

Madison Council Candidate

Questionnaire

The first section of the questionnaire is for your basic contact information and campaign media

Candidate Full Name *

Brandi Grayson

Aldermanic District *

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Campaign website (if applicable)

<https://www.brandiformadison.com/>

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) accounts, if any

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

Questionnaire

Please state your position on the following issues. Please limit answers to 500 characters. Any answers exceeding the word count limit will be redacted after 500 characters.

If you have completed this questionnaire before, you may skip any question that is not starred (**) unless you would like to modify or update an answer submitted in a prior year. If a question is skipped we will re-post the most recent submitted answer in its place.

1. Why are you seeking this office?

I want to continue to work hard to ensure that all Madisonians have a chance to succeed. I understand that affordable housing, a livable wage and equitable opportunity go hand in hand with ensuring our City is a safe and prosperous space for all.

2. What in your background or experiences qualifies you to understand the unique needs facing small businesses?

I founded Urban Triage; my professional experience in the nonprofit sector shares many similar skills to those in the business community, from managing an organization to collaborating with both private and public institutions.

3. What are the most important issues facing businesses in your district?

This pandemic is, of course, the most pressing issue. We need to subsidize these businesses to help them survive the pandemic and we need to prioritize local, non-white businesses.

4. What is your perception of Madison's business brand? How do you think Madison is perceived locally and nationally?

Madison is perceived as a highly educated place with many opportunities, as seen with our tech boom. This is a deserved reputation - to a limit. These entrepreneurial and educational opportunities have not yet been expanded to communities of color.

5. How can Madison best attract and retain a diverse workforce?

It needs to be a welcoming city for all. This means schools that don't kick kids out, ending mass incarceration, and expanding employment opportunities. We need less emphasis on educational gatekeeping and to pay people a living wage no matter what.

6. How can the City of Madison build an inclusive economy and ensure the advanced industries accelerating here provide opportunity for all?

Madison needs to create more affordable housing end the cycle of gentrifying working class folks of color out of their communities so they can build stability and their own base of businesses. We should grow public transportation infrastructure.

7. What strategies would you recommend for the city to meet the diverse needs of worker mobility and housing?

Expand shelters, alongside tiny home villages and other transitional options. End the criminalization of homelessness (tickets for loitering, panhandling, etc.).

The city government should build new city owned housing units every year.

8. How do you define economic development? Please elaborate.

Economic development means building community wealth. People think of businesses, and this is part of it, but it also means good paying jobs, a strong safety net, and strong community relationships.

****9. What can the city do to support small businesses, particularly those hardest hit by the pandemic?**

The most obvious and direct thing is to give them money, as the city has begun to do. People who fret about the financial cost of this should consider the financial impact of letting our local businesses close and letting people lose their jobs.

****10. As an alder, how would you work to achieve equilibrium in our local response to the pandemic in balancing the pivotal interests of public health, economic health and public confidence?**

The best thing for public confidence and economic health is to be quick, confident, and competent in addressing public health. Our community is lucky to be more decisive than some. Next step is distributing vaccines swiftly.

****If offered an endorsement from the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, would you accept it? ***

Yes

****By submitting this candidate questionnaire, you agree that the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce may publish it with the intent of sharing it with its membership and the general public. ***

I acknowledge the Chamber will publish my answers to this questionnaire.