



Candidate Questionnaire for Whitewater Municipal Election

April 3, 2018

Aldermanic District 2: James Schulgit

What motivates you to want to become or seek another term as a Common Council member?

I have been serving on the Whitewater Common Council since July 2017 after having moved to Whitewater in September 2015 to attend UWW. During my time here I have developed a deep appreciation for both the university and the city. One of my central goals has always been to facilitate more cooperation between the university and the community as a whole. I would like the opportunity to continue to work towards this goal.

What aspects of your background will help you best represent the people of Whitewater on the Council?

I am a student currently at the university as are many of the residents of my district. I feel that being a student gives me special perspective on how best to ensure cooperation between the university and the rest of the community.

What role can the Council play in restoring a grocery store to Whitewater?

I think city authorities should continue to try and recruit a grocery store as I feel Whitewater would be a profitable location for a grocery store. I am intrigued by the co-op and am excited by its continued progress.

What role can the Council play in maintaining and improving the quality of public education in Whitewater?

Encouraging a growing tax base is important to ensure that the school district has enough revenue. I would also be interested in seeing the city facilitate internships for public school students both at the university and local businesses.

How can the retail environment in Whitewater be enlivened?

I think that we should take advantage of our location near the Kettle Moraine and ensure that people come to bike and hike are well aware of the many great opportunities Whitewater has to enjoy dining and retail.

What can the Council do to improve town-gown relations?

This is a difficult issue and I am sympathetic to city residents who have had students create a disruption in their day to day to lives. The students at the university are members of the community and as members of the community they must be held to the same standards as everyone else. Continued strict enforcement against publicly disruptive behaviors will encourage people to make good choices and help to ensure harmony in the community.

What would you do to encourage broader citizen participation in municipal government?

There are many positions and commissions and committees that are vacant. It would be very encouraging to see an increase in interest for these positions.

What can the Council do to help give the public library the space it needs?

The library is a community space that functions as one of the pillars of our community. Ensuring that it has adequate resources to function and for future expansions is a priority.

What can the Council do to promote gun safety in our community in the face of inaction from Madison and Washington, D.C.?

I feel the phrase “see something, say something” has a lot of wisdom here. People should be aware of the signs of someone going through a mental health crisis and encourage them to seek help and report to law enforcement if the person has access to firearms. I know that the police department and schools are up to date on active shooter training; this should continue. Unfortunately, on a local level restrictions on firearm ownership tend to be highly ineffective without state and federal support.

What can the Council do to support the immigrant population of Whitewater?

In September I successfully passed a resolution recognizing the value that immigrants bring to Whitewater. I do not feel that local law enforcement should enforce immigration law.

How might public transportation in Whitewater be improved given the merger of UW-Whitewater and UW-Rock County?

For issues such as transportation it is vital to have regional cooperation with both other municipalities and counties in the region. Apps such as rydepass designed to serve communities such as Whitewater have worked well.