

# 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 \*

campaign@charlesmyadze.com

Candidate name \*

Charles Myadze

Position you are running for (include municipality) \*

Madison City Council District 18

Campaign website

charlesmyadze.com

Professional Experience \*

I am a proud member of the United Steelworkers for over 25 years. I am a Union Steward as well. I have worked third shift for much of my career while raising my three kids. I view raising my kids as the toughest, yet most rewarding job, I have ever had. I am the only union member to currently sit on the Madison City Council and bring a unique perspective of how policy impacts working families to our discussions.

**Political/Service Experience \***

I was elected to the Madison City Council in 2021 with 55% of the vote. On the Council, I am serve on the Alcohol License Review Committee, the City-County Liaison Committee, the Education Committee, the Transportation Commission and the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Subcommittee. I am a member of the Dane County NAACP where I serve as the Community Coordinator and on the Criminal Justice committee. This fall, I joined with fellow Democrats to work hard to re-elect Governor Evers and Attorney General Kaul as well as Democrats up and down the ticket.

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

I am running for re-election because, while we have made progress on important issues for my district and the City during my first term on the council, there is so much more to do. We cannot turn back now. Looking ahead, we must continue to move the Raemisch Farm project forward, leverage TIF to create more affordable housing, fight for equity and access in Madison's public transportation system, protect the environment and special places on the Northside, and make Madison and our neighborhoods safer. I look forward to doing my part in ensuring Madison lives up to our ideals and is the outstanding place to live, work, play, and raise a family we know it can be.

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

Housing, public safety, and public transportation.

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

PFAS and protecting Cherokee Marsh

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

On the council, I have fought hard to ensure that non-traditional voices are heard when it comes to city debates on development, transportation, and other public policy. The Northside, where I live and serve, is often left behind when it comes to economic development, housing, job opportunities, and city services. I will not stop fighting for better transit services for our Northside. The voices of people of color, people with disabilities, and all those whose day-to-day lives depend on public transportation must be heard when making decisions. I have also worked hard on improvements to infrastructure and roads in my district including the rebuilding of the Troy Drive Railroad Bridge and improvements to Knutson Drive.

### What will you do to address racial inequality?

We must close the gap in home ownership. Buying my first home was a gamechanger for me and for my family. We must build more housing that is affordable to a variety of our residents. That is why I am such a strong supporter of the Raemisch Farm project. We must build trust between our police and communities of color. That is why I am such a strong proponent of body-worn cameras.

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

We need to rebuild trust and promote greater transparency between our police department and the residents it serves. Again, we witnessed the murder of a black man, Tyre Nichols in Memphis, in which Body Cam footage has proven to be indispensable. I will continue to work tirelessly to see that they are put into use City-wide. The Bodycam pilot on the Northside, which I helped get approved after many delays, is a start. I supported the addition of community officers in the 2023 budget. We must have a well-trained, culturally competent police force. We must also continue to invest in violence prevention, social services, and mental health services that help keep communities safe.

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

I am a leader in supporting programs that help closing gaps in health outcomes. I support better housing for all, have helped created a summer youth employment program, and helped bring early childhood education program to the East Side Community Center.

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

Equity and accessibility are the key issues when it comes to the redesign of the metro routes and Bus Rapid Transit. As I said in a previous answer, I will not stop fighting for better transit services for our Northside. The voices of people of color, people with disabilities, and all those whose day-to-day lives depend on public transportation must be heard when making decisions.

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

I bring my diverse voice – as the Council's only Union member, as a single parent, and as a black man – to every issue I speak on. I work with communities of color throughout my district to help inspire and elevate their participation in our City.

### Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

I am a Democrat, standing with other Democrats, fighting for fairness, equity, and inclusion. I am the only working union member on the Council. I am a leader as a person of color, bringing my lived experience to every decision I make and to every issue that comes before the Council. A diverse City Council is essential if we are going to make actual progress closing racial gaps in housing, education, employment, home ownership, health care, and the criminal justice system. I would be honored by the Dane Dems endorsement.

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