

2025 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 *

[Redacted]

Email Address *

[Redacted]

Phone *

[Redacted]

Campaign website (if applicable)

carmellafordistrict18.com

Social media (Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], etc.) accounts, if any

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568170656241>

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 have been contemplating running for Madison Common Council for quite some time, and I believe District 18 is ready to embrace solid and steady leadership. The range of life and work experiences I've had have given me a deep understanding of how systems work and how an Alder can be a bridge between individuals and local government to improve the strength of the community as a whole. Throughout my life, I have dedicated myself to building relationships and connecting communities, understanding the profound importance of bringing diverse voices into spaces where they might otherwise be unheard. I want to bring my extensive experience and commitment to community representation to help our city continue to improve and thrive.

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

In my ten years of work with Just Bakery, I saw firsthand what creating opportunities for individuals marginalized by systemic barriers can do. I see the role that plays in economic revitalization and sustainable growth across the community. I have been a part of assisting individuals to realize their potential and contribute to the community's prosperity. I have also worked successfully with both the public and private sectors to achieve desired goals and outcomes. In my current role as Violence Prevention Supervisor at Public Health of Madison and Dane County, I see how collaboration and relationship building is vital in building workforce development programs and opportunities. And my commitment to relationship building and understanding the needs of stakeholders across the community is what will allow me to continue listening and learning about the specific needs and opportunities available to small businesses.

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

First and foremost, there aren't many businesses in District 18 - in fact, according to the Chamber of Commerce map, there is not a single member business in my district. Those that are face similar issues to businesses throughout the city: continuing to attract a strong workforce, limited housing choices, and the changing nature of both retail sales and remote work. I would appreciate and welcome input from organizations like the Chamber of Commerce in connecting and supporting businesses.

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

I think economic development means how well a community is able to thrive. This means having good paying jobs available. But it also means having services and businesses available for those who live within a community, and that all residents have what they need. This includes quality transit, safe and affordable housing, and places to enjoy free time. It means reducing barriers for starting and growing small businesses that become core components of neighborhoods and community prosperity.

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

Madison needs to work harder to support entrepreneurs of color by helping them attain the capital and other support needed to start businesses.

Additionally, supporting reforms that support and protect undocumented immigrants

As a whole, when needs are met on very basic levels it will also help retain a diverse workforce. Available housing, making transit easier to use and more accessible, and paying a good, living wage are all ways to attract a diverse workforce. We can support our Universities and other higher education institutions. We can also support the trades by supporting apprenticeship programs and properly funding them.

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

Madison is very behind with what it needs for housing at all income levels, including workforce housing. Limited inventory and development not keeping up with growth demands is driving prices up and making it difficult for many to afford to live here. I believe Madison needs to continue to invest in its Affording Housing Fund and look for opportunities to update its zoning code to support more housing development.

**7. How do you view Madison's continued population growth? What are the opportunities and challenges that come with it?

We are very fortunate that Madison continues to be a desirable place people want to live in.

This growth provides Madison with a strong workforce, but also requires continued investments and development to stay attractive. As a city, we need to maintain the quality of services our existing and new residents have come to expect, and continue to improve our transportation system. Most importantly, we need to encourage continued housing development so people of all different incomes can afford to live in Madison.

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

In a city the size of Madison that is rapidly growing, we have to rethink our dependence on cars. This is where continued investing in public transit including the North South BRT line, encouraging development in our new transit overlay districts, prioritizing pedestrian and bike safety all come into play. While previous generations are still quite car-focused and car-dependent in how they move around the city, the younger generations are looking toward alternatives for convenience and affordability, but also for the impact on our climate.

****9. 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.**

I'm aware that Madison has faced budget issues every year since the State imposed levy limits in 2011. Since that time, multiple Mayoral administrations and Alders have worked with staff to come up with efficiencies and creative ways to balance the budget.

The city is running out of options, which contributed to last year's ballot referendum.

I think it's difficult for me to suggest particular efficiencies without consulting with City staff who know their department and department responsibilities better than I will as a part-time alder.

If elected, it will be important for me to work with the Mayor and each City department to evaluate further efficiencies and possible services cut each year in order to continue to address Madison's structural budget deficit. I think it's important for Alders to talk regularly with residents to better understand the effect of proposed efficiencies and possible service cuts before we enact them.

****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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