

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 *

bill.jetzer@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Bill Jetzer

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

City Council / Alder, Fitchburg, District 2, Seat 3

Campaign website

billforfitchburg.org

Professional Experience *

Information Technology and Consulting, 27 years

Political/Service Experience *

First time running for office

Why are you running for this seat? *

The current office holder is not seeking re-election, and I want to make sure that her successor a like-minded progressive.

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

Climate change, equity, city planning.

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

The two biggest contributors to climate change are personal transportation and residential energy use. I will push for updated thermal performance standards for new buildings, electrification of buildings (heat pumps rather than fossil-burning furnaces), low embodied carbon building materials with safe disposal paths, and an end to sprawling car-dependent developments and road expansion.

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

I will promote infill development of mixed-use buildings and walkable/bikeable neighborhoods. By putting people next to places, our residents are freed from the burden of car ownership. The city then has lower per-capita infrastructure expenses which translates to a lower per-capita tax levy. I will also promote increased access to convenient public transportation.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

Our school systems fail our black and brown students. The achievement gap between black and white students in Madison's schools is one of the highest in the country. In educational settings, representation matters. Studies have shown that having black teachers in elementary school can reduce high school dropout rates by nearly 40%.

I also strongly support the proposed Verona Road West Teen Center.

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

I am in favor of automated traffic control systems. There are many benefits: enforcement is not selective, no contact is made between police and drivers, fewer police officers are required so some of the budget can go toward the hiring of mental health professionals who are trained to de-escalation.

We must end selective enforcement of the law. Studies have shown that white people commit crimes at the same rate as black people. Yet somehow in WI, where 6% of us are black, 46% of our prison population is black. No state has imprisoned a higher percentage of its black population than WI, where 1 in 36 black adults is behind bars.

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

I am a strong advocate for car-free living. When you can walk or roll to your destinations you naturally get more exercise as well as outdoor/nature time, both of which contribute to your physical and mental well-being. Walkable neighborhoods, automated traffic control systems, road diets, and a well-connected bike trail system reduce car traffic, which is a major contributor to air pollution as well as dementia.

I am also a proponent of masking in crowded indoor spaces.

Getting more exercise, masking in public, and getting people out of cars reduces the incidence of most of the 10 leading causes of death in WI: Heart Disease, Cancer, Covid 19, Accidents, Respiratory Disease, Alzheimer's, Diabetes, Flu/Pneumonia.

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

Our largest transportation issue is that so much of it is required. Fitchburg, like nearly all cities in the US, is sparsely populated and much of our land has been consumed by sprawling subdivisions that are so far from city services, retail, and employment that a car is required for nearly every trip.

Our citizens' health as well as that of the planet demands that we travel less. I will promote denser development patterns and mixed-use buildings so that people simply don't need a car to run errands.

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

While I think it's great that city meetings are open to the public and our city's residents can provide commentary, that commentary is almost never representative of the majority opinion. Far too often a vocal minority can obstruct or stall a project that benefits a much larger number of people. I would love to explore ways in which the actual will of the people can be accurately gauged.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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