

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 *

mcpherson4waunakee@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Robert McPherson

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Waunakee Village President

Campaign website

<https://www.facebook.com/McPhersonForWaunakee/>

Professional Experience *

EVP Risk Officer - Peoples State Bank

Political/Service Experience *

Waunakee Village Trustee (2023-2025 Term)

Why are you running for this seat? *

To continue reforms in Waunakee of our zoning code that advance housing and retail choices, enact changes for the long term stability of our public safety departments, and to give new voices a chance as citizen appointments to committees within the village as we embark on a review of our comprehensive plan.

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

A lack of retail choices driving up cost (a lack of a second grocery store), housing choice (via zoning reform), and long-term planning for fire and EMS.

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

With Six Mile Creek running through the village, and continued development as well as climate change causing more frequent flood events, I would look to study how we can provide relief to those living in these flood areas using available grants.

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

I am a supporter of using the affordable housing extension for eligible Tax Increment Districts to provide funding for those with the greatest need for housing within the village. The village already provides subsidized locations for our food pantry and an organization that serves ALICE households; I would continue supporting their programs and look to see how our budget could assist them, where it makes sense.

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

Continuing the work I have done as a trustee, I would continue to solicit feedback from the community to work with our law enforcement departments on policing. As village president I would ask that more data flow back to the village board after consideration by our police committee, a practice that does not occur today.

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

By continuing work on long-term planning for our EMS and Fire departments. Waunakee is part of a multi-jurisdictional district for these services, and has a minority vote despite providing over 70% of funding for each district. As a trustee, I led reform on the EMS agreement (which was over 50 years old), and broke a long stalemate on getting a study of the Fire district for long term planning. There is still much work to be done, but in the end, making these large changes to our districts will be of the best benefit for the community once it is completed.

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

Waunakee continues to be an island amongst Madison suburbs when it comes to mass transit and it has resulted in unsafe car orientated design within the village. One issue I began work on as a trustee and achieved success on is safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists amongst a major road into the village (County Highway Q). The changes fought for on this project will open the door for us to stop developing "car first" transportation decisions and finally allow for real conversation on bus or other alternative services within the village.

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

As a trustee I have attempted to meet with those groups that have not been well represented within our village government to hear their concerns and bring them forth as their elected representative. If I were to be elected to Village President I would seek to actively reach out and encourage more diverse voices to be part of our committees and contribute their ideas to our community.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

N/A

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