

Responses cannot be edited

Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire

Please tell us about yourself.

Your Name: *

Paul Skidmore

Aldermanic District: *

9th District

Current Address: *

13 Red Maple Trail, Madison, WI 53717

Email: *

[REDACTED]

Phone: *

[REDACTED]

Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce 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 2015 answers.

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

I have a strong desire to serve the public and my constituents. I consider my constituents to be: residents (home owners and renters), workers, shoppers, visitors, property owners, and business owners. I represent all of their interests to City Government, and I advocate for them to City agencies and the City bodies.

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

I have extensive public and private experience in issues that are important in public service. I have served as alder of the 9th district for the past 16 years. I currently serve on the Public Safety Review Commission, Board of Public Works, the Alcohol License Review Committee, and the Pedestrian Bicycle Motor Vehicle Committee. I am a vocal advocate for public safety. I am a home owner in my district (Tamarack). I am very active in community issues, particularly public safety, public services, and business development. I own and operate my own small business.

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

1) Public safety: Robbery, burglary, vandalism, and crimes of opportunity are routine - MPD needs additional resources, and they need our support. 2) Review and approval of new projects and alterations to projects.: Our current review process is complicated, confusion, long, and cumbersome. It can and should be streamlined to make it simpler and faster, without sacrificing a thorough analysis. 3) Economic development: New, orderly growth is our primary means of increasing revenue and vitality in our City. We need a strong and balanced TIF policy that encourages new growth and redevelopment.

4. What is the City of Madison's role in growing the economy? How can the City of Madison best support the growth and retention of jobs?

We need to maintain a sustainable City master plan, and maintain sustainable neighborhood plans to use as a framework for reviewing development projects. We also need to have an aggressive economic development plan that supports and encourages sustainable development, job growth, and job retention.

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

The City needs to support a number of efforts to attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce.: Recruit and support new businesses and support existing businesses through TIF assistance, grants, and incentives; support a wide range of housing opportunities throughout the City for workers; support the maintenance and expansion of our infrastructure (including parks, libraries, transit, and open spaces); and improve our public safety services to help make Madison a safe and inviting place to live and work.

****6. Do you support the use of TIF, and how do you believe it should be utilized moving forward? How would you rate the City of Madison's past use of TIF? (Would you describe the use of TIF as underutilized, over-utilized, or appropriate?)**

I strongly support the use of TIF. I believe that it is an investment, not an expense. I support using TIF throughout the City, including new development areas on the periphery to stimulate economic development. I consider the City's current use of TIF as appropriate, prudent, and somewhat conservative.

7. What specific initiatives in the Connect Madison economic development strategy

(<http://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/economic-strategy-symposium/554/>) do you support, and which, if any, would you like to see modified? Why?

The initiatives in Connect Madison are simple, sound, and effective tools for community growth, as well as economic growth. I support all of them. I would not recommend changing any of them at this time.

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

I think that businesses in Madison are mostly respected locally, statewide, and nationally. However, I believe that Madison's business climate can discourage some businesses from locating here. I believe that the City permitting process is a major contributor to a perception that the City is not friendly to new development.

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

To me, economic development is an integral part of development in the City of Madison, and the surrounding region. Economic development is the planning and development of the businesses that provide employment, commerce, tax base, and overall economy of the community. Businesses should be integrated into the overall fabric of the community, and they should be treated as members of the community.

10. The Chamber believes that equity and social mobility are achieved through wealth creation and that the surest way is through an entrepreneurial class of color. The Chamber is launching initiatives to support this goal. What do you believe is the City of Madison's role in creating an entrepreneurial class of color?

I believe that equity and social mobility should be integral to all City policies, procedures, and practices. This includes economic development, and the operation of businesses. I believe that the City should support equity and social mobility through all of its programs, including TIF, grants, training, loans, and other economic programs.

11. How can the City of Madison provide better customer service to new or existing businesses that seek approval through the permitting and planning processes? How do you define customer service in this case?

I think that the current City permitting and planning process is unduly complicated, confusing, and sometimes contradictory. I think that the City needs to review its permitting and approval process, and revise it to simplify it and make it user friendly. Customer service in the permitting process should be simple, predictable, and equitable.

12. 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

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