

Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

Nikki Conklin
City Council District 9
<https://www.nikki.vote/>

Professional Experience:

Political/Service Experience:

Why Are You Running In This Election?

As a community activist, mother, and deeply-rooted neighborhood leader, I have experienced first hand the issues that need tackling in this district. I believe district 9 needs a new, young, fresh face to represent the members of the community and what better person than myself, then a person living, working, and raising her children in the neighborhood.

What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?

Equity and Justice, Quality affordable housing and safety for all

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

Increase energy efficiency and incorporate rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable pavement into new developments

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

I believe The Housing First program is a great concept for those experiencing homelessness. Getting folks into housing first and then dealing with the root issues that may have got them in that position, but also securing the place to live, can push folks to want to go get a job, get their education, or address the issue they may be dealing with. Helping to break down the stigma around mental health issues.

How Do We Address Racial Inequality?

Recognize it and deal with your own biases. Bring it to the forefront. Address folks and educate them on the racial inequality. Break down the barriers around racial inequality.

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

Advocating for more community funded programs. Investing in our youth, empowering and engaging them to want to do better. I know the importance of community building and engagement. Statics show that if you invest in your community the crime rate will go down. Investing in the youth who are our future will help our communities to thrive.

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?

I would prioritize Community Building and engagement programs, because I know the importance of being involved in programs like that. I have been involved in programs like that, and if I wasn't I wouldn't be here fighting for my seat at the table to be

heard. I would shift funding from the police, and move it towards mental health advocacy.

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

I elevate diverse voices by using my own voice as power, and the more voices we have the more power we have. I will continue to be open-minded, understanding and listen closely to others, even if I don't agree, it is important to know that someone listened to you, to understand you, just not to reply to you.

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

Making the transit electric, rapid and accessible to all. Supporting the RTS (Rapid Transit System) and getting it implemented as soon as possible.

Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?

I think we have covered most of my top priorities.