

Madison Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Derek Field

Aldermanic District *

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Home Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address *

[REDACTED]

Phone *

[REDACTED]

Campaign website (if applicable)

voteforderekfield.com

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

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'm running for Alder because our neighborhoods on the Far East Side are safe, beautiful, and affordable and I want to work to keep them that way I have a Masters degree in Public Affairs and six years of experience in state government where I use data to help people make policy decisions, with an emphasis on data related to human services policy like public education and child care Madison's housing crisis is driving up housing costs for homeowners and renters, eroding the standard of living for middle class and working families and creating more need for social supports down the road We need more housing supply to meet this demand, stabilize the housing market, and take pressure off of house prices and rents

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

I am an expert at using data to inform decisions about public policy and services. I also have graduate-level training in areas of public policy relevant for the business community such as taxation, and regulation.

Upon the candidates request, the following was added:

I also have a bachelor's degree in economics and I understand how markets work and how market forces change.

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

In my view the most important current challenges facing business in my district and around the city include the rising cost of living and consumers' changing spending patterns in response to inflation, and the difficulty finding workers who live nearby to meet business's needs.

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

To me, economic development in Madison means having a strong and skilled workforce, a healthy business community of employers, responsible and sustainable growth of infrastructure and housing, and a healthy safety net that meets the basic needs of people who have retired from their jobs or who cannot work

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

Madison and Dane County are the economic engine driving Wisconsin's economy. Madison's diversified economy and abundant skilled workforce have made Dane County the state's fastest-growing county for many years. I think Madison is locally perceived as a fast-growing and progressive and progressive city and an excellent place to live and raise a family.

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

Madison can attract and retain a diverse workforce by making itself a better place to live for people of color. The data available tells us that these folks face a lot of challenges in Madison: they are underserved in our public schools and they have worse outcomes from interactions with the police. The City should support minority homeownership through home-buyer education programs and grants to organizations who support Madison's communities of color. The City should also invest in neighborhoods with large communities of color, through projects like the Black Business Hub, The Center For Black Excellence and Culture, and Centro Hispano.

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

Madison is a desirable place to live with lots of demand for housing, but has limited supply. Madison has to increase the supply of housing through responsible development in our neighborhoods and by allowing neighborhoods to become more dense through the use of accessory dwelling units, cohousing options, and the use of public housing options like those funded through the City's Affordable Housing Fund.

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

The city government needs to work with Madison's communities of color and organizations that serve them (Black Chamber of Commerce, Centro Hispano, etc) to understand where entrepreneurs of color face barriers to the success of their businesses. To me that means grant money and close partnerships with these organizations of experts who can help to incubate new minority-owned business and coach entrepreneurs.

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

Public transit is an essential alternative to single-occupant car rides around town in order for the city to grow sustainably and offer people transportation options between home, work, services, and leisure. I'm a regular Metro bus-rider myself. I'm excited about the improved transit frequency in core areas of the city like downtown and along major traffic arteries like East Washington Avenue, but I'm also concerned about service reductions through neighborhoods like ours on the far East Side. The upcoming network changes will pose new challenges to folks who found jobs or housing along these changing corridors and I want to make sure the city considers what network improvement options might restore some of this lost service post-redesign.

****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 residents have the right to feel safe in their homes and around the community. I fully understand and agree that issues related to crime and safety are critical to the success of business and their workers. I see a lot of crime, especially the forms of crime that the data shows us has increased over the last few years like property crime and theft, to be the result of poverty and desperation. People need access to stable, safe housing, a good public education, and social supports to meet their basic needs in order to succeed and prosper. I think the City has a role to play in providing each of these. I also would, as an Alder, work with Madison's East Side police officers to understand where they see barriers to keeping the community safe. I want to work on policy measures that free up officers' time instead of, for example, regularly driving people in mental health crisis and without insurance to the Winnebago Mental Health Facility in Oshkosh.

****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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