

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Regina Vidaver
Madison Common Council, District 5
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Professional Experience:

Current: Section Chief, Chronic Disease Prevention & Cancer Control, WI Division of Public Health. Past: Program Manager, Wisconsin Research & Education Network; Executive Director, Free to Breathe (since merged with Lung Cancer Research Foundation); AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation; Scientific Programs Manager, Society for Women's Health Research

Political/Service Experience:

Member, Madison Food Policy Council, Healthy Retail Access Program, and Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group. Member, Madison Metropolitan School District Advanced Learning Advisory Committee. Board of Directors, Beth Israel Center.

Why Are You Running In This Election?

I'm determined to make Madison a place where everyone has the same opportunities that I do to live a healthy, fulfilling life. Unfortunately, that's not currently the case. We have vast disparities in educational attainment among our students of color. Too many Madison residents can't find affordable housing, or worse, are homeless. And we have to figure out how to move into the next, post-COVID economic phase of Madison, making sure

everyone has a seat at the conversation table. I look forward to the opportunity to serve my community with responsiveness to constituents, honor for the city, and a deep commitment to building and achieving equity among all our residents.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

The environment, the economy, and equity.

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

Protecting our lakes and wildlife.

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

I pledge to always look at issues through an equity lens. These questions will guide me: How can we ensure the policies we develop and implement are raising up those we've so often let down in the past? What levers are in our control to use? Whose voice needs to be at the table? How do we build trusting relationships?

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

We have to counter biases and perceptions with information, historical accuracy, and compassion. We need to identify policies and systems that result in racist outcomes and revise them so they truly serve the needs of our communities of color. We must invest resources - fiscal and human - in the areas most in need of building up.

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

I am committed to seeing through the hiring of a truly Independent Police Monitor, and ensuring sufficient resources are available to support that individual and the Civilian Oversight Board. I will support restorative justice practices, and am looking forward to progress in developing a Community Justice Center.

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?

The majority of Madison's budget is devoted to public health and safety, and public works and transportation. These priorities will need to remain as we continue our recovery. The city has, to date, done a great job of acquiring external funding, such as for transportation and the universal basic income pilot. I will support additional efforts to acquire outside funding, while closely examining opportunities for cost savings throughout the budget.

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

I have been part of multiple initiatives to engage varied voices in developing plans and priorities. I will proactively seek out community voices of those most affected by the policies and systems the council is considering, listen with humility and compassion, and incorporate those viewpoints into my decision making.

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

The Bus Rapid Transit system is a way to ensure greater equity in our hiring and employment practices, because more people who live in diverse parts of the city will have the ability to travel to a

larger variety of job opportunities. The BRT also will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus reducing Madison's contributions to climate change. Ensuring affordable, safe housing - that does not contribute to area gentrification - is within walking distance to transfer points will also be critical to the success of the system.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?

We will continue to need to invest in our public health system, not only as we recover from this pandemic, but as we prepare for the inevitable next one. Public Health Madison Dane County is exceptionally strong, but cannot remain so without continued support.