetoing ceasefire resolutions by the UN Security Council, and again if elected, I will do everything as a Congress member to ensure the US begins to uphold the ideals of democracy, human rights, and human dignity for which our country stands."

11. Does the representative support a ceasefire?

"Yes"

Please explain why: "First and foremost as a human being, I support a ceasefire because the killing must stop. Children, mothers, fathers must be allowed to live with access to clean water, homes, sanitation, and access to healthcare. Further a ceasefire is the first step in the long road to obtain justice, peace, security, self determination, and equality for all people in the region. In addition to the reasons I've provided in the above questions about my full support of a ceasefire and an immediate end to the occupation, I would support a ceasefire because it's what the constituents of this district are asking and being ignored from our current representative. Our district includes a significant Muslim and Arab population, with one of the highest concentrations of Palestinians in a congressional district. This district deserves representation who listens to them."

12. What solutions does the representative have to end the conflict in the short and long term? The longer this conflict continues, the more likely it is that American Muslims at home and abroad will be in harm's way due to the escalation of violence.

"The longer this conflict continues, the more likely it is that American Muslims at home and abroad will be in harm's way due to the escalation of violence. In the short term we need an immediate and permanent ceasefire, with unhindered entry of humanitarian aid, and the opportunity to allow Gaza to rebuild. In the long term we need pressure in the form of academic, cultural, and economic boycotts to dismantle apartheid systems, as detailed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem and UN Human Rights Experts. Continued international pressure and support is needed to ensure the intertwined peace, security, and dignity of all Israelis and Palestinians."

Qasim Rashid

U.S. Representative



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Questionnaire:

1. Since October, CAIR-Chicago has reported over 1,300 calls regarding discrimination and hate crimes against American Muslims in Illinois, most notably the murder of 6-year-old Wade Al-Fayoumi by his landlord. How would the representative or candidate engage with the Muslim constituents in the district to ensure they feel safe in this environment of elevated Islamophobia and hatred?

"I've spent my entire career fighting anti-Muslim and racist bigotry through hundreds of OpEds, hundreds of lectures, numerous academic peer reviewed law review journal publications, and organizing in local communities to combat bigotry. I've likewise worked with hundreds of elected officials to advocate for and advance justice, accountability, and peace. I have additionally worked with numerous Muslim or pro-Muslim led organizations nationwide to speak at events, organize trainings, and mentor young activists. Once elected, I would continue to elevate that work."

2. What is the representative's stance on the deliberate and extensive doxxing campaigns targeting pro-Palestinian activists on college campuses and workplaces?

"Speaking up for Palestinian justice is a protected right, and attempts to dox or intimidate those who speak up with threats of violence and/or termination are contrary to our constitutional principles. The Illinois anti-doxing law is a good blueprint to build a national policy from. Peaceful dissension and free speech are hallmarks of our constitutional principles, and must be protected on a federal level."

What is the representative's position on constituents' choice of supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement?

"Peaceful dissension is free speech as protected by the US Constitution. No legal justification exists to suppress the free speech principles upon which BDS is built."

3. CAIR-Chicago has received many inquiries from Palestinian visitors to the United States who are unable to return home to Gaza or the West Bank due to the war. Students and those with tourist visas are especially impacted. The Biden Administration has not offered a Temporary Protected Status for Palestinians unable to return. Does the representative agree to initiating TPS for Palestinians?

"Yes"

Qasim Rashid

Questionnaire:

Please explain why: "In 1990 Congress created TPS to establish a uniform system for granting temporary protection to people unable to return to their home countries because of a political or environmental catastrophe. It has since been applied to citizens of dozens of countries unable to return home due to political or environmental catastrophe. The siege on Gaza and the West Bank exemplifies the very purpose for which TPS was created, and should be applied immediately."

5. How does the representative evaluate President Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war?

"Poorly"

6. According to a recent report by the United Nations ¹, one/half of Gazans are suffering from starvation due to the impact of the war. Famine is imminent and contagious diseases are spreading at unprecedented levels among 2.3 million people, about half of whom are children. What is the representative willing to do to alleviate the suffering and stop the bloodshed in the Gaza strip?

"In my personal capacity I am already working with Humanity First and Anera to get medical supplies and physicians into Gaza, which we have successfully been able to do. As a MOC, I would continue to call for an immediate ceasefire and comprehensive support to civilians in Gaza. This includes food, shelter, water, clothing, housing, medicine, technology to continue children's education, mental health counselors, toys for children, small business support, agricultural support, and anything deemed necessary by disaster relief experts to expedite alleviation from suffering."

7. According to Wall Street Journal ², about 70% of homes in Gaza are either destroyed or damaged, does the representative believe that Israeli bombardment has been calculated at Hamas targets only? How would your office make sure that any party committing war crimes in this war will be held accountable for?

"As I've stated publicly numerous times, countless Palestinian, independent, and western journalists have all documented hundreds of occasions when IDF bombed areas it previously declared a safe zone. This is one of many direct violations of international human rights law. The South Africa case against Israel well documents many of these instances. The ICJ and the ICC both need to investigate the IDF and Hamas and prosecute any and all war crimes with urgency. As a MOC I would urge thorough and immediate investigations to protect civilian life, deescalate the conflict, seek an immediate ceasefire, an unconditional release of all hostages and all Palestinians held hostage/indefinite detention in Israeli prisons, an end to the illegal military occupation, and an end to the illegal settlements. I would additionally call for comprehensive global aid, led by the US, to rebuild Palestine and the West Bank."

Qasim Rashid

Questionnaire:

8. Does the representative believe U.S. military aid to Israel is being used appropriately in Gaza?

"No"

Please explain why: "No. See answer to #7."

9. What steps, if any, does the representative believe the United States should take to ensure U.S. weapons and ordnance are used in accordance with international law? Similarly, how would the representative make sure U.S. weapons don't fall into the hands of extremist settlers in the West Bank?

"I see at least three action items here on the legislative side:

1. Demand enforcement of the Leahy Laws
2. Ensure the Executive Branch seeks Congressional approval before any and all arms sales.
3. Co-sponsor and push HR 3103"

10. What is the representative's stance on the South Africa's International Court of Justice genocide case against Israel? Will they respect the court's ruling?

Support the lawsuit and support the ICJ's ruling as a good step forward.

11. Does the representative support a ceasefire?

"Yes"

Please explain why: "I produce below verbatim what I posted across my social media on October 9, 2023, calling for a ceasefire, in response to Israeli defense minister Gallant's call for a total destruction of Gaza. As a human rights lawyer, let me remind you all just how horrifically illegal Defense Minister Gallant's order is:

Qasim Rashid

Questionnaire:

1. This is Collective punishment of 2.2M people—which is prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, specifically Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule103>
 2. This is an attack on children—who comprise 50% of the 2.2M people in Gaza. Denying children food, heat, and medical aid is a violation of international human rights law and one of the "6 grave violations" condemned by the UN Security Council. <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/denial-of-humanitarian-access/>
 3. This is a disproportionate response—which International Humanitarian Law Rule 14 of Proportionality specifically forbids. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule14>
 4. We must condemn Hamas killing Israeli civilians, and Israel grotesquely violating international law in response. Moreover, such a response from Israel will not foster peace or justice, but risks further escalation and death of civilians—Palestinian and Israeli. The international community must intervene to ensure a ceasefire immediately."
12. What solutions does the representative have to end the conflict in the short and long term? The longer this conflict continues, the more likely it is that American Muslims at home and abroad will be in harm's way due to the escalation of violence.

To reiterate some of my comments above, The ICJ and the ICC both need to investigate the IDF and Hamas and prosecute any and all war crimes with urgency. As a MOC I would urge thorough and immediate investigations to protect civilian life, deescalate the conflict, seek an immediate ceasefire, an unconditional release of all hostages and all Palestinians held hostage/indefinite detention in Israeli prisons, an end to the illegal military occupation, and an end to the illegal settlements. I would additionally call for comprehensive global aid, led by the US, to rebuild Palestine and the West Bank.



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