

Developing an Agenda for Strengthening Masjids

Lessons and Insights from the
US Mosque Survey 2011



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Sponsors

- Islamic Society of North America
- Council on American-Islamic Relations
- Islamic Circle of North America
- International Institute of Islamic Thought
- Hartford Institute for Religion Research
- Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies


US Mosque Survey 2011

- Conducted a count of all mosques in America
- Sampled 727 mosques from this list and conducted 524 interviews with mosque leaders.
- Margin of error is within the range of +/- 5%

Survey Methodology

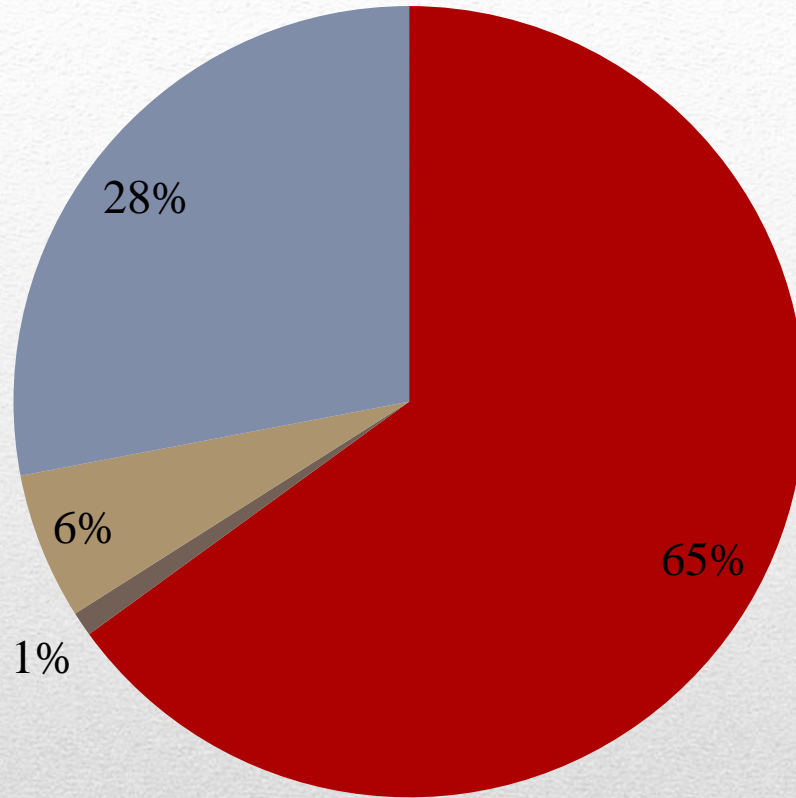
- All indicators of the US Mosque Survey 2011 point to the conclusion that the mosques of America are healthy and growing.

Overall Conclusion



<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Mosques</i>	<i>Percentage Increase</i>
• 1994	962	
• 2000	1209	26%
• 2011	2106	74%

Number of Masjids in the US Continues to Grow



- Increased 10% or more
- Increased slightly 1-9%
- Stayed the same
- Declined

Masjīd participants are growing

Mosque Activities

	Top priority of Mosque	Mosques that offer this program
1. Weekend school for children	40%	76%
2. Islamic studies classes/halaqah	29%	83%
3. Community gatherings	18%	93%
4. Youth/teen activities or programs	17%	65%
5. Quran memorization class	14%	50%
6. Youth group	10%	32%
7. Community service activities	5%	48%
8. Women activities or programs	4%	71%
9. Arabic language class	4%	39%
10. Women's group	3%	32%

Top Priority of Activities

	Mosques that offer program	Other Faith Groups
• Weekend school for children	76%	92%
• Youth/teen activities or programs	65%	85%
• Young adult activities or programs	17%	69%

Need for More Youth and Young Adult Activities



	Provided by the mosque	Provided by another organization
• Cash assistance	94%	1%
• Counseling services	84%	2%
• Community organizing, social issue advocacy	44%	3%
• Food pantry or food give-away	42%	16%
• Health education, fair, clinic	37%	8%
• Voter registration, voter education	36%	12%
• Tutoring or literacy programs	15%	2%
• Programs for immigrants	14%	6%
• Elderly or home bound programs	9%	3%
• Job placement, training, employment counseling	9%	3%
• Financial counseling or education	8%	4%

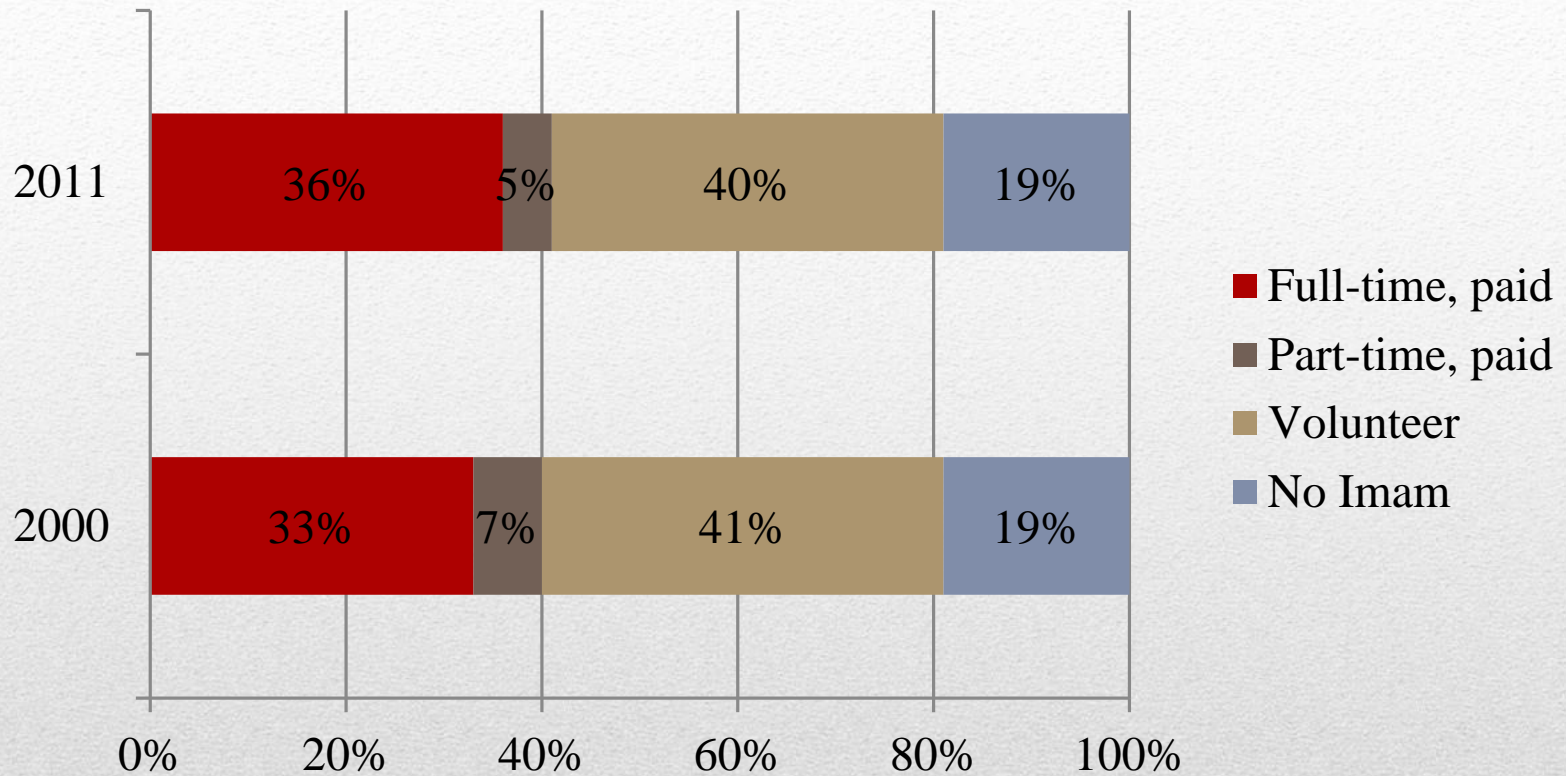
Social Service Activities

- Hosted an open house 63%
- Participated interfaith activity 79%

Outreach and Interfaith



Imams and Staff



Employment Status of Imams

Full-time, paid minister/Imam

- Mosques 36%
- All Other Faith Groups 71%
- Mainline Christians 89%

**Few Imams are full-time,
paid**

- Half (50%) of all masjids have no full-time, paid staff

Masjids are Understaffed

- Imam and/or Assistant Imam 54%
- Custodial Staff 19%
- Administrative Staff 16%
(i.e. executive director)
- Clerical Staff 6%
- Program Staff (i.e. youth director) 5%
- Other (i.e. security) 2%

Percentage of Full-time Staff

Imams with formal degree

- 2000 37%
- 2011 48%

**More Imams have a
formal degree in Islam**

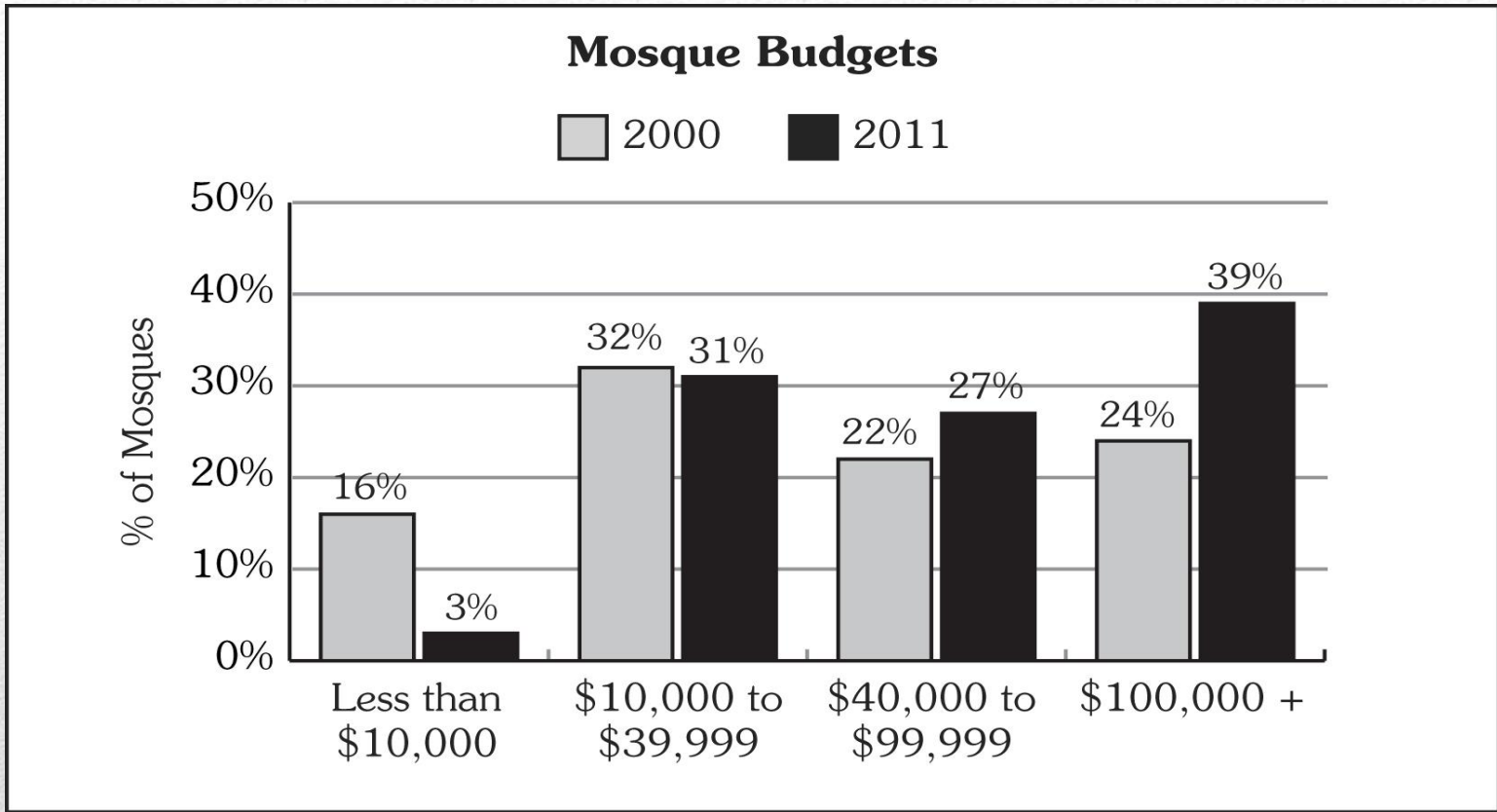
- 94% of all Imams with a formal degree in Islam received their degree from aboard
- 29% from Egypt
- 14% from Saudi Arabia
- 10% from India
- 8% from Pakistan

Islamic Degrees are from aboard

- 85% of all Imams who are full-time, paid were born outside America
- 47% of all Imams from abroad arrived since 2000

**Most full-time, trained
Imams are foreign-born**

Mosque Finances



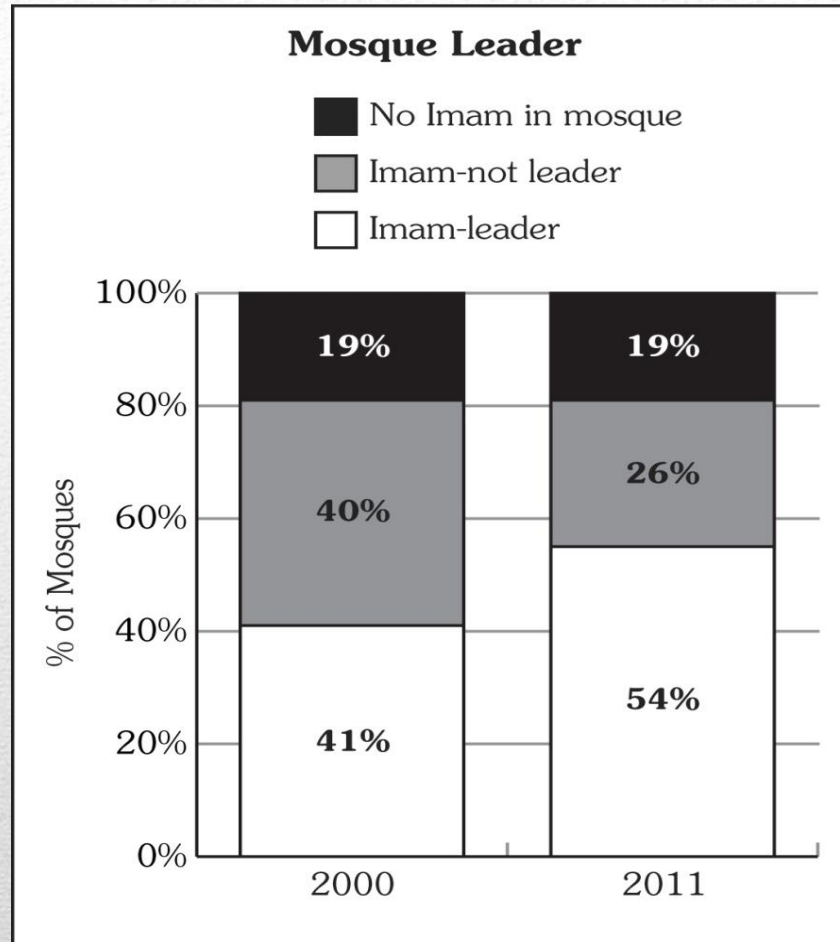
Mosque Budgets

- \$70,000 is the median income of mosques
\$150,000 is the median income of other faith groups
- A mosque needs a Jum'ah attendance of 300 before the masjid will most likely have a full-time, paid Imam
A church needs a Sunday attendance of 100 before they will have a full-time, paid minister
- Since attendance is higher in mosques than churches, individual attendees give more in churches than mosques.

Mosques are Underfunded



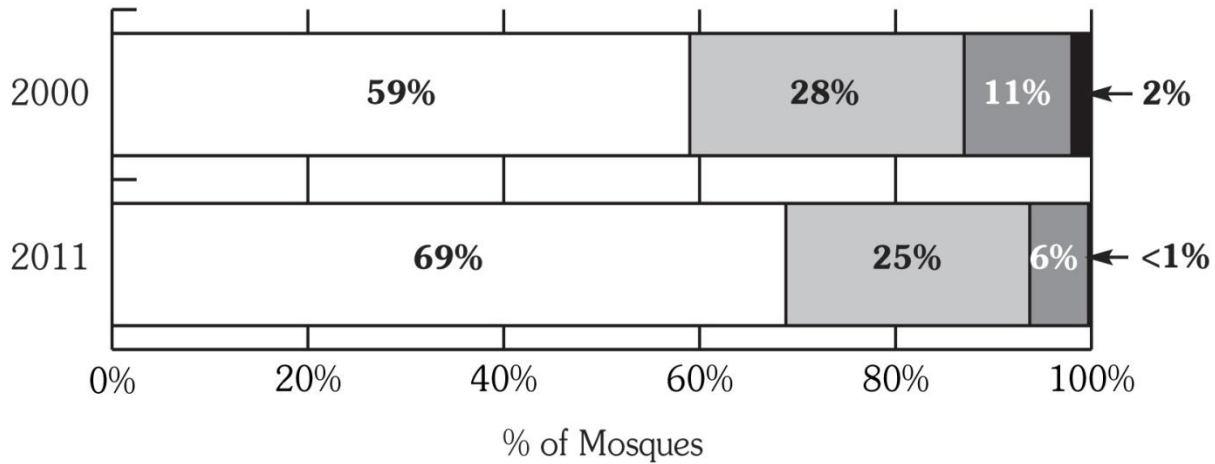
Governance Models of Mosques



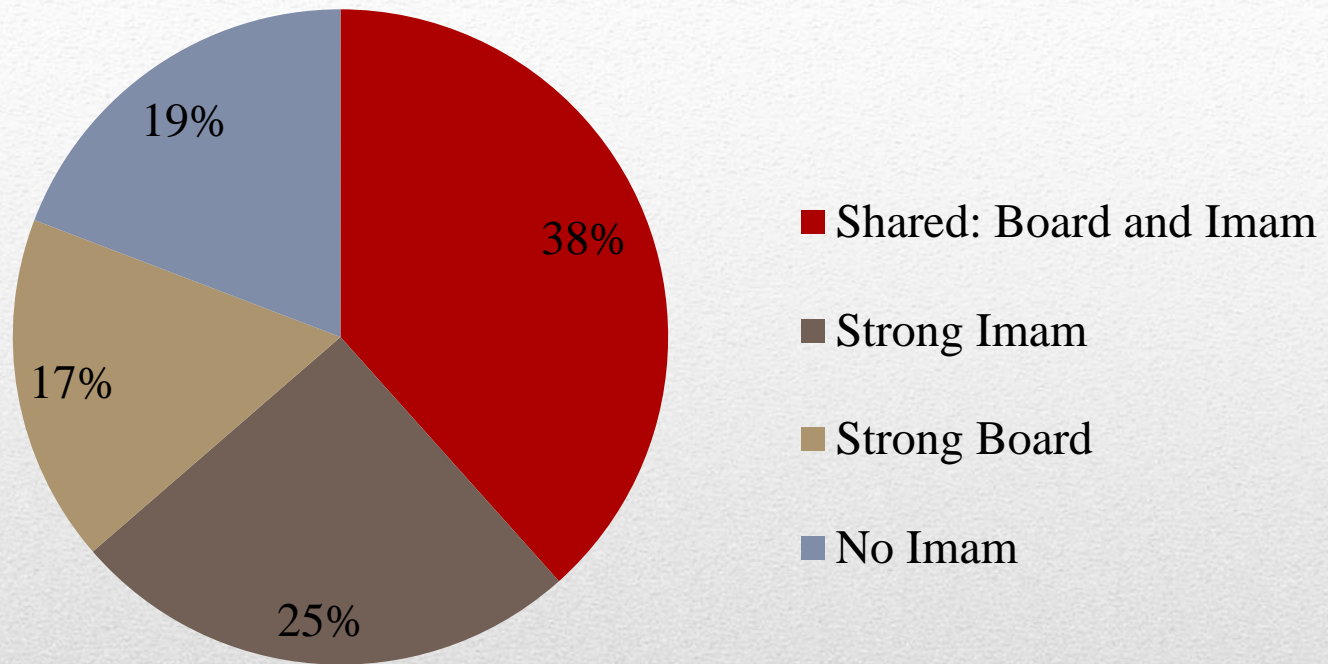
Is the Imam the Leader

Who has Final Decision-Making Power in the Mosque?

□ Board/Majlis □ Imam □ Leader of Mosque ■ Other



Final Decision-Maker

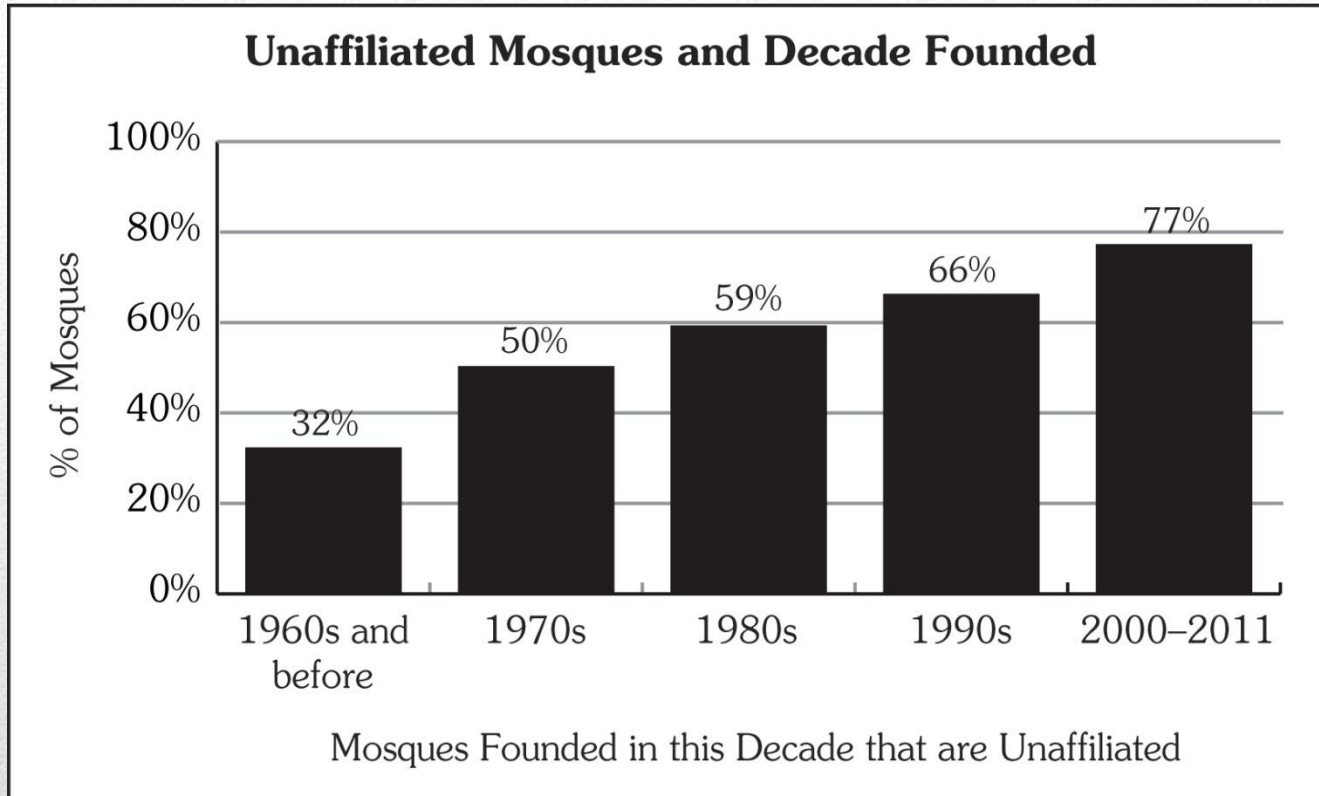


Governance Models of Mosques

Affiliation of Mosques

	2000	2011
• Not associated with any organization	45%	62%
• Association of W. Deen Mohammed	19%	13%
• Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)	27%	11%
• Muslim American Society (MAS)	--	3%
• Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)	5%	3%
• National Umma (Imam Jamil Al-Amin)	2%	1%
• Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA)	--	1%
• Tablighi Jamaat	3%	1%
• Other organizations	5%	6%

Masjids are Unaffiliated



Newer Mosques are Unaffiliated



Mohamed Magid



Nihad Awad



Zahid Bukhari



Iqbal Unus

- Use the “Questions” feature and type your questions; they will be read in due course.

Question Time

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The End
