

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

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District 10
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Professional Experience:

System Admin, Data Analyst, Process Mapping & Financial Reporting

Political/Service Experience:

None

Why Are You Running In This Election?

I'm running for Madison Common Council, District 10 to secure the long-term health and safety of our community. Through collaboration and participatory budgeting, we can ensure all people have the resources to thrive. Data shows that safety can be achieved by ensuring people's basic needs are met. I strongly believe that 2020 & COVID-19 have brought us the opportunity to focus on issues that impact our community the most. I believe that as Puerto Rican, as a woman and as an advocate for people experiencing homelessness, I bring a different perspective to the table.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

My top issues are: Public health and safety, healthy communities are safe communities; a budget that invests in its people and ensures people's basic needs are met; and cross agencies collaboration that combines budgets and resources from the city,

county, state, and other federal and nonprofit agencies, and it is intentional in targeting the needs of our people.

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

- Prepare for more frequent “100-year floods.” In addition to implementing natural stormwater management techniques, Dane County must begin an immediate co-study with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources into how we can lower the lakes of the Lower Yahara Watershed back to their natural levels. Take seriously the Starkweather Creek water contamination cleanup and establish clear policies to prevent further and future damage to our lakes. And we must hold accountable the businesses that are the source of such contamination in the first place.
- Develop a People First Transportation policy that puts people before cars, prioritizing bus rapid transit options that favor buses over personal vehicles, ensuring easy bus accessibility to all Madisonian, including the disabled and elderly, and eventually expanding the State Street car-free zone to the entire isthmus when public transport works for everyone. Paving the way for free and/or reduced bus transit for Madison residents and a car-free isthmus Madison Metro workers must be supported by guaranteeing all new public transit jobs are union jobs.

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

I support a minimum wage of at least \$15/hour but will advocate for a minimum wage that meets the cost of living. Provide access to public transportation by supporting the rapid transit project and the revamping of current routes. Seek partnership with Madison College, workforce development nonprofits to provide

job training skills. I also see the need for affordable higher education and alternatives to college debt that lead to living wage jobs (apprenticeships, etc.)

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

Improve housing affordability by supporting combined income and multi purpose developments supplemented with the resources needed to thrive and that ensures people's basic needs are met such as rapid transit that provides access to jobs, medical needs, libraries, schools; access to healthy food choices; access to job training programs and community services. We need to evaluate market rate practices and work together to find ways to lower the cost of rent in Madison.

I am also committed to address the mental health crisis people are experiencing in the city, we had a crisis in our hands before the pandemic now the mental health impact has broadened the scope. Together we must ensure that we pass a budget that supports alternative emergency response services for mental health and we must collaborate with appropriate governmental and nonprofit agencies to end the mental health crisis.

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

I want to redefine the word safety!! Healthy communities are safe communities! We must work with Madison Dane County Public Health to finalize and implement a comprehensive violence prevention plan that: utilizes a public health approach to violence, focuses on prevention of violence before it occurs, encourages participation of those most impacted by the issues, support alternative emergency response services for mental health crisis

and collaborate with appropriate governmental and nonprofit agencies to address the needs of our people. These are effective and proven ways to achieve safety, we must invest in people.

We must hold each other accountable for our actions, processes & procedures. We work in a professional environment, and none of us as city employees should be exempt from auditory and/or oversight. I wholly support the police oversight board and the recommendations of the 2019 ad-hoc committee.

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?

Prioritize: First mental health crisis response system, followed by housing security and rapid transit Potential Cuts via redistributing departments to avoid layoffs but adjusting or reinventing the use of funds in areas such as the Henry Vilas Zoo, combined park resources and restructure the grant process

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

Diverse voices must be respected, their participation must be actively sought and a place at the table must be secured when discussing issues & solutions and making decisions that directly impact their communities.

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

Engage, participate and be a voice on the current discussions and decision making the city is having regarding Rapid Transit and bus routes reassessment. Communities within my district lack

access to adequate transportation to facilitate access to food, medical services, libraries and other essential needs. In partnership with the community, I will advocate for a process that puts the best interest of the people first.

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Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?