

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 *

julianaforthepople@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Juliana Bennett

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

District 2 Alder, Madison Common Council

Campaign website

https://www.julianafordistrict2.com/

Professional Experience *

- Graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison, Dec 2022, degrees in Real Estate and Political Science and a certificate in public Policy
- Diversity Consultant: Wisconsin School of Business Feb 2022-Dec 2022
- Program Mentor: Business Emerging Leaders Program July 2022
- Accounting Intern: PriceWaterhouseCoopers July 2020
- Administrative Assistant: Office of Student Financial Aid, Sept 2018-Oct 2019

Political/Service Experience *

- Madison Alder, District 8, April 2021—Present; Cofounder of the Madison BIPOC Coalition, August 2020

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am seeking re-election as the District 2 Alder, because I would like to continue working on downtown and city-wide issues, including affordable housing, equitable transportation, violence prevention and more. I ran for office back in 2021 as a community organizer who wanted to be a part of the solution of making Madison an affordable, equitable, and inclusive place for all.

Two years later, I am proud to say that I have kept my campaign promises. I have been a part of the entitlement process of several new developments that will add about 5000 new units to the downtown area, about 250 of them being affordable units. I spearheaded a \$100,000 affordable student housing study. I consistently voted in favor of increasing funding to our CARES unit and providing alternative programs reduce gun violence and sexual violence. I supported the Metro Transit Network redesign and Bus Rapid Transit. Overall, we made significant progress over the past two years, but there is still more work to be done.

When re-elected, I will prioritize handling the rapid growth in Madison and the additional pressures it places on all areas of our system. The rapid growth in Madison is certainly felt in our downtown area. After speaking with local residents and businesses, there is a legitimate concern about who can live, work, and do business in downtown Madison. I am committed to finding solutions where people of all backgrounds can thrive in Madison.

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

Affordable Housing, Equitable Transportation, Violence Prevention

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

One of my environmental priorities is increasing our recycling and composting capacity. Every year during school move out tons upon tons of recyclable materials are carelessly thrown away. I understand that a college student in Madison created a "Really Free Market", where people could trade items for free, with the ultimate goal of reducing waste. I would like to use city resources to expand programs like the Really Free Market, by identifying where unnecessary waste is more likely to occur and providing resources to recycle.

Beyond recycling, I am a huge proponent of sustainable infrastructure. New developments should not be contributing to our carbon footprint. As alder, I will encourage the inclusion of green roofs, energy efficient windows, and reducing stormwater run-off in development plans. All in all, I will be listening to experts within the city and advocacy organizations on developing strategies that will reduce our emissions levels and PFAS contamination.

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

As an alder, I view every decision through an equity lens. Housing, homelessness, transportation, safety, and more are all impacted by our ability to create equal opportunity. Unfortunately though, Madison is a segregated city. Certain neighborhoods in Madison were redlined and included racially restrictive covenants that specifically stated that "Italian immigrants" and "African people" were not allowed to live in certain neighborhoods. This redlining persisted through the 1950s and 60s. Even though there are no longer specific zoning laws or racially restrictive covenants that exist today, the effects of these discriminatory practices are seen in Madison. See the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gEsiZy-IQTtAEWT4W3LILN_hu7MdQaU8fPslh8fitfg/edit?usp=sharing.

Black and brown people are disproportionately paying the price for our segregated community. BIPOC people are more likely to live in homes and/or apartments that are rundown and in communities affected by climate change. These are all indicators of segregation. Thus, it is incumbent upon Madison Common Council members and state leaders to put forward legislation that will desegregate our communities. We must invest in safe, livable, affordable housing options for renters and homeowners. We must provide pathways to homeownership and specifically focus this outreach on communities of color. We must look beyond housing to every aspect of our system, including transportation, education, businesses and use an equity lens to see how we can redistribute wealth in each of these areas.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

Building upon my answer to the prior question, I will continue to uplift the voices of people of color. As a young, queer, Black, woman, I understand what it is like to be overlooked and disregarded. I also know that I alone cannot speak for the Black, Brown, and young community. All too often in Madison, we either forget to reach out to communities of color or we expect one or two people of color to speak for the entire community. People of color are not a monolith. Solutions that are for racial equity need to be created by communities most impacted by racial inequity. That is why I always actively seek out the voices of communities of color and bring their voices to the table so that we can create solutions together.

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

As an alder, I have consistently championed policies that tackle the root cause problems that lead to violence. When re-elected, I will advocate for and submit budget amendments that expand the CARES unit to a 24/7 model. I will work to reduce gun violence and sexual violence, through elevating Madison and Dane County Public Health's Violence Prevention Roadmap. I will advocate for increasing funding to support services that provide trauma-informed care for survivors. I understand how trauma and distrust for policing still afflicts our community. In my capacity as alder, I want to involve community voices in MPD's 5-year plan. This is important to place our community's public safety needs in the hands of residents.

As a community organizer, I understand how trauma and distrust for policing still afflicts our community. In my capacity as alder, I want to involve community voices in MPD's 5-year plan. This is important to place our community's public safety needs in the hands of residents.

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

I plan to elevate Public Health's Violence Prevention Roadmap, which takes a public health approach to eliminating violence, including gun violence and sexual violence.

In terms of gun violence, this looks like using a predictive model to identify and prevent gun violence before it happens. This data-driven approach has already helped reduce gun violence by 14%. When re-elected, I will continue to advocate for the reduction of gun violence by investing in community response teams and a data-driven approach that identifies the root cause problems that lead to gun violence.

As for sexual violence (SA), we know 1 in 4 women experience SA during their time at UW-Madison. I am one of them. This is why I am a staunch advocate for eradicating sexual violence within our community. Over the next two years, I will advocate for increasing funding to support services, such as DAIS, that provide trauma-informed care for survivors. This is especially important to ensure survivors feel safe, seen, heard, and properly represented when reporting their cases and receiving follow-up services. Furthermore, in my capacity as an alder, I will work with local advocacy groups to ensure safety for downtown residents during bar time on State St and Langdon St, when there is a higher risk of experiencing sexual violence. Overall, it takes all of us to raise awareness of and fight against sexual violence in our communities.

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

One of the strongest mechanisms we have to promote environmental justice is improving our transportation system. Madison should be a 15 minute city, meaning anyone can get anywhere in the city within 15 minutes. The Bus Rapid Transit, Metro Network Redesign, and Vision Zero program all helped improve our transportation. Still, better is possible and necessary.

In my capacity as alder, I will be supportive of providing additional bus transportation services to the periphery areas of our community and late night bus services to get residents home safely at night. I will also advocate for a downtown location of high speed rail, during the rail study. A good transportation system cannot be solely reliant on our bus transportation. Thus, I will be supportive of improving safe right-of-ways for bikers and pedestrians. Overall, I share the vision of getting people out of cars. However, we need to create a transportation system where anyone can bus, bike, or walk efficiently in the city.

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

Here are some examples, of how I have and will continue to uplift the voices of communities of color. I stood with the Wisconsin Black Student Union with the removal of N*****head Rock from campus. I connected Zoe Bayliss Co-op to UW leadership and uplifted the concerns of students of color being displaced on campus. In the next two years, I intend to create a working group with community activists to help work on the 5 yr plan with MPD. I would like to hire a Community Engagement Specialist, whose role is to actively seek out community, especially underserved community member input.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

Affordable Housing:

Every downtown resident can relate to the struggle of finding decent and somewhat affordable housing. All too often, we are forced to choose between an apartment that is overpriced and overly bougie or an apartment that is more affordable but run down. Housing should not be a choice between convenience and affordability. We must fight to regain control over our housing situations. When re-elected, I will champion affordable housing policy, protect tenants from predatory practices, and support housing outside of luxury high rises, such as cooperative housing and naturally-occurring affordable housing.

Over the past two years, I have consistently supported and championed the affordable housing policy. For example, I voted in favor of zoning changes for missing middle housing, transit oriented design overlay, increasing our land banking fund. I have been directly involved with several developments which combined add about 5000 units to downtown Madison, about 250 of them being affordable units. I have even spearheaded a \$100,000 affordable student housing study. These are just a few examples of what I have done and will continue to support.

When re-elected, I will advance a zoning-type incentive that will create an incentive to build more affordable units. I will continue to advocate for and work with the mayor to open up our city's TIF policy and increase our land banking fund in order to provide financial sources for affordable housing.

Furthermore, I will continue to work to protect tenants from predatory practices, by increasing funding for emergency rent service, connecting residents with support services for tenants facing eviction and bad living situations. Madison already has a network of nonprofits dedicated to emergency rent services and eviction protection, such as the Tenant Resource Center, Community Action Coalition, and Urban Triage. Unfortunately, these services are severely underfunded. Thus, I will work within our city's budget to increase funding for support services. Beyond funding, I will connect residents with our city's Building Inspection team to provide services for tenant's experiencing poor living conditions.

Finally, I will support cooperative housing and naturally-occurring affordable housing, through connecting them with financial and educational resources. District 2 is home to several co-ops, which to some is the only affordable housing option. I understand that co-ops are struggling from the pandemic to maintain their homes and navigate the complex housing system. Beyond co-ops, District 2 has a host of apartments that are older, but naturally affordable. That's why, it is incumbent upon Madison Common Council to identify the importance of co-ops and naturally-occurring affordable housing and protect these housing types through connecting them with the financial and educational resources to maintain their homes.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms