

Madison Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Charles Myadze

Aldermanic District *

18

Home Address *

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Phone *

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Campaign website (if applicable)

charlesmyadze.com

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

[https //www facebook com/AlderCharlesMyadze/](https://www.facebook.com/AlderCharlesMyadze/)

Questionnaire - Part 2

Please state your position on the following issues.

Please 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 re-post the most recent submitted answer in its place.

1. Why are you seeking this office?

I am running for re election because, while we have made progress on important issues for my district and the City during my first term on the council, there is so much more to do We cannot turn back now Here's some of the progress we have made finally passed the Body worn camera pilot program for the northside, paved the way for much needed new housing with the rezoning of the Raemisch Farm property (again after that project was mired in delay), improved the Northside infrastructure, and supported critical youth programming Looking ahead, we must continue to move the Raemisch Farm project forward, leverage TIF to create more affordable housing, fight for equity and access in Madison's public transportation system, protect the environment and special places on the Northside, and make Madison and our neighborhoods safer I look forward to doing my part in enduring Madison lives up to our ideals and is the outstanding place to live, work, play, and raise a family we know it can be

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

One of my favorite parts of serving on the Common Council has been getting to know the various businesses in the 18th district, and more importantly, the people behind them. It has been through these conversations, both through organizations like the Northside Business Association and through individual meetings, that I've learned a great deal about what our businesses need, what's working, and what could be improved. I have always been a firm believer that government works best when everyone has a seat at the table, and our business community is absolutely part of that.

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

Investment and opportunity including housing; public safety; and public transportation

Investment and economic opportunity Something I have heard time and time again from my constituents has been that our Northside hasn't seen the same sort of growth as have other parts of Madison. We must change that, and there has never been a better time. Between the Raemisch Farm and Oscar Mayer sites, we are seeing some exciting things happening right now, and we must explore every tool the City has to leverage these opportunities and maintain the economic momentum. I strongly support the use of TIF, and I look forward to collaborating with my constituents to unlock the amazing potential we have on the Northside.

Public safety We must continue to work towards a safer community for all. Safety is one of the most basic quality of life issues there is, and it has an impact on everyone. We need a well trained, well equipped, culturally competent police force. I supported additional community police officers. We also need to invest in mental health officers, community centers, youth employment initiatives, violence interruption initiatives and community building programming.

Public Transportation We must ensure that the Northside has excellent public transit options and that new transportation options include and serve our Northside residents. Public transit connects people to jobs and customers to businesses. The voices of people of color, people with disabilities, working people, and all those whose day to day lives depend on public transportation must be heard when making decisions.

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

To me, economic development is end result of both the public and private sectors (sometimes together) growing of the collective "pie" and creating more and better opportunities. That encompasses every new business started, every business that is able to stay open through tough times, every job created or retained, every unit of housing built, and every neighbor we add to our community.

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

Madison's business brand continues to change, just as the City does. Over the years, Madison has rightfully developed a national reputation as a hub for innovation, especially in fields like healthcare and technology. Within Wisconsin, there is still a perception of this being a difficult place to do business, which isn't helped by partisan electoral narratives. The rate at which Madison is growing compared to the rest of the state suggests that both employees and employers see Madison's potential.

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

Madison must embrace, develop, support, and promote diverse cultural, recreational, and economic opportunities. We must be a place where everyone can picture themselves having a great life – working, playing, and raising a family. How to do that? We need to continue to increase and diversify our housing stock so that our city offers a variety of quality, affordable housing options. We must support our arts and entertainment sector to promote a wide array of entertainment options and continue to invest in our amazing local food economy. We also need to protect the natural beauty around us (like the 18th District's Cherokee Marsh) and maximize our lakefronts. And, Madison must continue taking steps to ensure that we are offering residents a safe place to live and raise a family.

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

First and foremost, Madison needs more housing at all levels. Without increasing the availability of housing, we will never be able to truly address the issue of workforce housing. As we add that additional housing, we should be working with developers to include workforce housing within their projects. We are doing this right now with Green Street Development on the Raemisch Farm property, and we can and should do this elsewhere.

****8.** In what ways can city government support entrepreneurs of color working to start and grow an emerging business in Madison?

We need to make navigating City processes easier. I hear all the time about how intimidating various licensing processes can be for those who aren't attorneys, or cannot afford to hire one, or didn't go to formal business school. We already have an Office of Business Resources, and they do a great job. We absolutely could do a better job promoting that resource, however.

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

Overall, I think Madison has a strong transportation system with room for improvement. I am concerned about some elements of the recent Metro route redesign, with the reductions in service to Madison's Northside neighborhoods in particular. Likewise, Bus Rapid Transit, while exciting because of its potential to connect thousands of residents to jobs throughout Madison, must be equitable. I will not stop fighting for better transit services for our Northside. While not politically feasible, I hope to someday see a Regional Transit Authority in our area.

****10. A challenge that often comes with growth are issues impacting crime and safety. Some of these challenges are real; others perceived. In either case, it impacts livability and our ability to recruit and retain talent to Madison. Do you view Madison as a safe community and what is the Common Council's role in building safe communities?**

Madison is a safe community. There are also some disturbing trends over the past few years. We can make our city safer. To do so, as I mentioned earlier, we need a well-trained, well equipped, culturally competent police force and we need invest in mental health officers, community centers, youth employment initiatives, violence interruption initiatives and community-building programming.

****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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