



North Jersey Masjids Meeting Survey Qualitative Report

The North Jersey Masjids Meeting convened on November 12, 2023, at the NIA Masjid & Community Center in Newark, attracting representatives from 26 Muslim organizations spanning Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Morris, and Passaic counties. This gathering was a multifaceted event, focusing on critical issues such as Islamophobia, planning for Muslim Heritage Month activities, and addressing security concerns. Special guests from the Department of Homeland Security and state law enforcement agencies were present to engage with the community and address security matters.

1. **Committee Sign-ups:**
 - **School Activities Committee:** 22 respondents expressed willingness to sign up.
 - **Library Exhibits Committee:** Most (18 respondents) preferred not to sign up.
 - **Community Events Committee:** An equal split in responses, with half willing to sign up and half not.
2. **Recommendations for Committees:**
 - A smaller number of respondents provided recommendations for activities, ranging from 6 to 12 unique suggestions for different committees.
3. **Personal Strengths and Weaknesses:**
 - **Strengths:** 27 unique answers were provided, reflecting a diverse range of capabilities within the community.
 - **Weaknesses:** 22 respondents shared areas where they could use help from others.
4. **Dreams and Goals:**
 - 21 unique responses for personal dreams and organizational goals indicate a variety of aspirations and objectives within the community.
5. **Communication Preferences:**
 - 9 different sets of recommendations for communication platforms were given, showing varied preferences for information sharing.



6. Interest in Task Force:

- The community showed interest in learning more about the Task Force.

7. Future Conversations and Meetings:

- An overwhelming majority agreed on the need to continue these conversations.
- 32 unique recommendations were provided for future meetings, suggesting active engagement and interest in ongoing discussions.

8. Meeting's Benefit:

- Most participants found the meeting beneficial

Most Important Goals

- Striving for a united ummah (community).
- Community building and re-establishing the masjid (mosque) as the central aspect of Muslim lives, with an inclusive approach.
- Focusing on the Muslim vote, indicating a goal towards political engagement or advocacy.
- Achieving a united voice, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective representation.

Summary and Analysis

- **Diverse Objectives:** The responses highlight a spectrum of goals, from community building and political engagement to service provision and striving for unity. This diversity reflects the multifaceted nature of the organizations involved and their varied focuses.
- **Common Theme of Unity:** Despite the variety of goals, a common theme of unity and inclusiveness emerges. Whether through political action, community building, or service provision, there's a clear inclination towards fostering a sense of togetherness and collective voice.
- **Inclusivity and Engagement:** The goal of making the mosque a central and welcoming place for all suggests a desire for more inclusive and engaging community spaces. Similarly, the emphasis on the Muslim vote points to an awareness of the importance of civic engagement.
- **Potential for Synergy:** The diverse goals, while distinct, offer opportunities for synergy. For instance, efforts in community building can complement political advocacy, and a united voice can amplify service provision efforts.



Summary

The survey reveals active community engagement, with a diverse range of Islamic Centers represented. There is a noticeable interest in various committees, particularly the School Activities Committee. Participants expressed diverse personal strengths and weaknesses, indicating a community rich in varied skills and needs. The variety in communication preferences and recommendations for future meetings underscores the community's dynamic nature and its eagerness for continued collaboration and dialogue. This presents an opportunity for organizers to build on the positive feedback while also exploring new ideas and venues to meet the evolving needs and suggestions of the community.