

2026 Madison Common Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Davy Mayer

Aldermanic District *

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Home Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address *

[REDACTED]

Phone *

[REDACTED]

Campaign website (if applicable)

votedavy.com

Social media accounts, if any

<https://www.facebook.com/DavyMayerD6Alder>

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?

I've only served in this role for eight months, but in that time I've deepened connections with neighborhood organizations, local businesses, city staff and met many constituents. I want to continue to work to help the people of my district and the greater city.

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

I frequent local small businesses in my district and always try to meet and talk with the owners and managers about challenges they face and specifically how I can help. I also connect with our local business groups such as the brand new Williamson-Marquette Business Alliance.

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

Rising material, inventory and labor costs are impacting all businesses. High housing costs make it difficult for service industry workers to live close to jobs in my district. On the other hand, the increase in new apartment buildings mean more customers living nearby.

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?

It is severely lacking. If service industry workers can't find nearby housing, restaurants will have difficulty staffing. We need to build more housing at all price points. We also need to be careful about how much naturally-occurring affordable housing is replaced by new, market rate rentals. We also need to find a way to get more owner-occupied housing built.

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

BRT effectively serves my district, running right down the middle. Other bus routes serve the edges well. We have ample bike paths / routes and infrastructure. All of these connect well with the rest of the city, but we can continue to improve. I'm looking forward to getting an Amtrak station sited.

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.

Frankly many services have already suffered cuts, there isn't a whole lot more fat to trim. I do have hope that with redistricting to ungerrymander the state, our legislature will be more balanced and we could see shared revenue reform, bringing more state aid to the city.

****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?

Municipal property taxes are significant, but our service level is significant, too. It's important to consider things that will create additional tax burden in the future, such as overspending on the capital budget. I'd like to see the city go on a "road diet" and slow down building new roads that will only require more future maintenance. This is also one of many reasons I oppose expanding the Beltline.

****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](#)

I'd like to see more long-term planning around potential scenarios. What does the city look like with the widespread adoption of driverless cars? (Less need for parking, more pickup/dropoff points). How will climate change affect our area? Some studies show southern Wisconsin may be an island of relative stability, in which case we may be a destination for climate refugees from other parts of the country. What does Madison look like with an additional 100,000 residents?

****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?

Any data centers of significant size are unlikely in my district because of high land values. While it's possible we might see some demand on the periphery, that is also unlikely. But over the next year, I'm looking forward to the city developing appropriate zoning to facilitate any data center proposals.

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

Both. New arrivals to Madison are a sign of a healthy economy. We have lots of jobs and attractive amenities. Of course that means there's a challenge in developing more housing and pressure on our transit connections. But growth also means more customers for our businesses, more utilization of mass transit, more property tax revenue from new development, etc.

**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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