

# 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 \*

mgrfordistrict8@gmail.com

Candidate name \*

MGR Govindarajan

Position you are running for (include municipality) \*

District 8 Alderperson, City of Madison

Campaign website

mgrfordistrict8.com

Professional Experience \*

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mgr-govindarajan/>

Political/Service Experience \*

Current Alder, State Capitol Staffer (Dem), Current Alder

Why are you running for this seat? \*

Uplifting the voices of students while promoting a progressive policies within the City of Madison.

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

Safe & Affordable Housing, Improving Transportation

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

Tree Canopy, Clean lakes, and fair salting practices

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

My district contains the poorest census blocks in the City of Madison, I work everyday to ensure that those who are in poverty have the access to city/state resources where applicable, and to create more resources where it doesn't currently exist.

I also work full-time in the State Capitol as a legislative staffer, which has allowed me to help my district in-directly at the state level on top of just at the City level.

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

I call it out. One of the most effective ways of addressing racism within our communities is calling it out when you see it. As a person of color, I have grown up with outright racism towards me and micro aggressions all the time.

Madison has made lots of progress towards a more accepting community, but there's much more we can do systematically. The City's processes could be updated to provide forms in other languages (many do only in English), there are various subjective requirements for different license that allow for racial bias to take root, etc. These can all be addressed.

I've also worked to ensure that underserved communities get the information needed from the City. It is the city's job to initiate communication with the community, I continue to push that where possible.

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

I will continue funding Public Health services as needed. I often share information on social media from Public Health of Dane County on issues that impact my community, such as overdoses and drug use often. I will continue doing this and push at systemizing it so it doesn't rely on just the person in office, but rather community members being able to easily access information without having to know their representatives.

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

Biker and pedestrian safety is top of mind. My district (eight) has good public transit coverage, but we often see unsafe pedestrian infrastructure. That's my top priority.

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

I'm the only City Council member that represents the UW-Madison campus and community. I've been able to uplift student voices to an extent that has not been very common in Madison's history.

If re-elected, I guarantee that I will continue to do this.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

Thanks for all your work!

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