

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 *

vote@maxwell4madison.com

Candidate name *

Maxwell Laubenstein

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison City Council, Alder, District 4

Campaign website

maxwell4madison.com

Professional Experience *

Biological Systems Engineering Student, Student Services Finance Committee Chair

Political/Service Experience *

I have not held public office

Why are you running for this seat? *

I have developed relationships with this community and groups across Madison and would like to bring a representative voice to the office.

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

Affordable Housing, Labor Rights, Sustainable development

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

Supporting the development of the proposed wetland restoration on the voit farms property, clean lakes initiatives, and reinstating the wetland restoration program in the southern part of the arboretum.

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

I will push the development of truly affordable housing, as opposed to financially inaccessible units that use the label, through development negotiations and subsidized housing while holding landlords accountable to ensure that naturally occurring affordable housing is of a livable quality.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

I will work directly with marginalized communities in madison to develop policy to support financial security and public safety.

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

Several notable cases of police violence have been left unaddressed for years just to respond with a slap on the wrist for responsible officers. Proposed accountability systems have been left in lieu for just as long. I hope to firm the proposed accountability systems such as a civilian accountability board with enough power in policy to hold officers accountable. Funding programs like body cameras is not enough as studies have shown that these do little to reduce police violence in practice.

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

Housing security and financial stability are inherently critical to public health. Beyond this, I hope to work with local health professionals to ensure that clinics and healthcare services are financially and physically accessible for all madison residents.

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

The city just passed a marginal expansion of public transit routes but still have left many communities disconnected from both eachother, and from public services. Expanding safe bike routes, transit routes, and the paratransit program through direct city support will help to ensure safe, equitable, and environmentally conscious transit in madison.

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

In my time as the Student Services Finance Committee Chair, I worked directly with marginalized groups to advocate on behalf of community spaces, public safety, financial security, and discriminatory behavior in the university. I will take these same practices and ideals, working directly with the community to address historically neglected concerns and fight for an environment of equity in Madison.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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