



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**12/07/2020**

**Subject: Statement on Shawn Matson's Declaration of Candidacy for Madison Common Council District 6 Alder.**

I am excited to announce my candidacy for Madison Common Council District 6 Alder.

We are living in a time when folks are faced with the impossible task of staying safe and surviving. This is a chronic struggle for working class folks in this district and across the City who are facing evictions, unsafe living and working conditions, and a precariousness that has been amplified by the government's half-hearted response to a global pandemic and a centuries-long denial of white supremacy culture. That's why we need a city government that reinvests in its community.

My role in public service is to acknowledge and take responsibility for the wreckage that whiteness has wrought. White supremacy has systematically broken and oppressed so many. We cannot, in good conscience, now expect that people of color be blamed for and solely tasked with cleaning up the mess. To be clear, communities of color have been doing this work for years and they are the founders of this movement. They decide its destiny.

And so, while I will never direct this movement, I will act in service of community control. Because of my lived experiences and understanding of our history, I will use my voice for good, but only with the permission and support of the people of Madison.

As a history teacher, my everyday work finds me at the intersection of our community's past and the children of Madison, who are our future. For the youth and families of this city to thrive, we must put on our critical thinking hats because the lessons of this year--and of our city's long history--demand that we enact transformative change.

I will stand before the voters with specific, detailed, well-researched proposals that will include your perspectives. I will study these issues and include quantitative and qualitative data in my decision-making process. And like any good teacher, I will educate others and in doing so, learn so much more in return. I will be true to progressive ideals by not accepting a status quo that views justice as a side-project.

I am especially proud to announce my first early endorsement, from 2020 Senate District 26 Candidate Nada Elmikashfi, who said, "Shawn Matson's advocacy for racial

justice, his vast knowledge of policy, and his deep love for Madison make him an incredible fit for District 6 Alder. As a history teacher, he has learned to predict the future with the lessons of the past — and in a time like this, there is no greater public service than his forward-looking representation. I am comforted by Shawn’s priorities and believe wholeheartedly in his commitment to a more equitable Madison for all.”

It is my hope to connect with as many people of District 6 as possible. Please do reach out, whether you want to volunteer with our coalition, quiz me on the issues, or express areas of disagreement. My phone number is (608)-999-0397, feel free to call or text, or e-mail [Matson4Alder@gmail.com](mailto:Matson4Alder@gmail.com).

Together, we can move beyond lip service to transform our lived reality to finally match our progressive aspirations.

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**About Shawn:** Shawn Matson (he/him/his) is a high school teacher, antiracist activist, a proud MTI union and Bargaining Committee member, and a UW School of Education alum. A lifelong progressive, Shawn is proudly queer, married to spouse Vivian Ye, an avid cyclist, and lover of good food. He lives in Atwood where you will find him walking or riding the bike path with his partner.

Shawn was born and raised in Wisconsin, growing up first in rural Dodge County, Hartford, and later graduating from Brookfield East High School. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from UW-Milwaukee, where he was heavily involved in College Democrats and helped organize students during the Act 10 Protests at the State Capitol. He has worked for a Jewish community nonprofit, as a Speech & Debate Coach for over 10 years, and more recently earned an M.S. in Curriculum & Instruction from UW-Madison. Learn more at [Matson4Alder.com](http://Matson4Alder.com).

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