

Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Alderperson Candidate Questionnaire

Please tell us about yourself.

Your Name: *

Christian Albouras

Aldermanic District: *

20

Current Home Address: *

2038 Rae Lane Madison, WI 53711

Email: *

[REDACTED]

Phone: *

[REDACTED]

Campaign website, if any:

www.Christian4Madison.com

Social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.) handles, if any:

Facebook: @Christian4Madison; Christian Albouras for Madison Common Council - District 20

Past education and work history (question optional; alternately you may send résumé to brett@madisonbiz.com)

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Masters of Business Administration

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Bachelors of Business Administration

Credit Union National Association, Certified Credit Union Business Development Professional

Business Development Specialist, Summit Credit Union, Madison, WI (January 2015-Current)

Education Program Consultant, State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,

Milwaukee, WI (October 2013-November 2015)

Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Alderperson Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please state your position on the following issues. Please limit answers to 100 words. Any answers exceeding the word count limitations will be cut after 100 words.

If you have filled out this questionnaire before, you may skip starred** questions or modify previous answers to those questions. If you skip starred answers on this questionnaire, we will re-publish your 2017 answers.

****1. Why are you seeking this office?**

In 2015, I was appointed to serve on the Madison Police Department Policy and Procedure Review Ad-Hoc Committee and served as co-chair the first 2 years. City committees play a key role in shaping policy and informing the council and the mayor during the decision-making process. This and other experiences confirmed that I am ready and prepared to serve District 20 and be a part of the larger conversation and decision-making process on the common council.

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

The three things that qualify me to understand the unique needs facing our small business community include:

1. My service as Board Secretary on the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County
 2. My formal education in receiving a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 3. My role at Summit Credit Union as a Business Development Specialist
-

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

1. Attracting a qualified and well-trained workforce
 2. Public safety issues
 3. A minimal business district such as a mall or downtown that attract mass amounts of consumers that would frequent district businesses to purchase goods and services. Most of our businesses are relatively “invisible” to the greater Madison market.
-

****4. What is your perception of Madison’s business brand? How do you think business in Madison is perceived locally, statewide, and nationally?**

We have a thriving, cutting-edge business community at the city and regional level. Our economy is filled with a well-educated workforce and the bioscience/technology industries are well represented in Madison business community. However, the city, including the business community and civic groups, struggle with equity issues as does most of Wisconsin.

****5. How can the City of Madison best attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce?**

The city should enhance its efforts on incentivizing the students who attend UW-Madison to stay within the region to support our workforce needs in Madison. Further, it is important to support local entrepreneurs that provide culturally relevant food, services, and goods. It is also important to give support and collaborate with the young professionals of color organizations in the Madison area to make headway in the development of a cultural and social scene that will help retain a diverse workforce.

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

1. These businesses should partner with other civic groups such as local rotaries, diverse chambers of commerce, and non-profits to better outreach in identifying untapped talent for workforce opportunities
 2. Work with and host careers days at local libraries, community centers, and Madison College to proactively connect with multicultural talent for recruitments and talent development purposes
-

7. With Madison's economic momentum, a continued focus must be placed on infrastructure improvements. What strategies would you recommend for the city to meet the diverse needs of worker mobility and housing?

The strategies that I recommend include:

1. Further investing in our transportation infrastructure such as considering Bus Rapid Transit
 2. Mindful city planning as we expand commercial and residential development so that residents don't have to travel far to meet their basic and employment needs.
 3. Further developing affordable and workforce housing to meet the needs of the city's growth.
-

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

By definition, I believe economic development is the process by which government and private actors work together to improve the economic, political, and social well-being of its residents. In practice, it looks like the following:

Job Opportunities
Investing in enhanced infrastructure
Growing the tax base
Access to advanced healthcare
A well-trained workforce
Good benefits for employees
Good living wages
Incentivizing businesses to expand operations
Promoting financial literacy
Investing in good schools

9. The 115th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard is an important driver of the Madison economy, providing an annual economic impact of over \$100 million, emergency and fire services for the Dane County Regional Airport, and over \$1 million in tuition assistance to area student guardsmen. Do you support the Wing as it seeks to continue its mission by acquiring next-generation F-35A jets? Please explain your answer.

Yes, of course! When there were discussions about the 115th Wing leaving Truax recently, I was troubled about the impact this would have on the local economy. I am glad that this no longer is a topic of discussion. As such, I would be in support of the Wing looking to acquire the next-generation F-35A jets.

10. 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 that the Chamber will publish my answers to this questionnaire

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms