

Dane Dems Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for seeking an endorsement from the Dane County Democratic Party. **This questionnaire is due by no later than Friday, January 24, at 11:59 PM.**

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 and mark the questions you do not feel are pertinent N/A. 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 *

ali4mmsd@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Ali Muldrow

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education, Seat 4

Campaign website

<https://www.alijanaemuldrow.com>

Professional Experience *

I have dedicated my professional life to education, advocacy, and public service, from my early days in entry-level positions through my current role leading a state-wide NGO. Before my time on the Board and during my tenure, I worked as a community educator and advocate with local organizations that support youth development and promote justice, and then transitioned to executive leadership roles in community organizing and educational programming. I currently serve as the inaugural Executive Director of Women's Medical Fund Wisconsin. Immediately prior to this, I spent a decade in leadership, including time as co-Executive Director at GSAFE Wisconsin, promoting and supporting youth leadership, anti-racism, and social justice in school systems throughout Wisconsin. I have focused on amplifying diverse voices and fostering inclusion in every space I've worked.

Political/Service Experience *

I am proud to have served on the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education since 2019, where I have consistently championed issues of equity, justice, and student empowerment. As a member of the Board, including my time as president and during my current role serving as the body's treasurer, I have gained experience navigating complex policy issues, advocating for equity, balancing competing priorities in budgeting decisions, and working collaboratively to create opportunities for students and staff. My service has included initiatives addressing school safety, teacher support, and systemic disparities in education.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am running for reelection because I believe in the power of public education to transform lives and strengthen communities. Serving on the MMSD Board of Education has been an incredible opportunity to make a meaningful impact. I want to continue addressing the challenges our district faces, from inequities in access and outcomes to the need for innovative and responsive educational practices. Public education is one of the most significant tools we have to create a more just and inclusive society, and I am committed to ensuring it works for every student and family.

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

Safety: Creating schools where every student and staff member feels secure is my top priority. Safety encompasses physical, emotional, and psychological well-being, and we must approach it holistically through accurate, thoughtful policies that center community well-being. This means fostering supportive environments, addressing concerns with precision and care, and ensuring that safety measures reflect the realities and needs of our community.

Sustainability: Schools should be leaders in sustainability, modeling practices that reduce environmental impact and promote stewardship. From energy-efficient facilities to waste reduction programs, we can make choices that benefit our students, community, and planet. Equally important is integrating sustainability into District operations, curriculum and instruction. We must equip students to navigate and solve the environmental challenges of the future, and we must invest in the sustainability of our schools through supporting recruitment and retention of excellent educators, without whom we can teach nothing.

Academic Achievement: Academic success in math, literacy, and the arts is essential to student growth and opportunity. These core areas are foundational to a well-rounded education and future success, and can only be advanced when we ensure that every student has access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. I am committed to advocating for rigorous, engaging, and equitable educational programs that inspire a love of learning and provide all students with the skills they need to thrive.

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

As a school board member, I am committed to reducing our district's environmental impact by supporting sustainable practices, such as energy-efficient facilities and waste reduction initiatives. I also believe environmental education should be a priority, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges in their communities.

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

Poverty is a significant barrier to educational success, and addressing it requires a multifaceted approach. I will continue to advocate for expanded access to free and reduced-cost meals, wraparound services for families, and partnerships with community organizations that address housing and food insecurity. I also support curriculum development that reflects the lived experiences of all students, empowering them to see themselves as capable, valued, and part of a broader community of learners.

What will you do to address racial inequality, promote restorative justice, and/or address racially biased policing?

Racial inequality in education requires ongoing systemic change. I have consistently supported full integration of restorative justice practices into our schools, moving away from punitive discipline models and toward approaches that repair harm and build community. I will continue to push for implicit bias training for staff, transparent data reporting on disciplinary actions, and policies that eliminate racially disparate outcomes. Collaboration with families and community organizations will remain central to this work.

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

Schools play a critical role in public health, from offering nutritious meals to providing mental health resources. I will advocate for increased access to school counselors, social workers, and nurses, as well as partnerships with local healthcare providers to ensure families can access needed services. Promoting physical activity, mental wellness, and education around healthy living will be integral to my approach.

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

Transportation is essential to educational access. I will work to expand reliable, safe transportation for all students, especially those from households that face increased barriers to opportunities. I support efforts to improve bus efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and address walkability and bikeability concerns for students who live near their schools.

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

Elevating diverse voices has been central to my work. I have prioritized outreach to historically underrepresented communities and have consistently advocated for transparency and accessibility in decision-making processes. I will continue to listen to and collaborate with students, families, and staff from all backgrounds, ensuring that their perspectives shape the policies we create and the decisions we make.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

As a lifelong advocate for justice and equity, I am committed to the idea that public education should be a space of opportunity for everyone. I will continue to bring that commitment to every decision I make on the MMSD Board of Education. From addressing systemic disparities to fostering innovation, I am focused on building a district that reflects the values of our community.

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