

# Dane Dems Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for seeking an endorsement from the Dane County Democratic Party. You do not need to answer all of the questions below, but please answer all of the ones you feel are pertinent to your campaign. We will ask more detailed questions and followups during our interview, if we choose to have one, so feel free to answer these questions as briefly or thoroughly as you desire. These answers will be shared in full with our membership before they vote on your endorsement.

Email \*

Amani@AmaniForWisconsin.com

Candidate name \*

Amani Latimer Burris

Position you are running for (include municipality) \*

District 12 Alder, City of Madison

Campaign website

www.AmaniForWisconsin.com

## Professional Experience \*

Advising Assistant to Dr. Opal Lee, the Nobel Peace Prize Nominated Social Rights Advocate who is known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth as she was key to ushering Juneteenth (Freedom Day) as the 11th Federal Holiday. Prior to working for Lee, I worked for Senator Taylor at the Wisconsin State Senate.

I started my career as a journalist, am a former small business owner and am a life-long educator.

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## Political/Service Experience \*

Political/Service Experience: I have worked in policy development, on issues advocacy, coalition building, grassroots outreach, systems management, business development and communications for a number of different factions on a local, state and national level including the City of Madison Elections, Democratic Party of Wisconsin, NAACP and the National Urban League. Currently I am a Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Dane County. I also serve on the Dane County Airport Commission. Service Experience: HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Educator/Advisor); Madison Black Chamber (Advisor); Community Access Television (Board Member); Above the Clouds and Willa Brown Aviation Foundation (Volunteer); City of Madison Affirmative Action (communications consultant); Women in Focus (Outreach & Scholarship Support); City of Madison's Goodman Pool/Shelley Glover Foundation (Lead Volunteer)

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## Why are you running for this seat? \*

As one of Madison's most diverse districts in the city, the decisions we make right now will deeply impact and affect our neighborhood and effectively the larger community.

In this diversity of people, places and neighborhoods within District 12, we truly represent the future of Madison, what that looks like and the issues that need to be addressed together. This values input, involvement and integrity and can transform people and places when it is done within transparency.

I know it will be a lot of work, with difficult challenges, and in a de facto environment. That said, I will be honored to do the work as I care about community and value diversity, and I look to be equitable and inclusive.

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

It's easy to say Economic Development, Environmental Toxins, and DEI, or Housing, Public Safety and BRT.

What is not easy is to work through the real issues that have to be worked through, to get through differences authentically and in a transparent and accountable way. This takes communicating, listening and hearing, self-reflection, avoiding discounting something because you haven't experienced it, disagree or don't anything know about it, or because it includes voices of dissent.

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

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

If equitable opportunities means a freedom from bias then we can seek to understand or learn more about what's needed, what the experience is like, what the barriers are and what could be realistic or possible solutions to overcome this. When we have this base knowledge then we can mix it in with the data, try it and measure the results. Then we can advocate for that, communicate, share information, get input and resources. Repeat.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

We have to just continue to work on it. It has to be worked on over the ages as in my opinion, race and economics drive most things and is often erroneously conflated.

How will you promote restorative justice and address racially biased policing?

I think we can work to continue making it a priority, look for and implement solutions.

Help people understand their role as community members, work with and promote community navigators, community check-ins, look for ways to help people to get to know one another, collaborate, actively problem solve combined with a high level of accountability and support. It is not going to be left up to one person.

How will you improve the public health of our community in your position?

By working on some serious environmental factors that ultimately affect a person's health, it could be the physical environment, mental health environment, racial, economic, access, greenspace, etc. There are so many different factors combined that add in or subtract from the health of our shared community.

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

People being able to move across the streets safely. In certain areas around the neighborhood, it is dangerous getting across the street. This affects all sorts of people using all sorts of transportation methods. I would look at what has been done to address it and what else could we do.

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 advocated for people whenever I have had the chance. I have done this whether from the background or in the forefront. For example, in 2019, I thought it was a good idea for the elected leaders to specifically attend a variety of events, buy tables, and invite other people to attend with them. I went out of my way to share this idea, tell them about my experience and its impact and specifically made it my business to suggest it, advocate for it through sharing.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

No. Thank you for doing this work.

