

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 *

mgrfordistrict8@gmail.com

Candidate name *

MGR Govindarajan

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

District 8 Alder, City of Madison

Campaign website

mgrfordistrict8.com

Professional Experience *

UW-Madison Student (3rd year)

Political/Service Experience *

Highschool - Tom Palzewicz for Congress, Bernie for President

Why are you running for this seat? *

I face many of the issues that many others in my community face, from affordable housing, lack of mental health accessibility, creating a sustainable environment, and more. I've been a student advocate for the past two years fighting for what matters most to students through my role at the Student Government as the Legislative Affairs Chair (I essentially lobby local, state, and federal officials in that role). This has exposed me to effective methods of fighting for issues that matter in my community, which means I know what matters and I know how to address it. Further, I have worked to build a community around me, bringing in marginalized people who typically don't have a voice in our government to ensure that their voices are heard.

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

Affordable Housing, Increasing access to Mental Health Services, Sustainability

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

Sustainability in my perspective is a systematic issue. In every piece of legislation or policy change, I will work to ensure that we are being as sustainable as possible. Whether this means reviewing salting practices, requiring new building codes that include sustainable living, or something else, I will ensure that sustainability is a top priority as my time in Alder. As a young person, a student, I will work to ensure my generation gets a fair chance at living in the world we deserve.

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

Similar to my sustainability, this is a systematic problem that requires a systematic perspective. If there is housing policy, I want to ensure that those in poverty are being represented and can make their voices heard, if there are expansions in mental health accessibility, I want to ensure that people who can't afford spending time fighting for themselves are still given equal access.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

Similar to the last two answers, systematic focus on the problems through all legislation and policy changes

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

On top of the systematic focus - for biased policing, I want to get people onto the police oversight boards and include the community in that as much as possible. This means that bringing voices that are not typically heard from, people of color, members of the LGBTQ+, low-income, etc. The people who are often suspicious, afraid and least trustful of the police are the ones that need to be listened to to ensure that policing is fair for our community.

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

Trust the science. I'm a college student, I know that peer reviewed scientific papers are what we need to listen to in order to do what's best for our community when it comes to health. I will also support the UW Hospital nurses as they seek to form a union, which I have worked on briefly back when they were trying to strike in Fall of 2022.

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

I want to focus on pedestrian and bike safety. This means creating more bike paths, increasing safety of existing paths, and ensuring that people are able to get around major parts of our city without needing a car. Campus is nice in the way that I can get from one part of town to another without needing a car, and I think that should be improved upon far as safety, and expanded to other parts of Madison as well.

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 person of color myself, and a member of the Student Government in a very white-dominated school, I know what it's like to have my voice silenced and stifled. I have been lucky enough to build a strong community around me of advocates and activists who I will work with to ensure that they have a voice in our government.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

I have upcoming platforms on Accessibility, Voting rights, and Reproductive Health. My instagram is @mgrfordistrict8_

Thanks for giving me the chance to respond to your questions!

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