

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Julia Arata Fratta
Fitchburg Common Council Alder
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Professional Experience:

Manager in the Tax and Business Service Department at Wegner CPAs, (tax accountant and business consultant) for more than 16 years.

Political/Service Experience:

Alder for the City of Fitchburg since 2015.

President of the Fitchburg Common Council since April 2020

- Community Economic Development Authority Chair since 2017
- Finance Committee Chair
- Healthy Neighborhood Initiative Review Grant member
- Former member of Plan commission
- Co-host Spanish TV show produced by Fitchburg FACTv

Other notable affiliations:

- Madison Regional Economic Partnership: board member and Treasurer
- Overture Center Foundation, board member and Treasurer
- Latino Consortium for Action member
- Latino Professional Association
- NALEO: National Association of Latinos Elected Officials

Why Are You Running In This Election?

I am running for reelection because it has been an honor to represent and serve the people in District 2 for the last 6 years. I want to continue working on the vital issues facing our community. Also, because the City needs experienced, knowledgeable, responsible, and community engaged leaders like me to carry forward with new challenges like the Town of Madison annexation in 2022, flooding issues cause by climate changes, public transportation, and to make sure some projects that i embarked like the community park for under-resourced North Fish Hatchery, and the Inclusive Playground in McKee Park are carry forward.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

Town of Madison: The annexation is scheduled for 2022 and will absorb more than 1500 residents, old infrastructure, and neighborhoods with economic and social disparities.

HUB: I will continue working on the development of the HUB in the northern part of the city. This HUB will provide services and activities to underserved populations.

Housing: I support plans for workforce development housing (including the creation of rent-to-own initiatives) to help our neighbors in accessing to home ownership.

Resilient Infrastructure: I will support solutions to help solve flooding issues and develop resiliency infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Healthy Neighborhood Initiative: we must continue to promote healthy and safe neighborhoods that are built on this very successful initiative.

Our City needs alders with experience, knowledge, and dedication to address the challenges of our growing community. I have proven to be an effective, skilled, collaborative, and community-focused leader. I have the knowledge in areas of

finance, economic development, and management. I am eager to continue to serve our growing and diverse community.

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

Flooding in some areas of the city, specially in my district: South of McKee Park.

Infiltrations issues in Lake Barney and Goose Lake that will cost millions of dollars and resources to fix those problems. Those issues are triggered by the effects of climate change and affecting agricultural lands.

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

By introducing policies and resolutions targeted to those issues like by investing and championing community center for under-resourced North Fish Hatchery area (HUB project), supporting Teen Center, continuing investing and expanding the funds for the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative. Endorsing new housing pilot program (rent to own) to look for new solutions on how to promote ownership for first time homeowners. Looking for solutions to improve access to public transportation services in our City.

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

To establish and promote policies and practices that are intentional on addressing those issues. Local leaders should build a share understanding of the scope and drivers of racial disparities among our residents and neighborhoods. Elected officials must be committed to listening to the community, being accountable, and introducing actual changes. For example, promoting equity policies in the city planning, housing policies, etc. Another example, housing strategies like as a developer to allocate a % of

units to low-income households (mix income approach), while the rest of the units remain market rate. Or the new housing pilot program (currently under development) rent to own initiative. We should add a racial and gender lens to community development projects. Resources like affordable housing, schools, child care centers, health care services, healthy food, and transportation are critical to target racial inequalities.

Increase the supply and preservation of affordable homes, optimizing land use for affordable homes, ensuring access to and development of communities of opportunity.

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

It is critically important that Fitchburg residents are treated with dignity and respect in all interactions with law enforcement. As president of the Fitchburg Common Council, I lead our monthly Committee of the Whole Meetings, and in our July meeting, I invited Chief Brecklin to hear from the council to discuss his department's practices. FPD is committed to implementing all of the '8 Can't Wait' recommendations to fidelity. Furthermore, I am committed to our city investing in community-based solutions that prevent police contact in our most diverse neighborhoods through the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative, The Fish Hatchery Hub, and The Teen 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?

Prioritize people, and cut unnecessary costs or delay infrastructure or capital improvements like delaying replacement of vehicles, equipments, etc

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

By creating an inclusive environment and space to new ideas, listening, and working collaboratively with people that think differently than me. I like to support candidates that are eager to participate, bring new ideas to Council, think outside the box for solutions, have other live perspectives and experiences.

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

Metro Transit currently serves as the City of Fitchburg's only public transit provider. Currently 7 bus routes operate in the City of Fitchburg's boundaries in very inefficient and expensive way. City will not be able to fund in its next budget the new proposed fees increased for 2022 and it is looking for new solutions. There are a several variety of transit service options including: fixed bus service through Metro, fixed bus service through contractor, or shared-ride-taxi Service through contractor. The city should engage the community in the process using information obtained from public engagement meetings, existing and historic service, peer city service, and Metro transit route scenarios. The City can determine a short list of which combinations of options best serve residents of Fitchburg. I want to participate in this process and be intentional that we look with equitable lens on how to bring public transportation to the residents that most needed.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?