

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 *

campaign@udellforfitchburg.com

Candidate name *

Randy Udell

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Fitchburg Mayor

Campaign website

udellforfitchburg.com

Professional Experience *

My service as an elected leader, my experience in business and finance, and my volunteer work make me uniquely qualified to be the inclusive, collaborative leader Fitchburg needs in these challenging times. In addition to being elected twice to the Fitchburg City Council, I have been elected four times to serve as the treasurer of the Wisconsin Democratic Party and currently serve with the Party's other officers Ben Wikler, Felesia Martin, Rep. Lee Snodgrass, and Meg Andrietsch. I have also served as the Treasurer and Chair of the Second CD. Professionally, I retired after a 30 year career as a telecommunications engineer and planner.

Political/Service Experience *

I have been elected to Fitchburg City Council twice (2020, 2022) and have served as Council President since 2021. I chair the Finance Committee overseeing the City's \$25 million operating budget. Earlier in my professional career, I worked for the Maryland Attorney General as well as for Wisconsin's Democratic Congressman Les Aspin.

Why are you running for this seat? *

My deeply held belief, and my experience as City Council President, is that we must bring people together to solve tough problems. I love Fitchburg. My husband and I cannot imagine living anywhere other than this City filled with caring neighbors actively engaged in the community. My priorities will be to ensure Fitchburg grows responsibly; to make every neighborhood safe and welcoming; to deliver the services our residents expect and deserve; to protect our environment; to support inclusion and diversity; and to provide strong, fiscal management.

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

Ensuring Fitchburg grows responsibly; making every neighborhood safe and welcoming for all; improving inclusion and equity.

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

As Fitchburg grows we need to ensure responsible growth while preserving our farmland, parks and protecting our natural areas. Additionally, flooding has been a major issue in residential, commercial and agricultural districts. We need to provide the necessary staff support for stormwater projects coming online to improve Watershed Management and address this critical issue. We need to continue to invest in cleaner technology, like electric city vehicles, and take advantage of the long term savings green technology provides.

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

As Mayor, I will continue to implement and support initiatives to create more housing that is affordable, accessible and safe. Fitchburg needs to have a variety of housing options to meet the needs of all families. We must build more affordable housing, senior housing and workforce housing and we must identify additional innovative options for housing such as land banking and tiny homes. We must use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to redevelop the North Fish Hatchery corridor. I will continue to support Fitchburg's Healthy Neighborhood Initiative including completing the North Fish Hatchery Road neighborhood HUB and future Teen Center.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

As Mayor, I will create an office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity within the City Government. I will continue to support the Neighborhood Navigator program bringing Fitchburg's Government to underserved neighborhoods, and connecting residents with resources. On Election Day in November there were long lines at some Fitchburg Polling Places. I immediately asked City Staff to evaluate how to reduce those wait times. Long lines for voting disenfranchise voters. I will work with stakeholders, non-profits, and the private sector in Fitchburg, Madison, and Dane County to focus resources on underserved areas.

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

We must continue to ensure Fitchburg Police have the training and resources they need to provide culturally appropriate Community Policing. We must work with FPD to improve recruitment and retention of our officers so we have the best and brightest on the force. We must partner with other local governments, non-profits, and the faith community to support and invest in violence interruption programs as well as community programs.

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

A recent report by the Governor's Health Equity Council correctly identifies housing as one of the key elements in improving Wisconsin's health disparities. As Mayor, I will focus on ensuring there is an adequate supply of safe, affordable rental units and on initiating and supporting programs that help close gaps in homeownership.

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

Road and pedestrian safety are critical issues particularly as Fitchburg grows. I will continue to work with City Staff and Fitchburg Police, as I did after a recent tragic accident, to ensure the City is initiating short-term and long term improvements including installing speed boards, reducing speed limits, and increasing enforcement.

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

Fitchburg is a diverse community and I would be Fitchburg's first openly gay mayor. Elevating diverse voices is important to me and to the future of our City. I will continue to increase outreach to all residents through bilingual support options, and ensuring materials are created and disseminated in multiple languages. I will initiate additional communication channels for Alders and the Mayor (blogs, emails) so we reach out more easily and often to those we serve.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

This is an open seat, created when the current Mayor decided not to run for re-election. Fitchburg is one of the fastest growing Cities in Wisconsin. My background, experience, and deep commitment to this City will help me lead Fitchburg as we take on the challenges – including housing, fiscal management, environmental protections, public safety, social and economic justice – that we will face in the coming years. I would be honored to earn the endorsement of the Dane Dems.

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