

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 *

Isadore.knox@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Isadore Knox, Jr.

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

District 14 Madison Common Council

Campaign website

sites.google.com/view/electisadore/home

Professional Experience *

35 plus years experience in Wisconsin and Dane County Government as a Equal Opportunity/Diversity manager.
Equal Opportunity Manager, Dane County Office of Equity & Inclusion-2016-2018
Director of Dane County Office of Equal Opportunity-2000-2016
Asst. Affirmative Action Officer/ Contract Compliance Officer-WI.DHFS-1998-2000
Administrative Officer 1, WI. Dept. of Administration -1989-1998
Equal Opportunity Specialist, WI. Dept. of Natural Resources-1985-1989
Correctional Officer Supervisor/Lieutenant, WI. Dept. of Health & Social Services-1982-1985

Political/Service Experience *

District 13, Alder. Madison Common Council. 2005-2007. Police Citizen's Oversight Board, 2020-2023. Destination District Taskforce 2020-2023. South Metropolitan Planning Council. Southside Raiders Football & Cheerleading, Inc.

Why are you running for this seat? *

My main reason is to represent the interests and be a voice for the residents of the district 14 neighborhoods and the City. My priorities include responsive city services, public safety accountability, accessible transportation services, increasing affordable and numerous housing options, promoting neighborhood enhancement initiatives, and supporting economic development, employment opportunities and senior and youth services.
I believe I have the government experience, demonstrated community commitment and the civic leadership required to be an effective alder.

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

1. Increasing home ownership and affordable housing options. 2. Increasing business development and employment opportunities. 3. Ensuring responsive and accountable city services.

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

Ensuring that industry is doing all it can to reduce carbon emissions, that businesses and citizens are doing all they can to protect the environment(recycling) and promote priorities to protect our lakes from run off pollutants.

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

I will support job training and educational funding to help people develop job skills and find work. I would also support programs that assist with supportive services such as transportation, childcare services, housing assistance, food and clothing support. Increasing household income is the path out of poverty. The city should create jobs for youth interns, so they can also be gainfully employed and better plan a path for future employment.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

The city has already initiated racial equity programming through out city government. Staff must put into practice anti-racial behavior and anti discriminatory polices that ensure equity. I have been a diversity and equity manager for over 30 years. I will continue to be an advocate against racial inequality and promote polices and resources that address discriminatory outcomes.

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

I will support restorative justice methods where the perpetrator of an infraction can understand the harm they have caused to the victim and the community. Based on this understanding, remorse and restitution, the perpetrator can have a lesser penalty and the victim can be made whole. I will continue to participate in the process as a peace maker and advocate for the expansion of the program.

I support a procedural justice model where police treat people with dignity and respect, are given a voice, that ensures decisions are neutral and transparent and motives are based on trust. I believe this must be the model that new and existing officers should be trained. Officers should continued to be trained in unconscious bias, and cross cultural communication. But more importantly officers who receive substantiated complaints of being racially biased, should be disciplined accordingly, following due process procedures. I also support community policing where respectful relationships can be developed between diverse residents and the police by involving the police in community activities and ensuring they become familiar with the community and interacting positively with them.

I am currently a member of the Police Citizens Oversight Board. I promote police accountability and responsibility, advocate for police reform, and support investigative and oversight responsibilities regarding police procedures and activities. As alder I will continue to support and participate on this important board, even though I will not be able to vote as a member.

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

I will support policies and funding to address public health disparities, particularly in poor, disadvantaged, communities. I will also do what I can to communicate to my constituents, regularly regarding community public health concerns. I will also encourage community partners to provide education and resources at community events to keep the community well aware of public health issues.

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

It is vitally important that the bus routes become more accessible to the neighborhoods and run on a timely basis, especially at peak hours. It is also important that the bus routes effectively get to major commercial, retail and employment centers, and park and rides at the convenient times for workers and customers.

But the most important priority for the future will be funding, especially for the implementation of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit proposal. Affordability, accessibility and customer service are critical to increased ridership. We need to ensure that we have a contingency plan, if the anticipated federal funding in the future does not get allocated. Where will this revenue come from to continue the project. Will it require a special transit tax, an additional user fee or require higher cost for ridership? In the meantime we must provide effective, bus service to the citizens.

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 spoken to the Common Council, the County Board and other public hearings and community meetings on many occasions and many topics as a citizen and an Alder, representing my constituents. I will continue to do so, representing my district residents, those of the city and the community groups that I belong. The reason I am running for office again, is to elevate diverse voices, particularly for the South Madison community.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

The 14th district of South Madison is one of the most diverse district in Madison and Dane County. It also has one of the lowest home ownership ratios and highest subsidized housing ratios in the city. Healthy neighborhoods have a balance of mixed income housing, both owner occupied, rental, single family and multi unit dwellings. It is important that the 14th district attract in-fill economic development, businesses, employment opportunities and more housing options.

This will require governmental experience, demonstrated community commitment and civic leadership, all traits I have to be an effective alder. My priorities include responsive city services, public safety priorities, accessible transportation services, increasing affordable and numerous housing options, promoting neighborhood enhancement initiatives, and supporting economic development and employment opportunities, as well as senior and youth services.

I also believe I can represent a common sense, proactive approach to the City of Madison decision making that would serve the interests of residents, city staff and the business community.

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