



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

May 22, 2025 | Dover, DE

AGENDA

9:00 AM

Arrival & Registration

Delaware Public Archives

9:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Welcome and Orientation

Delaware Public Archives

10:40 AM -12:00 PM

Legislative Meetings

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

Press Conference

Eastern Stairs

1:00 PM - 1:40 PM

Lunch & Dhuhr Prayer

Islamic Society of Central Delaware (ISOCDE)/ Dover Masjid

777 S. Little Creek Road Dover, DE 19901

2:00 PM

House & Senate Floor Recognition



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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CIVIL RIGHTS & ISLAMOPHOBIA

Seeking Support for Combating Islamophobia & Protecting Muslim Rights	-SUPPORT-
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Muslims in Delaware continue to face discrimination, harassment, and bias both online and in daily life. From hate crimes and profiling to employment and housing discrimination, Islamophobia remains a serious threat to the safety and dignity of our communities. Local Muslim community members have also been targeted by online hate, including doxxing, where personal information is shared publicly to incite harassment or threats. These experiences are part of a broader rise in Islamophobia nationwide, and Delaware has a responsibility to ensure the safety, dignity, and civil rights of all its residents, including Muslims.

Ask:

1. Support State-level anti discrimination legislation that explicitly protects Muslims in employment, housing, education, and public services while protecting First Amendment rights.
2. Mandate cultural competency and implicit bias training from Delaware law enforcement, with input from Muslim community organizations.
3. Establish clear accountability systems within Delaware's law enforcement agencies to investigate and address profiling or discriminatory practices.
4. Introduce anti-doxing laws in Delaware to prevent the malicious online exposure of private information and protect residents from hate- fueled harassment.
5. Ensure Delaware state agencies regularly engage with Muslim communities and organizations to inform inclusive policy decisions and build trust.



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

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Respecting Freedom of Speech	-SUPPORT-
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Muslim students and community members in Delaware are increasingly facing censorship, disciplinary action, or public backlash for expressing political views—particularly on issues like Palestinian human rights and U.S. foreign policy. These responses often rely on vague or overly broad definitions of hate speech that risk criminalizing protected speech and silencing Muslim voices. Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy, and Delaware must ensure that Muslims can engage in political discourse without fear of retaliation or discrimination.

Ask:

1. Defend free speech protections for Delaware's Muslim students, educators, and community members in schools, universities, and public institutions.
2. Oppose legislation or policies that conflate political criticism (such as of foreign governments) with hate speech, especially when it disproportionately impacts Muslims. The IHRA Definition of antisemitism creates this conflation, while the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism is more balanced and should be preferred.
3. Ensure hate crime and anti-discrimination laws in Delaware are narrowly and clearly defined, so they protect against real harm without suppressing lawful expression.
4. EMPHASIZE and ASK: Are you willing to work and potentially co-sponsor a legislative effort around this issue?



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

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HALAL MEALS

Ensuring Access to Halal Meals & Addressing Food Insecurity in Delaware	-SUPPORT-
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In Delaware, many Muslims who rely on public institutions, such as schools, hospitals, universities, and correctional facilities, lack consistent access to halal meals that meet their religious dietary needs. This creates unnecessary hardship and exclusion, especially for those in state- run facilities like prisons where individuals cannot access alternative food options. Additionally, Muslim led food insecurity programs in Delaware are under-resourced, even as the demand for halal food assistance continues to grow.

Ask:

1. Require all Delaware public institutions, including correctional facilities, to provide halal meals to individuals who request them, ensuring respect for religious dietary needs.
2. Support state funding for food insecurity programs that serve Muslim communities and provide halal food to individuals and families in need.
3. Incorporate halal food access into broader food equity initiatives at the state level, including in school and emergency food programs
4. Encourage state agencies to partner with Muslim community organizations to ensure equitable and culturally appropriate food access across Delaware
5. EMPHASIZE and ASK: Are you willing to work and potentially co-sponsor a legislative effort around this issue?



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RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Promoting Religious Accommodations Including Prayer Spaces and Holiday Provisions	-SUPPORT-
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Muslim students, educators, and professionals in Delaware often lack access to basic religious accommodations, such as prayer spaces and recognition of Muslim holidays, which makes it harder to balance faith and daily responsibilities. Providing designated prayer areas and honoring holidays like Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha promotes equity, religious freedom, and cultural inclusion across the state.

Ask:

1. Support the reintroduction of formerly HB 173, which allows public school employees to take two floating holidays, including for religious observances like Eid, without using personal or vacation time.
2. Support the reintroduction of formerly HB 360 and consider expanding its impact by recognizing Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as official state holidays, either through amendment or future legislation
3. Encourage public schools, universities, and state workplaces to designate accessible prayer spaces for Muslim students and employees
4. Work with local school districts and state agencies to ensure meaningful, consistent implementation of religious accommodations statewide, promoting.



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

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Immigration

Protecting Immigrant Communities in Delaware	-SUPPORT-
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Delaware is home to a vibrant and diverse immigrant population, including many Muslims who have left their homes in search for better opportunities. These community members contribute meaningfully to our school, workforce, and neighborhoods, yet many still face barriers to safety, stability, and inclusion due to discriminatory immigration enforcement practices and lack access to resources. Muslim immigrants are often disproportionately targeted by federal surveillance, profiling, and policies shaped by Islamophobic rhetoric.

Ask:

1. Support for the following bills:

a. Immigration Enforcement Limits & Protections

- **House Bill 58** bans police from targeting people based solely on actual or suspected immigration status or civil immigration violations.
- **House Bill 93** limits school resource officers and constables from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement.
- **House Bill 94 and House Bill 150** limit state law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as schools, churches, and courthouses.

b. Privacy and Data Protections

- **House Bill 60** strengthens Division of Motor Vehicle rules to ensure personal data is protected, including information that may reveal immigration or citizenship status.
- **House Bill 95** adds another layer of privacy protections for families and students by limiting the release of student records in connection with immigration enforcement efforts.
- **House Bill 96** promotes accountability by requiring reports on federal agency requests for data or assistance related to immigration status.

c. Education Support for Immigrant Communities

- **House Bill 44** ensures the continued operation of Delaware's Migrant Education Program.



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

May 22, 2025 | Dover, DE

2. Pass statewide protections to prevent collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE, including ending any informal data-sharing or cooperation that places Muslim immigrant communities at risk.
3. Designate Delaware as a sanctuary state where immigrant families, regardless of legal status, can safely access schools, healthcare, courts, and public services without fear of detention or deportation.
4. Ensure that state-funded services and programs are accessible to immigrants regardless of immigration status, including language access and culturally competent support.
5. Partner with trusted community organizations, including mosques and immigrant advocacy groups, to ensure outreach and services meet the unique needs of Muslim immigrants in Delaware.



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

May 22, 2025 | Dover, DE

Bail Reform

Compassionate Release Reform in Delaware (SB 10)	-SUPPORT-
Primary Sponsor: Townsend Additional Sponsors: Pinkney and Minor-Brown	

Senate Bill 10 would make it earlier for people in prison to ask for early release if they're elderly, seriously ill, or have served many years and shown they've changed. Right now only prison officials can ask for release, and reviews only happen every two years. This bill would allow individuals or their lawyers to apply once a year and give more people a fair chance to come home if they no longer pose a threat

This matters to many in Delaware's Muslim community, who are affected by unfair prison policies and support second chances rooted in justice and compassion

Ask:

1. Support SB 10 to create a more humane and equitable sentence modification process
2. Ensure that eligible individuals are informed of their rights under this legislation, including members of the muslim community.
3. Advocate for justice reforms that prioritize compassion and rehabilitation over excessive punishment.



MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY

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Helpful Tips for an Advocacy Meeting (30 minute meeting)

- *Build a Relationship:* Advocacy and politics is about relationships. Take some time to connect on common issues, local connections, or who you are. It will help your advocacy be more successful and find unusual opportunities to advocate for solutions.
- *Localize the Problem:* We have provided key talking points on several issues, but you should put it in your own words. The more you can localize or personalize the issue you are discussing, the better.
- *50/50 Rule:* You want to speak no more than 50% of the time. The best is to ask lots of questions and give the legislator/staff time to engage in discussion.
- *Clear, Direct Ask:* Make your ask direct, specific, and short. Then pause and wait for an answer. If you don't get a clear one, keep talking and then come back again before developing a follow-up plan.
- *Be honest:* If you don't know the answer to a question, that is okay. Be honest and get back to them.
- *Have a follow-up plan:* This is the start of our push for a Common Agenda. Have a plan to get more information from them, and the next steps on pushing these solutions forward.

Sample Meeting Agenda (30 minute meeting)

The below agenda is for a 30 minute meeting, but you may sometimes have more/less.

- *Introductions (3 minutes):* Go around the room and introduce yourself including where you live and 1-2 sentences on why you came today to advocate on behalf of the Philadelphia Muslim Community. *Confirm the length of the meeting.*
- *Build Relationship (5 minutes):* Discuss their priorities, and connect on other issues or common interests.
- *Problem (3-5 minutes):* Focus on one of the issues identified in our Advocacy Agenda, articulating how it connects to the community, or you personally. The goal here is to get the legislator to understand the core problem, why it happens, and connect emotionally on the need for action.
- *Solution (3 minutes):* You will want to discuss why and how the issue should be addressed? How can they help/ how can we as a community help them.
- *Ask:* Have a clear ask as noted in the target notes.