

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Bob Jokisch

Sun Prairie City Council, District 2

Facebook: Bob Jokisch for Sun Prairie City Council

Professional Experience:

I have served on the Sun Prairie City Council since March of 2020. I also serve on the following Committees:

- * City Finance Committee
- * City Personnel Committee
- * Community Development Authority
- * Liaison with Sun Prairie School Board

I have 33 years of public finance and public policy experience working for the State of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin. Much of my work involved building and analyzing budgets and developing and analyzing programs to determine how best to serve the people of Wisconsin. This experience has served me well in looking at issues facing the City of Sun Prairie, including developing the City budget, setting property taxes and fees, analysis of data, and comparing Sun Prairie with how other municipalities have dealt with issues.

My government experience also covered a variety of different areas including finance, budget, procurement, human resources, and Information technology. This has been very helpful in dealing with the wide variety of departments and issues on City Council.

My responsibilities with the State and University of Wisconsin

included substantial communication with the public and other groups to hear and address their concerns and receive input on how to improve policies and operations. This experience has served me well in dealing with constituents, businesses, city staff, and my City Council colleagues.

I also have a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois with coursework in Public Administration.

Political/Service Experience:

I have volunteered for numerous Democratic Presidential, Senate, Governor, Congress, State representatives, and local candidates for 40 years, including canvassing and other campaign activities. Recently, I have helped organize voter registration drives at our high school, tutored middle school students through Schools of Hope, delivered food for Wisconsin Harvest, and organized meetings of local community organizations through SunRISE Collaborative.

Why Are You Running In This Election?

I have 33 years of public service experience working for the State of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin. I also have a long history of supporting political campaigns and volunteering. I enjoy serving my community and have found that my experience in government and public policy work has allowed me to serve my constituents and my community well on City Council. I enjoy the work and I enjoy helping citizens with their City issues.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

The three most important issues in the race are :

- * How to make sure that citizens are heard in the City decision-making process
- * Planning for future growth for the City of Sun Prairie

* Building city budgets that protect vital city services and control property tax and other fee increases

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

My largest environmental concerns are:

* Insuring that the City of Sun Prairie grows in a fashion that best protects the environment

* Insuring that City facilities and services are operated in a sustainable fashion

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

I work hard to reach out to all members of our community. I have responded to all communication from constituents both by e-mail and by phone. Moreover, I have reached out to local community organizations to hear the needs of those who may not otherwise be heard. I often participate in meetings such as School-Community Organizations and Neighborhood Organizations. I also have strongly supported more diverse representation on City committees so that all voices are heard and the needs of the entire community are addressed.

I recently helped organize a meeting with our community organizations through SunRISE Collaborative to determine the needs of the most-needy in our community. I encouraged private donations and supported funding from the City of Sun Prairie for the activities of the Sun Prairie Sunshine Place and the Colonial Club so that no one in our community goes hungry during these challenging times.

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

An important first step in racial inequality is making sure that all members of our community are being heard. We need to insure diverse representation in City government decision-making bodies such as City government committees. We also need to insure that we have a diverse City government workforce, especially in our police, fire, and EMS.

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

I have and will continue to work with our police chief on how we are addressing issues raised about racist police practices. I have been extremely pleased with the policies of the Sun Prairie police department on use of force policies, which follow the guidelines of 8 Can't Wait. Our police department also provides its staff with Implicit Bias training and other training needed for a modern police department. In order to meet the needs of our community and build a modern police force, I have worked with the Police Chief on planning to allow social workers to work with the police, as is being done in a number of communities in Wisconsin. This is especially important in helping police in responding and helping citizens with mental health and substance abuse issues.

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?

Sun Prairie is fortunate in that the negative impact of the Coronavirus on the budget has been limited. My priorities in the budget will be to protect vital services such as police, fire, and EMS. The Coronavirus has not only increased the number of people needing medical assistance from the virus but also cases of

substance abuse and we need to have the resources to address these needs. In addition, I will continue to prioritize support for those most impacted by the Coronavirus, including both people who are struggling financially and small businesses struggling because of the virus. I encouraged and supported both private donations and the City of Sun Prairie providing funds to support the activities of the Sun Prairie Sunshine Place and the Colonial Club so that no one in our community goes hungry. I also spearheaded Sun Prairie's effort to allow expanded outdoor dining at restaurants and supported loans and grants for small businesses.

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

I will continue to push for diverse representation on City committees. I will also push for a more diverse City staff, including and especially in our public safety units. I will also encourage leaders of minority communities to run for City Council and serve on committees. I have reached out to local community organizations and participated in meetings such as School-Community Organizations and Neighborhood Organizations to hear the needs of those who may not otherwise be heard.

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

We need to insure that all members of the Sun Prairie community have access to jobs, services, and other amenities needed for a high quality of living. Sun Prairie has partnered with Madison Metro Transit to provide bus service to and from Madison. I hope to provide additional bus service both to Madison and within Sun

Prairie to provide additional transportation options to those who need it.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?

Another of my priorities is to insure that we have affordable housing in Sun Prairie. In order to do that we need to make sure we meet demand for housing so that rents and other housing costs do not dramatically increase. There is significant misinformation in the community regarding housing and I have worked hard to try and address some of this misinformation regarding housing. I also am hopeful that our planned housing study will help address these misconceptions and help us plan for future housing needs in Sun Prairie.