




# 2026 Irving Mayoral Candidate Scorecard

Our Six Core Principles	 Zhanae Jackson	 Olivia Abreu	 Al Zapanta
1. Confronting anti-Muslim hate and defending Muslims' civic participation.	✓ YES	✓ YES	✗ NO
2. Ensuring mosques, Islamic schools, and Muslim businesses receive equal treatment.	✓ YES	✓ YES	✓ YES
3. Protecting children from sexual content and gender ideology in public facilities.	✓ YES	? UNCLEAR	✓ YES
4. Limiting the expansion of gambling, alcohol, vaping, tobacco, and sexually oriented businesses.	✓ YES	✓ YES	✗ NO
5. Defending the First Amendment right to boycott and advocate based on conscience, without government penalty	? UNCLEAR	? UNCLEAR	? UNCLEAR
6. Speaking up for Muslims suffering abroad with moral courage rather than dismissing it as not city business.	? UNCLEAR	? UNCLEAR	✗ NO

✓ Meets standard. ? Insufficient info. ✗ Does not meet.

All candidates opposed deputizing local police to enforce federal immigration (part of ICE 287g).

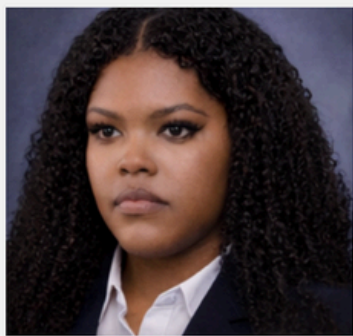
Early Voting: Apr 20 - 28  
Election Day: May 2

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# 2026 Irving Mayoral Candidate No Endorsement Rationale

## Mayor – No Endorsement

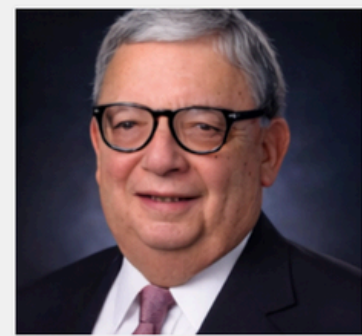
We did not make an endorsement in this race. The field presented no candidate who met our standard with sufficient clarity and consistency across all six principles. Endorsing a candidate means asking our community to follow. We were not ready to do that here.



**Zhanae Jackson**



**Dr. Olivia E. Novela Abreu**



**Al Zapanta**

**Zhanae Jackson** has shown principled positions on family protection, casino zoning, and procedural fairness. She came closest among the three candidates to our standard. Our concerns are her failure to file her 30-day campaign finance report by the April 2 deadline, her limited engagement with diverse community events during her campaign, and that she did not state a clear position on the substance of the Gaza ceasefire resolution. We hope she grows into the full standard this race demands.

**Dr. Olivia E. Novela Abreu** has brought genuine warmth, broad civic experience, and the clearest and most comprehensive position of any mayoral candidate on opposing harmful industries in her questionnaire response. Our concerns are her tendency to defer rather than commit on issues requiring moral clarity, including the ceasefire resolution, and her limited engagement with the specifics of our community's concerns as well as the absence of clear priorities as a candidate for office. She has the foundation for principled leadership, and we encourage her to build on it and to remain engaged in Irving's civic life regardless of the outcome of the election.

**Al Zapanta** has an eight-year record of engagement with Irving's Muslim community as District 6's councilmember, including frequent mosque visits, community dinners, and support for local mosque construction, expansion, and parking. He also stood alone among council members to publicly condemn anti-Indian remarks made at city hall earlier this year, which was admirable. However, his use of the term "Muslimic Jihadists" from the council dais in late 2025 while refusing to name "Gaza" or "Palestine" during that same public agenda item, his vote on the Las Vegas Sands rezoning without closing the door on casino gaming, and his characterization of the ceasefire resolution removal as a majority vote when it was struck before any discussion are serious concerns we cannot overlook. We recognize his service and his genuine relationship with this community, and we hope the next chapter of his public life reflects the fairness he has shown in private.

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