

Madison Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Gary Halverson

Aldermanic District *

17

Campaign website (if applicable)

<https://halverson4madison.com/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Halverson4Madison> <https://twitter.com/Gary4Madison>

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?

I believe in neighbors helping neighbors and volunteering is at the heart of a strong community. I have over 20 years in IT, owned small businesses and I want to put my experience to work for the residents of District 17 ensuring their voice is heard

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

My wife and I have owned several small businesses in Madison over the years. I understand what it is like to put everything on the line in order to successfully run a business. I want to ensure small businesses are supported by the city.

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

The Imagination Center needs to be built. We need a place where our youth can safely gather and our community can come together. Second we need to ensure that our neighborhoods and streets are safe. Third is access to efficient public transportation.

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

It is widely known that Madison can be difficult to work. That needs to change. We need to find ways to support our small businesses. Overall, Madison has been recognized as a great place to live both locally and nationally.

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

We need to strive to be a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion. In addition, we need to have strong schools and affordable housing both of which are important in attracting 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?

Encouraging businesses to create a culture of volunteering, community outreach and strong internship programs will help them establish relationships with community leaders and provide an on ramp for people into various career opportunities.

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

Worker mobility can often be hindered by outdated policies from the past. We need to review these types of policies and eliminate them. Affordable housing is essential. Finding ways to optimize the development ecosystem will be necessary.

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

Economic development is ensuring that businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs have the tools, resources and a clear path to growth. By supporting this statement, we will see more jobs created, increased revenue base and more vibrant Madison.

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

Facilitate connecting business owners with mentoring organizations like SBA SCORE and other business leaders. If a business is struggling, helping them connect with others can be the lifeline needed to foster changes to succeed both now and later.

**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?

I would ensure that our business voices are heard and that we understand what it will take to be successful. I will also ensure that our businesses have the information needed to make those critical decisions.

**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.