

## October 12: Democratic Candidates To Speak To Texas Muslims At Ramadan Ceremony In Carrollton

*The 6:00 p.m. Iftar ceremony will be preceded by a 5:00 p.m. press conference. Democratic Party and Muslim leaders will address members of the media about the role American Muslims in the political process.*

Media Advisory

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What: Texas Muslims are inviting Democratic Party candidates to break bread with them at an Iftar ceremony (end of the daily fast at sunset during Ramadan ).

When: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006

Where: At BBQ Tonight Restaurant at 2540 Old Denton Rd in Carrollton, Texas

"Two failing wars, huge national debt, tax cuts for the rich and benefit cuts for the middle/working/low-income classes. Civil rights under attack. Jobs shipped to other countries. Environment under assault and on the top 'Republican win at any cost' approach is demoralizing our country," said Sarwat Husain, chairwoman of the Caucus. "There are about two million registered Muslim voters in America. A good number of them are residing in the State of Texas. We can bring our country back to where it use to be."

The Texas Muslim Democratic Caucus is a Texas group whose mission statement wants "to raise political awareness and to advocate Democratic Party positions to Texas Muslims." The group is a formally elected body of the 2005 and 2006 Democratic Party State Convention delegates.

The focus of the event will be to introduce Democratic Party candidates to the Muslim community. Several statewide candidates including Maria Louisa Alvarado (Lt. Governor), Fred Head (Comptroller), Valinda Hathcox (Land Commissioner), Jim Dunnam (Chair Texas House Democratic Caucus), Lon Burnam (State Rep.), Gary Page (U. S. Congress) and many Dallas County candidates including Craig Watkins (District Attorney) are scheduled to attend.

"Ramadan is a month of fasting and reflection when Muslims around the world cultivate charity, gratitude and kindness. For some it is also a time to work for the betterment of society," according to Syed Hassan, one of the organizers. "The breaking of fast together in the month of Ramadan displays a spirit of sharing and respect for human values. Muslims in America find the Democratic Party's message of hope and respect for human dignity and diversity very attractive."

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