

Ghazaal Hamid

Vice President of Government Relations: Personal Statement

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Joining the Student Senate of Chabot (SSCC) during Fall 2020 and serving as the SSCC Secretary has been one of the most fulfilling academic, and personal, decisions I have made thus far: I have been able to serve on various committees representing my fellow peers, engage with faculty and administration to further Chabot student success, and develop important connections within the senate itself. I would love to further my impact for the Chabot community moving forward and am now running for the position of Vice-President of Governmental Relations. My work thus far on senate has aligned with my strong interests in policy-writing, civic engagement, and general student representation; As VP of Government Relations, I will further cultivate these motivations by focusing on student engagement in elections and at a state-wide level as part of the SSCCC, which is the statewide community college coalition. One effort I am aiming to develop and implement on campus is greater representation of marginalized communities in academic equity, including addressing language barriers, and advocating for our Chabot campus to become more inclusive and actively accommodating for our LGBTQ+ and BIPOC students and staff. I will use my office to pursue broader support for student parents, specifically mothers, through expanded access and information to programs such as tutoring, counseling, and peer guides. As a second-choice, I am also running as Operations Coordinator to further support the internal SSCC organization but will focus my campaign running for the office of VP of Government Relations.

Growing up as a first-generation Muslim-American woman in the United States, I have continuously been exposed to the cultural and political marginalization of the Muslim community and other distinct minority groups: from cultural and economic disparities, to immigration law inequities and unequal access to a wide range of opportunities and public goods, including healthcare and suffrage. The turning point for my academic and career goals was during freshmen year of high school when former President Trump signed Executive Order 13769 seven days into office, popularly referred to as the “Muslim Travel Ban,” effectively attempting to legitimize and marginalize domestic and global divides posed by islamophobia and xenophobia. I knew with conviction that I would dedicate my life to public service to uplift marginalized communities as such historic events continuously took place around me. Continuing this passion within me, the tragic events of 2020, including hyperpolarization of

partisan politics, violent radicalization, increasing police brutality, ravaging effects of climate change, and various covid-19 pandemic inequities have further inspired my efforts to engage within my community at a local and national level. Furthermore, as my personal and professional passions have begun to consistently align with political science, economics, and history, I have held the humanities as a critical facet to my understanding of intersectional advocacy and social justice efforts to uplift our democracy and populace.

Now, I am a Political Science major with a strong interest in obtaining an Economics double major and currently studying in my first year at Chabot College. I am working toward my long-term goals by completing all prerequisites necessary for both majors I have in mind and simultaneously supplementing my interests with other interconnected courses including statistics, history, and geography. I am planning on transferring to a four-year university in Fall 2022 and hope to continue my education by attending law school later on, if my financial situation allows it. My future career goals include working with civil rights and interest groups, international diplomacy, and ultimately helping bolster our American democracy through grassroots movements to make our nation more equitable through policy work, and advocacy against economic and societal injustices.