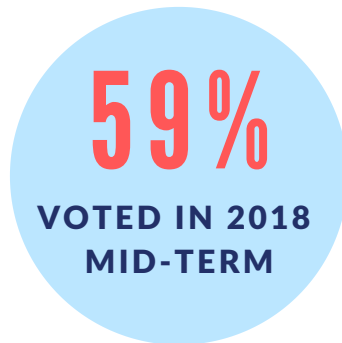
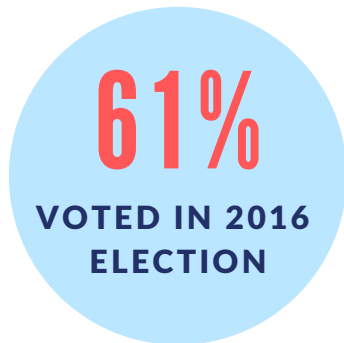


THE CIVIC HEALTH OF AMERICAN MUSLIMS

Although 73% of eligible American Muslims are registered to vote in 2019, compared to 85-95% of eligible voters in other faith groups, 61% voted in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and 59% voted in the November 2018 mid-term elections. Most Americans of Muslim faith did not directly contact their elected representatives in local or national government in 2018, lagging far behind other faith communities and the general public.



Source: ISPU American Muslim Polls 2017 and 2019

While charitable giving and social justice are deeply embedded in the social, religious, and cultural values of American Muslim communities, more than half of Americans of Muslim faith, along with their Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant counterparts, did not work on local community problems.

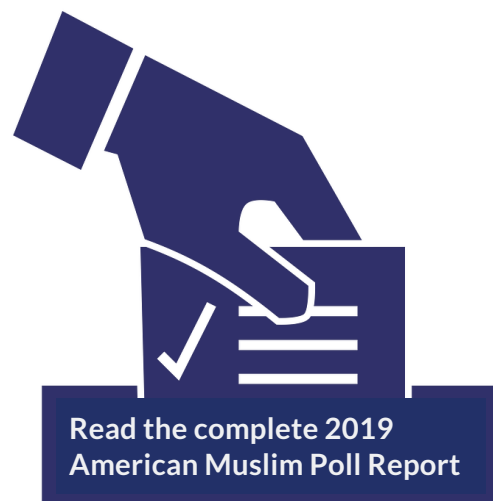
This snapshot into the civic health of American Muslims sheds light on ways that these communities can do more to live out their values through civic practices in addition to involvement in elections. This data also calls into question the responsibility of elected officials at national and local government agencies to do more to include these communities in their policy making efforts.

Local Political Engagement Tied to Voting

According to the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding 2019 American Muslim Poll analysis, Muslims most engaged in local political activities were more likely to vote in the 2018 midterm elections.

“ We found that some expected factors such as higher income and older age, as well as religious attendance as previously reported in ISPU polls, hold true as predictors of voter participation for Muslims as they do for other Americans. **However, in the case of Muslims, contacting a local elected official emerged as the single strongest determinant of voter participation.**

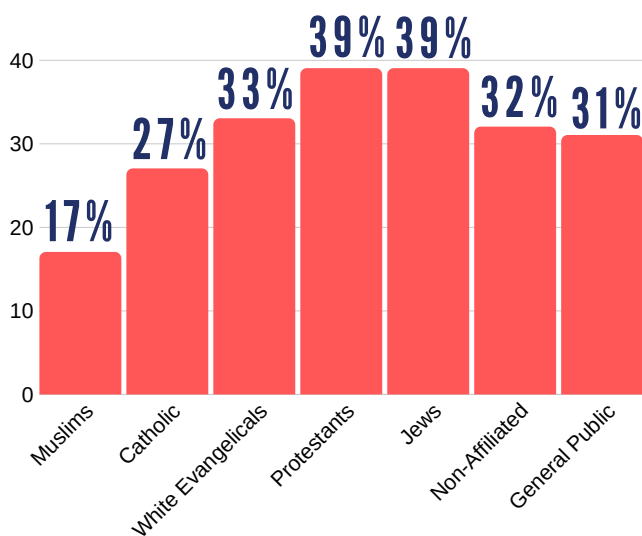
We also found that Muslims are the group least likely to communicate with local and federal elected officials, with only 20% of Muslim men and 21% of Muslim women reporting communication with a local official.”



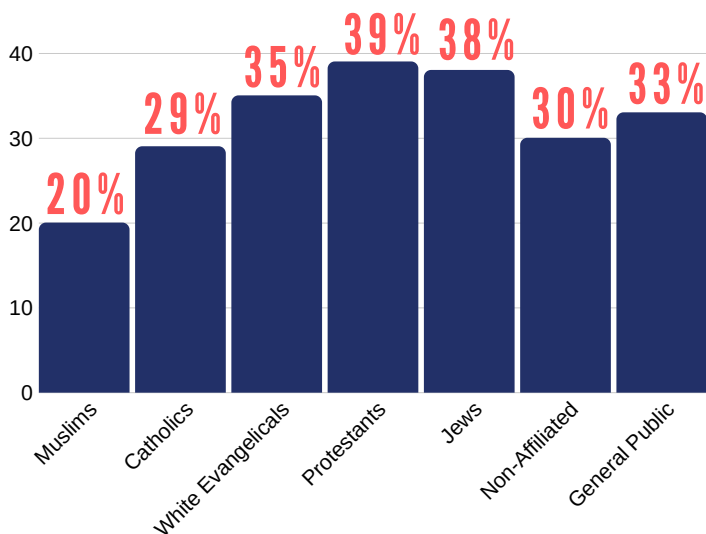
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Only one out of six (17%) of American Muslims directly contacted their congressional representatives in the past year.

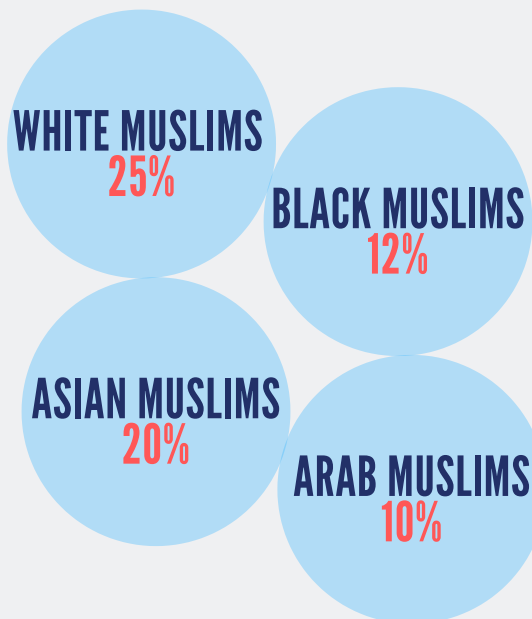
Have you met or communicated by email, phone or mail with your Federal elected congressional representative or their staff within the last year?



Have you met or communicated by email, phone or mail with your locally elected representatives or their staff within the last year?



Muslim congressional outreach by racial/ethnic identity



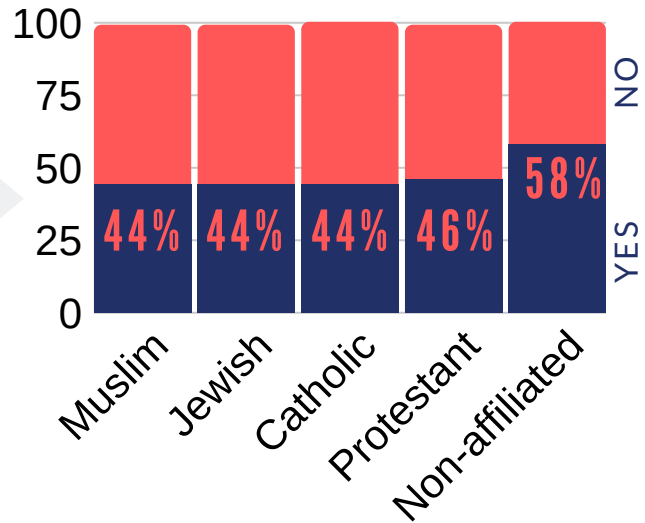
Muslims of different racial/ethnic groups reached out to local officials at similar rates: White Muslims (26%), Asian Muslims (24%), Black Muslims (17%) and Arab Muslims (15%).

Like most Americans, slightly more American Muslims contacted their locally elected officials than their national representatives but still reported the least amount of direct contact with local officials than any other community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Like American Jews, Catholics, and Protestants, less than half of American Muslims worked to improve their local communities in 2016.

In the past 12 months, have you worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere?



FURTHER READING

- [An American's Guide to Being a Civic Neighbor](#)
- [CAIR - Civic Engagement and Muslims: A Matter of Vital Importance](#)
- [Engage - Voter Education](#)
- [ISNA - Civic Engagement](#)
- [ISPU - Understanding Civic Engagement San Francisco Bay Area Case Study](#)
- [MPower Change - Building Online Political Power in the American Muslim Community](#)
- [MPAC - Our Approach to Government Engagement](#)
- [Poligon - Congressional Advocacy 101](#)

Behind the American Muslim Civic Health Report

According to the National Conference on Citizenship (NCOC), “civic health” is the manner in which communities organize to define and address public problems. NCOC measures the civic health of communities, cities, and states across the U.S. using a set of civic health indicators to capture the ways that individuals participate in their families, neighborhoods, communities, and democracy. These indicators include behaviors such as working with neighbors to solve problems and contacting public officials.

In 2019, in partnership with the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) a collective of American civic organizations introduced two new questions in ISPU’s annual American Muslim Poll to better understand the civic health of Americans of Muslim faith. Sponsoring organizations include America Indivisible, Council on American Islamic Relations, Engage, Islamic Society of North America, MPower Change, Muslim Public Affairs Council, and Poligon Education Fund. This infographic summarizes findings from ISPU’s 2019 and 2017 polls.

