

\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Michigan Muslims Mobilize their Community to Visit Lansing and Make their Voices Heard**

Royal Oak, MI – The Michigan Muslim Community Council (MMCC) will host the annual Michigan Muslim Capitol Day on Wednesday April 17th, 2019 from 9am to 3pm at the State Capitol in Lansing. Hundreds of Michigan Muslims are expected to visit from many parts of Michigan to meet their elected representatives. Michigan Muslims have seen an unprecedented rise in civic engagement, with the highest increases in local voter turnout and a historic number of American Muslim candidates running for office. Muslim Capitol Day seeks to further empower citizens to find ways they can improve their local communities and make their voices heard.

The Capitol Day is a non-partisan event with participation by Republican and Democrat legislators. Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist III, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein will be keynote speakers to welcome guests. Workshops on promoting social justice, public safety in places of worship and schools, engaging elected officials, fighting bullying, recognizing mental health disease, intervening for substance abuse are some of the workshops to be offered. Participants can register [online](https://www.mimuslimcouncil.org/copy-of-unity-banquet).

MMCC Chairperson Dr Mahmoud al-Hadidi states, “We are honored that the elected leaders of our state welcome our community to Lansing. Their commitment to inclusivity and progress for Michigan will inspire many who are here at Capitol Day to become active citizens who can make a positive difference in their own localities.”

MMCC and the Muslim community makes aiding and improving our local communities one of its priorities. It recently coordinated a meal program for hundreds of federal employees during the federal shutdown. It collected and distributed over 150,000 lbs of food last year. It distributed a $100,000 to help Detroit residents pay their water utility bills. It [delivered](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/584f0e56ebbd1ae235d63da5/t/58791fcad2b85736406860d4/1484333015710/ThePlanetInfographic.jpg) over 1,000,000 bottles of water for Flint residents. It joined Jewish and Christian partners in volunteering at dozens of locations across the state in the past year. Recent studies show that although Muslims make up only 3% of Michigan’s population, they [contribute](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/584f0e56ebbd1ae235d63da5/t/58fe45916a4963418dc111bf/1493058971264/What%2BWould%2Ba%2BMichigan%2BWithout%2BMuslims%2BLook%2BLike%3F.pdf) far more to the economy, health system, and other sectors. Helping neighbors is one of the core tenets of Islam. Attendees of Capitol Day will discuss policies that help Michigan’s under privileged and make Michigan a healthier, prosperous and welcoming state for all.

Michigan State University senior Zaakir Hamzavi who is planning to attend Capitol Day, states “I am coming because I am excited about the 2020 elections and want to see a government that helps everybody and not just a select few”

<http://www.mimuslimcouncil.org/>

Pictures from previous Muslim Capitol Days are [here](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.886857371352458.1073741848.138798462825023&type=3)

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