

# Madison Council Candidate

## Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name \*

Christian Albouras

Aldermanic District \*

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Campaign website (if applicable)

<https://www.christian4madison.com/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Christian4Madison>

## 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?

In 2019, I was elected to serve on the council and have been honored to see several milestones and legislation occur during my tenure. I am running for re-election to continue to push forward-thinking legislation, support COVID-19 recovery efforts, support our local and regional economy during the pandemic, bolster workforce development efforts, support development, prioritize violence prevention, enhance basic city services, and move our city forward.

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

- Currently serve as a Deputy Administrator at Wisconsin DCF
- Served as an Executive Director at the Department of Safety and Professional Services to many industry related boards/committees/councils
- Former Secretary for the Latino Chamber of Commerce
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater -Served as Business Development Specialist at Summit Credit Union and supported an array of businesses in this capacity, representing multiple industries

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

1. COVID-19 recovery efforts
2. Economic recovery and stimulus programs/grants
3. City licensing and permit matters
4. Public safety issues
5. Attracting a qualified and well-trained workforce
6. Limited attractions (i.e. malls, downtown corridor, etc.)
7. Limited commercial space that has a constant/steady workforce that would frequent and support the businesses in the district.

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

We have a thriving business community at the city and regional level. Further, our economy is filled with a well-educated workforce and the bioscience and technology industries are booming in Madison business community. However, the city, including the business community and civic groups, struggle with equity issues.

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

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

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

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

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

- Seek to identify ways to lower/suspend fees to conduct business
- Provide TA and connecting businesses to organizations that can provide TA re: stimulus/recovery funds, digitizing the business model, PPE, business capacity building, vendor contracting -Coordinate with local utility regarding businesses that are having issues with paying bills -Consistent/strategic messaging to the public that is forward thinking to build public confidence and stimulate commerce

**\*\*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?

- Strategic messaging and positive modeling to build public confidence/trust
- Provide access to technical assistance to our local businesses during the pandemic regarding both business operations and health and safety
- Identify critical workforce re: 1b and subsequent vaccination efforts
- Engage federal partners re: stimulus efforts
- Listen businesses re: pandemic and local health orders
- Identify strategic ways to maintain public health/safety and also seek economic viability

**\*\*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.