

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Joyce Tikalsky
Stoughton District 1 Alder
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Professional Experience:

- Engineering External Relations, College of Engineering, UW-Madison, Madison, WI, Senior Information Processing Consultant/Webmaster, 2001-2015, enr.wisc.edu
Managed, created, and coded College of Engineering websites for instruction, research, and administration. Supervised graduate and undergraduate computer science students. Campus service: Instructional Technology Group, Web and IT Accessibility/Usability Coordinating Group, Co-chair 2014-2015. Sysadmin for Linux web servers at UW-Madison College of Engineering, 2001-2002.
- Marketing Programs Manager and Webmaster for Universal Silencer, a manufacturer of air filtration and noise reduction products
- Marketing Communications Planner and Webmaster, promoted from Technical Documentation Coordinator, for Noran Instruments, a manufacturer of hardware and software systems for electron microscopes and digital imaging. Budget and staffing responsibilities.
- Technical Writer for Heurikon, a manufacturer of custom printed circuit boards and custom system enclosures
- Technical Publications Manager, promoted from Technical Writer, for Nicolet Audiodiagnosics, a combined public/private R&D team that designed a digital hearing aid and hearing assessment system

Political/Service Experience:

City Council member since October 2020

Public Safety Committee member

Park & Recreation Committee member

Why Are You Running In This Election?

I want to protect the common good. I'd like to help during the challenges Stoughton faces because of the pandemic; day-to-day struggles for fair treatment; diversity training; internet access; and industry, business, downtown, and housing issue. I'm running to continue my appointment on the Stoughton City Council and city committees for a two-year term. I have plans for new programs that I would like to see come to fruition. I'm also running because public service is a public responsibility; everyone who can should consider serving. Each of us can contribute our votes and our talents to our communities. We need public service now more than ever. As you're reading candidates' statements, I hope you discover something that inspires you to try a new role in your community. I'm running as a dedicated public servant, and I'll give it all I've got. One priority -- encouraging good people to run for office and finding ways to support them.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

Pandemic, climate change and environmental health, and day-to-day struggles for fair treatment

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

Increasing renewable sources of energy, restoration of the Yahara River, protecting city parks, and the consequences of municipal growth

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

I can help connect with city departments and community groups that focus on housing, city services, food, health, and education to be look for opportunities to improve. I can work with community members to review, streamline, and update processes to connect residents with city services efficiently. I identify and document key points in communication exchanges between city staff and constituents to look for process improvements. That idea is working well, especially for finding subtle gaps in communications. Highly talented, energetic, and dedicated people make our city departments and government work well. We also depend on actions by council committees, and citizen boards and commissions, to review specialized issues for council consideration.

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

I am active in two Stoughton volunteer groups who work tirelessly on this issue. We're learning from each other and reaching as many people as possible in our community. Along with other groups, city government connects residents with people who can help with racial inequality incidents. City leadership participates in community conversations about racial inequality. I can help distill ideas from those efforts into plans and proposals.

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

Stoughton volunteer groups of which I am a member focus on this issue and report outcomes. The chief of our police department and I serve together on the Public Safety Committee. I will

collaborate with the city committee and volunteer groups on this issue.

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?

Although I often attend biweekly Finance Committee meetings, I am just beginning to study the city budget. I would prioritize budget items that have direct impact on the safety and welfare of Stoughton residents. In discussions about the budget, I have heard few conversations about difficult decisions for cuts. More often I've heard about budget requests that may not be fulfilled.

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

It turns out that people I am delighted to endorse for public office and support for community leadership often turn out to have diverse voices. I believe we must elect people from all kinds of backgrounds to reach the level of diversity we want.

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

Public transportation programs that extend to the borders of Dane County and prioritize climate change are of special interest to me. I have more to learn about Stoughton's role in those plans before I address them.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?