

Progressive Dane Endorsement Questions for 2007 City Council Candidates

Candidates seeking Progressive Dane's endorsement are required to respond to these questions in writing. These questions and your responses will serve as the basis of the endorsement interview. You may email your responses (preferred) or submit a hard copy. They must be dropped off at our office at 1202 Williamson St. by 6 pm on Friday December 15th, or emailed by noon on December 16th to Jessa Lutz (office@prodane.org).

1. In the platform, what are the top three issues you want to work on as an elected official?

A. Safe, Efficient, Accessible Transportation: Our current transportation system is not adequately serving all residents, especially in District 12. If elected, I will work to ensure an affordable and accessible public transit system, improve commuter options while keeping neighborhood streets safe and pedestrian friendly, improve bike routes and bicyclist safety, and ensure that traffic safety and transit is integral when planning new residential and commercial development.

B. Open and Democratic Government: I believe neighborhoods should have a strong voice in the city government process. I will work to ensure that District 12 residents understand and have input on the decisions made at City Hall that will impact them. To achieve clear communications on city issues, I will help build partnerships among neighborhood, community and business organizations. In addition, I will support policies that can make our government even more open and democratic than it is, especially in terms of the annual budget debate.

C. Protected Civil Rights and Liberties: I believe that we all deserve to live in a vibrant community without fear of crime or unjust profiling by law enforcement officials. I will support responsive, neighborhood-based policing and reject discriminatory or fear-based policies in favor of addressing the root causes of problems.

2. In the platform, are there any issue(s) you disagree with?

No.

3. In the platform, are there issues you need to know more about?

I would like more information on licensing of property owners and management companies and neighborhood conservation districts.

4. Frequently asked questions in the campaign are likely to be crime, trolleys, smoking and water. Please share your thoughts on these issues.

Crime: It is a primary goal of government to guarantee safe, healthy, and livable communities. As mentioned above, I support neighborhood-based policing, which allows communities and law enforcement officials to work together to achieve safer neighborhoods. In addition, crime is often a symptom of larger problems that improved policies can address earlier, more effectively and at less cost than the criminal justice system.

Water: Keeping our drinking water safe through good management, proactive investment in infrastructure and improved communication with the public is a priority for me. Recently, I organized a public meeting on water quality, public health and Well No. 3. The meeting was supported by six area neighborhood associations, and drew over 130 people who were able to ask questions directly of city officials. I think the city and the water utility need to continue to address immediate health and safety issues as they arise; develop a comprehensive communications strategy; and continue to focus on long term planning to ensure a sustainable water supply.

Trolleys: My primary goal in a public transit system is to provide comprehensive, affordable workforce transportation. I'm neither opposed to nor wedded to any particular technology that helps us get to that. I think we need to examine all our options as a city and choose the mix of transit modes that provide the best service at a reasonable cost.

Smoking: I support the existing smoking ban and will oppose efforts to raise the issue again.

5. Progressive Dane has worked on issues like living wages, paid sick leave, affordable housing and keeping bus fares down. What would you suggest we do to help people struggling in our community?

We clearly need to continue to support the kinds of policies listed above. In addition, I hope we can continue to build coalitions with others in the community to advocate for policies that support working families. In particular, I think we need to look at both providing the safety net that those struggling economically need, and also to proactively work on economic and community development to reduce poverty.

6. What policy issues will you prioritize during the campaign and once in office?
Transportation, safety, open government, energy efficiency, and water quality.

7. Is there any policy initiative you will lead on if you are elected to City Council?
I would like to take the lead on energy efficiency and renewable energy issues.

8. What, in your view, is the most serious issue facing Madison, and what can the City Council do about it?

I believe that there are two critical challenges facing Madison. First, the most important challenge that faces our entire world is climate disruption caused by greenhouse gas emissions. The city council can lead on this issue by enacting policies that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and fuels, and alternative transportation. Second, Madison needs to deal with the undercurrent of racism that exists in here, and which hampers our efforts to build our community. The city council can lead by example and enact policies that support and encourage diversity and protect against discrimination.

9. What is your philosophy regarding the city budget, taxes, spending, and services?

The city budget is the most concrete expression of our values as a city, and thus the most important thing the city council does each year. I believe in investing in our infrastructure and our community to provide the services that our city needs. I also believe that to have a budget that truly reflects our priorities as a city, every citizen must have access to detailed budget information (particularly about the cost of programs) and the opportunity for meaningful public comment. Madison has made some improvements in this realm, but we can do better.

10. What do you think the top issues are likely to be in your district?

Transportation, especially Metro service and bike paths; safety and crime; support for small businesses; and Warner Park.

11. In what ways are you currently active in your district and the community at large?

In District 12, I have served as treasurer of the Eken Park Neighborhood Association, facilitated a session on neighborhood responses to crime at the EINPC forum, and organized a public meeting on water quality, mentioned above. I volunteer with the Northside Farmers Market and am a member of Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

On the city level, I've advocated for Metro Transit, affordable housing, community services funding and neighborhood police officers in front of the City Council, and worked with the mayor's office to develop a Metro pass pool for small employers and to propose a local purchasing policy. Mayor Cieslewicz appointed me to the Commission on the Environment's clean air subcommittee and the Long Range Metro Transit Ad hoc Planning Committee.

Other examples of my community involvement include volunteering with the Sierra Club Inner City Outings program and, during the last election cycle, with Fair Wisconsin.

12. Please tell us about your campaign team, fund-raising efforts, and your plan to win the election.

I have seventeen people already working hard on either my kitchen cabinet or my campaign team. Eleven of these folks are new to PD. Fundraising is going very well – I've had two events and sent out two fundraising letters, and have raised \$7482. I've knocked on 436 doors already, and will have knocked on 500 by Sunday. We've placed ads in key neighborhood newsletters, and are on track to have a house party in every ward in the district.

13. Please review the Progressive Dane Candidate/Elected Official Expectations. After review, what will you do to help build Progressive Dane?

I will continue to work to build PD's membership by inviting my campaign supporters to join, tying issue work to recruitment, and participating in outreach and fundraising events. I will continue to work with task forces, the policy committee, and the caucus on progressive policy. I will continue to work with the elections committee to recruit and support progressive candidates.

14. What would you do if something like the follow situation arose: You are running for election/re-election in Dist X. You have a good relationship with the incumbent in District Y whom you feel is a good representative for her district. However, Progressive Dane has endorsed a different candidate in District Y.

I would hope to avoid a situation like this by being involved in the endorsement process, but if it came to it I would remain neutral in the race.

The Progressive Dane membership agrees to provide the following to endorsed candidates:

Please indicate which of the following you expect to utilize **by circling the number**, and in what quantity:

1. Training for campaigns and other relevant skills (campaign school, media training, issue strategizing training, other _____).

Several members of my campaign team attended the PD campaign school. I expect to continue discussions about media and issues with PD.

2. Money for campaign. PD's campaign contributions generally range from \$50 - \$200.

No, thanks. My campaign is not accepting committee money.

3. Access to the PD voter file during the campaign and once elected.

Yes, please.

4. Volunteers for campaign.

Maybe – I have a strong volunteer base, but running a grassroots campaign requires many bodies.

5. Support on issues once elected.

Of course!

6. A volunteer pool to help with work once elected.

Maybe. I certainly will want to work with task forces on issues.

Please indicate what resources you already have:

Campaign manager: Michael Jacob

Campaign treasurer: Mary Anglim

Volunteer coordinator: Sigrid Peterson

volunteers: 72, most of whom are personal and in district contacts, not PD members.

Campaign funds: \$7482 raised, \$5635 on hand.