



AAI Fact Sheet

Our Mission:

Founded in 1985, the Arab American Institute (AAI) is a non-profit organization committed to the civic and political empowerment of Americans of Arab descent. AAI is a membership organization based in Washington, DC that represents the policy and community interests of Arab Americans throughout the United States. We focus on two areas: campaigns and elections, and policy formulation and research.

Campaigns and Elections:

AAI is the only national organization that promotes Arab American participation in the U.S. electoral system. It enables Arab Americans to take increasingly visible and active roles in campaigns and elections by mobilizing resources, providing leadership development, working with party officials, electing delegates, and defining issues.

Today, Arab American candidates and activists are involved at all levels - from school boards and judges to state officials and members of Congress. This success is a strong message that we are part of this country, and proud of the contributions we are making.

Policy Formulation and Research:

We are also the leading policy and research organization on domestic and policy concerns of Arab Americans. Through ongoing meetings with members of the Administration and Congress, a variety of publications and issue briefs, media and direct member mobilization, AAI maintains a strong presence among policy makers who impact our issues.

Where We Are Going:

As we enter our next 20 years, AAI will continue to be an organization and empowerment force, but how we organize will change to reflect our new needs and new realities:

- ❖ The need to institutionalize AAI, its mission and operation.
- ❖ The need to recognize that AAI's operational goal is to provide direction, services and a network for Arab American political organizing, not to replicate or replace existing community-based Arab American organizations.
- ❖ The need to provide direction to and communicate with our constituency on a consistent basis, not just around election times.

We now have a viable empowered constituency. Arab Americans want more, and we have more to offer. They want to respond to issues, and we can help them. We also have the unique ability not only to provide the information they want and need, but also to network these Arab Americans with a national voice.

To take advantage of the new opportunities presented by an already empowered and engaged community, and to meet these challenges we will:

- ❖ Institutionalize and deepen the Arab American role in the ongoing structures of the political parties at the local, state, and national levels.
- ❖ Assist Arab Americans to have more impact in policy debates on issues with their elected officials by effectively communicating relevant information gathered in our research on the policy issues critical to our community.
- ❖ Better connect a network of Arab American voices from across US with party leaders and policy makers in DC.
- ❖ Establish not simply an institute, but a genuine institution that lives on and self-perpetuates with new leadership.