

Irving Muslims PAC

District 6 Questionnaire

May 2026 General Election

Responses are listed in ballot order per race

Standing Against Anti-Muslim Hate

Irving has a documented history of anti-Muslim public demonstrations and political rhetoric, including statements made by public officials in civic settings.

If you witnessed or became aware of anti-Muslim rhetoric from a fellow elected official, a candidate, or a public figure in Irving, what would you do, concretely? Would you say so publicly, and if so, how?

Fahad Ahmed

If I witnessed or became aware of anti-Muslim rhetoric from an elected official, candidate, or public figure, I would address it directly and clearly. I would not normalize it, excuse it, or stay silent simply because it was politically inconvenient. If the rhetoric was public, I would be prepared to condemn it publicly and affirm that Muslim residents deserve the same dignity, safety, and respect as every other member of our city. Leadership requires moral clarity, especially when a community has reason to feel targeted.

Dana Collins

Hate speech, bigotry, and racism have no place in American society. I would say the same thing to a fellow official that I have always said to my kids whenever they witnessed someone being picked on for their differences: being an American is not about looking a certain way. It is a belief that through our great democratic experiment and hard work, we can raise our children to have a better life than we had. My family is a multigenerational testament to that. Every hard working Irving family I see investing in their children is a living embodiment of the American Dream.

Sushil Patel

No response received

Equal Treatment for Muslim Institutions

Irving's mosques, Islamic schools, Muslim community organizations, and Muslim businesses are subject to the same zoning, permitting, and administrative processes as all other institutions.

If a Muslim organization reported to you that their permitting process had been delayed, denied, or handled inconsistently compared to similar requests from other religious institutions, what steps would you take?

Fahad Ahmed

If a Muslim organization reported inconsistent treatment in zoning, permitting, or administration, I would first make sure the facts were documented and compared against how similar institutions were handled. I would ask staff for a clear explanation of the timeline, the standards applied, and whether those standards were applied consistently. If there was evidence of unequal treatment, I would push for corrective action and greater transparency in the process. My role would be to make sure every institution is treated fairly under the same rules, without bias or selective enforcement.

Dana Collins

A permitting process that produces different outcomes for different religious institutions is illegal and a liability for the city. A city whose permitting process lacks integrity has a problem that affects every institution. I am Catholic, and it was not too long ago that Catholics were excluded on the concocted basis that their loyalty was to the Pope — a bigoted fiction that served the political needs of those in power. As an attorney, I take great pride in upholding equal treatment under the law.

Sushil Patel

No response received

Protecting Families and Children

Irving's public libraries and schools serve children across a wide range of ages.

What do you personally think about the availability of materials dealing with sexuality and gender in city-funded spaces for young children?

Fahad Ahmed

I believe city-funded spaces that serve young children should be age-appropriate and respectful of the role of parents. Materials for very young children should not introduce sexualized content or concepts in ways that many families reasonably believe are premature. At the same time, public institutions should use clear review standards and not operate arbitrarily. My view is simple: protect children, respect parents, and apply common sense. This would have to be a collaborative effort with the staff.

Dana Collins

Parents, not politicians, are in the best position to exercise judgment about what their children are ready to encounter. I have proposed initiatives to foster that dialogue between parents and their children at our libraries. I want to hear more from parents and less from fear mongers and attention seekers trying to waste city resources for votes. Subjective censorship can be twisted to exclude any group or religion, and that is far more dangerous to our children's future than any book on a shelf. I will not support spending public money on poorly conceived political directives. Irving's libraries spent \$500,000 on a book sorting project and failed to renew 4,300 children's library cards pursuing exactly that approach.

Sushil Patel

No response received

Opposing Harmful Industries

The Irving City Council has zoning authority over the location and concentration of alcohol outlets, vape and smoke shops, THC dispensaries, gambling establishments, and sexually oriented businesses.

1. When a proposed zoning change raises public safety or community character concerns, what criteria guide your decision?

On March 20, 2025, the council voted 6 to 3 to approve Ordinances 2025-47-UDC and 2025-48-ZC (Agenda Items 45 and 46), a rezoning proposal brought by Las Vegas Sands Corporation for 1,001 acres including the former Texas Stadium site. The proposal originally included casino gaming as a permitted use. Sands withdrew that component hours before the vote but stated publicly that without gaming the project makes no financial sense, and they continue to lobby for gaming legalization in Austin.

2a. How would you have voted, and do you believe the council adequately weighed the long-term implications of approving zoning that leaves the door open for a casino if Texas law changes?

2b. Would you support an ordinance explicitly prohibiting casino gaming as a permitted use within Irving's zoning code?

Fahad Ahmed

1. When a zoning change raises concerns about public safety or community character, I look at the long-term impact on families, nearby neighborhoods, traffic, crime risk, schools, and the overall direction of the city.

2a. On the Sands matter, I would have been very cautious because even if the casino language was withdrawn before the vote, the public record made clear that gaming remained central to the developer's vision. I do not believe it was enough to look only at the version immediately before council without weighing the broader long-term implications.

2b. I would support clear zoning protections that keep casino gaming out of Irving.

Dana Collins

The city has significant limitations on what it can exclude under state law, and I will not waste city resources on losing political battles. I will only vote for measures that make Irving families better off. Gambling is prohibited by the Texas Constitution, and any change to that will not occur within the remainder of this one-year term.

Sushil Patel

No response received

First Amendment Rights

Texas state law currently restricts cities from contracting with companies that boycott Israel, including through BDS-aligned purchasing decisions.

Do you believe this law reflects sound public policy?

Fahad Ahmed

I understand that Texas law currently governs what cities may do in contracting, but speaking as a matter of policy, I am wary of government forcing political certifications as a condition of doing business. People can hold strong views on the underlying issue, but public policy should be careful not to punish protected expression or viewpoint. In general, I believe government should be very restrained when it moves into that territory. Good policy protects constitutional freedoms and avoids compelled political loyalty tests.

Dana Collins

I am not interested in debating state or federal laws for political gain. I will be laser focused on the areas where I can add real value for the city and its families. "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Sushil Patel

No response received

Moral Courage in Public Life

For the May 29, 2025 regular council meeting, three addendum items were submitted, including Resolution RES-2025-166, expressing support for the President's efforts to achieve a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages. The addendum was certified and posted by the City Secretary on Monday, May 26, 2025 by 5:30 p.m., more than 72 hours before the meeting. Before any discussion or vote could take place, all three items were struck from the agenda after points of order were sustained by the presiding officer. Irving Muslims PAC has submitted written inquiries to the City Attorney's Office regarding the legal basis for that removal under Section 5.1(B) of the Council Rules of Procedure, which states that a properly submitted agenda item may only be removed by the member who requested it. As of the date of this questionnaire, no response has been received.

- 1. How would you have voted on Resolution RES-2025-166, and why?*
- 2. What would you do to ensure that Irving residents and elected council members can bring good-faith items before the council without having them removed on procedural grounds before any discussion takes place?*

Fahad Ahmed

1. Based on the described text of that resolution, I would have voted in favor of a resolution supporting a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages. I believe elected officials should be able to bring good-faith items forward and let them be debated in the open rather than shut down before discussion.
2. To protect that process, I would support clearer written rules, transparent legal guidance when procedural objections are raised, and a practice that prevents properly submitted items from being removed except through a clearly authorized and publicly explained process. Residents should be able to see their council deliberate difficult issues honestly, not avoid them through procedural maneuvering.

Dana Collins

In regards to your question on Gaza, please see my response to Question 5. As an attorney, a corporate secretary, a board member for non-profit groups, and chair of the Irving Civil Service Commission, I am a believer in rules of order and process. I will always insist that the City Secretary and the City Council follow our rules of procedure.

Sushil Patel

No response received