

Arvina Martin
4901 Waukesha St
Madison, WI 53705
arvina.martin@gmail.com
608-217-7815

To: Madison Common Council Members
Attention: Common Council President, Alder Denise Demarb
Re: Common Council District Eleven Alder Vacancy

Dear Alder Demarb,

Please accept this as a formal application for appointment to the vacant District 11 Alder seat. I am including both my resume and answers to the questions from the application.

Thank you,
Arvina Martin

Arvina M. Martin
4901 Waukesha Street
Madison, WI 53705
arvina.martin@gmail.com
(608) 217-7815

Education

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 1998 – 2002
Bachelor of Arts, Native American Studies

Emerge Wisconsin 2014
Graduate

Employment

Producer, **RSKINS** documentary 9/2015-Present

- Raise money for production by applying for grants, approaching individual and group donors
- Gather stories and interview subjects
- Make creative decisions on content and social media engagement posts

Chief Communications Officer, Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature 2/2014-2/2015

- Create press releases for legislative actions and events
- Train legislators to be media ready
- Act as spokesperson
- Write annual report for the General Council
- Act as liaison between legislature and outside firms to create media campaigns

Intern, Office of State Representative JoCasta Zamarripa 11/2013-2/2014

- Follow up with constituent requests
- Research issues related to legislation

Native Vote Director, Organizing for America-Wisconsin 9/2012-11/2012

- Create and manage list of American Indian volunteers
- Provide access to Tribal leaders to campaign rallies and events
- Organize three paid canvasses on reservations
- Staff surrogates and provide relevant information before events in Tribal Communities

Campaign Manager, Ellen for Assembly 7/2012-8/2012

- Organize and track volunteer efforts
- Coordinate canvasses and phone banking
- Track and complete candidate surveys

- Plan candidate events

American Indian Outreach Coordinator, Democratic Party of Wisconsin 10/2011-6/2012

- Coordinate events with DPW American Indian Caucus
- Lead reservation-specific GOTV plan in Menominee Co
- Provide information and guidance on Wisconsin's federally recognized tribes to campaigns
- Staff candidates at American Indian events
- Organize network of volunteers in various Indian Communities throughout the state

Communications Intern, Democratic Party of Wisconsin 1/2011- 10/2011

- Assist in GOTV efforts such as canvassing and phone banking
- Write opinion articles and letters to the editor
- Carry out candidate research
- Contact press outlets about events held by the party

Admissions Advisor/Am. Ind. Recruiter, University of Wisconsin- Madison 10/2004-10/2008

- Read and process undergraduate admissions applications for incoming freshman classes
- Act as liaison between Undergraduate Admissions and the Academic Advancement Program offices
- Lead information sessions to prospective students on campus as well as at high schools and college fairs
- Target and work with potential Native American student applicants

Other Activities

Van Hise Elementary School 9/2014-Present

- Classroom Volunteer
- Organizing Committee for Multicultural Night

NARAL Pro Choice-Wisconsin 8/2012-Present

- Board Member

Administrative Committee, Democratic Party of Wisconsin 10/2012-9/2015

- At-large Member

Secretary and Chair, DPW-American Indian Caucus 6/2012-Present

- Plan and carry out campaign events in Indian Communities

Board Member, Wisconsin Indian Education Association 11/2005-4/2007

- Represent South Region to the WIEA organization
- Lobby state legislators on behalf of Indian Education

Why I want to serve:

I love my home. I grew up in Madison, and even when I was gone (for school or family reasons), I felt its pull on me. I returned, because this is where I want to raise my daughter. I am an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and one thing that is important to our culture is working together as a community. It is from that perspective that I see public service. I've gotten so much from this city, I feel a responsibility to give back.

I've had opportunities to give back to at various levels, by helping empower other Native Americans to make their voices heard on election day, by encouraging youth to continue their educations by preparing for college, as well as encouraging various units of government to work with their tribal neighbors. Because my professional opportunities kept me traveling the state quite a bit, it was hard for me to get involved at a more local level. Now that I am consistently "at home," I've been looking at opportunities to serve my Madison community.

My previous work with state, local, and federal governments has prepared me for the different kinds of relationships each level of government has with the others, as well as with the communities they serve.

We are lucky to live in Madison, with a great standard of living, safe neighborhoods, thriving art scene, and access to natural resources. It would be my great honor to represent the 11th District and help make it even better for all of us.

Goals in Office:

Transparency and Engagement: The 11th District has a great deal of very engaged constituents. I want to remain open, and provide good channels of communication between me and the residents of District 11. I would engage in person, both at doors or neighborhood forums or meetings, as well as online, with social media and email.

Lessening Racial Disparities: The experience that I have had as a resident of Madison is not a universal one. According to the Race to Equity report, the disparities between White and African American Madisonians in terms of both the median income and poverty remain high. We have a lot of work to do, and I want to work with the residents of our city and the Council to close the equity gap.

Infrastructure/Development Concerns: The 11th District is aging, and many parts have gotten much needed upgrades (such as the Mineral Point Rd/Midvale Blvd intersection). I want to continue to make sure that our neighborhoods (11th District and beyond) have safe and efficient

roads and utilities. I also am concerned about the new Department of Transportation building, and the development of the current property. I know that the State of Wisconsin would like nothing more than to deal with the site on their own, but I want to make sure that we not only share our input on what happens, but make sure our input is acted on.

2017 Election:

I am may decide to run for this seat in 2017.