

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 *

ryan4district15@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Ryan Koglin

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

City of Madison District 15 alder

Campaign website

Ryan4district15.com

Professional Experience *

I hold a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and have extensive experience working with children and families in roles ranging from therapy to early education. Currently, I own and operate Dirty Paws Hiking, an outdoor doggy daycare. These experiences have honed my skills in active listening, problem-solving, and community engagement, preparing me to serve effectively as alder by advocating for neighbors, addressing diverse needs, and fostering collaborative solutions.

Political/Service Experience *

I have been a proud resident of District 15 for 15 years and have dedicated much of my time to addressing key issues that impact our community, including affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and public safety. As the current president of the SASY Neighborhood Association, I have gained valuable experience in bringing people together to collaborate on common goals. In this role, I work to foster productive dialogue, build consensus, and advocate for solutions that benefit our neighbors. My focus has always been on creating an inclusive, vibrant community where everyone feels heard and supported. Through my efforts, I aim to ensure that our district continues to thrive while addressing the challenges we face together.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I'm running for District 15 alder because I care deeply about our community and the people who call it home. As someone who has lived on the near side of Madison for 15 years, served as the SASY Neighborhood Association Board President, and worked on committees focused on the environment, preservation, and equitable development, I've seen firsthand the power of collaboration and advocacy.

I want to bring that same energy to the Common Council—to fight for sustainable growth, support our neighbors, and ensure everyone has a voice in the decisions that shape our future. My background in mental health and small business ownership has given me a unique perspective on the challenges we face, and I'm committed to working tirelessly to make District 15 an even stronger, more vibrant place to live.

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

The three most important issues in the campaign are affordability, the environment, and engaging with people across the district. Affordability is a critical concern as rising housing costs and the overall cost of living continue to impact residents, and addressing this ensures that neighborhoods remain accessible and inclusive. The environment is another priority, given the urgent need to combat climate change and advocate for sustainable practices, whether through preserving green spaces, improving infrastructure, or supporting renewable energy initiatives. Finally, engaging with people across the district is essential to building trust, amplifying residents' voices, and ensuring that decisions are informed by their needs and perspectives.

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

District 15 faces several significant environmental challenges that require collective attention and action. One of the most pressing issues is ensuring access to safe and clean water. Contaminants like PFAS, often referred to as “forever chemicals,” have been detected in parts of Madison, raising serious concerns about long-term health and environmental impacts. Protecting our drinking water demands ongoing testing, remediation, and proactive measures to address contamination sources.

Starkweather Creek, a vital natural resource in our district, has also been significantly impacted by stormwater runoff, sedimentation, and pollution. These issues not only harm local wildlife but also diminish the creek’s recreational and ecological value. Improving its water quality through better stormwater management and community engagement is essential to restoring and safeguarding this important ecosystem.

Additionally, the district’s proximity to industrial zones makes monitoring pollution from manufacturing plants a critical priority. Regular inspections, strict enforcement of environmental regulations, and increased transparency are necessary to ensure that pollutants from these facilities do not compromise air and water quality or the health of residents.

Addressing these challenges requires collaboration between local government, residents, and environmental organizations. By prioritizing sustainable practices and fostering community involvement, we can work toward a healthier and more resilient District 15.

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

Creating more equitable opportunities and addressing poverty requires intentional, community-driven action. As District 15 Alder, I can advocate for affordable housing by collaborating with developers and city officials to prioritize housing options that accommodate diverse income levels. Strengthening access to resources, such as food pantries, mental health services, and workforce development programs, is another key focus. Supporting local, minority-owned, and small businesses helps create jobs and fosters economic stability. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable public transit allows residents to reach jobs, schools, and services more easily. Addressing environmental justice by providing clean, accessible green spaces is essential for all neighbors, especially those who are underserved. Additionally, hosting listening sessions and creating opportunities for direct community input can ensure residents living in poverty are heard and connected with advocacy opportunities and funding sources.

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

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

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

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

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Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

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