

2026 Madison Common Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

Candidate Full Name *

Will Ochowicz

Aldermanic District *

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Home Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address *

[REDACTED]

Phone *

[REDACTED]

Campaign website (if applicable)

Social media accounts, if any

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 originally sought office because I wanted to tackle housing affordability issues. I'm now seeking office to continue on improving housing affordability, but also to help improve constituents quality of life and make our streets safer.

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

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

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?

We need more affordable housing. There have been many improvements in the supply of housing in the past few years but we still aren't meeting the needs of those t 80% or less of AMI and especially those at 30% or less of AMI.

We need to cotinue funding our affordable housing fund, liberalize zoning, and pursue grants from organizations like WHEDA to fund affordable housing.

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

We need an Amtrak station yesterday. We've completed the local preferred alternative which would place the station downtown, and the next steps are to secure funding from DOT and Amtrak to build a station.

The BRT and the bus system redesign have been major improvements, and completing the stations on the B route will help improve the service there.

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.

**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?

I consider Madison property taxes to be appropriate, given the high quality of services. However, we still don't get a fair share of revenue from state government, even for the services that we provide the state and university. I would support continuing lobbying the state government for a better shared revenue plan, especially in light of the recent surplus announced by the state.

****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 would like to see:

- A focus on bringing employers downtown
 - Developing businesses that will meet local residents needs. The only grocery store in D2 is the Target on State Street. Although there are a few groceries outside of D2, that means 15,000+ people have one grocery store. Especially given the density downtown, I think we can do better on meeting residents needs for things like groceries and healthcare.
 - A continued focus on the work DMI and Destination Madison do to bring people downtown. We have done relatively well with our post-covid recovery in large part because of these organizations.
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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?

What frustrates me is that there is little information to make decisions on. I don't have the knowledge, tools, or frameworks to evaluate decisions on data center's impacts on our local water or on our power supplies.

I was initially not a fan of a moratorium because it is a total ban, but ultimately I voted for it because it excluded secondary uses which are critical to many of the tech companies in the area, and it will give us a chance to come up with the tools we need to evaluate future proposals.

That being said, I would be surprised if there was a data center proposal withing the City limits.

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

It is an opportunity. People move here because Madison is a great city, with even more potential. We should encourage the city's growth while also planning for the needs of current and future residents.

**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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