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## MIDTERM ELECTIONS

### MUST VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>



On Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> Americans will elect or re-elect 435 Members of House of Representatives, 18 US Senators, 27 Governors, and many more State, County, and Local Officials. Voting matters both to the health of the American political system and to the people who participate in it.

Midterm elections carry less glamour than general elections, but are more important than general elections, as they are skewed more towards local elections and local issues, which have a direct impact on your city, community, schools, etc. Normally turnout at midterm elections is lower, much less than 50% of the people eligible to vote, which means your vote is needed even more and will have a greater impact.

Elected Officials know who votes. If your community is turning out well below other neighborhoods, elected officials will pay less attention, make fewer appearances and fewer appeals to your neighborhoods. Who votes has a powerful impact on public policy and government. Your constituents have policy and political concerns – whether the direction of an issue or priorities of public budgets – that won't be heard if they don't vote. It's true that communities who have been traditionally underrepresented in the democratic process often face significant barriers in civic life.

There are many races, all are equally important, to get more information about election in your city, who is running, what elections are taking place, where to vote, the issues debated, any propositions on ballot, etc, best is to consult your city local newspaper. However you can also use the following link to get similar information <http://www.vote411.org/>

Enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with [online voters' guide](#) and much more! With voters' guide you can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

## USPAK UPCOMING EVENTS

### College Admission Workshop, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Gaithersburg, MD



Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF) and [USPAK Foundation](#) are organizing a hands-on College Admission Workshop for High School Students (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade). The workshop will take place on **Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** at MCMF office 811 Russell Avenue, Suite G, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. See [Flyer](#) for more details. This event is open to all high school students. Parents are welcome to attend.

At this workshop High School Students will learn about increasing their chances of securing admission in the college of their choice; How to get organized and keeping on top of deadlines; The importance of what you do outside the classroom; and how to beef up your credentials.

Prospective College Admission seekers will meet with College Students who were able to get into College of their choice, and they will share their admission experiences and the techniques they used. They will provide you with a College Admission "to do" list with deliverables and due dates.

Students will meet with Professional Advisor to learn about the importance of essays in the admission process. They will guide you on essay topics, and learn how to write a winning essay.

Specialists will talk about different financial aid programs, when and how to apply for them, and how to improve your chances of securing financial aid.

This workshop is **FREE**, due to seating and a space limitation, pre registration for the event is required. Light snacks will be provided.

For more information, email [ed@uspakfoundation.org](mailto:ed@uspakfoundation.org) or call 202 505 4725. [More Information](#)

To register for the workshop use the link below

[\*\*Register for Workshop\*\*](#)

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## Cyber Safety & Networking, November 15<sup>th</sup>, AVON, CT

### Internet Safety



High School and College Students are invited to attend a full day Youth Leadership Conference on “Cyber Safety & Networking” on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, 9:30 AM at Farmington Valley American Muslim Center, 35 Harris Street, Avon, CT. **Pre-registration is required**, no onsite registration is allowed. Registration Fee: \$15 per student, or \$30 for family. Light snacks will be provided. See [Conference Flyer](#).

This event is organized by USPAK Foundation and Farmington Valley American Muslim Center.

At this Leadership Conference students will learn about how to successfully write for local media, and to create community interest with their writing. You will meet with Cyber Safety and Security specialists who can walk you through the best practices for cyber surfing. You will also learn about methods by which to safeguard your cyber identity. You will learn new Networking techniques that can be used at your School or College.

An interactive panel comprised of fellow students will discuss student needs, and how best to meet them with available resources.

For more information, email [ed@uspakfoundation.org](mailto:ed@uspakfoundation.org) or call 202 505 4725. [More Information](#)

To register for the Conference use the link below

## [Register for Conference](#)

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### EVENTS

#### Convention of Pakistani-American Community



The Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC hosted the first Convention of Pakistani-American Community (CPAC-2014) on Oct 18, 2014. Pakistani community leaders, businessmen, professionals, heads of Pakistani community organizations, political activists and academicians from all over the United States participated in the Convention. USPAK Charter Members Dr. saud Anwar, Dr. Salman Malik, Dr. Mohammad Suleman, Saba Parvez, Irma Hafeez, and Irfan Malik participated in this convention.

The Convention was hosted by Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani to bring together leading community members from across the United States on one platform. In his address, Ambassador Jilani emphasized that welfare of Pakistani American community was the top priority of the Government of Pakistan and the Embassy and Consulates are dedicated to assisting Pakistanis in every possible way.

Ambassador Jilani urged the community to shun their parochial differences and act as a unified group to effectively leverage their political capital in the U.S. political system. Highlighting the importance of Diaspora communities in strengthening bilateral relations, Ambassador Jilani said the community could play a bigger role in countering the negative narrative in Pakistan and the U.S. Ambassador Jilani underscored the importance of next generation Pakistani Americans, and applauded the efforts of USPAK in this area.

The participants of the Convention were given detailed briefings on the economic situation of Pakistan as well as the available trade and investment opportunities.

Representatives of USAID and OPIC also highlighted the economic cooperation between Pakistan and the United States and facilitative role played by U.S. Government to spur private sector investments in Pakistan.

#### Department of State Celebrates Eid ul Adha



Secretary of State John Kerry hosted an Eid al-Adha reception to mark the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage with members of the Diplomatic Corps, government officials, civil society leaders, and members of the American Muslim community on Thursday, October 16, in the Delegates Lounge at the U.S. Department of State.

At this event, Secretary Kerry highlighted State Department’s commitment to Muslim communities around the world on issues of mutual interest and in support of shared goals. Speaking at the occasion Secretary of State Kerry said “We remember that lots of countries are making sacrifices in the spirit of Eid-al-Adha right now with respect to the refugees that they’re taking in, with respect to the emergency food programs they’re engaged in, the emergency aid. So this is really a moment to reflect deeply on how we will deal not just with the manifestation of the symptom, which is what the violence and the extremism is, but with the underlying causes which go to this question of governance and corruption and a whole issue of how you meet the needs of people.” [Remarks of Secretary Kerry at Eid ul Adha Reception](#)

Addressing the distinguished gathering U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities Shaarik Zafar talked about the spirit

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behind Eid addresses the importance of sacrifice and devotion — honoring those who go above and beyond to help those less fortunate. This commitment to helping others is true of all great faith traditions, including Islam. And while Eid is a time when these efforts are focused, such acts of generosity and compassion take place every day, across the globe, where Muslims take proactive steps for the betterment of not just themselves or their families, but for their broader communities and societies. [Read more](#)

## NEWS

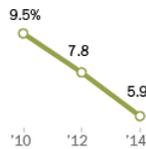
### Heading into midterms, Americans still as bummed out as they were in 2012, 2010

With Election Day fast approaching, Americans are feeling somewhat better this year about the national economy than they were the past two election cycles — a sentiment borne out by improvements in several key indicators. But by many other measures, their collective mood hasn't really improved.

Fact Tank dug through the Pew Research Center survey archives to compare public sentiment about the economy and elected leaders today with the same metrics at comparable periods before the federal elections of 2012 and 2010. [Read More](#)

#### Despite Improving Economy, Americans Remain in Funk Ahead of 2014 Election

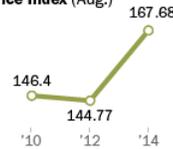
Unemployment rate (Sept.)



S&P 500



S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. Home Price Index (Aug.)



Among general public

% who are ... with the way things are going in this country today

	Dissatisfied	Satisfied
Oct. 2014	65%	29%
Oct. 2012	61	32
Sept. 2010	63	30

% saying the nation's economic conditions are ...

	Poor	Excellent/good
Oct. 2014	33	21
Sept. 2012	44	13
Oct. 2010	54	8

% saying the nation's economic conditions will be ... a year from now

	Worse	Better
Oct. 2014	21	27
Sept. 2012	8	43
Oct. 2010	16	35

% who ... of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president

	Disapprove	Approve
Oct. 2014	51	43
July 2012	43	50
Oct. 2010	45	46

% saying their opinion of Congress is ...

	Very/mostly unfavorable	Very/mostly favorable
July 2014	69	28
July 2012	65	27
July 2010	56	33

% saying their opinion of the Republican Party is ...

	Very/mostly unfavorable	Very/mostly favorable
Oct. 2014	54	38
Sept. 2012	50	42
Sept. 2010	49	43

% saying their opinion of the Democratic Party is ...

	Very/mostly unfavorable	Very/mostly favorable
Oct. 2014	46	47
Sept. 2012	40	53
Sept. 2010	44	50

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bloomberg; Standard & Poor's; Pew Research Center surveys

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## INTERNSHIPS

### Operations and Research Internship

The International Institute for Strategic Studies – US is currently seeking full-time and part-time interns to support the management of its office in Washington, DC. To be considered for the Spring 2015 session, kindly submit a complete application no later than 3 November 2014. There will be a small stipend for interns who successfully complete their term. [APPLY](#)

### [Other Internships](#)

USPAK is a volunteer organization working for the betterment of Pakistani Americans. Our efforts are focused on developing future leaders of our country from within our community. We also work to address issues of concern of our community, ranging from immigration, civil liberties, religious freedom, and socio-economic development of Pakistani American community.

It is through help of supporters like you that we are able carry on our vision promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans. Your support today can ensure that Pakistani Americans have a place at the table, as we shape the policies on immigration, the economy and civil rights. You can help build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Can we count on you to help? Can you donate \$500, \$250 or \$150 today? [Click here](#) and use **Donate** button. USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction.

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