

1. What will your chief priority be on the council? Is there an issue or area of focus that we may not know about that you are especially interested in?

One thing I've heard consistently from my constituents is that the city needs to communicate more effectively with residents and neighborhoods. This cuts across issues and departments and is something we need to address thoroughly. I've experienced this recently in the context of drinking water quality. Some of the concern on this issue was due to a failure to communicate, and much of that concern has been alleviated now that the water utility is working with EINPC and eastside neighborhood associations on how it communicates with the public.

It's also very important for an Alder to communicate well with her constituents. In addition to providing information via listservs, blogs and newsletters, I'll work with the ten neighborhood associations and two planning councils in District 12 to proactively address city issues and make sure the city is listening to the voices of our neighborhoods.

2. Do you support Alder Austin King's proposal to have the council look into setting up a public-financing system for local campaigns?

I firmly believe in clean campaigns and I'm proud that I have not accepted campaign contributions from any political committees, PACS, political parties or conduits. I hope Ald. King's proposal passes and the commission proposes a workable plan to reduce the role of money in local politics, and that I am able to support that plan after consulting with my constituents. States and cities that have moved to publicly-financed elections or elections with strict dollar limits have seen a dramatic increase in the number and diversity of candidates running for office. In particular, these places have seen more women and people of color enter local and state races. There are many qualified and dynamic candidates out there who never enter politics because of the hurdle of having to raise thousands in private donations. At the same time, public campaign finance would allow candidates to spend their time talking to their constituents and truly understanding community issues rather than constantly raising money.

3. How independent should the council be from the mayor? Do council members have enough resources to do research, formulate policies and communicate?

An alder needs to be both independent from and able to work with the Mayor and with her colleagues on the council to serve her constituents.

It is important to take the responsibility and workload that comes with local representation seriously. I already have extensive experience researching and formulating policy from my work at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy and from working in my neighborhood on city issues. My experience, job and personal life will allow to me hit the ground running, serve my constituents well and have an impact in City Hall.

4. Is there a role for city government in addressing issues related to Madison's schools?

Of course. The latest proposal to "consolidate" our schools makes it abundantly clear that the city, alders, and neighborhoods need to keep a close eye on and work with the School Board. The consolidation plan would negatively affect several neighborhoods and hundreds of children in

District 12. I'm disappointed the Madison/MMSD committee hasn't worked harder and that communication, while better, is not nearly what it should be between the Madison Municipal Building, the Doyle Administration Building and our neighborhoods. We need to take a community approach to the challenges we face while we also fight for reforms of the damaging and short-sighted limits on school success handed down from state and national government. The city should also take a more active role in providing educational and recreational after school and summer programming and connecting schools to community resources.

5. Trolleys? Yes? No? What should we do, if anything, to expand mass transit options in Madison?

I'm neither for nor against and, unlike my opponent, will wait to read the full report on a proposed street car system and consult my constituents before proclaiming a position. My primary goal in a public transit system is to provide comprehensive, affordable workforce transportation. While I'm skeptical about whether trolley cars will serve these goals, 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. As the debate over our entire transit system moves ahead, I will remain open to all ideas, but I will also be focusing on what is feasible, smart and affordable to address real needs we have today, especially on the Northside. At a minimum, that means making sure that the Metro bus system is a true workforce transportation system.

6. What is your position on the living wage ordinance and similar initiatives?

I am a supporter of living wages and good benefits for working families. I think it is also important to support small, locally-owned businesses, to ensure the safety net of public services is adequately funded, and that we work proactively by supporting child care and workforce transportation. Doing so requires thinking long term, focusing limited resources and communicating with one's constituents and giving them a role in the decision-making process.

7. The council will elect a new president this year. Do you have a favorite? What do you look for in a council leader?

Let me get elected before I begin to think about who should be president! I will look for someone who has a vision for Madison, communicates well, who can lead a rather diverse council and bring people together.

1. What is the biggest issue facing the city, and what is the biggest issue facing your district, and what is your position on each of these issues?

I believe that there are two critical challenges facing Madison that we must all address. 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. These are larger issues, of course, that will take many years of work on many fronts.

The issues I'll be addressing on behalf of district 12 come from the conversations I've had while knocking on 4000 doors in the district: managing traffic in our neighborhoods and on our thoroughfares; keeping our neighborhoods safe; strengthening the bus system and keeping it affordable; protecting our natural resources and ensuring our water is safe. I have already worked in our community on these issues and as Alder, I will make representing District 12 on these issues my top priority.

2. Is the city doing enough to keep its water safe? If not, what else should be done?

Drinking water quality will continue to be a concern for some time. I believe that the city is moving in the right direction, but more needs to be done. The immediate threat of carbon tetrachloride in well #3 has been addressed (by shutting the well down), but we need to continue to address the problem of elevated manganese and iron concentration citywide. The Water Utility also needs to continue to work with neighborhoods around the city to improve communication and transparency. The public meeting I organized with six east side neighborhoods and the Utility, and the on-going meetings between the Utility and a team of neighbors is a major step in the right direction. The Utility also needs to work internally to improve its management culture and internal communication. As a city, we need to think carefully about our long term water needs and plan for the future. I believe this will require us to institute common sense water conservation measures; invest in our water infrastructure; continue and expand efforts to promote groundwater recharging; and consider water use in the context of land use and development.

3. Do you support the ban on smoking in taverns?

Yes.

4. What is your position on a living wage?

See #6 above.

5. What is your position on the city's efforts to make changes in the Allied Drive neighborhood?

The most important thing is that we respect the desire of the residents of Allied Drive to "move forward, not out". We need to involve Allied residents in every step of the process. It is important to the entire city that we develop not just the physical properties in Allied, but that we also invest in the community and the services it needs.

There are three facets to preventing gentrification and displacement: retaining quality affordable housing, producing new affordable housing, and building the assets of current residents so they can remain in the area even as prices rise. We need to work on all three right away.

We should also support the community by working with them to provide childcare and after school programming, job training, and public health services. And because transportation is often the second largest household expense after housing, we should ensure efficient, affordable public transit service to the area.

As important or more for Allied as ensuring more homeownership is creating opportunities for current residents to become homeowners. For the city properties, we should insist on designing efficient, permanently affordable homes of many sizes that can be rental or owner-occupied, and we should at the same time design programs that will help current residents move into these homes. For other properties, we should explore the possibility of creating land trusts and housing coops as well as more traditional housing and home purchase subsidies. For example, Washington DC recently passed a tenant right of first refusal law, under which landlords selling their properties have to offer the tenants the opportunity to buy the building. Given Madison's strong tradition of housing coops, we might want to consider something similar.

6. What is your position on the city's efforts to control downtown crime?

The Downtown Safety Initiative seems like a reasonable response to me. I particularly like the idea of increased street-level enforcement and making officers more available to the community. One of the concerns I've heard from my neighbors in District 12 is that it's hard to communicate with the police department – it's hard to know who to call, it's hard to get a call back, it's hard to get the information you need. Anything that improves communication and responsiveness from the police will help. I also think it's critical to address the alcohol component by enforcing alcohol-related laws. However, it's important that the city not neglect the very real safety problems in the rest of the city in favor of downtown.

7. Are you satisfied with the city's economic development efforts?

I would hope that we'll never be 100% satisfied with Madison's economic development efforts, but that instead we always seek to do better. I believe the Mayor has made important strides to open the lines of communication with the business community and that the city is beginning to look at smart, sustainable ways to enhance our already-strong economy. To build a truly sustainable city that provides benefits to all its residents, we need "high road" economic development that recognizes the value of small and locally-owned business, targeted job training for local residents, and worker policies that encourage productivity and long-term investment. The Dane County Job Center and the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin are in District 12, presenting an opportunity for the alder to bring a special level of knowledge and commitment to utilizing these critical entities to better serve the entire region. The other crucial side to economic development is enhancing and maintaining the public infrastructure that supports our businesses every day, including the schools, police and fire services, roads, transit systems, and social supports for working families.