



Lauren Woods for Alderwoman, District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lauren Woods to Run for Campus Council Seat

(Madison) – Lauren Woods, a UW-Madison Senior, has announced her candidacy to fill the vacancy created by outgoing 8th District Alderperson and Common Council President Austin King. Woods has a long history of leadership and activism on the UW campus, and is the former President of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. She also boasts experience inside City Hall, having recently been appointed by Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz to both the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Regent Street/South Campus Master Plan Steering Committee. Woods has also served as a legislative aide to State Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee). If elected, she will be the first African-American woman to serve on Madison's Common Council in its 150 year history.

"I'm excited to be running for office, not just to make history, but to make a real difference in the lives of people who have been left out and left behind," said Woods. "Madison is a great community with enormous potential, and I will fight to ensure that all of its citizens - students, the poor, and communities of color especially - can share in that prosperity and high quality of life."

Austin King has agreed to serve as treasurer for the Woods campaign, and has it endorsed it enthusiastically. "Lauren Woods is uniquely qualified to represent the 8th district for the next two years. Her experience in the Capitol and on city committees, combined with her impressive record of advocacy on student issues, will enable her to hit the ground running this April. I'm excited that Lauren's election will make history, and I have full confidence that her service will make an enormous difference," said King.

Dane County Supervisor Ashok Kumar, whose district likewise encompasses the UW Campus, has also endorsed the Woods campaign. "I am thrilled to hear that Lauren Woods is running to represent the student voice on the Common Council," said Kumar. "She has compiled a strong record as an activist on behalf of marginalized communities, and I know that she will be a passionate, progressive, and powerful voice that will work tirelessly to make Madison a better place for those it has left behind."

Senator Taylor likewise expressed her support for Woods' candidacy. "Lauren has truly impressed me with her work ethic and deep understanding of the issues. In times of need, Lauren steps up to the plate and her abilities and personality really shine. Students will be fortunate to have her many talents put to work for them as their voice in Madison's City Hall," said Taylor.

Turika Pulliam, a UW-Senior and President of the National Panhellenic Council of UW-Madison, expressed enthusiasm for Lauren Woods' campaign. "Lauren will be an exceptional representative of the student voice," said Pulliam. "She has a proven record of getting things done and sticking up for people on issues that matter to them. I can't wait to send Lauren to City Hall to fight for me and for all students!"

Woods identified four issues that she is particularly interested in advancing: Affordable housing and tenants' rights, safety and security for all, shared prosperity and economic justice, and expanded civil rights.

"I want to thank Ald. King for his four years of service to our campus and community, and I am grateful for his support in this endeavor," said Woods. "I am excited to keep alive the progressive tradition of pushing the envelope on issues that really matter in peoples' day-to-day lives. I will wage a vigorous and grassroots campaign to take my message to the voters this spring, and I look forward to earning their support."

As of this morning, Woods has filed all the necessary paperwork, including nomination petition signatures, and has officially qualified for the ballot.

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Authorized and Paid for by Friends of Lauren Woods, Austin King, Treasurer