

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Christian Albouras
Madison Common Council-District 20
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Professional Experience:

- Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Division of Early Care and Education
- Executive Director (Secretary Appointment), Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Business Development Specialist, Summit Credit Union
- Education Program Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program
- My formal education in receiving a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Political/Service Experience:

- Current Alder, Madison Common Council-District 20
- Volunteer, Mary Burke's 2014 Gubernatorial Campaign
- Volunteer, President Obama's 2012 Re-Election Campaign
- Volunteer, Jonathan Brostoff's campaign for State Assembly
- Volunteer Presenter, Adelante Political Action Group
- Former At-Large Board Member, Meadowood Neighborhood Association
- Former Board Secretary: Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County
- Former Co-Chair/Member, Madison Police Department Policy and Procedure Review Ad-Hoc Committee

-Former Commissioner, Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

Why Are You Running In This Election?

In 2015, I was appointed to serve on the Madison Police Department Policy and Procedure Review ad-hoc Committee (ad-hoc committee). I served as co-chair for the first 2 years of the committee's work. In that role, I learned the positive impact that a city committee can have on shaping policy and informing the council during the decision-making process. I ran for election in 2019 because I was ready and prepared to serve my district residents and be a part of the larger conversation and decision-making process on the Madison Common Council. Fortunately, I was elected to serve on the council and have been honored to see several milestones and legislation occur during my tenure, including police reform measures like the institution of the Civilian Oversight Board (COB) and the Independent Monitor (IM). I am running for re-election to continue to push forward thinking legislation, support our local and regional economy during the pandemic, promote violence prevention, address housing insecurity, enhance basic city services, and move our city forward.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

Public Health/Social Justice

Violence Prevention

Economic Development/Workforce Development

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

It is first important for city leadership to acknowledge that climate change is real and rooted in scientific findings. I am committed to the following:

-Working with our partners: collaborate with our partners at the

County and state level to continue to address environmental matters impacting our community

-Storm water management: ensuring new development and current spaces do a better job of retaining water during rainfall.

-Watershed Studies: continue to support watershed studies to identify causes of existing flooding and then look at potential solutions to try to reduce flooding.

-Promoting alternative modes of transportation: incentivizing residents of the city to utilize public transportation and other forms of commuting such as cycling and carpooling.

-Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Continue to support the implementation of BRT

-Consumer behavior: provide resources and information to assist residents in understanding their role in protecting the environment, (i.e. recycling, amount of salt utilized during the winter, etc.)

-Electronic vehicle infrastructure: continue to make progress on this infrastructure

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

I plan to work with a broad coalition of leaders, including the private sector, the Dane County Job Center, Big Step, the County Executive, our federal delegation, and labor unions, to better outreach to individuals living in poverty and diversifying the workforce. In doing this, it is important that we address the following key issues that serve as barriers to connecting those living in poverty to gainful employment opportunities:

1. Stable Housing
2. Employment Opportunities
3. Workforce Training
4. Education Opportunities
4. Childcare and transportation

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

To address this, we must do the following:

- Continue to support police reform legislation like the institution of the Civilian Oversight Board (COB) and the Independent Monitor (IM) position
- Continue to support legislation like the Small Business Equity & Recovery Grant (SBER), which are resources for historically underrepresented business owners during the pandemic
- Provide workforce development opportunities
- Promote wealth building (i.e home ownership, etc.)
- Support liveable wages
- Ensuring vulnerable voices are at the table
- Dismantling systems that perpetuate inequality
- Provide access to affordable housing

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

I had the honor of serving on the MPD Policy and Procedure Review Ad-hoc Committee that submitted 177 recommendations to the MPD. For the two years of the work, I served as co-chair. These recommendations included the institution of the Civilian Oversight Board (COB) and Independent Monitor (IM) position. The Civilian Oversight Board (COB) is an autonomous entity that conducts its business in a manner that is insulated from the political arena. The council should identify any improvements/tweaks that are needed to support and facilitate the work of the COB/Independent Monitor (IM). The council should also evaluate necessary actions or policy changes recommended by the COB/IM. The council needs to collaboratively work with the new Chief to ensure the delivery of community policing/safety

services, to reduce violence, and foster trust between BIPOC communities and the police. Further, the council needs to audit the implementation of the initial 177 recommendations. When a crisis occurs in our city, it is important that we have an appropriate response. When an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis, a mental health response is needed, not a response that results in entering the criminal justice system. Our city is currently looking at the implementation of a pilot for an alternative crisis team (Kuhoots). We should continue to support this and similar efforts with city resources.

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 will prioritize the following: Public Health & COVID-19 Recovery Efforts; Economic Development and Small Business Recovery; Violence Prevention; Basic City Services; Child, Youth & Family Engagement; Employment & Training Programs; Housing Insecurity; Sustainability..When it comes to looking at making difficult decisions regarding our scarce city resources, I am ready to work with my colleagues on the council/Mayor to discuss and determine where we need to allocate funding. And, identifying areas that need to receive cuts.

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

During my tenure as alder, I worked to develop relationships with a broad range of constituencies in District 20. I wanted to hear directly from and engage my constituents. As such, I hosted several community meetings around key issues: public safety, traffic safety, access to resources during COVID-19, and housing.

If elected, I will continue to do the following:

- Ensuring vulnerable voices are at the table
- Collaborate with local service providers
- Partner with local leaders
- Host community meetings
- Engage local neighborhood associations
- Utilize multiple forms of communication

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

Viable, accessible transit is a crucial element of a healthy, thriving community and economy. Effective multi modal transportation needs to remain front and center for the council. In a resource scarce environment, the city needs to be competitive in attracting federal and state transportation dollars to meet our complex transit needs. I would seek to further bolster our infrastructure re: electronic vehicles and bicycle transportation. Additionally, continuing to support the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a priority. BRT must be competitive and responsive to meet the needs of our most vulnerable populations, workforce, and businesses. I will continue collaborating with city staff to ensure these needs are met.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?

- Expanding the discussion on ways that we can continue to support our undocumented community in the Greater Madison area.
- Fostering inclusive work environments in the public, private, and non-profit settings