

ALDERMANIC CANDIDATE PROFILES

Candidates for District 18 Alder (cont.)

Benito Juarez Olivas



Candidate for District 18 Alderman

1. My involvement in the community has not been on a committee, association, council, etc. My involvement has been living, working, and trying to provide for my family. As an alder, I will try and bring that as an asset to the council. I am not part of any group or organization. I am just a regular citizen with the same concerns as everyone else in my district. Agenda not included.

2. My own child receives a subsidized lunch. My family would be considered "low-income" and we live in a "low-income" neighborhood. Poverty is a growing problem but with this comes debt, crime, and declining neighborhoods. We

need to focus more on programs helping people with their budgets and finances in general. Affordable housing needs to be a priority, especially for seniors on fixed incomes. Keeping housing affordable for all would be my main focus. More jobs with good wages coming into the area wouldn't hurt either. Our city has enough money to alleviate poverty, we just need the will to do it. Our budget needs to reflect that. There is no reason why Madison cannot keep its services and lower the tax burden of its citizens. Maybe we should clean up our own backyard and focus on issues that affect Madison and not Rahaf. Some of our own are being left behind.

3. I believe the biggest issue facing our district is the direction we are going. Are we going to ignore the problems brewing in some of our declining neighborhoods? Or are we going to nip it in the bud now before it becomes a problem like we have in other parts of the city? We need to be pro-active. The good, hard-working families living in those areas are depending on it.

Michael Schumacher



Candidate for District 18 Alderman

1. I am an eight-year Northside homeowner, small business owner and employer whose office is located on the Northside. By trade I am a management consultant and educator (Edgewood College) specializing in long-term care, education, and government. As a trained facilitator, who has considerable experience finding common ground in conflict situations, I plan to be a strong and responsive voice for all residents of the 18th district. I earned a Master's degree in public administration, and my doctoral research focused on the governance of the city of Madison, determining the conditions for effective collaboration. These experiences, including my work in Germany and Poland, have given me a pragmatic disposition in finding solutions to problems. I am also a member of the Northside Business Association.

2. To combat poverty, we need to distinguish between short-term (caused by loss

of a job, divorce, death) and long-term poverty (due to lack of jobs or access to education, high crime), and between urban and rural conditions. Our efforts will succeed when we apply local and regional solutions tailored to the specific causes creating poverty. Foremost we need to create well-paying jobs that will produce a sustainable increase in income for residents. The city should take steps to attract businesses to our community by investing in quality education, accessible health care, efficient transportation systems, and clean environment. As alder, I will work to promote anti-poverty measures.

3. Residents in my district have told me that property taxes, crime, and delivery of city services are their biggest concerns. Expanding the city's tax base and supporting community-based policing are just some examples of how to tackle taxes and crime. For delivery of services, it is important to distinguish between feel-good programs that fail to deliver and truly effective programs. City budget priorities should be on city services such as community safety, safe drinking water, well-maintained streets, and traffic safety.

Furthermore, a neighborhood pool at Warner Park would not only provide a safe and fun recreational choice where all generations can meet, it would highlight the Northside's value as a place to invest in. Therefore I support a community pool.

Questions Posed to Mayoral Candidates

QUESTION 1: What are the biggest issues facing the city, and what are you going to do about them? What experience do you have that demonstrates your ability to tackle them?

QUESTION 2: Poverty is a growing concern for Madison, which has long been known for its affluence. Overall, the poverty rate is about 15%, based on the 2000 census. On the Northside, over 49% of public school students receive subsidi-

dized lunches (another key indicator of poverty), an 18% jump since 2000, according to 2005 MMSD data. What should the city do about poverty, and what actions will you take regarding this?

QUESTION 3: The Northside has several issues it is facing: a stadium renovation and possible swimming pool in Warner Park; traffic issues along N Sherman Ave.; safety issues along the Northport Dr. apartment corridor; and a proposed development near Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. What are your positions on these issues, and what are you going to do about them?

(Candidates are allowed 350 words total.)

Ray Allen



Candidate for Mayor of Madison (Challenger)

1. My vision is to make Madison a City of Opportunity and Hope by addressing the following important issues:

Poverty - As mayor, I will focus on fighting poverty. To fight crime in the long run, we must fight poverty now.

Crime - I have the political will to be tough on crime, and the wisdom to understand and address the underlying causes.

City Services - As mayor, I will make delivering basic city services a priority for City Hall.

Public Schools - When our schools suffer, our city suffers. To better address safety in our schools and on buses, and fight the impact of poverty in our schools, we need a closer relationship between the mayor's office and the school district.

City Hall needs new leadership because the current mayor's misplaced priority of trolleys, which cost \$15 - \$25 million per mile, is enough to pay for the replacement

of all the wells with elevated manganese levels, and can go a long way toward fighting crime and poverty.

2. As mayor, fighting poverty will be one of my top priorities. With the assistance of area social service agencies, I will identify the most pressing needs of individuals gripped by poverty and prioritize the city budget accordingly. Additionally, I will have the city serve as a coordinator of educational and job training programs between MATC, MMSD and private employers to provide the training and job opportunities necessary for individuals to reach self-sufficiency.

3. I support the building of the Warner Park pool with private funds, and I will support the fundraising efforts of the Circle of Friends. I support building the North Mendota Parkway to help relieve congestion caused by people using North Sherman and East Washington to get to other parts of Madison. The Northport Drive corridor is one of the highest density neighborhoods in the city, and as such additional police resources are necessary. The present mayor continues to divert resources downtown, diminishing police resources outside the Isthmus. As mayor I will implement a citywide approach to crime that focuses on all of Madison, not just downtown.

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