

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 *

isaacsung4sp@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Isaac Sung

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education

Campaign website

https://sg4sp.com

Professional Experience *

Professor of computer and data science, researcher of computer sciences and education, software engineer at a nonprofit focused on charitable giving

Political/Service Experience *

Volunteer instructor to teach programming at a Title 1 school; volunteer for Music Avenue, a nonprofit dedicated to free early childhood music education

Why are you running for this seat? *

I'm running for the Sun Prairie school board because I'm passionate about empowering students, advocating for teachers, and fostering collaboration with our community. Our district needs fresh perspectives to drive meaningful change.

We still face significant racial and socioeconomic disparities in student outcomes, and some school boundaries in our district perpetuate segregation. Additionally, teacher salaries lag behind those in neighboring districts, contributing to high turnover.

I'm committed to rebuilding trust with families and the community by actively listening and encouraging greater engagement with the school board. Together, we can create a more equitable and inclusive district.

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

1. Addressing racial and socioeconomic disparities by ensuring equitable opportunities for all students and dismantling segregation within our schools.
2. Strengthening teacher retention and recruitment by offering competitive salaries, providing support, and fostering a positive work environment to keep talented educators.
3. Building stronger connections with families and the broader community by actively listening to their concerns, understanding their needs, and taking meaningful action to address them.

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

One of my top environmental priorities is reducing the Sun Prairie Area School District's carbon footprint. I will support our full-time Sustainability/Energy Manager in expanding energy efficiency programs, increasing renewable energy use, and upgrading facilities to lower emissions.

Additionally, I will promote sustainable transportation options like walking, biking, and energy-efficient school buses. These efforts will reduce environmental impact and inspire the next generation to be responsible stewards of the planet.

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

Research shows all students perform better in diverse schools, yet Sun Prairie's school boundaries currently reflect inequities. At some schools, over 66% of students are classified as "economically disadvantaged," (according to school report cards) while other schools have as few as 11% of students in this category. By drawing school borders more intentionally, we can create diverse student bodies that reflect our city, giving students in poverty a better chance to succeed while enriching all students' learning experiences.

I will also advocate for programs supporting families in poverty, such as after-school programs, subsidized transportation, meals, school supplies, and technology. Strengthening partnerships with community organizations can provide wraparound services like mental health support, housing assistance, and career readiness.

My goal is to ensure every student has access to high-quality education and opportunities, building a school system that supports all children and prepares them for a brighter future.

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

To address racial inequality and promote restorative justice, I will prioritize inclusive policies that reflect our community's diversity. This includes intentional school boundary adjustments to reduce racial and socioeconomic segregation, as research shows diverse environments foster empathy, collaboration, and mutual understanding.

I will advocate for curriculum and training that address implicit bias, teach culturally responsive practices, and highlight the contributions of all racial and ethnic groups, ensuring all students feel valued.

Promoting restorative justice means shifting from punitive discipline to practices like peer mediation and restorative circles that focus on accountability, repairing harm, and building community.

Finally, I will ensure transparency by analyzing data on racial disparities in discipline, academics, and resources to guide equitable policies. With a proactive approach, we can create a school system that supports racial equity and justice for all students.

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

To improve public health, I will address social determinants impacting students and families. This includes expanding access to nutritious meals through school meal programs and partnerships offering fresh, locally sourced food, as well-nourished students perform better academically and physically.

I will prioritize mental health by advocating for more counselors, social workers, and mental health resources, ensuring early intervention and ongoing support.

Additionally, I will support initiatives promoting physical activity and environmental health, such as safe playgrounds, walkable school routes, and sustainability programs led by our Sustainability/Energy Manager.

By focusing on nutrition, mental health, physical activity, and environmental health, we can create a healthier, more resilient community where every individual can thrive.

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

The largest transportation issues I aim to address involve ensuring safe, reliable, and equitable access to school while promoting sustainable options.

I will work to improve accessibility by ensuring bus routes are equitable and meet the needs of all students, especially those from low-income families. Reliable transportation is essential for attendance and academic success, and I will advocate for expanding bus services to eliminate access gaps.

To enhance safety for students who walk or bike, I will collaborate with city officials to improve infrastructure, including safer crosswalks, bike lanes, and addressing hazardous intersections near schools.

Finally, I will support sustainable transportation initiatives, such as transitioning to energy-efficient buses and encouraging carpooling and biking. Partnering with the Sustainability/Energy Manager, I'll seek ways to reduce the district's transportation-related carbon footprint.

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

Although this would be my first elected position, I have always prioritized listening to and learning from diverse perspectives. I believe creating equitable opportunities requires intentionally elevating underrepresented voices.

If elected, I will promote inclusivity by engaging families, students, and staff from all backgrounds through open forums, listening sessions, and diverse committees. To increase accessibility, I will support offering childcare and schedule meetings at various times, beyond standard weekday evenings, to accommodate more participants. I aim to remove time and availability barriers to participation.

I would also ensure transparency and accessibility by communicating through public meetings, social media, and direct outreach to reach those who may feel disconnected.

My goal is to ensure every voice, especially those historically excluded, is heard and valued as we build a more inclusive community together.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

A pressing issue is the rise in transphobia and discrimination targeting LGBTQ+ students, often fueled by harmful right-wing rhetoric. Schools must be safe havens where all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, feel supported and valued.

I will firmly oppose efforts to limit the rights of transgender and LGBTQ+ students, including policies that erase identities, restrict access to gender-affirming spaces, or remove inclusive curriculum. Protecting our children means ensuring access to resources, affirming environments, and trusted adults.

Proactively, I will foster inclusivity by supporting professional development on LGBTQ+ inclusion, implementing strong anti-bullying policies, and creating spaces where LGBTQ+ students and allies feel seen and heard.

Our schools must reflect acceptance and equity. As leaders, it is our duty to protect every child and empower them to live authentically, free from fear and discrimination.

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