

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 *

regina.4.madison@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Regina Vidaver

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Madison Common Council, District 5

Campaign website

Regina4Madison.com

Professional Experience *

Current: Section Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention & Cancer Control, Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Past: Research Program Manager, Wisconsin Research & Education Network, UW Madison School of Medicine & Public Health; Executive Director, Free to Breathe (now Lung Cancer Research Foundation); AAAS NSF Science & Technology Policy Fellow; Scientific Programs Manager, Society for Women's Health Research.

Political/Service Experience *

District 5 Alder, 2021-present. Committees include: Madison Food Policy Council; Joint Campus Area Committee; City, County, Schools Coordinating Committee; Sustainable Madison Committee; Finance Committee; Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee; Subcommittee to Establish a Council Code of Conduct; Water Utility; and the Common Council Executive Committee. Prior service: MMSD Advanced Learning Advisory Committee; Beth Israel Center Board of Directors.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am running to uphold our local Madison values: inclusion and caring for our neighbors, being responsible stewards of our environment, and logical growth and progress for our city. My track record shows that I listen with empathy and make decisions based on the best available evidence.

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

Housing availability and affordability, traffic safety, and environmental stewardship.

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

We cannot address our impact on the climate without recognizing the need for more density in housing, creating walkable and bikeable communities, and improving sustainable transportation to reduce people's reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. We also have to ensure that we maintain our deep commitment to keeping our streets clean of leaves and salt to reduce harm to our precious lakes.

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

I championed increasing our affordable housing fund, helped ensure we got funding to support the Madison Public Market - an incubator for entrepreneurs, focused on women and people of color, and started a new zero-interest loan program for childcare centers in underserved areas. In the coming years, we have to continue to work to get the purpose built men's shelter into operation, and all of the social service supports that will be required. I will continue to champion more affordable housing opportunities and work to bring the B line of BRT to fruition so that it serves North and South Madison with rapid, sustainable transportation options.

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

We will have the opportunity to hire a new police chief for MPD this year. While that will fall primarily to the Police & Fire Commission, we will need a robust community involvement process. I will continue to work for a data-driven approach to restorative justice, particularly surrounding youth involvement in the justice system.

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

As a public health professional, this is always at the top of my mind. I am currently working on an initiative to reduce the density of Class A alcohol outlets, as evidence shows higher density leads to worse community outcomes (youth drinking, DUIs, domestic incidents, etc.). I am also working with Public Health Madison Dane County to develop an ordinance to prevent youth access to THC, Delta-8, and Delta-9-containing products, which are currently unregulated in our state. We will continue to support reproductive health access, particularly as that comes under attack at the federal level.

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

It is unclear if we will be able to access federal funds for the B line of BRT, given the change in federal administration. If we can't access those funds, that project will be delayed, which will be unfortunate since the B line serves North and South Madison, which are lower income areas of our city. We will continue to work to connect the bike and pedestrian infrastructure. While it's unclear whether Amtrak will be able to be brought to Madison, we will continue to work to determine where the Madison station will go, so we are prepared for the opportunity.

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

I have actively sought out additional members for City committees to continue to have a diverse representation of voices in our decision-making bodies. I will continue to do this, regardless of whether I am on Council, given its importance to building a community of skilled individuals to help guide City processes.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

How we react to challenges from the federal level, including how we support our immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, is going to be at the forefront of local government and community engagement. We will have to make very difficult decisions around accepting federal funding, which we'll continue to need, with whatever strings may be attached. Having worked at the State level under different administrations, I am used to using creativity to get to intended outcomes, even when the most efficient paths are blocked; this experience will be much needed in the months and years to come.

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