

# Madison Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name \*

Charlie Fahey

Aldermanic District \*

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Home Address \*

[REDACTED]

Email Address \*

[REDACTED]

Phone \*

[REDACTED]

Campaign website (if applicable)

charliefahey.com

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

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## 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 to support affordable housing in my district. Rent prices are skyrocketing and becoming impossible to afford. Some District 8 tenants are seeing their rent inflate by 20% next year. Many struggle to find leases.

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

I grew up in a small business family. My parents took their hobby and made it their life. Over time, I became involved in nearly every aspect of the family business; I swept the floors, processed payroll, marketed our store, and interacted with countless satisfied customers. I learned to work hard and think for myself. This life experience is a core piece of my identity and an attitude I'll bring to the Common Council.

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

Businesses in my district are facing inflation, labor shortages, and cash-strapped customers. Most of my district's residents are students who provide significant income for many State Street businesses nearby. Consequently, these businesses are sensitive to changes to the student population.

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

Solid economic development can mean many things, but it involves supporting workers and businesses to improve Madison's economy. The city must build a solid foundation for local businesses to expand operations, complete research & development projects, and gain access to new distribution channels. To achieve this outcome, the City of Madison should take full advantage of every tool to support economic development, like tax incremental financing. City infrastructure must also keep up with economic growth. The University of Wisconsin, located in District 8, plays a vital role in many of these development functions.

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

Madison is perceived very strongly both locally and nationally. I want to enhance our brand further with capital and labor improvements. Madison is a college town, but it's so much more.

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

Madison is a wonderful place to work. However, the rising cost of living and a lack of affordable housing threatens workforce development. If we can tackle these challenges, our workforce will thrive. Madison must also continue its investment in safe, efficient public transportation and facilitate the proper implementation of Bus Rapid Transit. As someone running to represent the UW campus, one of my goals is to keep talented graduates in Madison to support our economy.

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

I'm running to support affordable housing in my area. As Alder, I'll fight to eliminate failed ordinances that make workforce housing more difficult to build. I'll also support improved financing for affordable housing. As our workforce grows, so must our housing supply.

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

Many people of color aspire to launch a business someday but fail to get it off the ground. Often, these aspiring entrepreneurs lack mentorship and appropriate lines of credit. We must ensure that these resources are accessible to everyone and support community networks of mentorship and credit.

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

As we implement Bus Rapid Transit, we must continue to make housing improvements along these routes. Recently, I've been involved with the proposed bus center and redevelopment on Hawthorne Court. This development has highlighted the contentious issues surrounding public transit. Madison residents should get the most out of our expanding bus system. As Alder, I'll fight to make public transit accessible and affordable to everyone.

\*\*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?

Public safety remains a vital issue in Madison, and crime rate reductions are essential to the success of workers and businesses. Street lighting is also a critical issue in my district, particularly along the poorly-lit southern shores of Lake Mendota. Pedestrian safety is another important safety issue I've been working on with the Campus Area Neighborhood Association.

**\*\*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.

This form was created inside of Wisconsin Alumni Association.

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