AMERICAN MUSLIM LEAGUE
A Patriotic Muslim Voice in Washington

INSIGHTS
Research Brief

ISSUE 1

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

The "Gratitude vs. Grievances" Battle Over Muslim Assimilation

A new poll finds Muslims patriotic yet pulled between competing models of belonging.

Public Policy Challenge:

Despite extensive anti-American messaging in many Muslim countries, Muslim Americans express patriotic pride and see America as a unique haven for Muslims. Yet their sense of belonging is complicated by two conflicting assimilation models. One is the classic American Dream of moving from the margins to the mainstream via hard work and patriotic contribution. The "identity politics" alternative instead rewards identifying as an aggrieved victim to join an intersectional alliance of 'oppressed' groups.

Currently the grievance model of assimilation has stronger infrastructure and often serves as the gateway via which new immigrants and young adults enter American civic life. Ironically, the election of Zohran Mamdani, though powered by a victimhood intersectional alliance, demonstrates that Muslim immigrants can achieve remarkable success in America. Policymakers must strengthen the American Dream model to ensure healthy Muslim assimilation.

Encouraging Data:

95% Proud to be American

85% Believe in the American Dream

76% U.S. among the greatest countries

Concerning Data:

70% View the Muslim Brotherhood favorably

47% Feel more loyal to another country

35% Support Hamas

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.

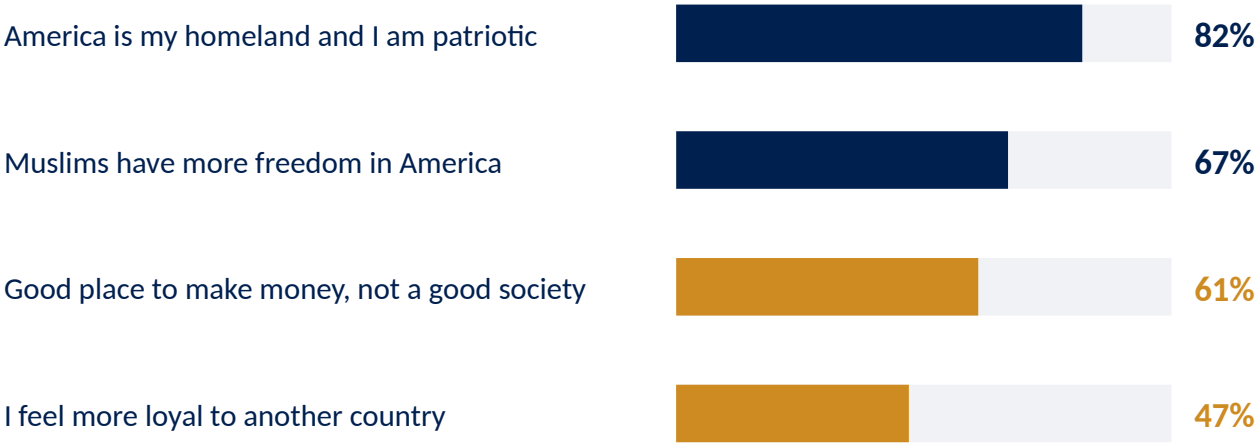
About This Poll

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

Tension Between Civic Confidence and Identity-Based Pull Factors

Share who agree with each statement about America. Q34; statements abbreviated, combining "strongly agree" and "somewhat agree."



Key Takeaways

1. Don't assume the American Dream model automatically wins. Recognize the grievance model weakens social cohesion and national security.
2. Celebrate the "American Dream" path of gratitude and achievement, including Muslim American success stories.
3. Starve victimhood identity politics by refusing to indulge grievances and instead showcase the proven success of the American Dream.
4. Elevate Muslim organizations and leaders who promote patriotism and integration while rejecting grievance politics.

AML Co-Founder Zainab Al-Suwaij

Engage with AML

- Subscribe to AML's newsletter
- Request a private briefing
- Invite Zainab Al-Suwaij to speak
- Support future polling

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