

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 *

noah@noahforcouncil.com

Candidate name *

Noah Lieberman

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison Common Council District 14

Campaign website

noahforcouncil.com

Professional Experience *

I currently work as a Business Intelligence Developer at the University of Wisconsin. Prior to that, I worked as a Technical Services Analyst at Epic.

Political/Service Experience *

I've served on the executive board of Dane Dems since 2017, as both Vice Chair of Campaigns and Membership, and as the Chair of the 2nd Congressional District Democratic Party. I also served as Chair of the City of Madison's Landlord-Tenant Issues Committee.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I believe that politics is how we, as a society, express our values and make them manifest in our community. In the wake of Trump's re-election, I felt the need to run for office again to make sure that Madison continued to fight for the progressive values I hold dear. Local government has such a direct impact on people's day to day lives, and I want to make sure that the Madison Common Council is a force for good in our community. I am committed to building more affordable housing across the city of Madison, expanding city services to ensure equitable access to a high quality of life, and protecting Madison's vulnerable populations from the attacks of a Trump administration.

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

Housing - Madison is currently in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. Our vacancy rates for both rental and owner occupied housing are still well below healthy levels, and housing prices are going to continue to rise until that shortage is addressed. We need to remove all unnecessary barriers to the development of more housing, starting with a reevaluation of our zoning laws. We also need to do more to empower tenants to work collectively to ensure lower rents and better treatment from their landlords.

Expanding City Services - Local government can have a tremendous impact on both large policy goals and the day-to-day lives of everyone living here, but only through robust city services. As a Democrat, I believe that we can have a far greater impact on our community collectively than we can as individuals, and public programs and services are the best way to pool those resources and have that impact. Investing in public services and the union workers who make them possible will improve the quality of life for everyone in Madison and help us tackle issues like housing, environmental protection, and public health.

Protection From Trump's Fascist Agenda - Donald Trump has made it crystal clear who he intends to target now that he is back in power. Our local government is the last line of defense against his attacks on immigrants, transgender individuals, women, and all the other groups who will be directly harmed by his fascist policies. We need to think creatively about how we can prevent harm from befalling our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and elect leaders who will center their experiences and wellbeing in policy discussions.

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

Climate change is an existential threat and poses two imperatives to all elected officials. First, we need to do everything in our power to curb our own emissions to try and slow down the heating of the earth. I acknowledge that the actions of Madison are not enough on their own to change the course of the climate, but that is not an excuse to shirk our duty and do our part. We need to move away from fossil fuels wherever possible in Madison, including both public and private use.

Second, we need to acknowledge the damage that has already been done to the climate and prepare our infrastructure to best protect people from the inevitable consequences. This means preparing for more record heat waves by retrofitting old buildings to better withstand high temperatures and creating more public spaces with shade/cooling. This also involves centering flood resilience in our infrastructure developments.

Lastly, we need to deal with the immediate concerns of water and air quality by monitoring and mitigating the pollutants being released into the environment.

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

Expanding city services is one of the best ways we can help those living in poverty, since poorer residents are more likely to rely on these services for their day to day lives. Similarly, pursuing new housing developments will lower the cost of housing for all renters in Madison, which is one of the highest expenses for those living in poverty.

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

We need to invest more in our CARES teams to pursue non-violent alternatives to policing for those going through mental health crises. Police violence disproportionately impacts people of color, so decreasing the number of police interactions in these scenarios will have a strong impact on racial biases in policing. On that same note, I think that reevaluating where and how we deploy police officers is a good way to reduce racial inequality - Because the police force is such a large part of our city's budget, we often use officers in situations where a social worker or other municipal employee would be equally if not more well suited to handle things. Decreasing the presence and ubiquity of armed officers around our city would go a long way to easing tensions and reducing the feeling of over-surveillance felt by many people of color.

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

Improving air and water quality through the reduction of emissions and pollution would help improve the health of our population, especially children. Additionally, we have to be prepared to handle another covid-level pandemic, especially considering the federal response may be lacking or actively making the situation worse. We need to prepare by having the proper infrastructure and plans in place before another disease strikes.

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

Investing in public transit is the best way we can reduce carbon emissions and prepare for our increasing population. My priorities will be improving the reliability and accessibility of our bus routes by increasing the frequency of routes and increasing the number of heated bus shelters, so that it is easier for folks to take the bus year-round. Additionally, I want to increase pedestrian safety infrastructure. There are several roads in my district that would benefit from pedestrian islands and other traffic calming measures to reduce speed and protect people traveling on foot and by bike.

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

Through my work with Dane Dems, I've tried to recruit and support candidates from a variety of backgrounds. Having a diverse set of perspectives in our elected bodies is the best way for us to make sure no one is left behind or marginalized in policy discussions.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms