

# Dane County Democratic Party Candidate Questionnaire

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## **Professional Experience:**

I have a degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My professional experience is a compilation of government, community outreach, and the private sector focusing around financial, community services, and legal services.

## **Political/Service Experience:**

I have served as Alder District 14 for since 2015. I collaborated the development of the Commercial Ownership Assistance Program to assist minority owned businesses. I have worked on 3 City budgets and several committee initiatives during my tenure racial equity, racism as a public health crisis, supporting violence prevention division within PHMDC and Focus Interruption Coalition that works to reduce violence in the City, increasing affordable housing fund, and supporting small business on State Street and the creation of the Small Business Equity Recovery (SBER) fund. I have served the community for over 20 years in various outreach positions. I was the President/Chair of South Metropolitan Planning Council where I assisted neighborhoods or individuals access to additional public and private entity services.

## **Why Are You Running In This Election?**

I am running for re-election to continue my efforts to improve transportation for residents who live outside of the isthmus to be

able to get to employment hubs/centers in a reasonable travel time; my focus will be on South Madison routes to the east, west, and north. This area is currently taking 2 hours to arrive at the many employment centers we have in the area. This travel time adversely affects low-income residents as they navigate childcare and employment. In addition, I will continue to support affordable housing supporting our efforts in the 2021 budget to increase the affordable housing fund to over 1 million. Next, I will advocate for affordable housing inventory and diversify housing options for low-income individuals and families.

### **What Are The Three Most Important Issues In Your Race?**

Public Transit is vital to our City for the following reasons: Preferred by younger urban workforce; Allows the City to be able to compete with other similar metropolitan areas; and improve transit services to underserved neighborhoods who utilize public transit at a higher percentage than other sectors. It is essential we continue to increase our Affordable workforce housing inventory and diverse housing options is a priority. For many years, the voices for reform have been clear regarding re-envisioning public safety. I am committed to re-visioning what public safety looks like today and in the future. I am currently working with a team on creating the CRT a model similar to Portland's Cahoots model and there are other implementation we can do to create equity and respect both internally and externally.

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

I am concerned with any environmental agents that contaminate our waters, water systems, and air. These are the elements that preserve life and affect the food we consume, and our mental wellness.

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

Creating opportunities to become entrepreneurs, adult training programs, and affordable housing in Madison. Investing in organizations that provide services that up lift individuals and families from poverty to sustainability.

### **How Do We Address Racial Inequality?**

You must address racial inequality directly by educating employers, employees, and educators. This will be a collaborative effort with the public and private sector and a commitment that will transition to each level.

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

As a minority leader in our community, I am an advocate and full supporter of restorative justice and we should expand the current program. I incorporated the values of restorative justice in my health community's presentation. We must embrace alternatives to incarceration to have equity in our nation.

### **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 our core services that our residents expect and deserve. Of course, I would have to see what is on the table however, any projects that we can move to the horizon will lessen the deficit.

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

I will continue to elevate diverse voices by outreach and informing residents through public engagement and bringing their concerns to the table where policies are made.

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

I have worked on improving public transportation routes to get residents to employer hubs in the fastest time intervals. Whether we get the BRT or not public transportation improvements are needed especially south to west, south to far east, and vice versa.

**Any Other Issues/Topics You Wish To Discuss?**