Meet the 2026 Candidates

SMA 2026 General Elections · Sunday, December 6, 2026

Sammamish Muslim Association

Board of Trustees

3 candidates · 2 seats · vote for up to 2



Abdul Qadeer Khan



Qazafi Qureshi

SS

Sadia Syed

Board of Directors

8 candidates · 4 seats · vote for up to 4



Iftikar Alam



Sahar Bouachir

NI

Nishat Imam



Ahmed Naeem



Hamdan Nathersa



Mohamed Nimeri



Noor Salman



Aisha Shafique

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Candidate bios follow on the next pages, in the same order.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Abdul Qadeer Khan

Abdul-Qadeer is a Senior Solution Architect at The Boeing Company and has been an active and dedicated member of the Sammamish community since 2005. He has been involved with the Sammamish Masjid since its inception and has served in various leadership capacities, including Executive Director and Board of Trustee. He is currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, bringing leadership and insight into community growth & prosperity.

Alhamdulillah, during on or off the board, Abdul-Qadeer has been instrumental in leading and supporting numerous initiatives that strengthen community bonds and promote collective well-being. These initiatives include fundraising events, Ramadan programs and activities, soccer tournaments, community picnics, charitable fund distribution, and affordable housing initiatives.

He remains deeply committed to the growth and well-being of the Sammamish Muslim community. He continues to actively contribute his time and experience, offering valuable advice and direction to the Board on initiatives that benefit the broader community.

Abdul-Qadeer has lived in the United States for over 25 years with his wife and three children and holds dual master's degrees in Computer Science and Business Administration. His community involvement, and dedication reflect his commitment to building a stronger and prosperous community.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Qazafi Qureshi

I have been a Sammamish resident for the past 15 years, where I enjoy spending time with my wife, son and two daughters.

Professionally, I am an entrepreneur leading a Healthcare IT company.

Having served on multiple SMA boards, I have had the privilege of contributing to our community's remarkable journey from a small place of worship to a beautiful Masjid and from a modest gathering of families to a vibrant, growing Muslim community.

Throughout my service, my commitment has remained focused on promoting unity, encouraging positive change and strengthening our community. Working alongside individuals from diverse backgrounds has deepened my understanding of our community's needs, values and aspirations.

If elected, I will work collaboratively with fellow trustees and directors to strengthen SMA's governance, protect its long-term interests and support a vision that benefits our families, youth and future generations.

My goal is to preserve what we have built together while helping ensure a stronger, more united and sustainable future.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your trust and support.

SS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sadia Syed

Sadia Syed has proudly called Sammamish home for over 15 years. Throughout this time, she and her family have been actively involved in volunteering and supporting SMA programs and community events.

As a former member of the SMA Board of Directors, Sadia played a key role in establishing the SMA Youth Group (SYG) chapters, which have since grown into one of the community's most successful programs.

Her contributions also include supporting the development of SMA's new website, serving on the Bylaws Committee, and helping strengthen SMA's educational programs.

Beyond these efforts, Sadia has led several community service initiatives in partnership with MCRC and Essentials First, helping provide families with Ramadan supplies and everyday essentials.

With her years of dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to the SMA community, Sadia has been nominated for the open position on the SMA Board of Trustees.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iftikar Alam

My name is Iftikhar Alam, and I am honored to submit my nomination for a position on the Board of Directors of the Sammamish Muslim Association (SMA). Since 2023, I have had the privilege of being deeply involved with SMA, actively contributing to our community's spiritual and social growth through visiting scholar programs, mentorship initiatives, and hands-on volunteering for this warm and vibrant community.

In addition to my local involvement, I bring over 15 years of professional experience leading multi-functional teams at Big Four company in financial services, and payments technologies, alongside a strong track record of helping businesses scale through Islamic finance principles. My history of community leadership spans both local and international roles having served as Treasurer, Cultural Committee member, and lead organizer for regional Tech Fests and Islamic Quiz events serving 25,000 participants in India. Currently, I serve as an active member of both the SMA IT and Events Committees.

As an active member of the Sammamish Muslim community, my core objective is to serve the house of Allah (SWT) and foster our community’s growth by leveraging my professional expertise and service leadership. Insha'Allah, my top priority from day one will be expanding community engagement, modernizing operations, and supporting strategic growth to serve every member of our growing community.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sahar Bouachir

I was born and raised in Tunisia, lived in Canada for several years, and have called the US home for the past 12 years. I've been part of the Sammamish community for six years. I hold a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in curriculum and instruction, and I currently teach elementary school with the Bellevue School District. My work has taught me patience, clear communication, and how to meet people where they are.

I'm a mother of three: a teen, a tween, and a toddler. My older children are active in the masjid's youth programs and consider it their second home.

In the past, I supported my husband in running an after-school robotics program at the masjid, giving our youth a place to learn, create, and build friendships in a faith-centered environment.

I'm honored to put my name forward and would be grateful for the chance to serve with sincerity, transparency, and humility, insha'Allah.

NI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nishat Imam

Assalamu alaikum,

My name is Nishat Imam, and I've lived in Sammamish with my family for nearly 10 years. I'm originally from India and have lived in the United States for almost 20 years. It was an honor to serve on the Sammamish Board from 2023 to 2024, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community.

If elected, I hope to:

• Help make the mosque welcoming to people of all ages, cultural and language backgrounds, and levels of religious practice and iman.

• Support meaningful opportunities for women's perspectives to be heard in mosque planning and decision-making, in keeping with the mosque's governance and principles.

• Expand opportunities for youth, support families, and create ways for younger members to contribute to the community.

• Explore a welcoming program for senior sisters and parents, including those who live locally or are visiting, with opportunities for social connection and light, safe activities.

• Prioritize accessibility, cleanliness, safety, and thoughtful planning for the mosque's needs.

• Set achievable goals, report on progress, and work collaboratively with fellow board members.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ahmed Naeem

My family and I have been proud members of the Sammamish community for the past four and a half years. I was born in Pakistan and moved to the United States in 1997, and I've since lived in Texas, Florida, and Washington. Professionally, I work in Product Management at Amazon, where I lead initiatives from vision through execution. At SMA, I've served as a volunteer on the Ramadan and Facilities committees, which gave me a firsthand view of both the dedication of our volunteers and the growing needs of our community.

If elected, I'm committed to building on the strong foundation laid by previous administrations, especially the facilities expansion and the growth of engagement programs for all age groups. My priorities include:

• Establishing a permanent Event Coordinator position to design and run ongoing programs that deepen religious learning and increase community participation in day-to-day masjid activities.

• Strengthening and formalizing our Youth Program with clear structure, consistent programming, and dedicated mentorship so our young people feel connected to the masjid.

• Laying the groundwork for an Islamic school under SMA leadership to give our children a strong foundation in both faith and academics.

I would be honored to serve our community and help SMA continue to grow as a place of worship, learning, and belonging for every family.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hamdan Nathersa

My name is Hamdan Nathersa, and I am honored to be considered for a position on the Sammamish Mosque Board.

I work at Simeo Solutions, a cybersecurity company based in Atlanta. On the personal side, my family and I have been actively involved with the SMA for the past five years, ever since we moved to Sammamish from the Bay Area. My wife, our two children, and I have enjoyed being part of this wonderful community.

If elected, I will strive to serve with integrity, sincerity, and a genuine commitment to our community. I hope to bring fresh ideas and perspectives while supporting and strengthening the programs and initiatives already in place. I believe in listening, working collaboratively, and always keeping the best interests of our community in mind.

I would sincerely appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mohamed Nimeri

Mohamed Nimeri previously served on the Sammamish Muslim Association (SMA) Board of Directors as Secretary (2021–2022) and Facilities Manager (2022–2024), where he established standard operating procedures and authored Masjid Al Noor's Facilities Operations & Maintenance Manual. He currently serves on the Masjid Religious Committee (since August 2026) and is a regular Khatib at both SMA Mosque and MASR Mosque.

Professionally, Mohamed is a civil engineering leader with over two decades of experience in infrastructure management and operations. He currently serves as Pavement Group Manager and Senior Pavement Engineer at HWA GeoSciences Inc., after serving as WSDOT State Pavement Engineer and King County International Airport Managing Engineer. He holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno, and is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in Washington State.

Born in Oman and raised in Sudan, Uganda, the UAE, and Jordan, Mohamed lives in Sammamish with his wife, Karima Zulfo, and their four children: Lina, Shahd, Ali, and Omar. He is honored to serve SMA's continued growth as a welcoming center for worship, education, and community engagement.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Noor Salman

My name is Noor Salman, and I am originally from Egypt. I hold a Master’s degree in Environmental Engineering, which I completed in 2014. I am passionate about education, community development, and creating a welcoming environment where families and children can feel connected and supported.

I am actively involved in our local Muslim community, particularly through my work with Al Hidayah Academy at Sammamish Mosque, where I contribute to organizing educational activities and programs for young children. Through this experience, I have developed a strong interest in building meaningful connections among families, encouraging children’s love for the mosque, and creating opportunities for community engagement.

I believe that a strong Muslim community is built through collaboration, compassion, volunteerism, and a shared commitment to serving others. I would be honored to contribute my time, ideas, and dedication to the Sammamish Muslim Association as a member of its Board of Directors.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aisha Shafique

Aslamualeikum,

My name is Aisha Shafique, and I have been a Sammamish resident and a regular at Sammamish Mosque since late 2013. I started volunteering as a bookkeeper and an administrative assistant for the Sunday School and Qur’an afterschool from 2016 until 2022. I served on the Board of Directors for almost three years, with my first term starting in 2017. Since 2023, I’ve also been volunteering with the By Laws committee. Additionally, I have been involved in helping our masjid adopt compostables and separate trash, particularly during Ramadan.

I currently work part time as an emergency substitute teacher at Issaquah School District. Previously, I have taught at a learning center for several years as well as one year at Ohio State University (OSU). My education background is in Political Science, for which I have a Ph.D. from OSU, and Economics, for which I have an M.S. degree from LUMS (Pakistan).

I have three kids, all of whom are enrolled with SMA youth programs, for which we are very grateful, Alhamdulillah. I earnestly hope our youth programs will continue to flourish at SMA, insh'Allah.