

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 *

madisonformadison@gmail.com

Candidate name *

Sabrina V. Madison

Position you are running for (include municipality) *

Alder, District 17, City of Madison

Campaign website

madisonformadison.com

Professional Experience *

As Alder for Madison's District 17 since October 2022, I have been a dedicated advocate for my community, addressing issues such as affordable housing, equitable development, and quality-of-life improvements for residents. My leadership extends to founding and leading the Progress Center for Black Women since 2017, a transformative organization empowering Black women entrepreneurs and community leaders.

I have also spearheaded impactful initiatives, including the Black Women's Leadership Conference (2016-2019) and the Black Business Expo (2016–2018), platforms that elevated voices and provided opportunities for Black professionals and business owners. My expertise in community engagement and public speaking spans over a decade.

Prior to my current roles, I honed my leadership and organizational skills at Madison College (2010–2016) in various part- and full-time capacities, contributing to student and community success.

Political/Service Experience *

As Alder for Madison's District 17 since October 2022, I serve on the City's Library Board, Finance Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Community Services Committee, actively shaping policies to address community needs. My civic engagement reflects a long-standing commitment to equity and opportunity. Notable roles include: Previous Chair and Member of the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Advisory Taskforce, where I helped guide efforts to provide economic stability for Madison families. Previous Member of the Overture Center Foundation Board of Directors, fostering accessibility in the arts. Former Chair of the Economic Development Committee, advancing equitable development and local economic growth. Leadership at United Way of Dane County, where I have chaired the Income Community Solutions Team and served on the Board of Directors, Marketing Committee, and Nominating & Governance Committee. Other key contributions include serving on the Greater Madison Vision Steering Committee (2017–2018), the Madison Public MarketReady Program Advisory Committee (2017), and earlier initiatives such as co-creating The Conversation Mixtape (2013–2015) and founding the Word is Bond Poetry Slam (2012–2013), both of which centered on creating safe spaces for connection and expression in the community. My commitment to civic engagement spans decades, starting as a Community Projects Coordinator at Madison College (2008–2010), where I coordinated initiatives to support students and local residents alike.

Why are you running for this seat? *

I am running for re-election as Alder of District 17 to continue fostering a community where every resident is seen, supported, and empowered. My priorities include housing affordability, equitable development, public safety, and creating opportunities for economic and social mobility. I am committed to ensuring the Imagination Center (library) opens, the men's shelter is well-resourced, and seniors have welcoming spaces to build community.

Supporting small businesses, particularly those led by underrepresented entrepreneurs, is central to my vision for an equitable local economy. By fostering inclusive development, I aim to ensure District 17 remains a vibrant and thriving place for everyone. Engaging with constituents remains a cornerstone of my approach, as collaborative efforts lead to meaningful and sustainable solutions.

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

The three most important issues in my race are traffic safety, housing affordability, and small business development.

Traffic Safety: Residents in District 17 deserve safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. I am committed to advocating for traffic calming measures and infrastructure improvements to ensure everyone can move through our community safely.

Housing Affordability: With the rising cost of living, ensuring more Madisonians can afford their rent and have access to stable housing remains a top priority. I will continue working toward policies and initiatives that expand affordable housing options and address housing insecurity.

Small Business Development: Supporting small businesses, especially those owned by underrepresented entrepreneurs, is essential for creating a thriving and equitable local economy. I am dedicated to removing barriers, fostering opportunities, and encouraging growth for businesses that are vital to our community's success.

These priorities reflect the needs of District 17 and my commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents.

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

N/A

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

As Alder, I am committed to creating more equitable opportunities and supporting those living in poverty by addressing systemic barriers and fostering collaboration across sectors. I will continue advocating for policies that prioritize affordable housing, workforce development, and access to essential resources, ensuring that all residents have a fair chance to thrive.

Collaboration is key to making meaningful progress. I will continue to work closely with other elected officials at the city, county, and state levels as well as community leaders to align efforts and leverage resources for impactful solutions. Additionally, I will engage with educational institutions and workforce development programs to expand access to training and career pathways, particularly for residents from underrepresented communities.

Through these partnerships and my ongoing constituent engagement, I will focus on creating sustainable, equitable opportunities that uplift individuals and families across District 17 and the City of Madison.

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

Ways that I have and will do my best to continue working in collaboration to accomplish:

Increase Transparency and Accountability in Policing: Support initiatives that require independent oversight of police practices, such as Madison's Police Civilian Oversight Board, and advocate for data collection to track and address racial disparities in policing.

Invest in Restorative Justice Programs: Work with local organizations to expand restorative justice initiatives, providing alternatives to traditional punitive systems and focusing on healing and reconciliation for both victims and offenders.

Reallocate Resources to Community Needs: Advocate for funding to support mental health services, violence prevention programs, and community-based interventions, reducing the over-reliance on police for non-criminal issues.

Expand Racial Equity Training: Ensure that all city staff, including law enforcement, receive comprehensive, ongoing racial equity and implicit bias training to promote equitable decision-making in public service.

Engage the Community: Host listening sessions with community members, particularly in Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, to understand their concerns and co-develop solutions that address systemic inequities.

By pursuing these steps and fostering collaboration between city leaders, community organizations, and residents, I will work to build trust, reduce disparities, and promote equity and justice for all.

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

As Alder, I will improve public health by advocating for expanded access to affordable housing, mental health services, and nutritious food options. I will also support safe infrastructure for walking and biking, promote community spaces like the Imagination Center, and support our public health agency to address disparities and ensure all residents can live healthier lives.

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

N/A

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

One way I elevate diverse voices is by using social media to spotlight issues that are often overlooked but are critical for our community. I also make it a priority to engage directly with residents from all backgrounds, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are centered in government decision-making. I will continue these efforts, fostering inclusive dialogue and advocating for policies that reflect the diverse perspectives of our community.

Any other issues/topics you wish to discuss?

N/A

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms