

# 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 \*

micah4fitchburg@gmail.com

Candidate name \*

Micah LaDousa

Position you are running for (include municipality) \*

Fitchburg Alder: District 4, Seat 7

Campaign website

## Professional Experience \*

Small business owner of a technology company focused on helping health systems manage their chronically ill populations.

20 Years as a healthcare IT and project management expert, implementing projects at health systems across the country. Managed an independent consulting business for 10 years.

## Political/Service Experience \*

Fitchburg Transportation & Transit Committee: 2021-Present; VITA Tax Center Volunteer tax preparer: Prepare and submit tax returns for the underserved populations of south-central Wisconsin; Core Knowledge Charter School Governing Council: Treasurer and Board Member; Core Knowledge Charter School Parents Advocating for Student Success (PASS): Treasurer and Board Member; City of Fitchburg Poll Worker; Greentree Neighborhood Association: Treasurer and Board Member: 2016-18

## Why are you running for this seat? \*

My goal is for all residents to feel heard and involved in shaping the decisions that impact our shared community. I'm committed to balanced, sustainable growth that honors the unique mix of neighborhoods that make up Fitchburg while addressing the needs of our rapidly growing city. By fostering open communication and collaboration, we can build a thriving community that prioritizes equity, opportunity, and a high quality of life for everyone.

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

Housing and City Planning: We need to increase the supply and affordability of housing in order to keep up with demand, while also incorporating smart urban design so our residents can have not just affordable housing, but easy access to services, transportation, and jobs within their neighborhoods.

Transportation and Transit: The installation of Bus Rapid Transit in the city must be carefully managed so it can be as successful a rollout as possible, accompanied by smart planning around our transportation corridors and expanded transit access to underserved areas.

Transparency and Communication in Government: I want to strengthen lines of communication between district residents and their city government, so they are more aware of what is happening at council meetings, future city plans, and ensuring they have a voice on the council. While we may not always agree on the best path forward, engaged and informed residents will always foster a more vibrant community.

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

The city has made significant progress toward its sustainability goals, and I am committed to supporting continued efforts in electrification, sustainable city development, and integrating sustainability into private development plans. To further advance these goals, we must incorporate climate change priorities into city planning, including transportation and transit services, neighborhood design, green spaces, and stormwater management.

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

Our city, like many others across the state, faces a significant housing availability and affordability challenge, driven largely by supply and demand. To address this, we must accelerate housing construction while also promoting thoughtful city planning that aligns new development with our transportation and environmental goals. Additionally, we need to increase the affordable housing requirements in development projects and promote workforce housing to meet the needs of all residents.

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

As a city, we must ensure our policies promote equity in housing, transportation, and access to services within our underserved communities. By fostering open communication and collaboration between communities and the city's public safety departments, we can balance the city's public safety needs while also addressing historical inequities. I would love to see the Dane County CARES program expanded into Fitchburg, so we can have crisis response teams available to address mental health and substance-related situations.

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

Smart urban planning is necessary to ensure that all of our communities have access to food, transportation, and employment. This includes supporting development that can eliminate food deserts within our neighborhoods, expanding transit into underserved areas, and supporting businesses that create local jobs. These efforts can combine with the direct public health efforts of the county and state to improve the health and well being of all city residents.

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

The city is currently planning for the Bus Rapid Transit project, with a proposed start date of 2027. I want to shepherd that project through so it can be as successful as possible and create an exciting new transit corridor for the city. Additionally, our civic campus, including city hall, the library, and the senior center, currently has limited transit access. I want to see transit service expanded so our underserved residents can have easier access to these services.

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

My district includes single family homes in suburban neighborhoods, apartment buildings, industrial businesses, rural communities, and nearly all of the city's farmland. I look forward to being a representative and a voice for all of our neighbors, gathering diverse opinions, and working together as we make the best decisions to move forward as a city.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

I look forward to speaking with you further

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