

Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Alderperson Candidate Questionnaire

Please tell us about yourself.

Your Name: *

Paul Skidmore

Aldermanic District: *

9th

Current Home Address: *

13 Red Maple Trail

Email: *

[REDACTED]

Phone: *

[REDACTED]

Campaign website, if any:

None yet

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

None yet

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

BS in Landscape Architect (UW Madison)

Licensed Landscape Architect in Madison

Currently the owner and manager of my own business: Skidmore Property Services, LLC - I provide landscape architectural design services, project administration and management services, private security services to a variety of customers. I will forward a resume for your use.

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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?**

I have always had a strong desire to be a public servant. I feel that my duties as an alder are to represent the interests of the residents, property owners, business owners and operators, workers, customers, and visitors to the 9th district. I also feel a responsibility to represent the best interests of the City of Madison as a whole.

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

- 1) 18 years representing the 9th district of the City of Madison as alder, and serving on a number of City committees, commissions, and boards that work with Madison businesses: a. Finance Committee, b. EDC, c. CDA, and d. Board of Public Works.
 - 2) I have worked closely with businesses owners and operators to navigate the complicated regulatory requirements of the City to allow them to develop or expand their business and access City and State economic development incentives.
 - 3) I have worked closely with owners and developers to navigate the draconian development approval and permitting process imposed by the City of Madison.
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****3. What are the most important issues the businesses in your district face?**

- 1) Public and private safety in our neighborhoods, at our businesses, and in our public spaces. Madison has experienced a dramatic increase in all levels of criminal activity and violation of municipal codes, and many businesses have been experiencing acts of violence, unacceptable behavior, and property loss that has resulted in a decrease in sales, and resulted in customers abandoning businesses.
 - 2) On-line shopping is having an impact on the viability of many businesses, and in particular, shopping centers. Many consumers are choosing to purchase a wide variety of goods on line rather than going to a local business to purchase them. This trend is having an impact on other surrounding businesses that typically benefitted from the 'walk in' shoppers who were on a shopping trip.
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****4. 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 Madison has had a good reputation a safe, pleasant, eclectic, medium sized community that has a great public university, a wide variety of business opportunities, a wide range of shopping opportunities, and many great public amenities. I think that Madison still has a good reputation, but I think that reputation has begun to slip due to the steady increase in crime and unacceptable behavior, and onerous and lengthy regulations on business development.

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

Madison can best attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce by: 1) Working with local businesses to create and grow their businesses by reducing barriers to development and growth, and by providing incentives and assistance to grow, 2) Create a development philosophy, attitude, and mechanism that works to provide a wide range of housing opportunities for everyone in the workforce, and 3) Provides adequate public safety throughout the City to insure the health, safety, and welfare of everyone in the workforce.

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

Madison is blessed to have a number of advanced industries that have chosen to make Madison their home, and even their headquarters. We should work closely with these industries to understand their needs and opportunities, and to provide incentives for growth and expansion. We should also work with the educational institutions in the City to help make sure these industries have the workforce that they need to flourish.

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?

In my opinion, the key elements and strategies to meet the needs of a healthy economy are: 1) Develop and regularly update the comprehensive plan and individual neighborhood plans to reflect current needs as well as anticipating future needs as well as opportunities for existing industries and businesses, and the housing needs of the workforce that will drive the economy, 2) Monitor, upgrade, and develop the public infrastructure to meet the needs of industry and business, and its workforce, and 3) Maintain an effective public safety infrastructure to protect City businesses, their vendors, their customers, and their workforce.

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

Simply put, economic development to me means maintaining an atmosphere that allows and encourages businesses and industries to develop and implement their business plans. Economic development should include the City actively assisting business in expanding through incentives and cooperation.

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.

I strongly support maintaining the 115th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard and expanding its mission to include the next generation F-35A jets. I have reviewed the environmental, economic, and social impact assessments of the proposed expansion, and I think that the environmental impacts are acceptable, and that the social and economic impacts would be a great boost for our economy, and our community in general.

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

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