AMERICAN MUSLIM LEAGUE
A Patriotic Muslim Voice in Washington

INSIGHTS

Research Brief

ISSUE 3

NATIONAL POLL | MUSLIM AMERICAN IDENTITY AT AMERICA'S 250TH

Muslim Voters Want Fraud Prosecuted — Including Inside Their Own Community

A new poll finds a majority reject the idea that communal solidarity should shield corruption.

Public Policy Challenge:

The largest COVID-era nutrition fraud in U.S. history (Feeding Our Future) stole approximately $250 million in public funds. Operators in Minnesota, the vast majority of them Somali Americans, claimed to feed thousands of children while pocketing the money through fake sites, shell companies, and kickbacks. Related daycare fraud cases involving Somali-owned centers have been subsequently exposed, though with individuals involved often charging investigators with fomenting "Islamophobia."

Yet a majority of Muslim American voters reject the idea that communal solidarity should shield corruption, suggesting that government initiatives to combat fraud enjoy solid support. Claiming victimhood when wrongdoing is exposed does not resonate with most Muslim Americans.

Rule of law is not optional—and Muslim voters themselves say so.

Where Voters Stand:

62% Support prosecuting Somali community leaders who commit fraud

52% Say Muslim leaders should condemn the fraud more forcefully

42% Call the Islamophobia defense an attempt to escape responsibility

62% Are concerned about rising welfare fraud more broadly

About AML

American Muslim League is a new civic organization founded on a distinct premise: that America has been good to Muslims, and that patriotic contribution — not grievance politics — is the surest path to belonging. AML advances patriotic assimilation and counters identity-based extremism.

About Insights

Insights is AML's research brief on Muslim American civic life. It draws on a national poll of Muslim American registered voters commissioned by AML. Each issue examines one dimension of the findings and sets out practical recommendations for policymakers and civic leaders.

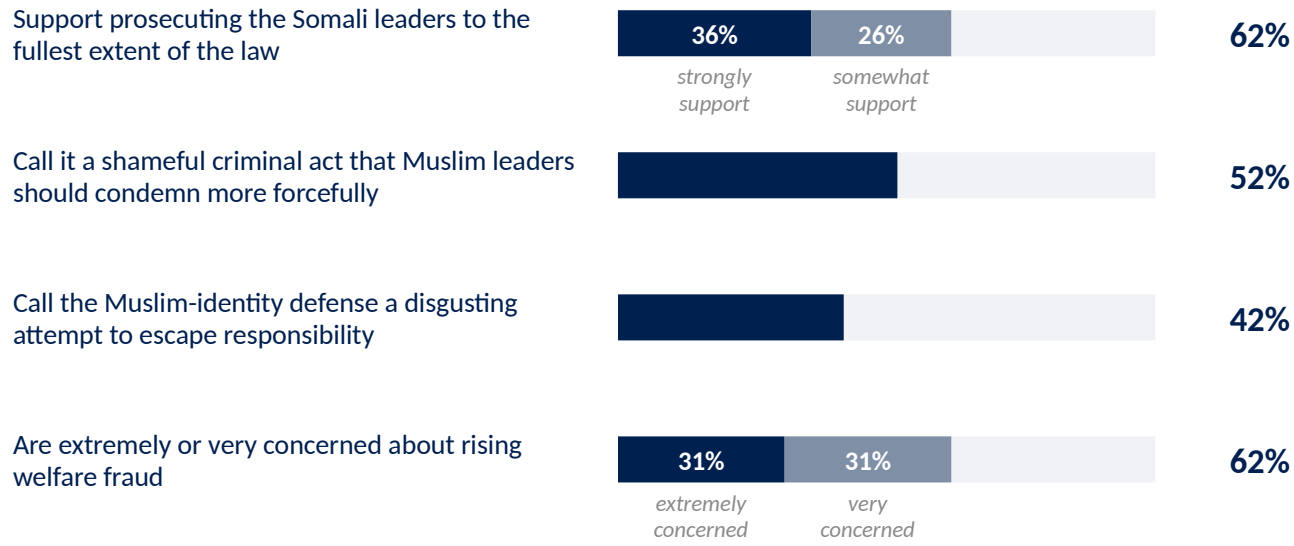
About This Poll

An AML / Rainey Center / MALA national online survey of 768 Muslim American registered voters, April 22–May 4, 2026. Weighted by age, gender, race, education, and 2024 vote recall. Margin of error ±4.3%.

Scan for poll results

Muslim Voters Back Prosecution, Not the Islamophobia Excuse

Share choosing each position on the Feeding Our Future case. Qs 56–58.



Support for prosecution of fraud runs nearly three to one, and a significant majority want Muslim community leaders to condemn fraud more forcefully. Only 35% accept the argument that the fraud controversy is a smear campaign against Somali Muslims.

Key Takeaways

1. Congress and federal agencies should continue aggressive prosecution of fraud and public corruption without regard to ethnicity or religion.
2. Accusations of “Islamophobia” should not deter enforcement — the community being invoked does not accept the excuse.
3. Pair enforcement with support for credible community organizations that prioritize transparency and good governance.
4. Cite the community's own numbers when enforcement is challenged: 62% of Muslim voters back full prosecution.

AML Co-Founder Zainab Al-Suwaij

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