

Zachary A. Madden  
1000 Edgewood College Drive  
Madison WI, 53711

Common Council President, Ald. Chris Schmidt  
Room 417, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Madison WI 53703

Dear Alder Schmidt,

I am officially applying for the Common Council appointment for the vacancy in District 13.  
Attached is my resume and responses to the question for the appointment application.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with CCOC on the 22nd.

Sincerely,  
Zach

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary A. Madden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zachary" being the most prominent part.

Zachary A. Madden

Enclosures (2): Resume and Answered Questions

Zachary A. Madden  
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**Education**

Edgewood College, Madison WI *2011-Present*  
BA in Political Science, Graduation date: 12/14/14

**Activities**

Democratic Party Dane County Executive Board *2014-Present*  
United Wisconsin Board of Directors *2013-Present*  
NARAL Pro-Choice WI Millennial Board *2013-Present*  
Edgewood College Student Government *2011-Present*  
College Democrats of Wisconsin *2011-Present*  
Edgewood College Democrats *2011-Present*

**Leadership Roles**

Chair, College Democrats of Wisconsin *2014-Present (Term ends April 2015)*

-I was recently elected as Chair of College Democrats of Wisconsin and started my term immediately after being elected. I will oversee and direct all operations of College Democrats of Wisconsin, including an operating budget of \$10,000. It is my responsibility to maintain our current chapters' strength and grow new chapters in places where we don't already have a presence. I will work directly with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin on the campus program to get students registered to vote, turn out campus voters, and win every student voting ward in November.

President, Edgewood College Student Government *2013-Present (Term ends May 2014)*

-As President of Student Government at Edgewood College, it has been my job to wake up and go to bed every day advocating for students' needs, rights and services. As President I served on the college's Budget and Planning Committee, in which my role was to advocate, lobby and fight for students' wants and needs in the College's multi-million dollar budget. As president, I also served as the presiding officer of all legislative session meetings where we allocated money to student organizations, passed resolutions and made recommendations on college policy. Under my leadership, we corrected and repaired our bylaws and made our Request of Funds process more fair, transparent and accountable to students. We use parliamentary procedure, in which I am trained and well-versed.

President, Edgewood College Democrats *2011-2014*

-As President of Edgewood College Democrats, I was tasked with organizing students to register other students to vote and get politically engaged on and off campus. Under my leadership we registered more students to vote than ever before, organized a strong recall petition collection, and in 2012 our ward had the highest percentage turnout for President Obama and Tammy Baldwin of any campus ward in the State of Wisconsin.

### **A statement on why I wish to serve**

I am applying for appointment to the Common Council for the same reasons I ran in 2013; because I feel my neighborhood needs effective representation. Representation that is ready day one to lead, knowing the issues facing the district, and that is able to address issues fairly. District 13 encompasses a diverse range of residents who deserve an alder who will listen to their concerns. My top priority is providing leadership that listens, so that all District 13 residents have access to the decision-making processes that impact our community. I am ready to work on all of the issues I learned about at doors last year, from residents' concerns with public safety to homelessness and affordable housing, erosion control at construction sites and input into decisions that affect our neighborhoods through new development.

After former Alder Ellingson's resignation, I felt an immediate motivation to pursue the appointment, but that was strengthened and encouraged when others in the district began asking me to apply. More than one thousand residents of the district voted for me in 2013, wanting me as their representation in city hall. A lot of those people have contacted me in the last few weeks, asking if I would apply and requesting that I do so. It has been especially encouraging to hear from those who supported and voted for former Alder Ellingson in the last election, and to have them convey support and encouragement for my application.

Spending the last three years in this neighborhood, I know this is where I want to spend the next chapter of my life. I want to raise a family here someday and that is why I want to ensure that these neighborhoods and this city stay as great as they are today, and that we make improvements where we can.

### **Statement of goals to accomplish**

Transparency in government is an important issue to me and my neighbors in District 13. I want to make the processes of city government more transparent. I want to have more conversations earlier, and get feedback on issues within the district and across the city. For me community input is priority #1. I want to know where district and city residents stand on the issues. This was a top issue in my campaign last year and I believe it had a lot to do with the strong support I received.

Affordable Housing is a major concern for me, residents of District 13 and the city of Madison. We need to get serious about homelessness in Madison by expanding affordable housing to meet the needs of our community's most vulnerable. We can do this by prioritizing and incentivizing affordable housing projects in the city. The new TIF Policy should be helpful with this.

In this district having an alder who is committed to protecting the environment is something I know the residents will demand. Living on Lake Wingra, I know how our lakes are a big part of what makes Madison great and I am serious about protecting them! We need to implement the Madison Sustainability Plan to both protect our environment and save money for the city in the long term.

Having a visible and accessible alder is extremely important to this district. I will be responsive and address the concerns of residents whether it be parking or big development projects. I will actively seek out input from the community, not just wait for things to happen. I promise to listen to residents on

all sides of an issue before making decisions, ensuring that all voices are heard and that the decision making process is fair and just.

### **Statement on the Spring 2015 election**

I fully intend to run in the Spring of 2015. I ran in 2013 because I am really passionate about these neighborhoods and this city. I do understand the philosophy behind not wanting to appoint someone who intends to run. Being someone who studies political science, I know what incumbency means in a municipal level election and the advantage it brings. I tend to agree with the philosophy, however what I hold higher is the input and wants of the neighborhood. It has been clear over the last couple weeks through emails, phone calls, chance meetings at coffee shops and neighborhood functions that neighbors from every corner of this near west side district want to see me appointed and able to advocate on their behalf.

Recently I met with some active neighbors who have been working closely on development issues in the district and one of them said something that has really stuck with me. They said that residents don't want someone to come in for a year and be a 'caretaker.' They want somebody who understands and has been working on the issues of the neighborhood and is ready on day one to lead and advocate for the concerns of the district.

In making this important decision, I hope you will prioritize the voices of district residents, and consider also that I did win a substantial share of the votes in 2013. I have been at the doors, I have had the conversations, made the connections, know the issues of the district. I am ready to serve my neighbors in District 13 as alder.