

# 2026 Madison Common Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name \*

Noah Lieberman

Aldermanic District \*

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Home Address \*

[REDACTED]

Email Address \*

[REDACTED]

Phone \*

[REDACTED]

Campaign website (if applicable)

[noahforcouncil.com](http://noahforcouncil.com)

Social media accounts, if any

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087923498641>

## 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?

This is my third time running for this seat, and many of the reasons I'm seeking this seat have stayed the same: I'm still determined to increase the supply of housing in Madison and make sure it is an affordable and accessible place to live; I want to make sure we remained focused on climate resiliency and investing in green infrastructure; and I want to protect and grow city services to provide a high quality of life to everyone in Madison. But this past year, and especially the last few months, have shown us just how much chaos and despair the Trump administration can bring to our cities. I'm particularly motivated to run this year to ensure that our city government is steadfastly dedicated to protecting its most vulnerable communities against these incursions.

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

As I've said in the past, I don't have a particular background that would give me the experience I need to speak to the needs of small businesses. But what I do have is a history of collaboration and leadership in both politics and local government, and I would love to use those skills to collaborate with you all when making decisions that impact our city's businesses. I'm hoping to form a partnership with the chamber that will allow us to have open dialogue and reach the best outcomes for Madison, its businesses, and its workers.

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

The continued Park Street redesign/redevelopment is going to have a major impact on the foot traffic and revenue of businesses in that part of my district. Working with business owners there to minimize disruptions and support them through any challenges they face will be a top priority of mine. Businesses in my district also need more workforce housing near them to have a closer supply of available labor.

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## 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?

I would say our workforce housing supply is still lacking, but the situation has been improving. A lot of my strategy on addressing this issue will come down to what happens in the November election and what policy on the state level looks like going forward. But at the very least I would like the city to continue its efforts to engage in land banking and encourage the development of many different types of workforce housing, whether that be through apartments, townhomes, tiny home villages, or other forms.

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

I think that the BRT rollout has had its flaws but has generally been a success. However, the benefits of those routes are not felt the further away from them you get, which includes several parts of my district. If funding is available, I would like to see some of the old local routes that serviced my district return, or to increase the frequency of the feeder routes that help people in neighborhoods like mine get onto the rapid service. I also think that it is difficult for many people, especially older or less mobile residents, to access the buses in the winter. I would like to see more focus on providing shelter from the snow and cold at our bus stops, as well as making sure the paths to these stops are kept clear of snow and ice.

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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.

I think a major way we could increase efficiency is by offloading non-enforcement tasks of the police force to other city employees. Police officers command a higher hourly rate than many other employees (especially when considering overtime) and are currently performing a number of community engagement tasks that would be equally or better handled by other professionals in the city. I would also look to see which city services and processes could increase their online/remote offerings.

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\*\*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?

In an ideal world, our property taxes would be much lower than they are today. But given the predicament foisted upon us by the Republican legislature, I don't see a way that the city can operate without our current property tax levels. I fully support efforts to restore the shared revenue and disburse the state's budget surplus to local municipalities as a way to reduce the property tax burden. If Democrats take full control of state government this fall, I would also lobby to have them remove some of the preemption laws that prevent the city from explore other revenue options that would allow us to decrease property taxes.

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\*\*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 think that the development plan is focused on the right priorities for our city. I am particularly encouraged by the focus on Neighborhood Business Districts and what that means for local dollar circulation and reducing the number of miles people have to drive to meet their needs. I would like to see more of a focus on promoting minority-owned businesses, especially when developing these districts in more diverse areas like South Park St.

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**\*\*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?

I am firmly against this new surge in data center development. While data centers are not a new phenomenon, the scale and quantity of the ones being built as part of this AI boom far exceed previous development. My concerns fall into four main categories:

- Grid resiliency: As climate change continues to raise summer temperatures in Madison, our electrical grid will be stressed to its limits. I worry that adding such large consumers of electricity so suddenly will push it beyond its limits and lead to failures that put the health of our community at risk.
  - Quality of Life: There have been too many stories of data centers contaminating ground water, creating tremendous noise pollution, and causing electricity prices to soar. I do not think that the benefit gained from these centers is worth the cost, especially considering the fact that our local economy is growing without them.
  - Long-term jobs: I fail to see how these large developments will have a long-term benefit for local workers, since they do not require large staffs for maintenance after being built. I do not want to commit this many resources to a development that does not substantially create new jobs for our city.
  - Land use: We are very limited in the amount of undeveloped land that we have as a city. I would rather use that land for other purposes, especially new housing development, rather than building these data centers.
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**\*\*10.** How do you view Madison's continued population growth? Is it an opportunity or a challenge?

The answer is both, but I lean more on the side of opportunity. We will need to adapt as a city to meet the challenges of a growing population, namely housing and transportation, but this growth is also a wonderful thing. It will allow us to build a more robust and self-sufficient economy, increase the diversity of our culture and businesses, and show to the world that progressive, forward-thinking cities like Madison are desirable places to live.

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**\*\*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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