ANNUAL REPORT
2012

Our Voice Our Future

www.emerge-usa.org

EMERGE USA is a national civic engagement organization who aspires to ensure that under-represented communities have the same constitutional rights, social privileges, and political opportunities afforded to all Americans.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

How Our Programs Lead to Policy Reform

Emerging Data
Polling/Statistical Analysis
- A Database That is 150,000+ People Strong
- Statistics on Policy Issues and Current Events
- Analysis and Reports Compiled and Presented to Media & Elected Officials

Emerge USA PAC:
Emerge USA PAC activity leads the community in candidate research & questionnaires, direct campaign contributions & endorsements, and PAC candidate endorsement cards.

Also, Emerge USA's 501c(4), Emerge USA Committee for Voter Advocacy, ensures our communities have a voice by advocating on issues that are important to them.

Emerging Voters
GOTV, Candidate Forums, Voter Guides, Voter Registration
- Increasing Voter Turnout Through Get Out the Vote Events and Campaigns
- Voter Education: Engaging Voters Through Helpful Facts and Access to the Voting System
- Mobilizing the Community to Engage and Meet Candidates and Elected Officials

Emerging Leaders
Youth Leadership Development and Mentorship
- Leadership Development With a Focus on Youth Empowerment
- Empowering Youth With Dedicated Mentors and Successful Role Models
- Developing Community Talent Through Youth Engagement and Supporting Community Youth in Internships, Fellowships, and Staff Roles
The broad goal of EMERGE USA is to take the Muslim, South Asian and Arab American (MASA) communities and other underrepresented communities and training them on how to engage the political process so that instead of hoping to have our voices heard from the outside we can guarantee our voices will echo loudly on the inside. EMERGE USA carries out its mission through three unique lines of programming: Emerging Voters, Emerging Data and Emerging Leaders.
THE TRUE WORTH OF A MAN IS TO BE MEASURED BY THE OBJECTS HE PURSUES.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRMAN

This year saw the rise of the minority voice in American politics and you the members of EMERGE USA played a crucial role. I want to thank you for your support and tell you briefly how we used your contributions. We entered 2012 with aggressive goals for our three main focus areas: Emerging Voters, Emerging Data, and Emerging Leaders. Together we surpassed our goals and have set the Muslim, Arab, South Asian (MASA) American communities on a path that will pave the way for the next generation to represent all Americans.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRMAN

Emerging Leaders was fully revamped to follow the model of some of the top leadership development programs in the country. We took steps to ensure the resources were in place to make the Emerging Leaders program among the elite leadership development programs for college age young people across the state. This program will create quality leaders who will understand all sides of a problem and the needs of all constituents. The retooled program helped us achieve “Best Non Profit” of the year from the New Times Magazine in South Florida.

Through our Emerging Data program our database of registered MASA voters grew from 120,000 to above 150,000. This continued investment into a core asset of the community will allow for us to continuously gather information through our constant polling of this database in order to produce data for social and political science research, media, and elected officials about the MASA community. Our data and organizational model were key components to academic publications such as “Engaging American Muslims: Political Trends and Attitudes” by Professor Farid Senzai of Santa Clara University.

EMERGE USA used dozens of volunteers on Election Day to help make sure people could find their polling stations. All of these efforts resulted in an unprecedented level of energy and enthusiasm in our communities this election cycle and made it a cultural norm to vote. This is a sea of change in community culture which will allow us to put more resources into directing MASA members into the party structure and allowing them to participate more fully in civic life.

This year EMERGE USA was very visible in the news and was able to show that our communities are an asset to our neighborhoods, cities and country. Our data was the source of a New York Times piece called the “Muslim Swing Vote” in early spring of 2012. Since then we have continued to be a visible flag bearer for the community so our children will be active participants in this process for years to come. 2013 will be another exciting year where we will continue to work hard for you and ensure that your voice is heard within policy discussions that influence the future of our country.

Khurrum Wahid
CO-CHAIRMAN, EMERGE USA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

AJ Durrani, Chairman
Khurrum Wahid, Co-Chairman
Amin Mitha, Treasurer
Nauman Abbasi, Secretary
Saif Ishoof, Dr. Doured Daghestani,
Malik Aziz, Dr. Shahid Usmani,
Dr. Shaista Usmani, Imran Siddiqui
MEDIA QUOTES

BEST NONPROFIT - 2012

“By getting more of Florida’s 120,000 registered Muslim voters involved in politics, EMERGE hopes to combat fear and bigotry. Helping young Muslims land internships at City Hall and introducing them to Tallahassee power brokers is a key part of his mission.”

MUSLIM VOTERS COULD SWING ELECTION, REPORT FINDS

“...a get-out-the-vote phone bank contacted 23,000 in one day during elections in 2008 and 2010...EMERGE USA, which ran the phone bank - says efforts like his will increase Muslim voter turnout.”

FLORIDA MUSLIMS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE VOTE

“...American Muslims become engaged in the political process with help from organizations like EMERGE USA.”

THE MUSLIM SWING VOTE

“An EMERGE USA poll taken during the 2010 midterm elections found that more than 60% of registered Muslim voters in Florida were likely to vote.”

ACTIVIST CHALLENGES TERRY KEMPLE ON ANTI-CAIR CAMPAIGN

“Laila Abdelaziz (of EMERGE USA) asked Kemple why he continues to make incendiary comments about the Muslim community...”

FLORIDA MUSLIMS COULD BE PIVOTAL IN 2012 ELECTION

“And the anti-immigration fervor, while aimed largely at Hispanics, also has alienated Muslims from the Republican Party, said Imran Siddiqui, a board member of EMERGE USA...”

ENGAGING AMERICAN MUSLIMS: POLITICAL TRENDS & ATTITUDES

“The Florida case study suggests that the American Muslim voter community is increasingly engaged, in part due to the mobilization efforts of EMERGE USA...”

TAMPA FIELD DIRECTOR LAILA ABDELAZIZ

Conducting the invocation at City of Tampa City Council Meeting

WHY THE FLORIDA MUSLIM AMERICAN VOTE COUNTS

“EMERGE USA has been working to mobilize the Muslim American vote in Florida.”

EVERY VOTE COUNTS, INCLUDING MUSLIM VOTES

“Candidates have found it beneficial to bash American Muslims...While this strategy may have worked in the past, it could backfire in battleground states such as Florida where minority groups including American Muslims are likely to play a key role.”

MUSLIM-AMERICAN VOTERS PROVIDING A BOOST FOR DEMOCRATS IN FLORIDA

“Activist organization EMERGE USA played a leading role in turning out Muslim-American voters for the 2012 Presidential Election.”

Alhurra TV covered EMERGE USA’s 2012 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities, which aired in Arabic across the Middle East.
Quotes from community leaders and some elected officials

**FORMER GOVERNOR AND U.S. SENATOR BOB GRAHAM**

“EMERGE is a very important organization with a very challenging goal and the three prongs that EMERGE has organized around are the steps for effective citizenship in our democracy.”

**PALM BEACH COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY DAVE ARONBERG**

“Florida cannot go forward in the 21st Century and compete while we are a people divided. We need to come together and EMERGE USA is at the forefront of doing that.”

**TAMPA MAYOR BOB BUCKHORN**

“It’s been my privilege to work with EMERGE USA. I’m proud of what the organization has accomplished and proud of the young people it has brought into the process.”

**CONGRESSMAN KEITH ELLISON**

“EMERGE USA is organizing people on a grassroots level and helping them find their own power and their own voice across Florida and the United States.”

**ORLANDO MAYOR BUDDY DYER**

“EMERGE USA has been devoted to empower young people through education, advocacy and mentoring to create the next generation of leaders. I’m proud of the accomplishments of this organization and its continuous commitment to embrace the diversity through first-hand experiences and interaction with cultures.”

**MIAMI DADE MAYOR CARLOS GIMENEZ**

“The diversity of Miami-Dade County is one of our greatest strengths and EMERGE USA plays a key role in encouraging diversity within our civic institutions.”

**FORMER BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFF AL LAMBERTI**

“EMERGE USA is an important organization paving the way for underrepresented communities to get more involved in civic life.”

**CONGRESSMAN PATRICK MURPHY**

"I am very proud of the diverse coalition that led me to victory. The Muslim, Arab, and South Asian-American communities in Florida and nationally were an instrumental part of our team for the past 18 months."
EMERGING VOTERS
ELECTION 2012

CANDIDATE FORUMS
EMERGE USA organized candidate forums across Florida and in Houston, TX with local, state, and federal candidates, to inform our communities about the key issues in the 2012 election.

EMERGE USA’s candidate forum was extremely informative, it provided me with a venue to better understand the candidates and their views on the issues that matter most to me. This year, I was an informed voter and that’s all thanks to the candidates that came out to speak at the Arab American forum.” - Yasmin Kouchak, 29, Orlando

EARLY VOTING DAY
EMERGE USA formed a coalition of organizations to turn out the early vote for 2012. In October 2012, Florida Muslim early vote day was able to turn out over 1,000 votes from the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities in Florida.

EDUCATING ON POSITIONS
EMERGE USA distributed thousands of issue booklets and ran advertisements in local ethnic media in Florida and Texas to educate our communities on positions taken by the presidential candidates on issues important to them.

“Emerge’s voter guide provided all the information and was a tremendous resource in helping voters make an informed decision about our locally and nationally elected officials.” - Dr. Hajira M. Shujaat, 35, Orlando

“I recently moved back to the states and I have never experienced voting before. To be honest I didn’t really think it would make a difference if I voted or not but after listening and reading what EMERGE USA had to say they really made me feel that my vote matters. With the help of Emerge I learned what to expect in the voting process so I wouldn’t feel overwhelmed. I know if it wasn’t for EMERGE I wouldn’t have voted.” - Diana Shanaa, 22, Orlando

“As a new U.S. citizen I was excited for this past election to exercise my most important right as an American- To vote. EMERGE USA energized my enthusiasm to be involved politically with my local community.” - Riz Manji, 26, Orlando

“As Bosnian immigrants, this country has offered us so much and now, with our right to vote, we want to make a difference and vote because we’ve seen how every vote makes a difference. Our daughter’s engagement and work with EMERGE USA has motivated the entire family.” - Samila and Amir Spahic, Tampa

“This country has offered us so much and now with our right to vote, we want to make a difference because we’ve seen how every vote does count. After waiting several hours in line and voting I felt a great sense of empowerment and a true sense of citizenship.” - Nader Abbara, 18, Miami
2011-12 was the inaugural year of the Emerging Leaders Program, which seeks to develop the future political and civic leaders of our communities.

EMERGE USA conducted a communications training in Tampa, FL with the Washington, DC based Truman Security Project.

SUCCESS STORIES OF PARTICIPANTS:

✓ EMERGE USA interns and Emerging Leaders graduates have landed internships, fellowships, and jobs at the following:

✓ Emerging Leaders graduates obtained internships in the offices of US Senator Bill Nelson, Tampa Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and many other elected officials including members of Congress, State Representatives, and Municipal Representatives.

✓ Obtained campaign jobs and internships during election cycles such as for Obama for America.

✓ International service programs through FEBA (Federation of Balkan American Associations).

✓ Career jobs in their respected fields (medicine, accounting, law, politics and social services).

✓ Placement and mentorship in their dream undergraduate and graduate programs.

THREE RETREATS:

South Florida: “A Community of Leaders”
Tallahassee: “Understanding Power” and
Tampa: “Bridge Building”

“It’s an experience of a lifetime.” - Nusaiba Mubarak, Panama City, FL

“The Emerging Leaders Program taught me how to build relationships with people over time and really showed me how important these relationship will be as I grow older.” - Saif Hamideh, Miami, FL

“I’ve learned so much more during the Emerging Leaders program than I have in an entire semester of college.” - Mo Cheikhali, Tampa, FL

WWW.EMERGE-USA.ORG
EMERGING DATA
ELECTION 2012

Over 40,000 targeted calls made to MASA voters in Florida and Texas reminding them to vote and polling them on issues that are important to them.

Did you vote in the 2012 Presidential Elections?
- Yes 95%
- No 5%

Which party do you feel reached out to you for your vote?
- Democrat 75%
- Republican 18%
- No Party 4%
- Other 7%

Who did you vote for?
- Obama 80%
- Romney 17%
- Other 3%

How did you vote?
- Election Day 42%
- Early Voting 46%
- Absentee Ballot 12%

What issue was most important to you?
- Economy 47%
- Healthcare 27%
- Education 10%
- Foreign Policy 6%
- Environment 1%
- Other 7%

Rhetoric against Muslims encouraged or discouraged your voting?
- Encouraged 75%
- Discouraged 25%
RAMADAN 2012
BREAKING BREAD WITH LOCAL LEADERS
Emerge USA hosted Iftar dinners across the state during the month of Ramadan

Broward County: City of Sunrise Mayor Mike Ryan and and Sikh Community Leaders

Miami-Dade County: Mayor Carlos Giminez

Hillsborough County: State Representative Janet Cruz

Orange County: State Representative Scott Randolph

Palm Beach County: State Attorney Dave Aronberg

www.emerge-usa.org
EMERGE USA PAC: WWW.EMERGE-PAC.ORG

MISSION:
EMERGE USA PAC is a Florida based political action committee that supports candidates for state and federal office based on their support for civil rights, minority rights and a diverse America where underrepresented communities are seen as a part of the social fabric of our nation.

WHO THE PAC SUPPORTS:

★ Support for civility in political discourse and the belief that the use of any minority community as a political tool is divisive and detrimental to our pluralist society.
★ Support for the protection of civil liberties for all Americans.
★ A clear record of advocacy ensuring that under-represented communities to have a voice in the political process.

2012 ELECTION CYCLE:
- 68 endorsements and 47 victories
- Emerge USA PAC recommendation cards distributed throughout the state of Florida

KEY VICTORIES:

Patrick Murphy 18th Congressional District
Alan Grayson 9th Congressional District
Joe Garcia 26th Congressional District
Ander Crenshaw 4th Congressional District
Jerry L. Demings Orange County Sheriff
Carol Kurdell Hillsborough County Palm Beach County School Board
Dave Aronberg State Attorney

DEFEATED
EMERGE USA PAC rallied our communities to defeat the radical former Congressman Allen West
ANNUAL BANQUET
INVESTING IN TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mohammad Hameeduddin
Mayor of Teaneck, NJ

Shared the motivational story of how he got involved in politics and why civic participation is important for the future of our communities.

EMERGING LEADERS GRADUATES
Saif Hameideh and Amina Spahic spoke to the audience about how the Emerging Leaders Program inspired them and guided them to the path of politics and government.

EMERGE USA LEADERSHIP AWARDS
Shabbir Motorwala
Community Activist
Recognized for blazing the trail of community organizing in Miami-Dade County.

Nawara Alawa
University of Miami Student Body President
Recognized for her effective grassroots campaign she ran to get elected.
GET INVOLVED

Become a member, stay in touch with us via email, Facebook and Twitter. We will help you find others who are doing similar work in your neighborhood.

FOLLOW US:

facebook.com/EMERGEUSAORG

twitter.com/EMERGEUSA

youtube.com/EMERGEUSA

info@emerge-usa.org
EMERGE USA efficiently uses its funding to support its core programs with minimal administrative costs.

Most of EMERGE USA’s current funding is from private donors, however EMERGE is focusing on diversifying its revenue streams by:

- Applying for grants to support our civic engagement programs.
- Establishing an endowment fund to invest in the organization’s long term sustainability. EMERGE USA’s endowment fund invests in conservative, income producing securities with both traditional and Shariah compliant options.

2015 PROJECTED REVENUE

- PRIVATE DONATIONS 15%
- GRANTS 25%
- ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME 60%
SUPPORT EMERGE USA

GIVE ONLINE
Contributions to EMERGE USA can be made online at www.emerge-usa.org/donate

GIVE BY CHECK
Please complete the form and enclose it with your payment, payable to EMERGE USA.
MAIL TO: 3425 US Hwy 98N, Lakeland, FL 33809

GIVE BY CREDIT CARD
Please complete and sign the form below.

I will provide operating support to EMERGE USA in the following amount:

☐ $25,000
☐ $10,000
☐ $5,000
☐ $1,800
☐ $1,000
☐ $500
☐ Other __________

NAME ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS _______________________________________________________

STATE __________ ZIP CODE ________________________________

EMAIL _______________________________________________________

PHONE _______________________________________________________

CARD TYPE  ☐ VISA  ☐ MC  ☐ AMEX  ☐ OTHER

NAME ON CARD ___________________________________________________

CARD NUMBER ___________________________________________________

EXP DATE __________________ security CODE _______________________

☐ I am interested in getting involved with EMERGE USA.

SIGNATURE _______________________________________________________

All contributions are made to EMERGE USA's 501(c)(3) and are tax-deductible

WWW.EMERGE-USA.ORG
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Building Tomorrow’s Leaders Today
We envision a society through which participation in our civic responsibility will help bring equality and justice for all Americans.

SCAN WITH PHONE