

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 *

davy@votedavy.com

Candidate name *

Davy Mayer

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Alder, District 6, Madison

Campaign website

<https://votedavy.com>

Professional Experience *

Web Operations Manager / Project Manager, UW-Madison (Wisconsin Icecube Particle Astrophysics Center)

Political/Service Experience *

Current Vice-President, SASY Neighborhood Association, Former President and Vice-President, Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc., Current member, Downtown Coordinating Committee, Former member, South Central Transit-Oriented District Committee, Former member, Ad Hoc Library Mall Public Art Committee, Former member, Ad Hoc Downtown Restroom Committee, Chief Inspector and poll worker at Ward 53 for last twelve years, Line lieutenant, Dane County 2020 Presidential Election Recount, Atwoodfest Festival Planning Committee

Why are you running for this seat? *

I have been closely involved with neighborhood organizations for twenty years. When I lived downtown I was a longtime board member of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. and vice-president and president over a six-year span. During that time I served on neighborhood development oversight committees for over thirty development proposals, making good projects better and opposing the handful that were incompatible with the neighborhood or zoning.

I am now vice-president of the SASY Neighborhood Association and have continued to work to make my neighbors' voices heard by city leaders. I'm running for alder because I believe my experience as a neighborhood advocate and involvement in the development process will make me effective in this position to guide the growth of District 6. I've spent a long time behind the scenes working on issues like development, zoning, transportation and greenspaces and I now want to help my district and this city in a broader capacity.

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

1. The dire need for housing (rental and owner-occupied), especially affordable housing.
 2. Growing mass transit (bus / bike / Amtrak) and making the network usable to all communities in Madison.
 3. Environmental concerns. Both efforts to fight climate change locally via reduction of the use of fossil fuels, as well as improving quality of life by increasing the urban tree canopy and green spaces.
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What are the largest environmental concerns you aim to deal with in office?

1. Ensuring city well water is safe from PFAS and other contaminants.
2. Protecting and growing our urban tree canopy.
3. Encouraging new developments to incorporate green components such as solar panels for electricity and water-heating, EV charging stations, permeable surfaces for run-off.
4. Flooding prevention and mitigation. The flooding of 2018 could happen again. We need to work with the county for better lake management and disaster planning in preparation for a repeat event.

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

Two of my top priorities are more affordable housing and an improved bus network – these can go a long way in improving people’s lives and helping them move out of poverty. We need more affordable housing close to employment centers or on bus lines so that people can live without the expense of a car. I support the recent passage of Transit-Oriented Districts as a way to accomplish these goals by increasing density along BRT lines.

We also need to work on a pathway to home-ownership so that people can build equity and don’t pay landlords their entire lives.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

I will strive to do everything I do as alder through the lens of equity. I support the city’s efforts to combat racial inequality, including the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative.

Madison has long standing issues with equity and racial inequality. We have been stuck in a cycle of studying these issues but have not done enough to take concrete actions to address these issues with policy changes. As alder, I will prioritize affordable housing so all of our neighbors can afford to live in Madison. Madison PD had extensive policy and procedure review from the OIR group with over 100 recommendations. I will work to implement these recommendations so we can take steps to move reform forward. Also, many times our neighbors who are affected by the city policies don’t have a seat at the table because there are barriers to involvement in city government. I will work to represent everyone in my district and in the community regardless of if they have the time to be involved as deeply as some others are. I plan to regularly meet with and elevate the positions of those who have been working hard on our equity challenges so we continue to make progress to become the community we deserve to be.

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

I support the work of the Police Civilian Oversight Board. I will work with them and their ongoing recommendations to reform the Madison Police Department and rebuild trust with the community.

Again, we have had the OIR report for five years now but have been slow to implement its findings.

We need to expand the CARES program to provide appropriate responses to those experiencing mental health crises. Police are not equipped to be mental health advocates or social workers, and the last thing these folks in crisis need is a response by uniformed and armed police officers.

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

I will work to limit and contain the spread of PFAS and other contaminants that threaten our groundwater and wells. I will encourage the use of terraces for private gardens and public spaces for community gardens so that people have a reliable source of inexpensive fresh produce. My district is bordered on two sides by lakes. I will work with the county's efforts to clean up our lakes, keep our beaches open and work to mitigate future flooding. My commitment to transportation alternatives means decreasing vehicles powered by fossil fuels and thus a reduction in air pollution.

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

I am optimistic that Bus Rapid Transit will deliver on its promises. If it proves to be successful, we must push to expand the initial route to the B and C routes that have been planned. Similarly, we need to evaluate the Metro Redesign to ensure that it provides equitable access to all communities that rely on it and we need to be responsive to change it where needed.

I have lived my entire life in Madison without owning a car. While it can be difficult at times, I've lived on or near bus routes and bike paths, and have taken jobs that allow me to commute without a car. I want to work hard to make this lifestyle available to more people. There will always be those families who must have a car, but we can work to make transportation "alternatives" into primary modes for more people. Reducing the number of privately-owned cars on our roads has both an environmental impact but also a potential fiscal impact by limiting the need for new roadways and repair work long term and addressing our addiction to road construction and pavement.

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

As a Chief Inspector at Ward 53, I work hard to ensure that all eligible voters are able to register and vote. Both young voters and senior citizens often have a hard time with either proof of residence needed for registration or valid Voter ID. I am proud to say that we very rarely need to turn anyone away after helping them figure out what qualifying materials they have access to and getting them through the process, or at least helping them to vote provisionally.

As alder, I will work on outreach to various community organizations and groups in my district to ensure that they all have access to me and can rely on me to help them with the issues that concern and impact them.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

As alder I will place a priority on constituent services. The alder is often a first-line of contact for day-to-day issues like trash collection, parking concerns and permitting issues. I will use my project management background to triage, track and follow up on inquiries I receive from my neighbors to make sure they get the necessary service from the relevant city department.

I'm offering a new vision for District 6. We have built an amazing city where people want to live, but we have NOT done enough to accommodate the influx of new residents at a detrimental cost to them and to those who already live here. We MUST build and we must make Madison a place that welcomes all and does not price out people who are integral members of our city.

Thank you for the opportunity to petition for your endorsement!

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