

News Release: DRAFT

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Madison Equal Opportunities Commission Urges Minority Candidates to Run for Office

The city of Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission is urging people of color to run for public office.

"With an election for all 20 City Council members and the Mayor ahead in April, it is vital that all potential candidates be aware of this opportunity to represent the districts and the city where they live," said District 18 Alder Anita Weier, a member of the Commission.

"It is important that city officials represent all members of the community," said Commission President Bill Fetty. "Very few candidates and elected officials are racial minorities."

Nomination papers can be circulated for signatures as of Dec. 1, and a Declaration of Candidacy must be filed by 5 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2015.

Just 20 signatures of residents of a Council district are required for candidacy, and 200 city residents for Mayor.

Detailed campaign finance reports must also be filed. Information on deadlines, contribution limits and other requirements can be found on the Madison City Clerk's website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/election/election/electionCandidate.cfm>

The Madison Equal Opportunities Ordinance was enacted in 1963 to counter racial segregation and discrimination in housing. The Equal Opportunities Commission was established to promote and ensure equal opportunity. Numerous protected classes have since been added over the years to prevent discrimination against groups including women, the disabled and sexual orientation.