

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 *

bradhinkfuss@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Bradley Hinkfuss

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

City of Madison Alder, District 15

Campaign website

<https://sites.google.com/view/brad4madison>

Professional Experience *

I have worked in the world of affordable housing and services to the homeless and marginalized populations for over 20 years. I currently serve as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization that provides housing and supportive services to over 200 formerly homeless individuals and families. Prior to this position, I worked as Director of Operations for an organization that provided shelter and services for victims of domestic abuse. Taking another step back, I served as the Project Manager and Director of Operations for another organization that ran the Homeless Men's Drop-In Shelter, among many other programs.

On a professional level, I have direct experience with the many aspects of running an organization, interface with the public on contentious issues, navigating public process in the execution of projects, staffing, and budgeting.

Political/Service Experience *

Much of my professional career has involved a strong element of service. There has also been strong tie-ins to the political side of issues, such as housing, homelessness, utility rates, zoning, police response, and many other things. My experience has had a strong political component to it insofar as it has frequently involved work with elected officials and public employees.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I care deeply about the east side of Madison and the City of Madison. In particular, I feel that I understand and can advocate for underserved and marginalized populations. Also, I've been involved locally for over 20 years of living, have been involved in many successful projects & issues, and feel that I can achieve even more for the people and the district as an alder.

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

First, the district is experiencing significant growth and development pressures that require an alder who can keep residents informed and facilitate their involvement in local development.

Second, there are twin crises of housing supply and affordability that are reaching intolerable levels for many residents and would-be residents.

Third, development pressures must be balanced with the commitment to protect our natural resources, including things such as water quality, tree canopy, parks, and air quality.

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

First, there are significant water quality issues as it relates to contamination of the wells that service the area, as well as PFAS in the watershed that runs through the district.

Second, increasing the amount and the role of green space in promoting a healthy urban environment.

Third, noise pollution as it relates to air & auto traffic.

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

City resources and policy must be aligned to create truly available housing and support options that meet the basic needs of those in poverty. Only through meeting basic needs first can people move on to take to take advantage of opportunities and goals for many other things in life, such as education, employment, and recreation.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

All city policy must be examined through the lens of racial inequality to determine how it may have historically or currently contributed to racial inequality. Those policies must not only be undone, but proactive steps must also be taken to better support those who have been treated unequally in the past.

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

There are some excellent restorative justice programs afoot in the local system. Those programs must receive steadfast support from the City of Madison.

Racially biased policing must be held to account based on real numbers and regular review of results in terms of arrests, detentions, and incarcerations. Appropriate and assertive training must be used to help craft the police force that we want to see, not just what we have today.

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

Public health is often best improved by fostering improvements in many other aspects of the community, such as secure housing, well-supported schools, access to quality food, and opportunities to exercise outdoors in readily available public spaces. When areas such as these thrive, so does public health.

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

The volume of auto traffic is a major concern in terms of pollution, noise, safety, and lost time. This will can be best addressed not by widening roads in most cases, but by providing viable alternatives. An excellent example is the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that Madison is currently implementing. Such a system can help alleviate all of the concerns listed above.

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 a long history of elevating the voices and concerns of the homeless and mentally ill in the context of local government. I have done this most directly through my work with homeless shelters and supportive housing. I have advocated for more appropriate and effective means of providing shelter and housing that help address the underlying causes of homelessness.

My experience and knowledge can prove invaluable in considering new public policies and approaches to addressing such perennial issues.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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