

2026 Madison Common Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Carmella Glenn

Aldermanic District *

18

Home Address *

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Campaign website (if applicable)

carmellafordistrict18.com

Social media accounts, if any

https://www.facebook.com/people/Carmella-Glenn-for-District-18/61568170656241/

Questionnaire - Part 2

Please state your position on the following issues.

Limit answers to 500 words (approx. 3,500 characters). Any answers exceeding the word count limit will be redacted after 3,500 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 use your most recently submitted answer.

1. Why are you seeking this office?

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2. What qualifies you to understand the unique needs facing small businesses?

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

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4. How would you characterize Madison's current workforce housing supply? What strategies would you recommend for the city to meet the diverse needs of workforce housing?

5. What is your assessment of Madison's transportation system? What priority improvements are needed to support mobility for a growing workforce?

6. With declining aid and rising costs, local leaders must find creative ways to be more efficient. Some examples include merging services or operational reforms. Please identify ways the City of Madison government can potentially be more efficient.

****7.** Do you consider Madison's property taxes to be too high, too low, or appropriate? Please explain your reasoning and provide specific examples of any fiscal changes you would recommend?

When we talk about whether taxes are affordable, we're really talking about the pressure on our neighbors—especially seniors who are trying to stay in their homes on a fixed income. I don't think we can look at our tax rate in a vacuum, though. Madison has to stay competitive with other cities our size, but the real worry is that we're heading toward a point where the whole region just becomes too expensive. In my first eight months as Alder, I've been focused on a "pro-growth" way to fix this, like the new Tax Incremental District (TID) I'm pushing for in District 18. If we can get more businesses to set up shop here, we grow the commercial tax base and take some of the weight off the regular homeowner. To me, that's how we get better jobs and the infrastructure the Northside actually deserves.

****8.** The City of Madison is in the process of updating its economic development strategy. What policies or initiatives would you like to see incorporated into this plan?

[City of Madison Economic Development Strategy](#)

Madison's plan for the future needs to be about more than just hitting growth targets. It needs to be about building real wealth in neighborhoods that have been ignored for too long. With the District 18 TID, I'm looking at economic development as a way to help people build long-term stability, not just create a bunch of low-wage jobs. I want to see more support for things like worker-owned businesses and employee equity, so the money made in our community stays in our community. We should be measuring our success by how much a family has in their savings account, not just by "aggregate" city-wide numbers.

I'm a big believer in listening to the people who are actually living through these economic shifts. Being "pro-business" works best when you're working with the community, not just around it. We need solid plans to make sure people aren't priced out of their own neighborhoods as they improve. Whether that's through land trusts or making sure local entrepreneurs can actually win city contracts, the goal is to stop poverty before it starts. As we grow, it shouldn't just be about more buildings—it should be about making the Northside a place where everyone has a fair shot.

****9.** While data centers are not new to Madison or the region, they are emerging as a major policy issue at all levels of government. What are your positions and views on data center development, and as an alder, how would you approach large development proposals like data centers?

I'm all for growing our economy, but this sudden rush to build data centers leaves me with a lot of questions. These places use a ton of electricity and water, and I'm worried we're moving a little too fast to really see how that's going to strain our grid and our resources. As Alder, I want those answers before we green-light these massive projects. I'm glad to see the county and the state starting to dig into this; we need rules that are actually designed for this kind of industry before we jump in head-first.

My approach here is pretty simple: be transparent and listen to the residents. Our city rules already say we have to have public meetings, and I plan on making sure District 18 residents are actually heard during that process. We can't let huge industrial changes happen without the people they affect having a say. I'll be focused on making sure any developer coming in agrees to support the community and follows strict environmental standards. We shouldn't just be a "host" for a data center; we need to protect our neighborhood's health and cost of living.

****10. How do you view Madison's continued population growth? Is it an opportunity or a challenge?**

I definitely see our growth as an opportunity. More people coming in is a good sign for the city's future, but only if we're ready for them. For growth to actually feel like a win for everyone, all our "moving parts" have to be in sync. That means the city has to be on the same page as builders to get housing up, and the Chamber needs to be working with businesses to create jobs that actually pay a living wage. Our schools also need to be ready for the new families moving in.

As Alder, I'm pushing for "synchronized growth." We have to be proactive about things like buses and utilities before the city gets crowded. If we can get our economic plans and our land-use plans to work together, we can welcome new people without losing what makes our current neighborhoods special. It's about making sure Madison doesn't just get bigger—it gets better for everyone who lives here.

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

Yes

No

****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.

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