

# Madison Council Candidate

## Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name \*

Nasra H Wehelie

Aldermanic District \*

District 7

Campaign website (if applicable)

nasrafordistrict7.com

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

Facebook

## 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?

The impetus for my interest in this position is many folds including my proven desire to improve the lives of those underserved and solve some of the challenging issue our city faces including homelessness, socioeconomic disparity and community safety. My background as an immigrant, black, female and Muslim prepared me to find equitable solutions to problems big or small. I am a leader who understands the issues at hand, listen to the constituent's problems and advocates for them.

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

As a small business owner and MBA holder, I understand the challenges small businesses face. At the start of my consulting business in 2008, I was able to work with SBA, WWBIC and became Small Business Advisory Council at the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce. Some of the challenges small businesses face are venture capital, marketing, technology building clientele.

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

Businesses in my district are faced with challenging issues including how to safely service their customers, manage their businesses, retain their employees and provide them with good living wages and healthcare benefits.

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

Madison is the host of highly recognized educational institutions like UW, Madison and tech companies such as Epic Systems and Google. It is a center of the state government. However, the city faces socioeconomic, educational racial disparities.

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

Business communities and other governmental entities committed to serving diverse communities should create a culture of inclusion and belonging by aligning the mission of their organization to the broader equity issues faced by the communities they serve. Additionally, recognition of unconscious bias's helps organizations to be deliberate about addressing issues of inclusivity. Organizations need to proactively engage more than just the senior leadership to drive meaningful culture change

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

Madison needs to create business atmosphere that is conducive to attracting minority businesses and provide resources for those businesses to succeed. The city should collaborate with the County and State to promote inclusive and thriving businesses.

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

The city should transform its transportation system to attract and better serve diverse workforce. This includes timely bus systems designed to meet worker needs. Additionally, the city should support ensure high quality technology that enable seamless telecommuting. As for housing, the city should assemble, diverse stakeholders comprised of city, county and key partner representatives who can provide recommendations regarding housing policy and affordable housing funding priorities.

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

Economic development is the process to improve the quality of life of a community, city and state by building local wealth, creating and retaining jobs, and building local diverse talents. Economic development can mean different things to different people at different times; however, the gist of it should be an inclusive one where no one is left behind, and fruits of the hard work is shared among its citizens. It should also be sustainable and be able to withstand hard economic times. .

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

The city can enlighten those businesses and teach new ways to do business. The city can help them apply and take advantage of any state or federal financial assistances including PPE loans and grants.

\*\*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?

As an alder of my district, I will focus on balancing these important issues and making sure my city will come out as a better city for all. I will help direct the city council to make sound economic decisions on public health and confidence. We have health crisis and economic crisis, and together we can overcome these crises by trusting in public health officials/doctors and the information they provide to reduce this pandemic.

\*\*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.