

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 *

nikki4madison@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Nikki Conklin

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison Common Council District 9

Campaign website

www.nikki.vote

Professional Experience *

Lussier Community Education Center Board of Directors

Political/Service Experience *

District 9 Alder 2021-present

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am a deeply-rooted, progressive community leader with a vision for a healthier and more equitable community. Healthy communities equal safe communities. I would love to be re-elected to add upon the work I started on the council 2 years ago. I want to continue to represent my community and be their voice at the table. I will continue to engage and build relationships in my community, around the city and within city departments. Currently, in addition to my daily work representing my constituents as Alder, I serve on the Common Council Executive Committee, Community Development Block Grant Committee, Disability Rights Commission, Landlord and Tenant Issues Committee, and Sustainable Madison Committee. I have a holistic view that focuses on addressing root causes to give our community what it needs to thrive.

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

As Alder of District 9, my priorities are quality affordable housing, environmental justice & safety for all. District 9 is growing rapidly & we need to make sure it's done sustainably. I believe in community policing to get to the root cause of the issues & investing in our communities to help bring the crime rates down. Through my service on the Sustainable Madison Committee I have taken action to stop PFAS from contaminating our water & have supported the 100% Renewable Madison plan.

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

We need to move quickly to accomplish our goal of transitioning to 100% clean energy. There is a lot we can do at the city level. Transportation accounts for 41% of our CO2 emissions, and if we combine residential and commercial energy, our buildings account for 48% of CO2 emissions. It's important that we make all city buildings energy efficient and install solar panels wherever possible. I support MadiSUN which helps residents put solar on their homes. We must also incentivize residents and businesses to make sure they are installing solar and increasing energy efficiency as well. As Alder, I have supported Bus Rapid Transit as well as infrastructure for electric vehicles to make it easier for people to make the switch to all electric.

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

According to the City's 2022 Housing Snapshot, more than half of the City of Madison's population is renters, and almost half of the renters are rent-burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on housing). I would support more funds to help fill this gap. As for sources of funding, I support progressive local taxation so those who make more, will pay more. As Alder, I serve on the Landlord and Tenant Issues Committee and we've been working on making it easier for tenants and educating tenants on their rights. I support zoning policies that will increase the supply of quality affordable housing. I also support changing zoning policies that restrict where low income people can live, and who or what is considered a "family".

What will you do to address racial inequality?

I will work on removing barriers both invisible and visible such as systems designed to segregate communities. When opportunities come up to make land use decisions I will work to prevent exclusionary zoning practices. I will also work to fund additional educational opportunities to help close the opportunity gap for BIPOC youth. I want to see everyone have access to fulfilling their basic needs. I will work hard to ensure that BIPOC folks have housing, employment, healthcare and education. I want to dismantle the criminal injustice system and try to fix the detrimental social, political and economic systems that hold back so many BIPOC folks.

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

Rather than criminalize those experiencing mental health crises, I believe we should be investing more money on the CARES team. Madison's Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) program is a mobile crisis response program I have voted for as Alder. CARES responded to 935 total calls for service and only 3% of CARES patients have been transferred to police. I also support community control of the police, meaning police have to answer to the community. There must be non-biased folks who investigate and hold the force accountable.

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

I have supported Public Health Madison & Dane County and their work with Violence Prevention. I showed up to support their Wear Orange event last year raising awareness for gun violence prevention. I support Public Health as a public safety measure. Trying to be preventive and getting to the root causes of the issues. It is not just a one all fix all. There are many levels to public health. As Alder, I will continue to support funding for the Madison CARES team and Public Health Madison & Dane County. I believe everyone should have equal access to health care. I have supported programs for safe and clean drinking water.

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

As I mentioned previously, transportation accounts for 41% of our CO2 emissions. We need to electrify the whole transit system. Last spring, I sponsored and helped pass a resolution to authorize the purchase of 46 more all-electric buses. We should also continue making Madison more walkable and bikeable. At the city level we are increasing access to EV charging stations and we need to also increase solar so the electricity being used is clean energy.

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

One of the main reasons I ran for office is because I want to bring power to all people of District 9. As a single Black mom, I did not feel like my predecessor understood the challenges I and many people in our community are facing. When making decisions, I listen to everyone but also look around to see who is not at the table. I have spent a lot of time knocking on doors all over my district to hear directly from constituents and understand what is important to them. I will continue to stay engaged with the community by attending neighborhood meetings and keeping connected through the Lussier Community Center.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

If you would like to learn more about me or my campaign you can visit my website at nikki.vote.

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