

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Aisha Moe
Madison City Council District 19
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Professional Experience:

Political/Service Experience:

Aisha Moe, a longtime resident of Madison's 19th Aldermanic District, has previously held positions as a diversity community organizer for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, helping to organize communities on the South Side of Milwaukee and in Madison, as well as helping flip Wisconsin's 1st Senate District in the 2018 special election, and also served as a legislative staffer in the State Capitol. More recently, Moe ran earlier this year for State Senate in the 26th District, and currently serves her community as a high school math teacher.

Why Are You Running In This Election?

We are in the middle of a pandemic and people in our community are losing jobs, losing businesses and losing their loved ones. I have seen this first hand. In August, after my dad died, unexpectedly, from a heart attack, our entire family lost our health insurance. In the middle of a pandemic and in the middle of our grief, we were vulnerable. As I watched my mom worry about my younger siblings, it further reinforced the fact that the system which had promised us support was not there. This campaign's priority issues are those vulnerabilities that everyday people are

facing. I prioritize responding to COVID-19, ending homelessness, reimagining public safety, protecting our environment and building an economy that supports the working class.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

The three most important issues in this race are guaranteeing housing in the city, reimagining public safety and responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

What Are The Largest Environmental Concerns You Aim To Deal With In Office?

We need a bold stand to compact climate change. We have an opportunity right now to decide what the future of our climate gets to look like. That is why I support moving towards entirely renewable energy sources for Madison as well as banning harmful chemicals, such as PFAs, which poisons our waterways. Additionally, I support increased green spaces and public infrastructures that mitigate the impacts of flooding on residents.

How Will You Use Your Position To Create More Equitable Opportunities And Help Those Living In Poverty?

In order to address income and wealth inequality in Madison, I support implementing a living wage (minimum \$15 per hour, as well as an annual cost of living adjustment) for all workers in Madison. This would include workers that get paid in tips. Additionally I support locally-owned, independent businesses, cooperatives, and worker-owned cooperatives. I also support family farms and regional food systems instead of factory farms and corporate farming subsidies. Furthermore, I assert and defend the right of all workers to unionize and act collectively to improve jobs and employment. Lastly, I support a housing guarantee in the city.

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

It is so incredibly important to truly amplify the voices of the member of our community that have been historically marginalized, especially when addressing racial inequity. Above all, we must all take a strictly anti-racist stance in the fight against the racist system which hold us down.

How will you promote restorative justice and address abusive and racist practices by the police force?

Across the country, we are asking our police forces to take on more than they are trained to do. Community control over policing to me is about ensuring that the right professionals to address issues that everyday people are facing are called on to address those issues. In my personal experience, when my father passed due to an unexpected heart attack in August, my family's needs were not well met. When we called 911, six police officers showed up. This was an incredibly traumatic experience for my family, and even though there were all these officers there, we felt so completely lost and vulnerable. One officer in particular kept asking my younger siblings for a statement, but no one in my family could even figure out how to speak. In the middle of this trauma, facing all of the shock in that moment, I just thought, if there had been one social worker, or one person trained in trauma, perhaps we would not have felt so alone.

When it comes to reimagining public safety, first and foremost, racist and abusive practices must be condemned. Furthermore, I support increasing funding and resources for social workers, teachers, schools, community centers, afterschool programs, healthcare professionals specializing in addiction and other forms of emergency response teams besides just those trained in detaining people.

Due to the ongoing economic impact of Coronavirus, many local governments are expecting unprecedented budget shortfalls. What would you prioritize in the budget? Where would you make cuts?

I would prioritize COVID-19 relief for individuals and local businesses, access to vaccines and testing, as well as guaranteed housing. I would make cuts to the militarization of the police force as well as other areas that are not immediately serving a racially and socially just community.

How have you elevated diverse voices in government and public discourse? How would you continue to do so if elected to this office?

No matter one's personal background, everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and truly represented by their elected leaders, and I promise to bring that outlook to the 19th District. As a mixed-race, Muslim American woman, I have learned to examine the world around me through multiple different lenses, and have had the opportunity to reflect on the intersection of multiple identities. Right now, our community needs elected officials who understand the needs of our communities, and who want to make a difference in the lives of everyone they represent, with no one and nothing left out. We are at a tipping point in shaping the future, and I believe that my lived experiences, my background as a diversity community organizer for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, and my willingness to speak up and speak out on behalf of my community are what this district needs as we build a more inclusive and equitable future, together.

What Are The Largest Transportation Issues You Wish To Work On And How Will You Address Them?

The public transportation system needs to be expanded across the city, but especially, in District 19 where we need more frequent buses and more routes that really serve what members of our community are up to.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?

While I recognize this is not an issue that the city council impacts directly, I support a single payer healthcare system. My family lost our healthcare in the middle of a pandemic; that is not a system that supports people. Healthcare should not be tied to employers and the majority of people support single payer healthcare. It is the job of elected officials to be advocates for their districts and while the city council could not alone ensure that the nation has single payer healthcare, the city council can do what the Dane County Board did, and pass a resolution that shows the momentum and importance of the issue and brings national recognition of support.