

**Dane Dems Questionnaire for Endorsement**  
**Submitted via Google Docs**  
**By Amani Latimer Burris**  
**Dane County Supervisor, District 12 Candidate**

1. **Candidate Name:** Amani Latimer-Burris
2. **Position Running For:** Dane County Board Supervisor - District 12
3. **Campaign Website:** [www.AmaniForWisconsin.com](http://www.AmaniForWisconsin.com)
4. **Professional Experience:** I work as a Legislative Aide in the Wisconsin State Senate. I started my career as a journalist and have been a small business owner with a depth of experience in law. I have been a life-long educator both in a professional and in a volunteer capacity.

**5. Political/Service Experience:**

Prior to working at the Capitol, I worked locally, statewide and on a national level on coalition building, grassroots outreach, in field operations and on issues advocacy for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW/WisDems), the Biden-Harris Campaign, the National Urban League, NAACP and for the Pete Buttigieg Presidential Campaign.

What I have learned from my experience working in the background of politics is that basic qualifications one needs for this job is an ability to read, write, speak, and hopefully think. I meet those basic qualifications. The bonus is that my experience as an Advocate and as a Mama calls for me to be a Uniter, which I have been my entire life.

I know that the depth and diversity of my experiences (lived, personal and professional) actually intersects or meets this moment.

**6. Why are you running in this election?** I'm running to serve. I'm running to do the hard work. I'm running to be part of the change we need and to be part of the solution we seek.

We are at a moment, highlighted by COVID-19 where most people realize that their lives matter and they are at stake.

It's demanded that WE, as individuals, manage the risks, absorb the cost, and be the solution. We are ones charged with making a difference.

We're at a period, if we do it right (considering all that we've been through, both individually and collectively) we can act upon the opportunity to work together to make true progress in and around the things that we, as individuals, care about and collectively impact us all.

The next generation wants to shift the balance of things, problem solve, be a part of the solution, take action and have a positive impact.

So in this moment we can not only do this together but when it is done in an inclusive, diverse and equitable manner we have the possibility of heading towards equality which is freedom. The thing we all seek.

The reality is to do this, we have to do something different. We have to operate with transparency, integrity, make conscious and committed decisions that go beyond politics and into the soul of the system that affects everyday people. You. Me. Us. All of us.

So as a Mama, my want for this goes beyond self, past evaluation, through activism and into advocating for solutions and resolutions that impact your life.

**7. What are the three most important issues in your race?**

All things COVID-19 and its consequences whether that is food, income, housing security; restarting and reviving small businesses and families (including caring for kids) or dealing with social justice issues and the health and safety of our environments. These are all priorities we have to work through.

Then, specific to District 12, we've got the PFAS/F-35 issue (which lands right in my house and an issue that the experts recognize will have a long-term, negative impact.

As a daughter, I got the impact of health care and aging with dignity and witnessed first-hand the shifts the pandemic has caused to our elders.

As a parent, I've been assessing how this will affect the wellness of our kids and the impact of their futures.

As a former journalist, teacher, and organizer I know my job is to reach out, listen, learn and advocate for inclusive solutions by asking a lot of questions and reaching back with information which often diversifies the possibilities.

**8. What are the largest environmental concerns you aim to deal with in office?**

We know that the correlated F-35/PFAS issues have an impact on our immediate and future environment and should be addressed. On a larger county-wide scale we should continue to address the future of energy possibilities, our water and related issues, the health of our environment, protecting our open spaces, and the impacts of development and growth.

I learned about carbon based energy, geothermal, solar, and other alternative energy forms, about 15 years ago,

directly, from my lived experience and realized back then back then that the future was immediately upon us upon us.

9. **How will you use your position to create more equitable opportunities and help those living in poverty?**

Sharing information and resources will be critical even if it does not impact me or I already know it. I will advocate on behalf of others and for things that people impacted by certain conditions say will make a difference, so we can connect the data with real life.

I will look for areas that we can support folks and where we can and need to make progress. I hope to be the person I was looking for when 2008 when the economic crisis hit and turned my life and the lives of so many others upside down.

Then, being raised by parents who were raised in Greenwood on what's become nationally-known as Black Wall Street, having a mother that was an entrepreneur and being a former small business owner, having that legacy of Greenwood, I realize as I the possibilities within supporting and growing small business and creating business opportunity zones.

So support, whether it is in the form of housing security or a COVID-19 relief grant, food assistance, TIF money or a incentivizing business or energy incentives is equally the same as it is a form of support, assistance or relief.

10. **How do we address racial inequality?** Address it by addressing it, not giving it lip-service. Walk the talk, go beyond taglines and talking points. Recognizing disparities and identifying problem areas, then facing them with real and actionable solutions. Standing up and saying this is what we are doing.

11. **How will you promote restorative justice and address abusive and racist practices by the police force?** Again, deal with it. Bring people together to address it, use the

data and data driven tools to highlight it and root it out; Listen to where folks say the problem is and involve and empower people to be a part of the solution.

**12. 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?**

We first have to deal with the things that are affecting all of us and crushing so many people trying to survive and get through this COVID-19 era. Then we can work on the things that come next including the issues that impact all of us that were underscored during the pandemic.

I also know that we have an opportunity to reach out and get feedback from the people who the budget represents.

We can also identify the areas where the impact has been less damaging or even positive and look at why that is. We are in this together whether we like it or not.

Businesses were closing at a staggering rate well before the pandemic, and unfortunately, COVID just accelerated it for some. We had just begun to tiptoe out of the Great Recession and look at the consequences of that. We may need to rebalance priorities to ensure people who are struggling are not left behind and those who are stable remain stable.

If you talk to the experts, they will tell you that we are in uncharted territory. As a person, I know we are interconnected and whatever impacts and lingers with one group of people eventually impacts the other. COVID-19 settled all doubt and highlighted this fact at the speed of light.

**13. 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 just done it. I try to make sure people feel heard, valued and included. It's something when I look back I have done all of my life. I suppose the roots of this are that I value diversity, inclusion, and look for things to be equitable. That is the lens of my life.

I have to give credit to my parents and the way I was raised. We were raised with the thought to see a person first. Not to be color blind so much as to just see people first. My parents fought for groups within and beyond themselves and tried to make sure people were included and felt valued. They coupled this with high expectations of everyone including themselves.

I know they probably got it from my grandparents and other extended family, who flourished under oppression in Tulsa, Oklahoma, also known as Black Wall Street. My grandparents suffered and were threatened during the early twentieth century, when they had the notion in the 1940's and 50's that, as restaurateurs and business owners, that anyone could and would be able to eat at their restaurants and businesses wherever they so liked. The view of community lived in the expectation of excellence, possibility, doing and being.

So I've worked on this "elevation concept" without thinking about it no matter if I was in government, teaching, a small business owner, a volunteer, working personally or professionally. I guess I was raised like that and was the kid who did not like for people to be excluded because I don't like being excluded myself.

So as an ambassador, if you will, it's my job to reach out, listen, and act upon information working collaboratively to get more people involved in the process and understand how the process affects them and what they can do about it and how they can be involved.

**14. What are the largest transportation issues you wish to work on and how will you address them?**

I don't have anything specific that I am driven to work on but look forward to working in collaboration with those who are and working within their expertise.

That said, I know that transportation is rapidly changing and what we lay out now affects the future just as the former Mayor, the County Executive, and many others (with the help of many others and the experts) laid out and advocated for the bike paths I believe 20 plus years before it became envogue.

**15. Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?**

No. Thank you for your time and consideration.