



Madison AHAA <madisonahaa@gmail.com>

Mayoral candidate questionnaire

Press Inquiries <press@reyesformayor.com>
To: madisonahaa@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 12:01 AM

Hi,

I apologize for the slight delay in reply. It has been a busy week for us and we did not have the deadline in the calendar as an 8pm deadline but as a midnight deadline. That is my mistake. We have answers to the questions asked that I have provided below. I am happy to answer any other questions you may have at my cell phone number, (502)523-5250. Gloria is also available if there is interest in finding a time to ask more detailed questions to her.

Answers are as follows:

"1. Madison is facing an affordable housing crisis that is not being helped by our inability to get shovels in the ground. The changes to the zoning code passed by the current mayor to redefine the definition of unrelated parties do not solve the housing crisis. I oppose that zoning change strongly. My housing plan creates a pathway for affordable single-family home ownership for all our residents. We must focus on building public-private partnerships with law enforcement, businesses, neighborhood associations & planning councils to deliver quality workforce housing that works for all Madisonians. Moreover, we must be intentional in finding opportunities for employing traditionally marginalized communities so that they have the economic freedom to afford housing that they want and that fits their needs. We cannot continue to label and box our black and brown communities into a singular definition of what attainable housing for them should look like. I will establish a Mayor's Housing Advisory Committee, consisting of neighborhood associations, planning council representatives, developers, property managers, realtors, a school board representative, and residents to assess housing needs in the city.

2. In four short years Satya Rhodes-Conway created a \$32MM structural deficit for Madison. A progressive Mayor is fiscally responsible, allowing us to invest over \$7MM of city funds annually to local nonprofits for childcare, healthcare issues, and the homeless. However, using one time money to help benefit an ideological agenda has caused long term structural issues to our essential services and our capacity to deal with structural issues like homelessness.

We're at risk of making cuts to our community services, or closing local fire stations and increasing ambulance response times. This is not beneficial to Madison and it is not beneficial to our homeless community. This means that we need to do a better job, with stronger and more transparent leadership, to maintain the money we have remaining while also partnering with nonprofit organizations, interest groups, and the community to find ways that we can continue to improve our support of our homeless population.

3. We need to do a better job of leveraging our Community Development Block Grant money and money budgeted for the Affordable Housing trust fund. We should be using that money, a combination of hard and soft equity programs, to incentivize nonprofits to work with minority developers to build single and multifamily housing projects that create jobs, affordable housing, and build incentives for future development all at the same time.

4. There are three main ways I plan to create more sustainably affordable housing in the future. The first is through the use of tax credit projects. We want people who need affordable housing to have a choice between new housing and the existing stock of housing. That is something that the tax credit allows. We also have to make sure that we control the increases in property taxes. These taxes are passed on directly to renters which mean that those who are most economically vulnerable bear the brunt of any increase. Finally, we need to create an economic climate where employees can work for more than just a living wage and have the opportunity to choose between options of market rate housing. Due to their higher wage they will have increased opportunities to secure attractive housing options.

5. I have a history of experience working with alders, and community leaders, in Madison. From my time in law enforcement, to when I was deputy mayor, to being school board president, and now as I work on running for mayor, I have always maintained the view that effective communication and collaboration is one of a leader's most important tasks. This belief is shown through my commitment to continue to create planning, equity, and review committees that help to assess existing policies in an attempt to find more equitable and efficient solutions that work for all citizens. My campaign has been endorsed by many alders, and former alders, who recognize my history and appreciate the leadership I have shown in my past. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with new alders and old alders alike to move Madison forward."

Please reach out if there is anything else the campaign can provide. Affordable housing is a key issue and one of the main components in Gloria's plan to move Madison forward.

Best,
Isaac Owen
Press Director



On Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 4:00 AM Gloria Reyes <gloria@reyesformayor.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Madison AHAA** <madisonahaa@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Mar 11, 2023 at 9:11 PM

Subject: Re: Mayoral candidate questionnaire

To: Gloria Reyes <gloria@reyesformayor.com>

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