

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 *

info@barbaramckinney4madison.com

Candidate name *

Barbara Harrington-McKinney

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Alder District 20

Campaign website

www.facebook.com/AlderBarbMcKinney/

Professional Experience *

Current Executive Administrator, Christ the Solid Rock Church
 Former Associate Director, Madison-area Urban Ministry (JustDane)
 Former Adjunct Instructor, Edgewood College, Community Restorative Justice Instructor
 Former Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
 Dane County Restorative Justice Facilitator. Volunteer Experience:
 Circle of Support Trainer
 Grief Support Facilitator

Political/Service Experience *

Elected 2015, Alder District 1

Why are you running for this seat? *

I have unfinished business in District 20. We face challenging times. Madison is ranked as one of the best places to live. City stated values are equity, civic engagement, well-being, shared prosperity and stewardship. Approved 2023 Capital Budget \$376.5 million; \$382.3 million Operating Budget; estimated \$80 million in Federal BRT funding; \$400 million Federal Funding, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Mayor stated "this budget puts our money where our values are". Why unfinished business....Madison is listed as having the worst racial disparities in education, incarceration, income, and employment. As we look deeper and take a closer look into the Madison way, advocates what to help "save" the poor under represented people (usually people of color). Create spaces where community voices are heard and focus on what residents says matters to them: public safety, quality services at an affordable cost, housing, employment opportunities and for community voices actually to be heard in city government. I am a fighter for the people of Southwest Madison. I am a seasoned community organizer. I have a strong track record of inclusiveness, connecting and engaging people around issues that matter to them. I am running because I believe by working together we will continue to move Madison forward into becoming the best place to live where all people have the opportunity to thrive.

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

Expansion of Public Safety: Everyone should feel safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods; Affordable Workforce Housing & Homeownership; Land Use and Transportation; Economic Development and Sustainable Living Wage.

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

Reducing the City's Carbon Footprint, Clean Water, Clean Air, Stormwater Management.

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

I believe we are far from being a City that works for everyone. I will engage in active listening and demonstrate a commitment that all voices matter. Schedule regular opportunities to be present in the community to assess the well-being of those living in poverty. Holding the city accountable in all decision making through an equity lens that ensures that city operations and resources being fairly accessible and provide opportunities to have equal outcomes for all. I understand public policy decisions, the importance of experience and institutional knowledge, but carried out with a clearly defined process to support why and for whom our decisions impact most. I care about people and I care about our City. I will continue to stimulate public engagement to ensure that the city is operating within a community where all people will have the opportunity to thrive.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

When it becomes apparent, I will name it and seek pathways for restoration. My method would be to identify the what happened, identify who was harmed and work toward agreements to restore any harm. My methodology is to call people in vs calling them out.

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

As a member of the westside alders, we met regularly with our West District Captain to better understand what was happening in the West District. It was voluntary and one westside Alder chose not to participate, but we met regularly. I am trained as a restorative justice facilitator both for Dane County, YWCA and MMSD. The Restorative Justice circle was/is very effective. I would use the Restorative Justice as described above. During my work at Madison-area Urban Ministry (Just-Dane) I trained volunteers to work with those returning from prison with Circles of Support. Our Circles were well sought out and facilitated circles within many prisons within the Wisconsin Prison System,

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

I will continue to follow the logic model of social determinants of health. These are the conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, worship and age, Under this umbrella is health equity, health disparities, economics, and vulnerable populations. I would work with one of the workgroups already established by Public Health. SDOH are people/person centered and are nonmedical factors: housing, transportation and poverty; its significant impact on one's quality of life. That is why it is so critically important to always look through the lens of equity when making city-wide decisions. It becomes critical that we have an understanding of how social interactions impact ones health. Every decision made by city processes must be screened through the public health lens. All this matters: economic stability, education access and quality neighborhoods and the environment as well as the context of social and community interactions. This is exactly how I would improve public health in my community as the Alder of District 20.

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

Accessible public transportation is essential for those who are transant dependent. We cannot assume everyone can walk to a BRT station for a bus that is intentionally more frequent and direct, but has limited stops and a smaller service area. The new network with increased distance to the bus stop can cause major concerns for transit dependent bus riders with limited mobility and the elderly. Madison is a growing city and accessibility to our transit system is important. This is were the equity questions surface: does the current BRT route reach the communities of greatest need? Ridership vs coverage. We can make projections, but we really cannot make a documented assessment until the first route is operationalized and analyzed. As we move toward BRT it is critical that we do not lose site of the importance of the view through an equity lense really is. Tradeoffs were expected: coverage vs frequency. routing, accessibility - the goal is to move people where they need to go. There are many benefits of using public transportation vs driving our personal car. Certainly cheaper; definitely reduces the city's carbon footprint. Trade-offs: accessibility and convenience, average commute time, connectivity of the route, accessibility to job centers.

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 speak out and be well prepared for public discourse. Be prepared. Read the agenda items, , consent agenda. understand what is being voted on, understand its impact on my district, its impact on the city. Well prepared - communication with staff and connect with other concerned interest groups. If after such preparation I am ready to vote..I vote. If I am emphatic about my YEA or my NAY...I vote. If I need additional information or something just does not fit, I abstain. In my career as an Alder, I allowed myself to be coerced into a vote that I knew was wrong, I committed.....never again! There was only one Alder who stood by his convictions ... standing alone, he voted NO. That is who I will be as District 20 Alder.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

Our failing students. But that discuss is deeper than we are prepared for, Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Questionnaire to WisconsinDems.

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