

BIPOC Community Members: Support Nada Elmikashfi for Wisconsin Senate District 26

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We support Nada Elmikashfi because she is part of our community and she is willing to be accountable to our community. This moment is about BIPOC representing ourselves instead of having people with different socioeconomic, political status speaking “on our behalf.” This moment is about choosing candidates with a critical understanding of racism and what it truly means to be anti-racist.

The BIPOC community is not a homogenous group that has one voice. The BIPOC community is vast and diverse and we seek to disrupt the notion that (1) any one person unilaterally represents our community and (2) that BIPOC can choose only one person. We refuse to essentialize. We, the undersigned people of color – want Nada to represent us. She will be an effective representative of our values, our interests, and our community needs because we see her live them every single day. She does what we ask of the people that represent us – hold legislators accountable for their actions and the disproportionately detrimental effects they have on our community. We know that we will be at the table drafting legislation with her. We know we will be in the room when she negotiates on our behalf. Most important of all, we know she has a strong moral core and a willingness to walk away from decisions and actions that do not benefit us. She chooses us over political career advancement. This is what we want, this is what we need.

This is our direct response to the narrative spun by the Wisconsin State Journal that one of Elmikashfi’s opponents has the “trust” of BIPOC in Madison. We speak for ourselves and we are the best judge of what is in our own best interest. We invite her into our homes, we invite her into our political spaces, and we know that with Nada we have a seat in the Capitol.

We reject the idea that if Nada were to change her tone and her behavior that she would be a better candidate and a more effective legislator. It shifts responsibility

away from those that perpetuate racism and who are accountable for their actions to change them. It shifts the burden to Nada, to change who she is and how she makes people feel. We reject this form of racism.

This is the difference between electoral politics before George Floyd and after. This moment is not for candidates who are comfortable using our lives as political stepping stones.

Nada is different, and because of that, we trust her to represent us. We deserve better. We demand better.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned BIPOC

Sadie Mae Pearson

Shiva Bidar

April Kigeya

Brandi Grayson

Tyson Vitale

Maia Pearson

Sami Schalk

Araceli Esparza

Ananda Mirilli

Mariam Maldonado

Davette BakerMounce

Savion Castro

Michael Lee Jones

Felcia Turner-Walton

Rob Franklin (Rob Dz)

Eugenia Podesta

Marcus Pearson

Bao Thao

Becky Mann

Alysia Mann Carey

Lori Mann Carey

Vince Carey

Ciera Carey

Nicole Green

Mitchell Pearson

Mike Davis

Sabrina Madison

Terrence Carey

Terrell Carey
Clyde Mayberry
Cedric Johnson
Vincent Carey III
Ashley Moncrief
Tommie Moncrief
Darcy Moncrief
Regina Cox
Amara Gobermann
Stacy Broach
Ansheera Hilliard (Ace)
Johnny Thoun
Vincent Carey III
Matthew Braunginn
Ndazona Ndafooka
Elizabeth Ndafooka
Johnnie Walton Me to We LLC
Dominique Smith-Simon
Clifford Simon Jr.
Sarah Ishmael
John Tunstall
Sarah Galinski
Dana Pellebon
Saran Ouk
Araceli Esparza
Tia Murray The Harambee Village
Laura Valderama
Kandyce Anderson
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Joe Maldonado
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Ana Smith
Tisha Butler
Larissa Joanna
Elena Haasl
Vic Barrett
Adrienne Blow
Madeline Doon

Francesca Hong

Karla Foster

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Jennifer Milne-Carroll