

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 *

friendsofyannette@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Yannette Figueroa Cole

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

City Council District 10 Alder

Campaign website

yannette4madison.com

Professional Experience *

I am a Business Analyst with extensive experience in system implementations, end-user training, and support of multiple CRM and ERP systems. I am adept at learning and applying new skills and technologies. I quickly adapt to changing environments with flexibility and agility, have excellent analytic reporting skills, and have pride in being customer service oriented.

Political/Service Experience *

Over 30 years ago, I found a home and community in Madison. Before being elected as Alder for District 10 in 2021, my involvement in a community leadership role included six years of serving as the Treasurer and later President of the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association. I have also dedicated my efforts towards supporting the unsheltered population as a volunteer Street Outreach and Treasurer of Friends of the State Street Families for nearly eight years

Why are you running for this seat? *

I'm running for re-election in District 10 to continue to keep my campaign promise to center issues impacting community members' health and safety. Everyone rises when we lift from the bottom up by providing community services to those most vulnerable.

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

My top priorities include expanding housing opportunities for all, bringing a holistic perspective to safety, and increasing community resources, including public transit and services for our unsheltered communities.

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

We implemented a Safe Street Policy that puts people before cars, prioritizing bus rapid transit options that favor buses over personal vehicles, ensuring easier bus accessibility to all Madisonian, including the disabled and elderly, which will help reduce greenhouse gasses in the city. Water Safety is also a priority, and we must strive to work towards the elimination of salt and phosphorus runoffs into our lakes.

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

I bring the perspective of a resident from a neighborhood and district that is racially and socioeconomically diverse, our working class and the poorest who are often overlooked in Madison, and I seek to ensure those perspectives are at the center of every decision and policy. I am fully engaged in NRT meetings and I am a member of the Violence Prevention Coalition, which allows me to connect funding opportunities and solutions to the needs of the communities I serve.

What will you do to address racial inequality?

By continuing to improve housing affordability at all levels, from low income to market rate options while prioritizing access to multifamily housing and expanding land banking resources. With each development we must provide the resources needed to ensure people's basic needs are met such as rapid transit, access to libraries, schools, healthy food choices; access to job training programs and community services.

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

I will continue to focus on safety from the lens of health. Healthy communities are safe communities! I will continue to work with Madison Dane County Public Health to implement a comprehensive violence prevention plan that: utilizes a public health approach to violence, focuses on prevention of violence before it occurs, encourages participation of those most impacted by the issues, support alternative emergency response services for mental health crisis and collaborate with appropriate governmental and nonprofit agencies to address the needs of our people. To achieve safety, we must invest in people. Also, I will continue to advocate for changes to MPD's training curriculum to add more hours for bias, cultural sensitive training and education on the issues these communities face.

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

By continuing to create and fund programming like CARES program that provides mental health service access to those experiencing a crisis, by providing access to safe places for those most marginalized like the unsheltered population and by ensuring basic needs are met (food access, transportation, jobs, etc.)

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

Continue to work on the East to West BRT construction while at the same time focus on the BRT bus service expansion on the north and south side, and to improve Metro's route services in areas like District 10.

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

Continue to listen to all the voices that reach council with the understanding that not all voices are often represented. Seek input from people in their own spaces, continue to work with community organizers who have direct contact with residents. Research every topic, educate the public and base decisions on facts and historical data when available.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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