

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 *

madcityusa@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Sheri Carter

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

City of Madison Common Council District 10

Campaign website

www.shericarter.org

Professional Experience *

My professional experience is a combination of government, and private sector all centered around financial, legal services, and health services.

Political/Service Experience *

I have served as Alder District 14 for four terms. I worked on the development of the Equity Business Initiative (EBI) now known as the Commercial Ownership Assistance Program to assist minority owned businesses. I have supported the affordable housing and expanding the affordable housing fund, restorative justice, and violence prevention services. I have worked on 3 City budgets and several committee initiatives during my tenure. I have served the community for over 20 years in various outreach position. I was the President/Chair of South Metropolitan Planning Council where I assisted neighborhoods or individuals' access to city services and community services. I am the board president of Porchlight, Inc. I believe the span of my experience qualifies me to address issues holistically, economically, and with cultural/ethnic sensitivity.

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Why are you running for this seat? *

I am seeking the office of District 10 Alder to continue my service to the Southwest neighborhoods and the city. I am proud to represent a district that is diverse, and I want to continue to bring the voices of residents to the table, working together with the city and private partnerships to find solutions. I will continue to work on several fronts: community/neighborhood sustainability, equity, environment, entrepreneurship, youth and adult training, health equity, mental health wellness, and eviction prevention. My vision is to ensure we have accessible employment, health equity, food access, and affordable housing for all our residents. This is what motivated me to run in 2021 and still drives me today.

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

The pressing issues in District 10 and in the city are concerns of crime, evictions, mental health, and transit services. I will continue support of violence prevention programs/services, public safety, and homeless services. I will collaborate with community stewards, county, and city to find funding for eviction prevention services, affordable housing, and homeless services. I was at the table when the concept for the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) was being drafted. I will support ways we can expand and improve CARES as well as equitable access to other public and private mental health programs and services. In addition, it is important that we have equitable transit system in the city by ensuring that all routes that are in development and/or planning stages take in account those individuals using public transit as their primary transportation and individuals that have multiple options of transportation and chooses to take public transit. In addition, I will collaborate with stakeholders and residents to bring forth initiatives that improve the lives of all residents.

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

I will continue to support cleanup of PFAS contaminants on Madison Eastside which endangers our waterways', reducing emissions, clean lakes resources, and the 2018 flood aftermath that remains a concerns in some areas of the city.

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

I will ensure that residents know how to access city services in a variety of modes that reflect how we communicate today. Therefore, equitable access and opportunities need to distribute from the ground up – youth and adult training programs, home ownership, housing first, affordable housing, access to city/county services. Supporting the Guaranteed Income Research program supporting low-income families for one year. Ensuring funding to organizations reach the very residents that are in need. Increasing their ability to thrive and grow by providing first-hand support, and increasing the awareness of building trades apprenticeship programs.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

Every day I work at addressing racial inequality by directly talking to areas that have traditionally ignored the reality of racial inequality. This shall be an all-in effort to bring the conversation and action to the system. This includes employers, employees, financial institution, educators, the health care system, justice system, etc. This will be a conversation and collaborative effort must continue without an end date.

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

I have been an advocate of restorative justice (RJ) and have suggested RJ to individuals, community organizations and law enforcement as a viable alternative to educate and stop the pipeline to prison and/or having an arrest record. Practitioners RJ commonly incorporate the circle process, storytelling, build empathy, trust, and compassion to understand the needs of a person who caused harm, the needs person(s) harmed, and the needs of the community to heal and restore. I have seen the powerful transformation of individuals that come out of the program. I will promote and look into the expansion of eligibility for individuals to qualify for this program. Regarding, racially biased policing, I have addressed racially biased policing by requesting and promoting the benefit of intense education focusing on cultural/ethnicity awareness, historical trauma, commonsense policing, training, and accountability.

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

I am a health advocate especially for BIPOC and senior residents who have been on the sidelines of receiving beneficial health and wellness options. I have outreached to clinics to converse on the the results of the health system on the quality of life for this specific group. In addition, I have witnessed the inequalities in the health system; therefore I am directing the conversation as lived experienced as well as providing experiences of others.

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

I will continue to be at the table on the metro redesign and BRT to ensure that equity analysis is the fore front of the any future evaluation. I have addressed the inequities of the North South routes. I will continue to advocate for an improved services in these areas.

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

I will ensure that residents know how to access city services in a variety of modes that reflect how we communicate today. Ensure that information can be access via computer, social media, mobile devices, or traditional paper format. Today, residents are not monolithic. Therefore, equitable access and opportunities need to be distributed from the ground up – youth and adult training programs, home ownership, housing first, access to city meetings. Ensuring funding to organizations reach the very residents that are in need. Increasing their ability to thrive, grow and soar by providing firsthand support, and opportunity. In addition, broadening engagement to include the community in planning public projects, which will improve relationships between the community and city government and increase the overall quality of life for community residents. We have an opportunity to increase the utilization of our public spaces and build a network of partnerships with rooted community organizations to provide specific communities with specialized services. This broader engagement would also help the city confront other current community issues as they arise.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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