

**Citizens for a Fair Ferndale  
Library Board Candidates Forum  
Sunday, October 30, 2016**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm  
Ferndale City Hall**

**Library Board Candidates Questionnaire**

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1. Why, of all Boards and Commissions, have you chosen to run for the Library Board?

I was appointed to the Ferndale Public Library Board in January of 2012 and it has been a pleasure to work with fellow board members, the professional staff and our engaged community on our vision of library excellence. The Ferndale Area District Library is a gem in Downtown Ferndale providing access to art, literature, music, film, entertainment and so much more. The FADL staff is engaged, dedicated and professional, making our library accessible to all. My fellow Board members and I are committed to our strategic plan while cultivating a culture that is committed to library excellence. The FADL Board is a great fit for my passions as a community member and a professional educator.

2. What are the two most pressing issues for the Ferndale Library at this time?

Issue one is hiring an outstanding Library Director. We have a unique situation in that our community recently passed a millage increase with the expectation of additional hours, improved services and more programming. We must find a library leader that is ready to take on these challenges, while supporting our incredible staff, and moving FADL into it's next phase of excellence.

Issue two is exceeding the expectations of our community. Our community wants more services, more materials, more programming and more hours. We need to work within our budget to make this happen.

3. Ferndale voters recently approved a significant increase in library funding. In order (from highest to lowest), what do you think are the highest priorities for using the increased funding? Why that order? How will you ensure that the funds are well spent?
  1. Hours- because we have a great facility and our citizens want, and deserve access. Since the passing of the mileage this past August, we have already increased hours.
  2. Materials- more books, movies and music. We need to increase these budgets to provide more service in this area.
  3. Overdrive- access to e-reader materials. We are currently considering a few options so that our community will have greater access to e-reading material. We are reviewing options so that we will make a decision that is both fiscally responsible and sustainable.
  4. Updating our technology in the library.
  5. Programming- increased programing for all stakeholders in our community. We want to be sure that we have high-interest programing that appeals to everyone.
4. How can we get more people to use our library?

I think our staff does an excellent job with community outreach by getting into schools and using social media to get our message out. With the additional operating hours we are already experiencing more community members enjoying our services. I think we continue the great work on getting the message out about our services and hours. In addition, the Friends of the Ferndale Library have been outstanding promoters of the FADL and as a FADL Board member I will be sure we continue this relationship and support each other's goals. I would also like to see the FADL form learning and networking partnerships with local businesses so that our community is always reminded of the opportunities that await them at the library.

5. The nature of information and information distribution is changing at a frantic pace. What do you see as the biggest opportunities for the library in this changing environment? What are the biggest threats? How should the library respond to both opportunities and threats?

Currently the FADL's staff does an excellent job maintaining a presence in local and social media. An opportunity for the FADL with information distribution could be harnessing more social media networks to get our message out to citizens. I believe threats to the library are those people that have never been to our library and therefore may not recognize the value of the library. I think we continue to get our positive messages out about our library specifically as well as the value of libraries in communities in general.

6. Do you think libraries can play a role in helping to reduce social inequality? If so, what are the best practical steps for a library to achieve that? If not, how do you see the library's role in society as a whole?

I believe libraries are a cornerstone of liberty and essential institutions to a democratic culture as well as the reduction of social inequality. I have traveled extensively, including countries without a democratic process, and no libraries. I have immense respect for the power of a

library in a community and the essential services libraries provided to community members. I want to live in a city with a thriving library where citizens access materials, attend events, experience art and culture, learn, and meet each other. To me, this is what makes communities strong.

7. With whom do you envision closer collaboration? Where do you see the need for more communication between the Ferndale Library and other groups in our community?

I would like to see the FADL form partnerships with community leaders and businesses so that together we are working toward a stronger community where people know each other, respect each other and work together for a thriving Ferndale.

8. What makes you a good candidate for the Library Board?

I am a public school educator, teacher coach and Ferndale resident for nearly 20 years. I also have a 2-year old daughter that loves the FADL and will attend Ferndale Public Schools. As a public school educator I not only have strong convictions about public institutions but I also see the impact public libraries have on literacy for all. As a FADL Board member I have the opportunity to work with my peers to be sure our library is accessible for all.

I am also a committed Ferndale citizen that plans to live in, and participate in our thriving community. I believe access to outstanding public institutions are essential to communities that flourish and as a FADL Board member I will ensure our public library maintains its essential presences in our community.