

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 *

emmycomstock@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Emily Comstock

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Alder, District 4, City of Sun Prairie

Campaign website

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1084578436690031> As of this writing, this site is still under construction.

Professional Experience *

HS English teacher, school counselor, high school administrator (principal, assistant principal), University administrator (Assistant Dean/Director). Currently retired. Each of those position encompassed a myriad of work related experiences, such as committee work, national searches, etc.

Political/Service Experience *

Served as a member of the University of Wisconsin Athletic Board for 6 years. It was especially political at the time we needed to make decisions about cutting sports. Appointed by Donna Shalala.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I'm running because I care about this community and I care about the citizens, especially. They deserve to be fairly represented, to have someone who will listen and respond to their concerns. I believe that this has been lacking in our district and I would like to make that better for our citizens.

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

Fiscal responsibility, community growth, and constituent representation. Each of these issues consists of more specific concerns on which I would be pleased to elaborate during an interview if deemed necessary.

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

There is one very specific environmental issue in Sun Prairie. We have an area of the community where homes need 2 sump pumps because of water runoff from neighboring property. The city began a process to better understand why this was happening, yet that process was never completed. The homes have not seen any relief. This is an environmental issue that requires assistance from the State. And it needs to be completed.

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

I am a member of the LGBTQi community. For me, equity can address a number of disenfranchised groups. It's important, of course, to be very conscious of how race enters into a lack of equity, but it is by no means the only measure of inequity. I would hope to broaden that perspective and help to make those who do hiring to become more aware of those concerns. Regarding those who live in poverty, we need to ensure that we are offering opportunities in our community for those who are struggling financially. Affordable housing must be available, as one such example.

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

The first thing that I or anyone must do is to become aware of what is happening in our community regarding racial bias. Get the data, review it, and analyze it. Then, work with community leaders to seek appropriate solutions that will improve the circumstances of those who might be experiencing this prejudice. Becoming aware is the first step in righting a wrong.

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

Sun Prairie has just completed building a local health clinic that is available to our citizens. It is centrally located so it is accessible. Outreach from such organizations is a big part of reaching those who tend not to seek appropriate medical care. In addition, Sun Prairie has one of the largest athletic clubs in the State. We could, and should, encourage membership of community members and provide ways to assist those who struggle financially to join the club.

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

Transportation in Sun Prairie needs to be constantly analyzed to ensure that traffic is not congested or unsafe. For example, one intersection in Sun Prairie is very difficult for residents to access a major thoroughfare. We need to address the concerns of the citizens in that neighborhood and seek ways to make it better. We also need to make sure that citizens who have limited means of transportation are able to access public transportation alternatives, such as accessing bus transportation.

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 give you one very specific answer. When at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I chaired a national search for the director of a new academic advising unit on campus. We were committed to hiring a qualified minority candidate and we were successful in that effort. That was very good for the service that was being offered as well as for the campus at large. Clearly, more of that needs to be done. How would I continue to do so? I'd like to take a look at the hiring practices of city employees. We need to encourage minority candidates to apply for vacant positions and encourage strong consideration for their employment.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

I would be very interested in what the priorities are of the Dane County Democrats. What do you believe is important in our county and our State and what are you doing to ensure success in this regard.

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