



Office of the Common Council

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December 21, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ald. Austin King Will Not Seek Re-Election in 2007

(Madison) – Ald. Austin King, District 8, has filed a declaration of non-candidacy with the City Clerk, notifying his intention to not appear on the ballot for re-election this spring. King was first elected in a six-way race in 2003 at the age of 21, and re-elected in 2005 with 79% of the vote. In 2006, at the age of 24, he was elected Common Council President, the youngest to ever serve in that role.

"I will be forever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have served the campus and the community for four wonderful years. This time in my life has been endlessly rewarding, and for that I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my constituents, my colleagues, and the wonderful employees of the City of Madison. I am ready to move on to new challenges and opportunities, but I will take with me the lessons I've learned and the remarkable experiences I've had for the rest of my life," said King.

In his two terms, King has championed a number of public policy changes that have transformed his district, the city, and beyond. Some highlights include:

-Raised the Minimum Wage. King led the grassroots Madison Fair Wage Campaign to the victorious enactment of the nation's fourth municipal minimum wage, slated to rise to \$7.75 per hour and be indexed to inflation thereafter. The success in Madison spread as Milwaukee, La Crosse, and Eau Claire followed suit, eventually leading to the first statewide increase in eight years, in which more than 200,000 low-wage workers in Wisconsin got a raise.

-Repealed the Cabaret License. When King was elected, dancing was illegal in more than 80% of Madison bars, and he authored the repeal of the Prohibition-era law that banned dancing.

-Passed "Justice for Patty" Resolution. King led the fight for an apology, financial restitution, and internal police reform to ensure that no future victim would endure the same nightmare as Patty.

-Passed Tenant's Right to Repair and Deduct Ordinance. Working with residents on Allied Drive, King proposed and won passage of a landmark tenants' rights law that allows tenants with negligent landlords to make needed repairs to dilapidated housing and deduct the cost from their rent.

-Introduced Healthy Families, Healthy City Ordinance. King fought for the nation's first guarantee that workers have the right to stay home sick. Although the ordinance failed by one vote after an incredibly expensive and mendacious corporate lobbying campaign, it has subsequently been enacted in even stronger form in San Francisco, winning the approval of 61.5% of the voters this November, and is now a key part of the national Democratic Party's economic platform.

King also authored numerous other resolutions and ordinances during his four years on the Council, and played an integral role in shepherding some of the largest infill developments in the city's history. He currently serves on the Host Committee of the national Young Elected Officials Network, on the Center for Law and Social Policy's Shared Prosperity Advisory Committee, and as a member of the

national board of directors for Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment. King is employed as a lobbyist for the Service Employees International Union.

"In my first campaign, I ran on the slogan of 'Active, Accessible Representation', and I hope even my harshest critics agree I've lived up to that promise," said King. "With all the inequity and problems in our world and here in Madison, it strikes me as wildly irresponsible to be comfortable with this status quo. I have been blessed to work with so many talented and dedicated members of this community who recognize the compelling need for reform, and I hope we've had some success and impact. It is essential that we shed the timidity and aversion to change that have blocked so many needed advancements. Heading into the future, bold solutions are required to guarantee that our community remains a wonderful place whose prosperity is shared by all."

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