

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 *

silarata13@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Julia Arata-Fratta

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Mayor for the City of Fitchburg

Campaign website

www.juliaforfitchburg.com

Professional Experience *

Senior Manager for Wegner CPAS -18 years of experience

Political/Service Experience *

Alder for the City of Fitchburg since 2015

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am running for this seat because our rapidly growing city needs leadership that will take us to the next level. I envision a city that is equitable and inclusive and all of our neighbors are connected to a community that is prosperous and safe. I have a track record of proven results on the city council and the vision to take us there. The next 10 years will bring unique challenges to Fitchburg, and I am the only candidate in this race with a track record of progressive, proven results that can take us into a sustainable and equitable future. As a mayor I will be able to build the operational budget from scratch and setting the priorities for this growing community. I was welcomed by this community with open arms 18 years ago, and I am honored to run to help others feel welcomed to our community like I was.

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

Creating affordable housing options and inventory that reflect our whole community's needs.
Creating resilient infrastructure and investing in greenspaces to mitigate the effects of climate change.
Ensuring residents in all corners of the city have a healthy, safe, livable neighborhood to call home.

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

Mitigate the flooding and stormwater issues in the south part of the city (the Lake Barney and Goose Lake infiltration issues) while protecting agricultural land.
Continue to invest in sustainable policies that bring us toward our 100% renewable energy by 2030 pledge.

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

Poverty is a complex issue that requires empathy and tools to help people make ends meet. I take a comprehensive approach to poverty. We need to meet immediate needs of folks living in poverty by providing low or no cost transportation, internet access for job searching, quality employers that pay a livable wage, low to no cost childcare, and a diverse housing stock that provides affordable options. I supported initiatives like rent to own and I championed the building of a HUB Park Center in the North Fish Hatchery underserved area, currently both are under development. Long term, a healthy, safe, livable community for folks living in poverty becomes a community everyone can live in long term because of investments in employment, public services, transportation, recreation, and housing.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

First and foremost, addressing racial inequality requires listening to the community's needs and accountability. To establish and promote policies and practices that are intentional on addressing those issues, local leaders should build a shared understanding of the scope and drivers of racial disparities among our residents and neighborhoods. I'm particularly interested in policies that help close the racial wealth gap. As mayor, I hope to invest in a rent to own program that helps more residents own property. I will promote equity policies in city planning, particularly housing policies to prevent housing instability. For example, using TIF for workforce and mixed income housing so that a developer can allocate a % of units to low-income households (mix income approach), while the rest of the units remain market rate. I would also work to improve access to daycare facilities by partnering with local chambers of commerce, like the Latino Chamber located in Fitchburg that offers classes on how to open childcare facilities.

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

Public safety requires a holistic approach. I was an original advocate of the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, which is Fitchburg's public-private partnership to support underserved areas of our city with grants to support youth mentoring and education, adult education and workforce development, food security and community building; all of these are vital to promote a safe community. We must expand this investment. I also support innovative ideas to help law enforcement respond to non-violent mental and behavioral health calls effectively, like the CARES Program piloted in Madison. I will continue to support community officers or district policing, which requires officers to be more involved and engaged with the community that they serve. Officers become familiar with those residents' issues, build trust, and create relationships.

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

By promoting and building healthy communities such as promoting physical activities specially for children and young people, promoting quality local food and providing clean drinkable water. My community and I share a passion for the outdoors and recreational spaces. The city has been intentional in creating green spaces for residents to get outside in a multitude of ways. On the council, I worked to bring more accessible outdoor spaces to the community by investing in parks and community areas where there is a need like the HUB Park and Community Center in the North Fish Hatchery Neighborhood and creating an inclusive playground for children with disabilities at McKee Farms Park. As mayor, I intend to continue this track record of success in helping all Fitchburg residents get outside and have ways to recreate in a multitude of ways by creating safe and healthy spaces.

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

Fitchburg's large geographic area presents many challenges for transportation that take different forms depending on where in the city you live. We need to ensure that all of our streets are complete for those that travel by car, bus, bike, or on foot. We also need to ensure that our neighbors have transportation that can take them to critical places to access city services, like the civic campus and parks.

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

As Mayor I intend to continue to bring diverse voices to participate in City Government through regular listening sessions, language translation of city services, and hosting regular listening sessions, particularly in Healthy Neighborhood Initiative neighborhoods. I will also be very intentional in my committee appointments and assignments to be sure that there is a fair representation of the residents that we represent.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms