

# Running for All the Right Reasons: A Saudi-born Woman's Pursuit of Democracy

by Ferial Masry and Susan Chenard



In 2004, Ferial Masry, born in Mecca, became the first Saudi Arabian born immigrant to run for an American political office in U.S. history. A recent immigrant and naturalized citizen with a heavy Middle Eastern accent, Masry made a spirited run for the California State Assembly seat in a staunchly Republican district, which sparked worldwide interest. She was "ABC's Person of the Week", was interviewed by Peter Jennings, and made headlines in the *New York Times* and *Associated Press*. Against all odds, her grassroots campaign succeeded in winning the write-in vote, a historic victory for all Arab Americans.

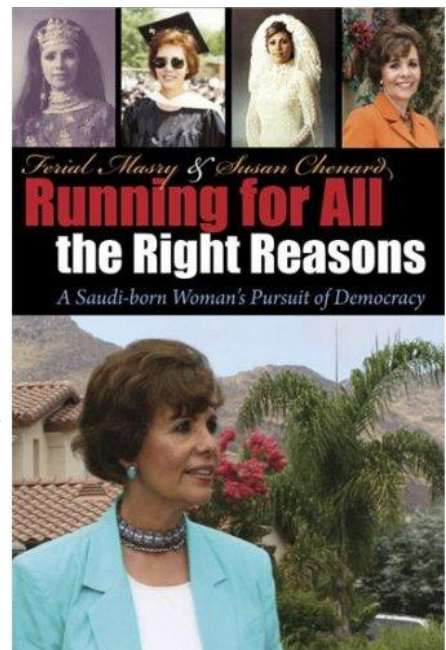
***Running for All the Right Reasons*** chronicles Masry's remarkable life, from her childhood in Mecca and her decision to immigrate to the United States to her career as an educator and her bold entry into the world of politics. James J. Zogby, president of Arab American Institute, writes the book's Foreword. Masry's story, as well as her passionate belief in democracy and commitment to her community, is the stuff of legends. Masry provides an inspirational personal testimony and engaging message, drawing from her many years of sharing grassroots empowerment, compassion, peace building, and encouraging human rights. She encourages women being the agent of change and taking risks for a hopeful and better tomorrow. Members of the U.S. State Department often visit her for her educational cross culture dialogue, conflict resolution and illuminating Commentary.

## Authors:

Ferial Masry is currently running for California State Assembly in the 37th District. She teaches Government and history at Cleveland High School in Los Angeles and has served on the boards of the Education Committee for the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and of the National Women's Political Caucus, among others. Susan Chenard is an English professor at Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut, and a freelance writer.

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